

WORLD 6
US MULLS SANCTIONS
AGAINST TURKEY

MONEY 8
HAVE REACHED A 'SUBSTANTIAL'
TRADE DEAL WITH CHINA: TRUMP

SPORT 10
MEDVEDEV TO FACE
ZVEREV IN FINAL

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USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Mortifying silence on Murshidabad murders

It is always a single incident that forces a society to finally stir itself out of its natural somnolence and raise its collective voice of indignation. We can still remember how the brutally murderous gangrape of a young woman — what subsequently came to be known as the Nirbhaya incident — in Delhi, 2013, became the focal point of a mass awakening to uphold women's security. Some of us will also recall how the murder of the genial Forward Block leader Hemanta Kumar Bose in Kolkata just prior to the 1971 election became the trigger for the rollback of political violence in West Bengal. Going back even earlier to the formative days of the Republic, it was Mahatma Gandhi's assassination in January 1948 that finally convinced a traumatised nation that the spiral of competitive post-Partition violence must cease.

It is always difficult to anticipate which heinous incident provokes society into finally taking a step back and which incident fails to have the necessary impact. I can cite the example of West Bengal, a state which I have a personal knowledge of. In 1970, the State was in the throes of political violence with an aggressive and ascendant CPI(M) unleashing class struggle in the country and the Naxalite movement targeting class enemies — which happened to be teachers, the odd politician and traffic policemen — in the urban areas. So grotesque was the political atmosphere that bright, young students — the cream of their generation — actually debated whether the use of the knife was better than the gun in expressing their hatred of the class enemy.

There were two particularly gruesome incidents in 1970 that captured the headlines. The first — the Sain family killings — occurred in Bardhaman (Burdwan) where three brothers, known for being Congress activists, were chased into their own homes and mercilessly killed. Then, to epitomise the depths of human perversity, their widowed mother was forced to eat rice smeared with the blood of her murdered sons. The local CPI(M) was blamed for the incident which sent shock waves throughout West Bengal.

The second incident involved a venerable Vice Chancellor of Jadavpur University. Professor Gopal Sen was taking his evening walk on the campus when he was attacked by a group of Naxalite students who slit his throat. The culprits weren't members of the underworld. It is understood that the boy who did the killing was the son of a reputed doctor of the city. The culprit was never brought to justice. It is said that his father's connections saw him packed off to North America where he apparently still resides. The police colluded in this cover-up of a murder of man who was a harmless teacher.

Both these incidents should have stirred the conscience of the people and triggered a wave of vicious reaction against violence. It, unfortunately, didn't. It took the political opening offered by the murder of Hemanta Bose, just prior to the 1971 general election, for the fightback to be orchestrated. The CPI(M) was accused of Bose's killing and it loudly proclaimed its innocence. But that didn't stop an aggressive Congress, re-energised by Indira Gandhi, from successfully making political capital out of the murder. Thanks to the political encouragement of the Central Government, two political objectives were achieved: The Left in the form of the CPI(M) and the Naxalites were mercilessly thrashed and the Congress was revived.

It is unusual for history to repeat itself. The past decade has seen a revival of political violence in West Bengal. It has become a part of the State's inheritance. First, there was the violence involving the formidable CPI(M) against the more vulnerable Trinamool Congress (TMC) led by Mamata Banerjee. It took a very heavy toll and it was thanks to Mamata's unflinching doggedness and courage that the TMC was able to not merely survive but overcome a series of defeats to emerge victorious in the Assembly elections of 2011. At that time Mamata captured the imagination by promising an end to retributive violence.

Unfortunately, political adversity often brings out the worst in politics. Ever since the run-up to the 2019 general election, political violence involving the TMC and the BJP has spread throughout the State. It is said that some 60 BJP workers have been brutally murdered. These include two young political activists who were hanged from trees in Purulia and embellished with placards round their necks suggesting this was going to be the fate of those who sided with the BJP.

The violence hasn't ceased with the end of the election season. This week, even as the State was recovering from the Durga Puja celebrations, there has been an unimaginably gruesome incident in Jiagunge, Murshidabad district. A small-time schoolteacher Bandhu Prakash Pal, his eight-month pregnant wife and eight-year old son were hacked to death. Pal was a RSS Swayamsevak and a member of its teachers' organisation. The murder has been blamed on local "jihadis", although the police, predictably, has claimed that it was an outcome of a dispute over money.

I don't know enough about the case to venture a definitive view. However, all that can be said is that the complete elimination of an entire family strikes me as being calculated to create terror in the minds of all those who dare take an alternative view of public life. It follows a pattern of intimidation, police harassment and even murder that is now becoming prevalent in the State. The defensive silence of the administration and the ruling party speaks volumes.

The brutal killing of an eight-month pregnant woman and her eight-year old son crosses all bounds. It should be the signal for the collective expression of revulsion. But will it? History is absolutely no guide to how society will react. It can either be passive acceptance born out of fear or angry exasperation. We can only hope it is the latter. But there is no certainty.

Modi-Xi meet ends on optimistic note

From 'Wuhan spirit' to 'Chennai connect', a roadmap to enrich bilateral relations

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN/PTI
MAMALLAPURAM/NEW DELHI

The informal seven-hour Modi-Xi connect over two days in Chennai will be formally utilised by India and China to bolster long-term trade, investment, defence and security ties even as the contentious issue of Kashmir which had cast its shadow on the talks between the leaders of the two Asian giants was "not raised or discussed".

Chinese President Xi Jinping, however, briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi about Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Beijing earlier in the week. The two leaders raised concern about terrorism posing a common threat.

The summit was held against the backdrop of China's strong support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue over the past few weeks and India taking strong exception to it. But that didn't come in the way of Modi-Xi's bonhomie with the latter appreciating the hospitality extended to him and inviting the Prime Minister for the third informal summit, which Modi accepted.

Meanwhile, the Indian embassy in Beijing has announced a five-year tourist e-visa with multiple entry facility for Chinese travellers, coinciding with President Xi's visit.

The two sides resolved to start a new chapter of cooperation while prudently managing their differences. The Wuhan spirit gave a new momentum and trust to our relations and a new era of cooperation will start between India and China with the "Chennai Connect", Modi said in his remarks at the delegation level talks after a 90-minute one-on-one conversation with Xi in a luxury resort overlooking the Bay of Bengal.

And Xi said their "candid", "heart-to-heart" discussions on bilateral relations were "in-depth" and "good", noting that maintaining and expanding the Sino-India relations is a firm policy of his Government.

Among the 16 significant outcomes were China's assurance to address India's concerns on ballooning trade deficit and on negotiations for the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), work on additional confidence building measures and agreement on consolidating strategic communication to enhance mutual trust between militaries of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifts a hand-woven silk portrait to Chinese President Xi Jinping at Mahabalipuram on Saturday PTI

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the two countries to maintain peace on border.

Modi said the Wuhan summit led to increased stability and fresh momentum in Sino-India relations as strategic communication increased between the two sides. "We had decided that we will prudently manage our differences, and not allow them to become disputes, we will remain sensitive about each other's concerns and that our relations will lead to peace and stability across the world. These are our big achievements and these will inspire us to do more in future," Modi said.

The PM also said India and China were global economic powers during most of the last 2000 years and were returning to stage gradually. For his part, Xi said the first informal summit continues to produce visible progress.

"We have deeper strategic communication, more effective practical cooperation, more diverse people-to-people and cultural exchanges and we have closer cooperation on multi-lateral occasions. What has happened has proved that we made the right decision to have this kind of informal summit and we can well continue with this form of meeting," the Chinese leader said.

Turn to Page 4

MODI GOES 'PLOGGING'



Prime Minister Narendra Modi plogs at the Mahabalipuram coast on Saturday PTI

SALIENT POINTS

- We decided that we will prudently manage our differences, and not allow them to become disputes, we will remain sensitive about each other's concerns and that our relations will lead to peace and stability across the world. These are our big achievements and these will inspire us to do more in future," Modi said
- Kashmir remained off the table during the informal talks
- Modi, Xi expressed concern about terrorism
- Indian embassy in China announces five-year tourist e-visa with multiple entry facility for Chinese travellers
- China gives assurance to address India's concerns on ballooning trade deficit
- Xi said their "candid", "heart-to-heart" discussions on bilateral relations were "in-depth" and "good"
- India and China should carefully handle issues concerning each other's core interests, Xi said
- PM accepts Xi's invitation for third informal summit

PM's niece robbed of phones, cash in Delhi

Damyanti Modi was travelling in autorickshaw

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Cocking a snook at the Delhi Police, snatchers robbed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's niece of cash and mobile phones in the Civil Lines of North Delhi on Saturday. The criminals snatched two mobile phones and ₹56,000 from Damyanti Ben Modi, when she was traveling in an autorickshaw.

Delhi Police top brass went into a tizzy after a call was made to the PCR about the incident. Apart from North district police, anti-terrorist unit of Delhi Police Special Cell is conducting investigation to nab the accused.

The spot where the 40-year-old victim was attacked by the criminals is just a few kilometres away from the residences of Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajaj and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.



According to a senior police official, Damyanti was getting off an autorickshaw near Gujarati Samaj Bhawan in Civil Lines around 7 am on Saturday when two persons on a scooter snatched her purse containing mobile phone, cash and documents.

"She made a call to the PCR about the incident following which a team was dispatched for the spot. The police have recorded her statement and a case of snatching has been filed with the Civil Lines Police Station," said the senior police official.

As per information, Damyanti told the police that

she came from Amritsar on Saturday morning and she had already booked a room in Gujarati Samaj Bhawan in Civil Lines area. She had come with her father Prahlad Modi. She had hired an auto-rickshaw from old Delhi to reach her destination.

"I reached Gujarati Samaj Bhawan, and was getting off the autorickshaw when the snatchers attacked me. I was taken aback as they snatched my bag. I was about to give money from it to auto driver, it happened all of a sudden and I couldn't understand as to what was going on," she said.

Turn to Page 4

Women remain immune from odd-even curbs

No exemption for pvt CNG vehicles this year, scheme from Nov 4 to 15

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Keeping women safety in top priority, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced women will be exempted from the car rationing odd-even scheme, to be implemented from November 4 to 15.

Interestingly, to make this implementation more effective to combat vehicular pollution in the national Capital, Kejriwal emphasised that all vehicles driven by women and carrying only children below the age of 12 will be exempted from restrictions. It has been Kejriwal also said that private CNG vehicles will not be exempted this year.

Citing black marketing of CNG stickers, Kejriwal said, "In previous editions of odd-even, CNG vehicles were exempt. But we observed that the CNG stickers used to denote vehicles were sold in the black market



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses a Press conference in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

and misused by some people to bypass the scheme. This defeats the purpose of odd-even."

When asked about exemptions for two-wheelers, Kejriwal said two wheelers do pollute the air and we believe they should not be exempt. "But at the same time given the number of two wheelers in Delhi, it is impractical to take half of them off the roads. However, the decision on two wheelers has not been taken yet," he said.

In principle we have decided to stagger office timings. We are consulting experts. Sharing execution plan, Transport Minister Arvind Kejriwal said 2,000 private buses will be plied during the odd-even.

Postpaid mobile phones to work in Kashmir again from tomorrow

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Come Monday, Kashmir Valley will start buzzing with mobile phone ringtones after over two months.

After lifting August 2 travel advisory, preventing tourists from visiting J&K, the State administration on Saturday announced the much awaited decision to restore postpaid mobile phone services from October 14 from 12 pm.

However, internet services will continue to remain suspended in the Valley. To woo tourists, the Government has decided to restore the service at tourist places.

Meanwhile, at least seven persons were injured in a grenade attack by terrorists in a market area near Lal Chowk in Srinagar on Saturday. Three are in critical condition.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, J&K Government's spokesperson Rohit Kansal said, "After reviewing the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, a decision was taken to restore mobile phone facilities in Kashmir."

Turn to Page 4

CAPSULE

PM TO OPEN INDIAN SIDE OF KARTARPUR ON NOV 8
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Indian side of the much-awaited Kartarpur corridor to Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan on November 8, Union Minister Harsimrat Badal said.

BSF SEIZES 5 PAK BOATS AT HARAMI NALA
Bhuj: The BSF seized five Pakistani fishing boats in the Harami Nala creek area, close to India-Pakistan border in Gujarat, an official said on Saturday.

FORMER AAP MLA ALKA LAMBA JOINS CONG
New Delhi: Alka Lamba, former AAP MLA from Chandni Chowk, joined the Congress on Saturday in the presence of the party's Delhi unit incharge PC Chacko.

Lamba had announced her decision to join the Congress early last month when she resigned from the AAP.

Stubble burning a compulsion, rue farmers

SAPNA SINGH ■ KARNAL/
KURUKSHETRA/PATIALA

The Union Government is claiming "sharp" decline in stubble burning cases in rice belt regions of India's northern States Haryana and Punjab, but the ground situation is starkly different as farmers are unwilling to stop burning paddy residues.

No compensation, less accessibility to modern farming machines, absence of manual labour and zilch interactions of agriculture officers with farmers are the reasons behind compulsion of burning the agriculture residues which at last becomes main reason for rise in Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) in Delhi's atmosphere.

In an interaction with The Pioneer, farmers in Karnal, Kurukshetra (Haryana) and

Patiala (Punjab) said the use of machines is impractical in process of paddy harvesting.

Mangat Ram, sarpanch of a village in Karnal district, said, "If burning parali (paddy husk) is causing burn in the eyes of Delhiites, then our heart is also burning here. I am a zamindar (landlord) and owners of 100 acres of land in Karnal region. We will burn the paddy because we have no alternatives."

Ram claimed modern machines cannot cut paddy husk from roots. Demonstrating the process of paddy harvesting, the sarpanch said that use of machines leave one feet of crop residue. "Only manual labour can resolve issue because in this process whole stem has to be cut down, and manual work is costly."

Turn to Page 4



A farmer burns paddy stubbles in a field in a Dudhan Sadhan village in Patiala district on Saturday Ranjan Dimri Pioneer

SHOW TIME

An emotional wringer



THE SKY IS PINK
*ing: Priyanka Chopra, Farhan Akhtar, Zaira Wasim, Rohit Suresh Saraf
Rated: 7/10

Directed by Shonali Bose and co-produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur, Ronnie Screwvala and Priyanka Chopra, *The Sky Is Pink* is based on a true story of Aisha Chaudhary, a girl from Delhi, who was born with Severe Combined Immuno Deficiency (SCID). The film, a love story of a couple spanning 25 years, is told through the lens of their spunky teenage daughter – Aisha, who was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis and went on to becoming a well-known motivational speaker. She authored a book – *My Little Epiphanies*, published one day before her death. She died on January 24, 2015 at 19. Given this plot, the movie promises to be a tearjerker and it doesn't disappoint. You end up crying buckets. If you are the kind of person who cries,

don't forget to carry an entire box of tissue paper. There are no cliff hangers here since the opening shot already tells you how things end. Told in a flashback, the film is an emotional wringer, especially for parents. The beauty of *The Sky Is Pink* lies in not just that despite knowing how it ends, it is able to hold the audiences' attention till the credits start rolling but also the connect that the audience makes with the Chaudhary family and walks with them through their ups and downs. Though the film is about Aisha, strangely she is not central to the film. It is the entire Chaudhary family and how they deal with the hand that they have been dealt with. Priyanka Chopra as Aisha's mother (Moose, as she is referred to), plays the role to perfection. Farhan Akhtar, as the peace-loving Moose's husband is just as good. Overall, it is a movie that is not to be missed.

—Shalini Saksena

Plan Your Sunday

Barish Moon Bar & Cafe

Venue: Near World of Wonder, Garden Galleria Mall, Sector 38 A, Noida
Time: 12 pm to 12 am
Noida is so full of great restaurants and bars and is becoming more and more happening with the latest addition of Barish Moon Bar and cafe. It is a quirky, swish and a fine place to dine, drink and party. For Barish's pretty rooftop and the fact that it serves alcohol, it definitely deserves a mention. While the food is definitely outstanding, it sure is going to be a great spot to catch up with your gang over booze and if the weather's good, everything's good. With uber elegant and chic decor, this is a good spot to head to if you're in or around Noida.



Amour by Neera Nath

Venue: Ballroom, The Imperial, Janpath
Date: October 13, 2019
Time: 12 pm to 8 pm
Amour by Neera is her offering of a new directory on design. Her ability to put together unusually as well as with ease and her experienced eye for detail brings together many diverse looks and genres in interiors. Working on each detail studying balance color functionality and commercial appeal, never been done before Show will open new vistas. Creating customised party or events decor, doing designer branded apartments and homes makeovers as well as taking the barrier one notch higher. It will make various available options.



She is such a darling

Zee TV's reality show Dilli Darlings has come to an end with SHALOO JINDAL being crowned. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with the lady to bring you her side of the story

She is bold, *sanskaari* and honest which makes her the most deserving candidate for the *Dilli Darlings* crown. Meet the wealthiest of all the darlings and the winner of the show — Shaloo Jindal.

A mother of two, a son and a daughter, Jindal was initially apprehensive of signing the show.

"I have never faced the camera before. When the team came to me, I was apprehensive of signing the show. The team insisted and said that there's a reason why they had shortlisted me. My family also encouraged me to give and asked me to see how things went. I am glad that I decided to be a part of the show," she tells you.

However it was not a piece of cake for Jindal. Being surrounded by the camera all the time came with its share of challenges. "It was difficult to manage everything. For two months, I wasn't able to give time to my family. I received a lot of criticism in the show for my dressing style. I didn't have a stylist. The reason being I wanted to just be who I am and not try to be someone that I am not. I designed my clothes and did my make-up. I wanted to stay true to my personality. Though, it used to get hectic sometimes but then all's well that ends well. My hard work paid off," she says.

Even his son's classmates used to tease and make fun of him. "They used to write Dilli Darling on my son's shirt. They used to call me names. My son cried everyday after returning from school. He asked me to quit the show. But, I wanted to shut everyone's mouth. The moment I won the show, everyone's behaviour towards me and my son changed. I started receiving lots of wishes," she tells you.

Winning the title was



definitely a proud and happy moment for Jindal, but what makes her happier is the love she is getting from her fans.

"I receive so many messages on social media. The amount of love and appreciation that I have received is overwhelming. When so many people shower their love on you and relate to you, it's a feeling that can't be put into words," she tells you.

Jindal recalls one such message from her fan during the show which said: 'Ma'am, please don't cry in the show because whenever my husband see you crying he starts crying too. Please be strong, we all are with you.'

A lot has changed for Jindal after coming in the limelight. There are so many eyes that now follow her everywhere.

"I have always been a simple person. There are instances when I take an auto rickshaw to some place. And it's completely fine, but now whenever I am travelling in a public transport people say *dekho dekho dilli darling rickshaw mein ja rahi hai*. I don't get affected by such comments because it's part and parcel of coming being in the limelight. Now, I have become more conscious. I have to take care of how I am dressed before stepping out of my house, which never bothered me earlier," she says.

Emerging as a winner came with a lot of criticism from the fellow contestants but it was not a matter of concern for Jindal.

"After I won the show, all the other contestants said that the camera person only focused on me throughout and that's the reason why I won. It's natural when you emerge as a winner there are things that people will say about you and you have to deal with it. I just laughed off all their claims," she says.

We hope that this win will open many more doors for her.

'I was jobless for seven years'

SUDHA CHANDRAN who plays Srilekha Iyengar in Sony TV's Tara from Satara speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about her role, how she balances her work, personal life and upcoming projects

■ What is your role?
I play Srilekha Iyengar, one of the three judges of the show *Dancer No 1*. She is strict and knows the value of classical dancing. She is precise in what she says and is a perfectionist. She believes in talent and hard work. Sometimes it appears as if she is a negative character but that's not the case. She is loving.

■ Were there any apprehensions before taking up the role?
Not at all. This is one role that I have never ventured into and it comes as a beautiful change for me. I have never done anything related to a reality show but fiction. Here it is a blend of both. I am happy to be part of it.

■ How did acting happen to you?
I don't exactly know how it happened. There is a film made on my life — *Naache Mayuri*. I was casted in it because the story was based on my life and that is how I entered the industry. That's all I remember for now.

■ Can you remember a role that is close to your heart?
There are many roles that are my favourite but the one that comes close to my heart is Ramola Sikand in *Kaahin Kissii Roz*. I believe the role was a turning point in my career. The second one which was like a comeback for me on TV was Yamini Singh Raheja in *Naagin*.

■ How has your journey been thus far?
It has been a long one. My journey was never like a straight line, it was full of a lot of ups and downs. Both ups and downs are important in life to break the monotony otherwise one can become stagnant. It has been interesting with a lot of curves and I am enjoying it all through.

■ Was there moment when you thought of quitting in between?
Yes. After doing *Naache Mayuri* I was jobless for seven



A ROLE THAT COMES CLOSE TO MY HEART IS RAMOLA SIKAND IN KAAHIN KISSII ROZ. THE ROLE WAS A TURNING POINT IN MY CAREER

years. People kept telling me that I am not made for this industry and it will never accept me. But somewhere in my heart, I had that belief that if God has brought me in this industry, there is a purpose behind it and He will never let me down. Because of this implicit faith in the Almighty, I still continue to be a part of this industry even after so many years. I knew that the right time will come when everything will change for the better. It did. And when it came, it was big.

■ Is it hard to balance your work and personal life?
No. It is easy to balance work and family. Most of the women are doing it today and we actors are no exception. But I have drew a definite line between my work and family. I work for 12 hours a day and then go back home and spend the rest of the time with my

family. I make sure that whatever time I am getting free, it should be well spent with my small family — my husband, my father and I.

■ Any advice for the aspiring actors?

Ideally, there is no need to advise the upcoming generation because they are focused in life, they know what they want and are working towards it. They are dedicated and believe in working hard. The amount of hours they put into work is amazing. It is nice to see the new breed of actors coming up who are so professional.

■ Upcoming projects?
At present, I am doing *Bepannah Pyaarr* on Colors, *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein* on Star Plus and *Tara from Satara*. I would like to concentrate on these shows for now.



DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA



That STRANGER knocking



Could be DANGER lurking.

Never roll down your windowpane at a stranger's knock.
It is a distracting trick to steal valuables from your car.

OTHER SIMILAR TRICKS:

- Dropping wallet/purse
- Boot/dickey open
- Money lying on the road
- Oil leak
- Tyre puncture
- Begging/asking for help

SAFETY TIPS



Avoid keeping bags/possessions unattended on rear seat



Avoid keeping valuables on dashboard



Ensure all windowpanes are properly rolled up



Check that doors are securely locked

E-mail to CP, Delhi at : cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

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FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK TODAY FIGHT DENGUE EVERY SUNDAY

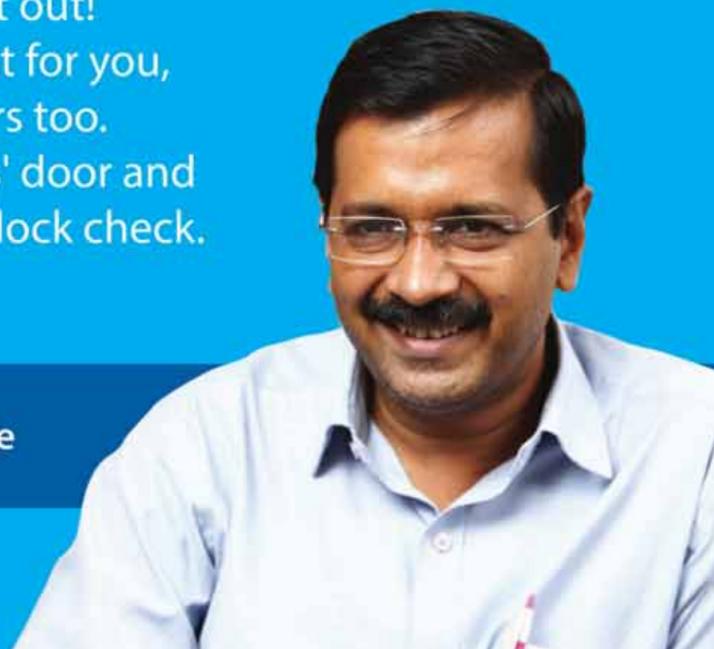


Kids, do you all remember your Sunday homework?
Are you all ready to defeat Dengue?
You have to make sure that everyone spares 10 minutes
at 10'o clock today, to defeat Dengue
All children need to check their homes to ensure that clean water has
not accumulated anywhere.
If it has, then remember to pour it out!
And this Sunday homework is not just for you,
but for your parents and neighbors too.
Remember to knock at your neighbors' door and
remind them about the Sunday 10'o Clock check.

And yes, do not forget to put the sticker
outside your home and your neighbour's home
that you will get in school.

दिल्ली कर दिखाएगी

Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi



डेंगू से
वार हर
रविवार

Alka Lamba joins Cong in presence of PC Chacko

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Alka Lamba, former AAP AMLA, on Saturday joined the Congress in the presence of the party's Delhi unit incharge PC Chacko.

Lamba had announced her decision to join the Congress early last month when she resigned from the primary membership of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Days after her announcement, she was disqualified as a member of the Delhi Assembly by Speaker Ram Niwas Goel under the anti-defection law.

Lamba had quit the Congress after 20 years in December 2014 to join the AAP. She was elected as MLA from Chandni Chowk Assembly constituency on AAP ticket in 2015.

After her induction, Lamba said she decided to return to the Congress as it is the only party which can take care of Delhiites.

"The Aam Aadmi Party government led by Arvind Kejriwal did not do any concrete work for the benefit of Delhiites in the last five years. Though workers like me always put questions before him, they elicited no response from him," she said at the AICC headquarters here.

Lamba alleged AAP supremo and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal made promises which he knew he would not be able to fulfil.



Ex-AAP MLA from Chandni Chowk Alka Lamba joins the Congress party in the presence of the party incharge of Delhi PC Chacko in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

"Kejriwal, who functions like an autocrat, never listens to AAP workers and elected representatives of the party. As a result, development work has suffered. With an eye on the upcoming assembly elections, he is once again trying to fool the people of Delhi by making hollow promises," she said.

The Congress, led by Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, is the only party which can save the country from the present misrule, Lamba said, adding that the nation has suffered severe damage on all fronts in the last five years and slipped into a regressive mode.

Lamba's relationship with the AAP soured after she protested against a resolution in the Delhi Assembly in December last year demanding

that Bharat Ratna awarded to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi be withdrawn over the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

She had been in touch with Congress leaders and had met party president Sonia Gandhi after announcing her decision to quit the ruling AAP.

The Congress could field Lamba from Chandni Chowk in the upcoming assembly polls, a senior leader of the party's Delhi unit said.

Amid talks of Lamba's return, four-time Congress MLA Parlad Singh Sawhney quit the party on October 6 and joined the AAP.

Sawhney was MLA from Chandni Chowk Assembly constituency from 1998 to 2015. In 2015, he was defeated by Lamba.

AYODHYA LAND DISPUTE

SC verdict will be based on rule of law: AIMPLB

Lucknow: The AIMPLB on Saturday strongly hoped that the Supreme Court verdict on the title suit over the 2.77-acre disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land will be in favour of Muslims, saying the judgment "will be in consonance with the rule of law and the basic values of the Constitution".

Following a meeting of its executive committee, the Board also decided to challenge the Constitutional validity of the anti-triple talaq law and warned of any "legislative or judicial" move to impose a Uniform Civil Code, terming the "very concept" of the UCC as a "threat" to the unity in diversity spirit of the country.

"The litigation of Babri Masjid is (being) watched not only by our nation, but also internationally. It is a test case for the basic values of the secularism enshrined in our Constitution," said All India Muslim Personal Law Board in a statement after the meeting, chaired by its chief Rabey Hasan

Nadvi. "It is needless to say that the ultimate judgement of the apex court will be in consonance with the rule of law and the basic values of the Constitution," the statement added.

The AIMPLB's strong observations came days ahead of the Supreme Court's October 18 deadline to complete its hearing on the title suit over the vexed Ayodhya issue.

The Supreme Court on September 18 had set October 18 as deadline for the completion of arguments in the protracted land title suit.

The deadline for the wrapping up of arguments is significant as Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, who is heading the five-judge Constitution bench hearing the case, is to demit office on November 17.

The AIMPLB meeting was attended by a number of senior office bearers of the Board including its vice president Fakhruddin Ashraf Kichhauchhvi, general secretary

Maulana Wali Rehmani, board's senior members Zafaryab Jilani and Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali and Jamaat-e-Ulema Hind chief Maulana Arshad Madni.

The AIMPLB also expressed dissatisfaction over the mediation process undertaken earlier for an out-of-court settlement of the vexed issue, and ruled out any reconciliation over it.

"It was resolved to reiterate the basic stand of the Muslim community that the status of the land which is dedicated for the Masjid (mosque) cannot be altered, changed or transferred in any manner.

"The law of Shariat does not permit it. Therefore no Muslim can surrender or transfer such Wakf land. This submission of Muslims is based on historical facts and evidence that Babri Masjid was constructed without demolishing any Mandir (temple) or any other place of worship," said the board in its statement.

It ruled out reconciliation over the issue, saying: "Several proposals were mooted for mediation of the issue relating to the Babri Masjid and the AIMPLB fully participated in them, with full hope that any solution based on justice can be found.

"But after several efforts, it is now clear that there is no possibility of mediation/reconciliation. Therefore it is obvious that since legal proceedings are in the final stage, there is no possibility of any mediation/reconciliation now," the AIMPLB statement said.

The board ruled out reconciliation in two days after a group of Muslim intellectuals on October 10 suggested an out-of-court settlement of the vexed Ayodhya issue, stressing that it would help establish peace in the country if Muslims hand over the disputed land to the central government as a "good-will gesture".

Convenor Kalam Khan of the newly-formed "Indian

Muslims for peace" had said in a press statement that a meeting of the forum held on Thursday passed a resolution favouring out-of-court settlement of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute.

The board also expressed satisfaction over presentation of legal arguments in the apex court on Ayodhya land dispute.

"During the meeting, the committee members expressed satisfaction over the strong legal points made by senior counsel representing the Muslim side before the court. The Muslim side has strong arguments and we are hopeful that the apex court judgement will be in our favour," said a board member on condition of anonymity.

"The AIMPLB expresses satisfaction over presentation of facts and evidence by its senior counsel Rajiv Dhawan under whose leadership the legal team of AIMPLB ably argued the case before the apex court," the board said in its statement. PTI

CON COPS ROB 2 IRAQI NATIONALS OF ₹4.5L IN G'GRAM

Gurgaon: Two unidentified men posing as police officers allegedly stole over ₹4.50 lakh from the wallet of two Iraqi nationals in Gurgaon, officials said.

Karwan Taha Mohhammed, along with his friend, had come here for the treatment of his brother at a private hospital.

They were returning to

their guest house in an auto when the fraudsters in a white car intercepted their vehicle near Kanhai traffic intersection.

The accused stepped out of their car and introduced themselves as police officers. They then asked the foreigners to show their visa, passport, purpose of visiting India and wallet.

The accused cleverly took away ₹6,000 from their wallet without coming into notice of the victim, Gurgaon police PRO Subhash Bokan said.

"We are scanning the CCTV footage of the area to identify the culprits to nab them. A case was registered on the statement of victims," he added. PTI

Sudh Mahadev, Mantalai religious sites in J&K being developed as tourist destinations, says BJP

Jammu: A senior BJP leader on Saturday said the Centre is spending over ₹84 crore for development of Sudh Mahadev and Mantalai, a treasure of ancient religious monuments and temples, in Udhampur district of Jammu & Kashmir.

BJP National Vice-President and 'prabhari' (incharge) J&K Avinash Rai Khanna said the Union tourism ministry under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme has sanctioned the 'Integrated Development of Tourist facilities at Mantalai-Sudh Mahadev-Patnitop under Himalyan Circuit'.

Sudh Mahadev, located 112 kms from here, houses a highly revered Shiva temple which is believed to be nearly 3,000 years old, having a black marble idol of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati besides a trishul.

The mystical underground

stream, Devak, believed to be as sacred as the Ganges originates at Sudh Mahadev and disappears among the rocks some distance downstream. A few kilometers ahead of Sudh Mahadev is Mantalai surrounded by lush deodar forests. As per legend, it is the place where Lord Shiva got married to goddess Parvati.

"As Mantalai and Sudh Mahadev have treasures of rich ancient religious monuments and temples, they would naturally prove to be hub of religious pilgrimage as well," he said and expressed hope that the projects will be completed in the shortest period. Referring to an official communication received by him from Union Minister of State, Tourism and Culture Prahlad Singh Patel said the project would not only attract tourists but will boost economy of the local populace. PTI

Pope Francis to declare Indian nun saint today

Kochi: Pope Francis will declare Indian nun Mariam Theresia Chiramel Mankidiyan a saint on October 13 at the Vatican City, the Church said. Mariam Theresia, the founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family (CHF), will be raised to the glory of the altar during a solemn Eucharistic Celebration in Rome's St Peter's Square on Sunday, Vatican News said.

The nun from Kerala will be canonised along with English Cardinal John Henry Newman, Swiss laywoman Marguerite Bays, Brazilian Sister Dulce Lopes and Italian Sister Giuseppina Vannini.

Mariam Theresia was called during the first half of her life simply Theresia, the name given to her at baptism on May 3, 1876. Since 1904, she wanted to be called Mariam Theresia as she believed that she was asked to add 'Mariam' to her name by the Blessed Virgin Mary in a vision. PTI

Modi-Xi...

From Page 1

Giving an account of outcome of the summit, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said the two leaders recognised the importance of continued joint efforts to ensure that the international community strengthens the framework against training, financing and supporting terrorist groups throughout the world and on a non-discriminatory basis.

The two leaders also decided to establish a high-level economic and trade dialogue mechanism with the objective of achieving enhanced trade and commercial relations, as well as to better balance the trade between the two countries, he said. It will be headed by Vice Premier Hu Chunhua on the Chinese side and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman from India.

On the vexed boundary issue, Gokhale said both sides will continue to work on additional confidence building measures to enhance peace and tranquillity along the border.

Asked whether cross-border terrorism was discussed in the meeting, the foreign secretary only said that India-China ties are not a one-issue relationship.

In the talks, the Chinese president also agreed to take sincere steps in a concrete way to address India's concerns over ballooning trade deficit in China's favour. He also welcomed greater Indian investment in China in information technology and pharmaceutical sectors, Gokhale said.

They have also agreed to encourage mutual investments in identified sectors through the development of a manufacturing partnership and tasked their officials to develop the idea at the first meeting of the new dialogue mechanism, the foreign secretary said.

"Both leaders shared the view that the international situation is witnessing significant readjustment. They were of the view that India and China share the common objective of working for a peaceful, secure and prosperous world in which all countries can pursue their development within a rules-based international order," said a press release featuring 16 important outcomes.

Modi and Xi held a 90-minute meeting at the Taj's Fisherman's Cove resort on Saturday and took a stroll along the beach front. It was followed by delegation-level talks. Earlier, Modi and Xi came together to the venue in a golf cart.

Stubble...

From Page 1

When asked about compensation amount given by Government, farmers said, "The said amount is on paper only. We need to burn the parali and we are well aware that this impacts the environment but the Government never questions the rice mill owners as the emissions from rice mills cause more pollution than parali burning," said another farmer, Jitender Ram Rathi.

Several incidents of stubble burning were witnessed in Taraori village popularly known as 'rice bowl'. Surprisingly, deployment of farmers is also there to assure burning of waste after 2 pm in the farms. "Where will farmers go? In mandi we are not getting reasonable amount for our crops and this year, jeeri (rice) processing is low due to moisture," said Lalit, a farmer.

More incidents of stubble burning were observed 25 km far from Kurukshetra, Pehowa aligning vast stretch of paddy cultivation in Patiala district. From Thanesar, Jurasi Kurd, Siyala Saiyadpur to Franswala, Meon, Rurki to Sangrur border, incidents of stubble burning in paddy fields were witnessed in high numbers.

Near Guthmara village, Patiala farmers claimed water scarcity as a major problem. "The Amarinder Singh Government has failed to compensate farmers. Matter of fact is during elections ₹2,000 were credited in a few farmers' account. Burning parali is our compulsion, we do not have money to buy equipments," said Surjan Singh, a farmer.

In Duddhan Sadhan village where crop residue burning incidents can be easily witnessed, farmers believe that burning agriculture waste may save villagers from vector-borne diseases. "We burn the waste to prepare the farm land for next crop however fumes is good as it diminish the mosquito causing dengue," said Jagdev Singh, sarpanch.

Farmers in 290 acres land of Duddhan Sadhan cultivate paddy, fearing costs, small farmers are adamant in burning paddy husk. "They (Government) buy paddy husk at Rs 1300 per acre, from where small farmer will pay Rs 1300, we prefer to burn it rather sell it, no agriculture officer visits our region," said Subedar Major Baldev Singh (retd).

"We have to bear the cost of urea and other fertilisers... future of next generation is dark, there is no water, no labour for agriculture work in Punjab due to rapid immigration to abroad," said Arjan Singh, a farmer in Bibipur, Sanour, Patiala.

Meanwhile, officials in Punjab and Haryana agriculture division agree on the rise of stubble burning cases. On the condition of anonymity, sources in Haryana Agriculture Department said that this year fine on stubble burning is less. "Keeping Assembly elections in view, penalty on stubble burning is less as compared to previous years," an officer said.

Punjab Agriculture officers also confessed that interaction with farmers is less in remote areas and hence farmers prefer to burn parali rather opting for modern equipments.

Meanwhile in Delhi, the overall air quality on Saturday has turned poor. "The increased biomass fire activity in Haryana and Punjab started to influence Delhi's AQI. The surface wind speed continues to be slow and variable with predominant direction from the West," SAFAR said.

"Under these conditions, air quality is predicted to deteriorate to the middle of the poor category by Sunday. Further deterioration of the AQI is expected by October 14, within the poor category," SAFAR forecast.

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It was in anticipation of this, he added, that the restrictions were imposed so that externally aided terrorism does not lead to a loss of innocent lives. "It is a tribute, both to the people of Jammu &

Kashmir and to the security forces, that these measures have ensured that there is no unnecessary loss of life in Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

He further informed that since 16 August, there has been a gradual removal of the restrictions that were imposed and by the first week of September, most restrictions were removed.

"Barring 8-10 Police Stations, movement restrictions have been completely removed. Over 99% of the area of Jammu & Kashmir has no restrictions on movement," he said.

He said that the telephone landlines have been fully restored and are functioning for over six weeks, besides mobile phone facilities were restored in Jammu and Ladakh and subsequently in Kupwara district.

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Parameshwara's aide found hanging after I-T raids

Bengaluru: Former Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara's confidant allegedly committed suicide here on Saturday, days after income-tax sleuths raided the senior congress leader's residence, office and educational institutions.

Ramesh, who hailed from Melehalli in Ramanagar, was found hanging from a tree near the Sports Authority of India grounds in the morning, police said.

According to congress sources, he started his stint with Congress as a typist and became close to Parameshwara.

The sleuths, who raided the residence, office and Siddharth Group of institutions belonging to Parameshwara two days ago, had questioned Ramesh too, the sources claimed.

The I-T department has summoned Parameshwara for questioning on Tuesday in connection with the raids. An alleged suicide note found from the spot where Ramesh's body was found hanging, read, "I am rattled with the I-T raids in my house and have decided to commit suicide to protect honour (sic). Anguished with the culture that the poor should remain poor forever, I arrived at this decision." Police said the note appealed to I-T officials not to trouble his wife and children. PTI

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my client Md. Mustafa S/o. Sh. Nooru R/o. 1016, Jakhira Jhuggi, Rakhi Market, Rama Road, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015 have disowned & debarred his son namely Md. Islam from his all movable and immovable properties throughout in India, and also sever all their relations from him due to disregard toward my clients. Anybody who deals with them will do so at her/their own risk & responsibility.

R.K. SHRIVASTAV - ADVOCATE Chamber No. 33, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sh. Devender Kumar and Smt. Laxmi Devi do hereby disinherit/disown/give Fargati to their son and daughter in law Naveen Saluja & Charu Saluja @Makhija from all of his movable and immovable properties. Naveen Saluja & Charu Saluja @Makhija (including their legal heirs) shall have no right/claims whatsoever in the movable or immovable properties of my said client Devender Kumar and Smt. Laxmi Devi as they are married and they had made my clients life miserable by beating them and filing frivolous complaints against each other and against my client in various call/Police stations. My client shall not be responsible for any acts of omission or commission of said Sh. Naveen Saluja & Charu Saluja @Makhija in any manner whatsoever and they shall be personally liable for all their acts.

Sajid Dhamic Advocate S-265, L.C.F., G.K.1, New Delhi 110048

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI.

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

OA NDN No 653/19(CA) DATE: 18.09.2019

AXIS BANK LTD. ...APPLICANT VERSUS NEERU SETHI & ORS. ...RESPONDENT

TO, (DEFENDANT) 1. Neeru SETHI W/o Sh. Sandeep Sethi, House No. -672, Sect.-22B Near Primary School Gurgaon, HRY-122001, Also At: Bosch Ltd. Rishyamoook 85A, Panchnikuan Road New Delhi-01 2. Sandeep Sethi C/o Monu Arora, H 636, Shiva Colony Basti Near Axis Bank Basti Uttar Pradesh-272001, Also At: Gandhi Nagar Basti UP-272001

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs 35,52,196/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Fifty Two Thousand One Hundred and Ninety Six 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 13.11.2019 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

PM's niece...

From Page 1

"Police have identified the accused and police teams have been formed who are analysing CCTV footage from Old Delhi Railway Station to Civil Lines to nab the culprits. Some suspects have been detained and police teams are questioning them," said

Monika Bharadwaj, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North District.

The snatching cases are on the rise in the Capital. The Delhi Police is claiming that they are going down heavily on the criminals but the growing incidents of snatching are telling a different story.

Postpaid...

From Page 1

Kansal adde, "All the remaining areas of Jammu & Kashmir will now have mobile postpaid services. More specifically, all post-paid mobile phones, irrespective of the telecom service provider, will stand restored and be functional from 12 noon on Monday, 14 October, 2019. This will cover all 10 districts of Kashmir province".

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Baseer Ahmed Khan, Inspector General of Police Kashmir zone, S P Pani, and Director Information and Public Relations, Dr. Syed Seshirish Asgar were present during the press briefing.

Kansal said, "Tourists are welcome to visit the state and they will be facilitated for their visit. Internet facilities are being opened at tourist places to assist tourists wanting to access internet".

Jammu & Kashmir government had imposed a communication blockade on August 5 when central government abrogated special status and divided the state into two union territories.

He said that with this step, tourists will be able to visit the state without being handicapped by the lack of phone connectivity, students can be in touch with parents while attending schools, businessmen can be in touch with customers, transporters can contact clients, and contractors

can be in touch with staff.

Referring to continuous lock down of main market places, Kansal said the Government is urging the businessmen, industrialists, traders, transporters, shopkeepers, hoteliers and contractors not to be frightened by militant threats and separatists and go about their normal activities.

"The government is firm in its resolve that the attempts of these disruptive elements will be foiled. The Government thanks the people of Jammu & Kashmir for being cooperative and helping in maintaining peace and public order," he said.

Explaining the reasons behind the restrictions imposed in the light of the important constitutional changes that were made in relation to Jammu & Kashmir in August 2019, he said that a number of restrictions were imposed from 4 August 2019 in order to prevent externally aided terrorists from disturbing peace and inflicting casualties on innocent citizens.

He said that it is now a well-established fact that there have been sustained attempts from across the border, both in the past and more so in the last two months, to promote militancy and terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir in order to create a sense of fear and terror among the people and keep the place in a disturbed condition.

"It is also a fact that the attempts from across the bor-

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO. II, JAMMU

EXTENSION - II

Name of work: (i) Const. of road by way of earthwork and crated R/wall on Chilla to Mand road Km 1st. (4th Time)
(ii) Providing and Laying for Berms filling both side of road on Nandani Tara list Road Km 8th RD (0-1000) to Km 13th RD (0-500) by way of RBM filling and other allied works. (2nd Time)
(iii) Improvement of road surface by way of Restoration of berms on Jakhari link road Km 1st to 4th RD 650 (Newly laid BM & OGPC on the road). (2nd Time)
(iv) Improvement of road surface by way of Restoration of berms and Construction of Kacha Drain on Kanyala Mugal Mohalla road Km 1st & 2nd (0-700) (Newly laid B.T.). (2nd Time)
(v) Maintn. of road by way of Berm filling and clearance of Mulba from drain in newly laid BM & premix on Manwal to Dhoon road in Km 1st to Km 3rd. (2nd Time)

Reference : Fresh e-NIT No. 80 of 2019-2020/Div-2 Dated 25-09-2019

Due to Nil / Poor Response, the changes to the critical dates of the above said works are hereby made as under:-

Please read	Instead of

AMIT SHAH AT NHRC EVENT

Human Rights need to be seen in Indian perspective

World standards different from Indian situations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There has not been a bigger violation of human rights than against those who are victims of terrorism and naxalism, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday at the 26th National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) foundation day celebration here, amid concerns over human rights issues in Kashmir from several quarters.

He said that human rights in the country need to be looked at with an "Indian perspective". "There is an essential difference in "human rights" as it should be seen in India and in the rest of the world because of the inherent difference in beliefs and circumstances", added the BJP president.

Citing Kashmir as an example, Shah said that more than 40,000 people have been killed because of terrorism in Kashmir since the 1990s. "Don't they have human rights? The NHRC should also look into this," he said. The practice of human rights in the country has been built into the Indian way of life, Shah said. "If we go by global parameters [on measuring human rights violations in India and in the rest of the world], it won't be right. As far as the rights of children and



Union Home Minister Amit Shah being presented a memento by former Chief Justice of India and NHRC Chairperson HL Dattu during NHRC foundation day function at DRDO Bhawan in New Delhi on Saturday

women are concerned, those of the poor and underprivileged are concerned... they are inbuilt within the society, within our family, without any intrusion from law," Shah said.

While emphasising on zero tolerance towards custodial deaths and police atrocities; he spoke for the protection of human rights of the victims of terrorism and those who have been unable to enjoy the fruits of development because of the violence inflicted by naxalism and terrorism. "I think the time has come to look at human rights from a new dimension," he added.

The BJP leader said thousands of outfits are working on ground to ensure that human rights are enforced there. These too, he argued, should be given space and platform by the NHRC. "The Modi Government has fought successfully against human rights violations. When people don't

have access to toilets, is it not a violation of human rights? When people are forced to burn twigs to cook food, is it not a violation of human rights? By providing 13 crore gas connections, 10 crore toilets, 2.5 crore toilets and 3-3.5 crore houses with electricity, the Modi Government carried out the biggest exercise towards restoring human rights anywhere in the entire world," Shah said.

"Our saints have written literature that explicitly talks about human rights. They gave us the slogan of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family). So when we were thinking of the entire world, you can see that concerns like human rights were inbuilt in our system," he said.

Shah added that there could not be a better charter of human rights than Narsi Mehta's 'Vaishnava Jana To', sung and immortalised by Mahatma Gandhi.

ED attaches Bhushan Steel assets worth ₹4,025 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached immovable properties, including land, building, plant and machinery, of around ₹4,025.23 crore of Bhushan Power & Steel Limited (BPSL) in Odisha in a bank fraud case, under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

"The quantification of the ₹4,025.23 crore attached assets is interim as of now and investigations to identify further proceeds of crime are under progress," the ED said on Saturday.

Investigations conducted



under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) revealed that BPSL had used various modus operandi to siphon off funds obtained as loans from various banks and financial institutions, said the ED, adding an amount of ₹695.14 crore was introduced as capital by Sanjay Singal and his

family members in BPSL out of artificially generated Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) by diversion of bank loans fund of BPSL. LTCG was exempted from Income Tax during the relevant time, said the agency.

"BPSL had made payments to various entities by way of RTGS against fictitious purchases of capital goods. In lieu of the RTGS payments, these entities had transferred cash to BPSL which was ultimately traced to have been used for generation of artificial LTCG by jacking up the prices of penny stocks by way of synchronized trading."

Another amount of ₹3,330.09 crore invested as

equity (share capital and premium) by promoter companies was also found to have been routed out of the funds obtained as various loans from banks diverted from accounts of BPSL in the shape of advances shown to various shell companies operated by the different entry operators, the ED said.

According to the ED, investigations till date have revealed circular diversion of funds totalling to ₹4,025.23 crore which is related to criminal activity of scheduled offence.

"These proceeds of crime (amount) were laundered by way of introduction into the books of accounts as equity for

window dressing the debt equity ratio."

Investigations have further revealed that, during the relevant period when the loan funds were diverted and reintroduced as equity, BPSL had acquired land, building and plant and machinery worth thousands of crores of rupees at its Odisha plant, the ED said.

Kedarnath reconstruction projects being monitored through drones: Amit Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Emphasising on the need to use technology for good governance, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Kedarnath reconstruction projects including the laying of all-weather roads leading to the shrine are being monitored through drones, thereby reducing the need of physical inspection.

Addressing the 14th annual convention of the Central Information Commission (CIC) here, Shah said that the government has used technology in several initiatives like Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar, mobile and usage of Gem portal for purchasing.

"Through geo-tagging, using the images of satellites, we get to know whether the



dam has been built or not, what is the situation of water in the dam and also irrigation monitoring through the usage of drones," the home minister, who was the chief guest at the event, said.

"Now, there has been work going on at Kedarnath... All-weather roads are being constructed, they are being mon-

itored online. You would get surprised that we don't need to send inspector on the spot as all the monitoring work is being done online using drones. It is the successful usage of online monitoring," Shah said.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2017, the ambitious all-weather roads project would smoothen the annual pilgrimage to the four famous Himalayan shrines.

The Kedarnath reconstruction project, whose foundation stone was also laid by Modi, was aimed at boosting facilities for Chardham pilgrims.

The four towns of the hilly state to be connected by all-weather roads are Yamnotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath.

Congress claims I-T Dept raided party employees, says BJP trying to convert India into 'police state'

New Delhi: The Congress on Saturday claimed the Income Tax Department raided houses of five employees of the party and accused the BJP of trying to convert India into a "police state".

According to the Congress, the Income Tax Department carried out raids at residences of five employees of the party's accounts department on Friday. The raids continued on Saturday as well.

Addressing a press conference at the party office here, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma wondered whether there were two sets of laws in the country as no one questioned the BJP, which, he claimed, was the richest polit-

ical party in the world. "India cannot be converted into a state where people are living in fear and insecurity... You (BJP) cannot create a police or a surveillance state by terror of raids on the opposition party," he said.

He alleged that the BJP-led government is obsessed with political vendetta and now it has started raiding the houses of Congress employees as part of its agenda to target the opposition parties.

Citing reports, Sharma claimed that the BJP spent about ₹40,000 crore during the Lok Sabha elections and 99 per cent of the total electoral bonds were in its favour but no one questioned the party.

Cong says Rajiv made India, China relations meaningful, Manmohan matured them



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping's informal meeting at Mamallapuram, the Congress on Saturday said India's meaningful engagement with China started with former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the neighbouring country in 1988 and the Manmohan Singh led-UPA Government took it forward to the level of mature understanding.

On a question on Aksai Chin, Congress spokesperson Anand Sharma said the Congress Working Committee (CWC) had passed a resolution saying the part of Kashmir, which was illegally ceded to China by Pakistan, should be returned to India.

He said the party had taken note of the summit that took place between India and China.

The two countries were not only neighbours, but two major economies and the two most populated nations in the world and their partnership was multi-faceted, despite the difficulties and unresolved issues

they had, Sharma said, replying to questions about the summit.

"India has remained meaningfully engaged with China and it started with (former) prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit in 1988 and his dialogue with then Chinese supreme leader and during the 10 years of the UPA government, this was taken forward and the relationship was brought to a level of mature understanding," the Congress spokesperson said.

He reiterated that the Congress was firm in its stand that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India and that the Kashmir problem was entirely our internal matter.

"I did not think that Modi would have discussed about it with Jinping. We are against any third party meddling on the Jammu and Kashmir issue," Sharma said.

About the Centre's decision to remove the restrictions on mobile communication in Kashmir from Monday, he said the Congress always felt that the people in the valley should enjoy all the rights and freedom guaranteed in the Constitution.

AI-based chatbot Niki to add seven more Indian languages

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Artificial Intelligence start-up Niki is all set to diversify into seven other Indian languages after having tasted success in the Hindi language app-based internet commerce by creating a virtual agent for online voice-based transactions for consumers who are hassled by the barriers like using the keyboard in English or Indian languages.

Niki has already created a user base of 18 lakh consumers in Hindi language and the start up firm has reached an annual turnover of ₹300 crore. IIT Kharagpur alumnus and CEO of Niki Sachin Jaiswal

told *The Pioneer*, "What we are trying to do is to unlock internet commerce for the next billion users in India by developing a virtual agent for them. In India, 95 per cent of the people don't know how to use an app because most of the apps are in English language. Typing through keyboard in vernacular language is complicated and one should have a basic understanding of computer terminologies to process the instructions through the apps."

Niki has developed a solution by developing apps in Indian languages that operate through voice-based commands to remove the sore points of the consumers."

The Niki app will help the users for services like online recharge, bill payments of various utilities like power, phone or gas and also facilitate in booking travel tickets by just issuing commands through voice especially in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

Besides Hindi, development of applications (apps) in various stages of trial, testing and launch in Indian languages like Marathi, Gujarati, Bangla, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada besides English, Jaiswal said.

The startup was founded by Jaiswal along with three of his IITian colleagues in June 2015 with funding by Ratan Tata, Ronnie Screwvala and SAPiO and other venture capitalists.

Rahul should return as Cong president: Salman Khurshid

New Delhi: Rahul Gandhi is "our leader" and should return as the president of the Congress, senior party leader Salman Khurshid has said, days after he remarked that the party was not able to introspect its Lok Sabha poll debacle as "its leader had walked away" after the election.

The Congress had seemingly disapproved Khurshid's "walked away" remarks with party spokesperson Pawan Khara saying people should avoid making side comments and work towards exposing the BJP government's follies instead.

In a long Facebook post on Friday, Khurshid referred to the

uproar over his remarks, saying, "I am amazed at being lectured by people who know little about personal faithfulness or political strategy. So once for all I hereby let them know that I believe faith and allegiance is about trust and personal choice. Yet for grown ups it has no place for unqualified awe and deference, real or contrived."

"I support the Gandhi family because of personal gratitude and understanding of history and Indian democracy," he said.

Strategic silence is sensible in critical moments but equally speaking up is an imperative for collective future, Khurshid

said in what he termed as his letter to his colleagues in the Congress and "people who are listening".

Asserting that only dead fish flow with the water, Khurshid said the Congress is not like the BJP and must never be.

"When our spokesperson points to our duty to counter the BJP he must remember it is possible only if we can manifest our different world view and expression of a mind without fear. The battle we join is not mere screaming ossified phrases against the RSS but in how we react to specific situations, including of conflict," the former Union minister said.

'More than 3 crore RTI applications filed so far'

Not a single RTI report from UP since law came into force in 2005, says report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Being an Right to Information (RTI) activist isn't easy in Uttarakhand, where over 400 cases of threats or harassment of applicants were registered. But at the same time, Uttarakhand is also the State where the Information Commission imposed the maximum over ₹80 lakh penalty on public authorities in the last three years. Data compiled by Transparency International India (TII) said only 5 Information Commissions have maintained data related to cases of threats and harassments while 24 others (excluding J&K, an UT now) maintain no data related to cases of threats and harassments.

According to the report released on RTI Day on Saturday, the number of applications under RTI has increased to 3.02 crore in 2019 from 2.43 crore in 2018. The top five departments and States receiving maximum number of RTI applications are the Central Information Commission (78.93 lakh), Maharashtra (61.80 lakh), Tamil Nadu (26.91 lakh), Karnataka (22.78 lakh) and Kerala (21.92 lakh). Uttar Pradesh has not pub-

lished a single report mandatory under the Right To Information or RTI Act since the transparency law came into being in 2005. In contrast, Chhattisgarh is the only state which brought out all its yearly reports.

On the penalty imposed, the report said that in 15, 578 cases, penalty was imposed by State Information Commissions (excluding Central Information Commission) during 2005-06 to 2018-19. The highest penalty imposed in the last three years was ₹81 lakh by the Uttarakhand State Information Commission and ₹49 lakh imposed by the Rajasthan State Information Commission. The report analyses functioning of 28 state information commissions in the country.

Chhattisgarh is the only State which has published the annual reports from the years 2005 to 2018 while, only 9 states out of the 28 states (excluding J&K, since it is a UT now) have published annual report up to year 2017-18. Publishing of annual report is mandatory as per RTI Act 2005. Although all states (except Bihar) have a functional website, the websites are only ritualistic except for states like Central Information Commission, Rajasthan and Gujarat, giving basic information and providing no real details about the working of the Information Commissions," the report said.

Among the highly populated States, highest number of complaints and appeals (4.61 lakh) landed at the

Information Commission in Tamil Nadu since 2005 when RTI Act came into being, while on the other extreme of spectrum is Telangana which received only 10,619 and West Bengal which received 20,058 cases and complaints during the period, TII said.

On the posts lying vacant, the report found that currently, 24 out of 155 posts of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners are vacant, whereas as per STR 2018, 48 out of 156 posts were vacant. Seven state Information Commissions have one woman Information Commissioners each which is approximately 4.5 per cent of total sanctioned posts.

"RTI legislation has been utilized to reorient public policy and it has facilitated the healthy working of democracy. It is a tool to make the governance system transparent & accountable and definitely not a weapon against the government," said Rama Nath Jha, Executive Director, Transparency International India.

"It is high time to stand united to fight and reinvent the network of pro-transparency civil society groups of country to intensify struggle for the Right to Information 2.0", he added.

The report noted that over the last 14 years, RTI has been empowering the people by enabling the demand of information from Government authorities which has lifted the veil of secrecy from Government functioning.

Southwest monsoon's complete withdrawal by Oct 20: IMD

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After the flood fury that affected the normal life of over 2 crore people in 14 States, the southwest monsoon has started its withdrawal from Wednesday. The monsoon withdrawal will be completed by October 20. Day temperatures over northwest and Central India are also forecast to dip over the next three to four days.

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), this is the longest delayed withdrawal of monsoon. "The most delayed withdrawal in the past years has been recorded in 1961 (1st October 1961), followed by 30th September in 2007," the IMD pointed out.



"The withdrawal has started from Kapurthala, Ambala, Karnal and Churu on

Wednesday. In view of the persistence of an anti-cyclonic circulation in the lower tropo-

spheric level over northwest India, gradual reduction in moisture in the lower and mid

tropospheric levels and reduction in rainfall, the southwest monsoon has withdrawn from some parts of Punjab, Haryana and north Rajasthan today (Wednesday), October 9, 2019 as against the normal date of September 1," the IMD said. The normal date of withdrawal is September 1. The most delayed withdrawal in the past years has been recorded in 1961 (October 1, 1961) followed by September 30 in 2007.

The excess rains this year have not only flooded several cities and towns but is also expected to cause extensive damage to standing kharif crops in states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh. As per data of

flood situation report by the Ministry of Home Affairs, over 1700 people have died and damaged crops of nearly 13 lakh hectare in these 14 states. The delayed onset of the monsoons initially meant a rainfall deficit of 33 percent in June. But the season is ending with 10 percent higher rainfall than the long term average. On the flip side, longer monsoon could also restock reservoirs and help replenish ground water, helping assuage water shortages in pockets of the country of 1.3 billion people and boosting production of rabi crops.

The IMD said that the moisture level in the atmosphere will reduce gradually in the lower levels over the next two days, giving way to dry and cooler air from across the bor-

der to fill the lower levels, suppressing rainfall.

"This would set up the right conditions for the monsoon to exit from parts of North-West India initially, before the withdrawal line covers more areas over West, North-West, Central and East India. By the time the line crosses Central India, conditions would have evolved over the Bay of Bengal, Peninsular India and the Arabian Sea for the retreating monsoon (North-East monsoon)," IMD said.

The monsoon, meanwhile, has seen a number of other records being made this year, the IMD said in a detailed review at the end of what has been an exceptionally productive season. After 1994, (110 per cent of long-period average, or

the LPA), the rainfall received during the just concluded 2019 season is the highest seasonal rainfall received by the country as a whole.

(The LPA is calculated on the basis of the mean rainfall during the four-month monsoon season over the 50-year period from 1951-2010. It works out to an average of 89 cm for the country as a whole).

During 18 of the last 19 years (2001-2019), North-East India has received seasonal rainfall less than LPA with an exception of 2007 (110 of LPA), the IMD observed.

This indicates that the seasonal rainfall over North-East India is passing through a below normal epoch like it was during the early 1950s to mid-1980s.

Turkey steps up assault on Syria Kurds defying sanctions threats

TURKISH FORCES CAPTURE SYRIAN TOWN RAS AL-AIN

AFP ■ RAS AL-AIN (SYRIA)

Ankara stepped up its assault on Kurdish-held border towns in northeastern Syria on Saturday, defying mounting threats of international sanctions, even from Washington. Buoyed by a night of steady advances in the countryside, Turkish troops and their Syrian allies entered the battleground town of Ras al-Ain, sources on both sides said.

The Turkish Defence Ministry hailed its forces' capture of the first Kurdish-held town of the offensive so far.

But Ras al-Ain's Kurdish defenders denied the town had fallen and an AFP correspondent near the town said Turkish troops and their Syrian allies had entered but had yet to capture it.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, who were the main ground partner in the US-led campaign against the Islamic State group, have taken mounting losses against the vastly superior firepower of the Turkish Army.

At least 20 SDF fighters were killed in clashes overnight, taking their losses since the



Turkish offensive began on Wednesday to 74, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said.

Turkish air strikes on Kurdish-held towns and intense artillery exchanges caused mounting casualties on both sides of the border, with 28 dead on the Syrian side, according to the Observatory, and 17 dead in Turkey, according to Turkish reports.

The Turkish Army has lost four dead, according to the defence ministry and the state-run Anadolu news agency.

The town of Ras al-Ain and that of Tal-Abyad further west have been primary goals of the Turkish offensive and have both come under heavy bombardment.

They lie at either end of a section of the border which although Kurdish-controlled has an ethnic Arab majority.

Ankara says its forces' mis-

sion is to establish a safe zone run by its mainly Arab Syrian allies in which some of the 3.6 million mostly Arab refugees from Syria can be rehoused.

But the Kurds say that the Turkish invasion, which has led to an exodus of civilian residents, Arab as well as Kurdish, amounts to an attempt to redraw the ethnic map of the region at their expense.

The offensive has so far displaced some 100,000 people, according to the United Nations. Roads leading out of the area have been filled with fleeing civilians, some on foot, other in vehicles piled high with their belongings.

Few had any idea when if ever they would be able to return to their homes. "We always get displaced no matter where we go," said Yusra al-Saleh, who fled violence along Syria's northern border. "We are destroyed," the 38-year-old told AFP.

Turkey vows to keep up Syria assault as US says troops came under fire

AFP ■ RAS AL-AIN (SYRIA)

Battles raged in Syria as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed to press on with a deadly assault against Kurdish forces, while the Pentagon said on Friday US troops came under artillery fire from Turkish positions.

Erdogan's pledge to keep up the offensive, which the UN says has displaced more than 100,000 people since it began on Wednesday, came as the US Treasury warned President Donald Trump was planning to activate "very powerful" sanctions on Ankara.

Trump, whose order to pull back US troops from the border this week effectively triggered the intervention, has faced a firestorm of criticism for appearing to give a green light to the push.

Turkey is targeting the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a key US ally in the five-year battle to crush the Islamic State group.

A Pentagon spokesman confirmed an explosion within a few hundred meters of its post close to the northern Syrian border, in an area "known by the Turks to have US forces present".

"All US troops are accounted for with no injuries," Navy Captain Brook DeWalt said in a statement. US forces

had not withdrawn from their position near the town of Kobani, he said.

"The US demands that Turkey avoid actions that could result in immediate defensive action," warned DeWalt.

Earlier Friday, US Defence Secretary Mark Esper "strongly encouraged" Turkey to halt its offensive as a prelude to such negotiations, warning of "serious consequences". But Erdogan vowed the assault "will not stop".

"Now there are threats coming from left and right, telling us to stop this," he said.

"We will not step back." Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Trump had authorized — but not yet activated — new sanctions to dissuade Turkey from further offensive military action.

"We can shut down the Turkish economy if we need to," he said.

Turkey's third such operation since the start of the war in Syria has been met with international condemnation over what many see as the blatant US betrayal of the

Kurdish forces, who have lost 11,000 fighters in the campaign against IS. As the offensive went into its third day, the SDF were fending for themselves, trying to repulse multiple ground attacks along a roughly 120-kilometre (75-mile) stretch of the border.

US mulls sanctions against Turkey

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Expressing concern about the ongoing military offensive in northern Syria and potential targeting of civilians, the Trump Administration has threatened to impose sanctions on Turkey.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told reporters that President Donald Trump would be signing a new executive order, giving the Treasury Department "very significant new sanction authorities" that could be targeted at any person associated with the Government of Turkey.

"This will be both primary and secondary sanctions," he said.

"The president is concerned about the ongoing military offensive and potential targeting of civilians, civilian infrastructure, ethnic or religious minorities. Also, the president wants to make it very clear: It is imperative that Turkey not allow even a single IS fighter to escape," he said.

Mnuchin, however, stressed that there were no sanctions against Turkey as of now.

"At this point, we are not activating the sanctions. But, as the president has said, he will provide very significant authorities based upon the continuing efforts," he said.

The treasury secretary said they were putting the financial institutions on notice to be careful about the possibility of sanctions.

Pak supports Turkey's Syria offensive

Islamabad: Pakistan has offered rare backing to Turkey in its offensive against Kurdish forces in Syria, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expected to visit Islamabad later this month. Turkey on Wednesday launched an offensive in northern Syria targeting the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, a key US ally in the five-year battle to crush the Islamic State group. The SDF lost 11,000 fighters in the US-led campaign. It is Turkey's third such operation since the start of the war in Syria and has been met with international condemnation. Prime Minister Imran Khan, however, called Erdogan on Friday to "convey Pakistan's support and solidarity," his office said. "The Prime Minister told him that Pakistan fully understands Turkey's concerns relating to terrorism," it said, adding "Pakistan is fully cognizant of the threats and challenges being faced by Turkey having lost 40,000 of its people to terrorism". Khan told Erdogan that "Pakistan stands in full support and solidarity with Turkey," it said. **AFP**

Heavy rain, winds lash Tokyo as powerful typhoon hits Japan

AP ■ FUJISAWA (JAPAN)

A heavy downpour and strong winds pounded Tokyo and surrounding areas on Saturday as a powerful typhoon forecast to be Japan's worst in six decades made landfall southwest of Tokyo, with streets, beaches and train stations deserted.

Store shelves were bare after people stocked up on water and food ahead of Typhoon Hagibis.

The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of dangerously heavy rainfall in Tokyo and surrounding prefectures, including Gunma, Saitama and Kanagawa, and later expanded the area to include Fukushima and Miyagi to the north.

An earthquake shook the area drenched by the rainfall shortly before the typhoon made landfall in Shizuoka prefecture on Saturday evening. The US Geological Survey



A man on a scooter watches as surging waves hit against the breakwater as Typhoon approaches a port in Kumano, Mie Prefecture, Japan on Saturday **AP**

said the magnitude 5.3 quake was centered in the ocean off the coast of Chiba, near Tokyo, and was fairly deep, at 59.5 kilometers (37 miles).

Deep quakes tend to cause less damage than shallow ones.

"Be ready for rainfall of the kind that you have never experienced," said meteorological agency official Yasushi

Kajihara, adding that areas usually safe from disasters may prove vulnerable. "Take all measures necessary to save your life," he said. Kajihara said people who live near rivers should take shelter on the second floor or higher of any sturdy building if an officially designated evacuation center wasn't easily accessible.

Thousands march again, gas bombs thrown in Hong Kong

AP ■ HONG KONG

Protesters marching peacefully hit the rain-slickened streets of Hong Kong again in multiple locations on Saturday, defying police warnings that they were gathering illegally.

Police said rioters tossing gasoline bombs also damaged a subway station.

The rallies in Kowloon and a small gathering of retirees outside police headquarters on Hong Kong Island maintained pressure on the city's leader, Chief Executive Carrie Lam, to bend to the months-long protest movement's demands ahead of her annual policy address on Wednesday.

Many thousands of marchers joined the rally in Kowloon, classified by police as an illegal gathering. A cohort of police wearing riot helmets and banging their plastic



shields followed some distance behind, clearing road blocks left by the march.

Outside police headquarters, about 200 people, many of them retirees, also gathered peacefully, some shouting abuse at plainclothes officers who did not intervene.

There were gatherings of several hundred people in other locations, too. A rally in a shopping mall pulled together about 300 people who sang and put up protest posters.

Former envoy defies Trump, testifies he pushed to oust her

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Testifying in defiance of President Donald Trump's ban, former US Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch told House impeachment investigators on Friday that Trump himself had pressured the State Department to oust her from her post and get her out of the country.

Yovanovitch told lawmakers investigating Trump's dealings with Ukraine that there was a "concerted campaign" against her based on "unfounded and false claims by people with clearly questionable motives".

The diplomat was recalled from Kyiv as Rudy Giuliani — who is Trump's personal attorney and has no official role in the US Government — pressed Ukrainian officials to investigate baseless corruption allegations against Democrat Joe



Biden and his son Hunter, who was involved with a gas company there. Yovanovitch testified behind closed doors Friday for more than nine hours as part of the House Democrats' impeachment inquiry.

Her prepared remarks were obtained by The Associated Press. She left without answering questions.

New York Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, a Democrat, said Yovanovitch occasionally had to leave the room

because she was overcome with emotion as she was "recounting how she was thrown to the wolves" in Ukraine. "It is clear to me that she was fired because she was a thorn in the side of those who sought to use the Ukrainian Government for their own political and financial gain — and that includes President Trump," Maloney said.

Lawmakers leaving the meeting would not provide specifics from the confidential deposition. But they indicated that Yovanovitch was providing information that would help with the impeachment inquiry.

"It was compelling, it was impactful, it was powerful and I just feel grateful for the opportunity to have received that information," said Democratic Rep. Denny Heck, who flew in from Washington state for the interview.

At least 4 dead in NYC shooting: police

AFP ■ NEW YORK

At least four people died and three were wounded in a shooting at a social club in New York early Saturday, police said.

No one has been arrested over the shooting, which took place in Brooklyn, and the motive and exact circumstances are not known, a New York police official told AFP.

The local affiliate of ABC News described the place where the shooting took place as an after-hours club.

Four men were pronounced dead at the scene, while two other men and a woman suffered non-life threatening injuries, the police official said.

Earlier reports had said as many as five people were wounded.

Acting US homeland security chief McAleenan resigns

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump announced late Friday that acting US homeland security chief Kevin McAleenan has resigned, becoming the latest in a long list of top officials to leave the administration.

"Kevin McAleenan has done an outstanding job as Acting Secretary of Homeland Security. We have worked well together with Border Crossings being way down," Trump said in a tweet.

"Kevin now, after many years in Government, wants to spend more time with his family and go to the private sector. Congratulations Kevin, on a job well done!"

McAleenan served in the role for six months, replacing Kirstjen Nielsen, who sat at the helm of the powerful agency for 1.5 years.

Trump said he would announce a new acting homeland security secretary next week, and that there were

"many wonderful candidates."

During McAleenan's brief tenure, the Trump administration stepped up efforts to discourage an exodus of migrants from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador by asking Mexico to impede their transit and requiring them to apply for asylum in the first country they enter — meaning either Guatemala or Mexico.

Cracking down on illegal immigration is a major goal on Trump's agenda, and efforts have been paying off.

US border agents arrested or stopped nearly one million undocumented migrants at the southern border with Mexico in the last 12 months, the most in more than a decade, according to statistics released this week.

Migrants arrested at the border fell to just over 52,000 in September, the final month of the 2019 fiscal year, down from more than 144,000 in May and the lowest monthly figure in one year.



McAleenan's exit came after he told The Washington Post that he did not feel in control of his department, as news reports said he was discouraged by his standing in the Trump administration.

"What I don't have control over is the tone, the message, the public face and approach of the department in an increasingly polarized time," McAleenan told the paper. "That's uncomfortable, as the accountable, senior figure."

On Friday he tweeted a thank you to Trump and highlighted his department's accomplishments.

"With (Trump's) support, over the last 6 months, we have made tremendous progress mitigating the border security and humanitarian crisis we faced this year, by reducing unlawful crossings, partnering with Governments in the region to counter human smugglers and address the causes of migration, and deploy additional border security resources," McAleenan said.

Bennie Thompson, the Democratic chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, called McAleenan's exit an "ouster" and said Trump must urgently appoint a permanent replacement.

Today's ouster of the Acting Secretary further highlights that President Trump continues to decimate the leadership of the Department of Homeland Security.

US Senator: Pak must end support to terror groups

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Pakistan must end support to terrorist groups, a top US Senator has said, a day after meeting Prime Minister Imran Khan and the army chief.

Discussing with them what more can be done to preempt terror attacks and prevent the spread of radicalism.

Senator Maggie Hassan also called for finding ways to de-escalate the tension between India and Pakistan that spiked after New Delhi revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August.

She said Pakistan has an important role to play in stabilising Afghanistan, where the US has come under increasing criticism for civilian casualties as a result of airstrikes in the recent months.

Asserting that her top priority is to keep "Americans safe" and promoting stability and ongoing counterterrorism measures are critical to that effort, Hassan on Friday said. "It was particularly helpful to discuss with key Pakistani leaders what more can be done to preempt terrorist attacks and prevent the spread of terrorist ideology."

Chinese president Xi hold talks with Nepalese counterpart

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with his Nepalese counterpart Bidya Devi Bhandari on Saturday as he began his two-day state visit, becoming the first head of the Communist nation to visit Nepal in 23 years during which the two countries are expected to sign a number of agreements, including an extradition treaty.

Xi, who arrived here after a two day informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was received by President Bhandari and Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli at the Kathmandu International Airport and was offered a ceremonial guard of honour by the Nepal Army. Later, Xi held talks with

Bhandari at her official residence Shital Niwas.

He is also scheduled to meet the main Opposition Nepali Congress leader, Sher Bahadur Deuba before joining the banquet being hosted by the Nepal President at Hotel Soaltee, where Xi is staying.

President Xi will meet Prime Minister Oli and co-chairman of ruling Nepal Communist Party Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" on Sunday. There will be formal dialogue between the Nepalese delegation led by Prime Minister Oli and Chinese delegation led by president Xi at Singhdurbar secretariat," the official said.

During the meeting the two sides are expected to ink a number of agreements and MoUs, including an extradition



treaty, official sources said, amid concerns that Beijing can use it against Tibetan supporters of the Dalai Lama living in the country.

The draft of the treaty, finalised by officials from Nepal and China, will be discussed as

per the spirit of the statement issued jointly by the two countries during Prime Minister Oli's China visit in June last year, officials said on Friday.

Officials familiar with the matter said that the Nepali side had held several rounds of negotiations with a Chinese team that had come to Nepal for the purpose, the paper reported. "The treaty is a priority for both the Nepali and Chinese sides," said an official at the Law Ministry on condition of anonymity as he was not allowed to speak on the matter. Expert worry that Beijing is pressing to sign the treaty mainly to extradite Tibetans involved in "anti-China" activities in Nepal. China accuses the Dalai Lama as a "splittist" working for Tibetan independence. Beijing sent troops into remote, mountainous Tibet in 1950 in what it officially terms a peaceful liberation and has ruled there with an iron fist ever since. The Dalai Lama fled to India in early 1959 after a

failed uprising against the Chinese rule.

Nepal shares a long border with Tibet and is home to around 20,000 Tibetan exiles. Every year some 2,500 Tibetans illegally enter Nepal crossing Tibetan border on their way to Dharamshala to meet the 84-year-old Dalai Lama.

A leader from the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) confirmed that discussions on the treaty are on Xi's visit agenda.

"There will indeed be a discussion on the matter, but the rumours about an agreement are baseless. Nepal is discussing a similar treaty with India, so discussions will be held with China as well," Narayan Kaji Shrestha, the ruling party spokesperson, told the Kathmandu Post on Friday.

California outages ease after wind, fire danger move south

AP ■ SAN FRANCISCO

The lights were back on Friday for most of the nearly 2 million Northern California residents who lost electricity when the State's largest utility switched it off this week in an effort to prevent wildfires.

The threat of widespread outages loomed in Southern California after the winds moved to the Los Angeles area, where a wildfire fueled by strong Santa Ana winds prompted officials to order the evacuation of 100,000 people from their homes in the foothills of the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles County.

In that fire, one man went into cardiac arrest and died at the scene.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI.
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001.

OA NO 244/19
DATE: 26.09.2019
AXIS BANK LTD.
...APPLICANT
VERSUS
BALRAM SINGH SAINI & ORS.
...RESPONDENT

TO:
DEFENDANT
1. Balram Singh Saini S/o Sh. Harprasad Saini G-9, Block-G Jawahar Nagar New Delhi-07. Also At: 8392 2nd Floor Roshanara Road New Delhi-07
2. Saurabh Sharma, 56, PKT-Q Dilsaad Garden New Delhi-32

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs 22,66,099/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Sixty Six Thousand and Ninety Nine 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 29.11.2019 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

Modi, Xi designate 2020 as India-China Year

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The two day-long summit level informal talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping concluded at Mahabalipuram near Chennai on Saturday on a positive note.

As expected there was nothing surprising in the press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs after the meetings were concluded and the leaders of both the countries bade farewell to each other and left for New Delhi and Beijing respectively. There is no mention about Kashmir in the release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs after the conclusion of the talks.

The release said that both the countries agreed to continue the relationship to a new level of cooperation and co-existing in all spheres by ironing out differences in a constructive way. India and China will continue to work together for open and inclusive trade arrangements that will benefit all countries.

"The two leaders had an in-depth exchange of views in a friendly atmosphere on overarching, long-term and strategic issues of global and regional importance. They also shared their respective approaches towards national development. They evaluated the direction of bilateral relations in a positive light and discussed how India-China bilateral interaction can be deepened to reflect the growing role of both countries on the global stage," said the release.

Within minutes of the conclusion of the meeting with President Xi, Prime Minister Modi tweeted: "Discussions continued with President Xi Jinping at Mamallapuram. We've been having productive



deliberations on further improving India-China relations."

What is significant in the release issued by the MEA is the absence of any direct reference to Kashmir. The release said that the two Leaders exchanged views on outstanding issues, including on the boundary question. "They have welcomed the work of the Special Representatives and urged them to continue their efforts to arrive at a mutually-agreed framework for a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement based on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles that were agreed by the two sides in 2005. They reiterated their understanding that efforts will continue to be made to ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas, and that both sides will continue to work on additional Confidence Building Measures in pursuit of this objective," said the release.

As part of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and China, both

the countries have agreed to designate 2020 as Year of India-China Cultural and People to People Exchanges."

The occasion will be fully utilized to deepen exchanges at all levels including between their respective legislatures, political parties, cultural and youth organizations and militaries. To celebrate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations the two countries will organize 70 activities including a conference on a ship voyage that will trace the historical connect between the two civilizations, said the release.

As a soap to people in Tamil Nadu, the two leaders agreed to establish sister-state relations between Tamil Nadu and Fujian Province in China. Both the sides will also explore the possibility of establishing an academy to study links between Mahabalipuram and Fujian province on the lines of the experience between Ajanta and Dunhuang and conducting research on maritime links between China and India in view of our extensive contacts over the centuries.

7 injured in grenade blast in Srinagar

PNS ■ JAMMU

Hours after the State administration announced its decision to restore post paid mobile services from October 14 across Kashmir valley, unidentified terrorists lobbed a grenade at Hari Singh High street, in the close vicinity of iconic Lal Chowk clock tower, on Saturday.

According to police, seven civilians received injuries in the grenade attack. Window panes of several cars and other vehicles parked in the area were shattered. This is the first incident of grenade throwing in the heart of Srinagar city after August 5.

The security forces present in the area cordoned off the area to track down the terrorists who may have fled the area taking advantage of the prevailing chaos and confusion.

Police spokesman confirmed, "the condition of all five injured civilians was stated to be stable".

MURSHIDABAD MURDER CASE BNP protests against killing of its workers

Kolkata: The West Bengal BNP organized a sit-in here on Saturday to protest against the alleged killing of its workers in the state in recent times.

The saffron party claimed eight of its party workers were killed in Bengal in the last one week excluding the triple murder in Murshidabad district.

School teacher Bandhu Prakash Pal who was killed in his house at Jiaganj in Murshidabad is claimed to be a BNP-RSS supporter.

The West Bengal police had, however, said the brutal killing of the school teacher, his wife and minor son in was a result of personal enmity and bore no political connotation.

"Everyday one or the other BNP worker is being killed in Bengal. The TMC Government has lost all connect with the masses and is now trying to rule by using terror tactics. But we won't allow this to happen. We will fight till this Government is ousted from power," BNP West Bengal president Dilip Ghosh told reporters.

2 more detained

Kolkata: Two West Bengal police have detained two persons on Saturday in connection with the Murshidabad triple murder case taking the number of detainees in the case to four, police said.

A team of CID officials visited the crime spot on Saturday, a day after the investigating agency was asked to join the investigation, the police said.

The triple murder had 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 that the teacher was its supporter.

According to police, prima facie evidence and initial investigation suggested that it was a case of personal enmity and had nothing to do with politics.

His family members have denied affiliation with any political group.

'BJP activist' grocer shot dead in front of wife in WB

PTI ■ KRISHNAGAR (WEST BENGAL)

A grocer, stated to be a BJP worker, was shot dead in front of his wife by unidentified miscreants in Nadia district.

A police officer on Saturday said 52-year-old Haralal Debnath was gunned down at Habibpur under Ranaghat police station area on Friday night. Claiming Debnath to be a party worker, Local BJP MP Jagannath Sarkar blamed the Trinamool Congress for the killing. The ruling party denied the charge.

"We were preparing to close our shop. Two persons came posing as customers and asked for some goods. When my husband turned to give them those goods, they fired at him and fled," the victim's wife Chandana Debnath said.

Chandana raised an alarm and local people gathered at the spot. They took Debnath to Ranaghat Hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Prasad cites 3 movies' earnings, claims economy is sound



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Saturday came up with a queer logic that three movies earned over ₹120 crore in one on October 2 to claim that there was no economic slowdown in the country.

Addressing a news conference here, Prasad said: "Since I was Information and Broadcasting Minister in former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government, I am fond of movies. Movies have been doing huge business. Film trade analyst says Komal Nahta told me that the national holiday of October 2 saw an earning of over ₹120 crore, a record by three movies — War, Joker and Sye Raa [Narasimha Reddy]. It's only because the economy is sound that movies can fetch a return of ₹120 crore in a single day."

Claiming that the National Sample Survey Organisation's report on unemployment — which had said India's unemployment figures had touched a 45-year high of 6.1% in 2017-'18, Prasad said: "I say the report is false, with full responsibility"

"I gave you 10 numbers on the economy. None of these numbers are found in their report. Electronic manufacturing, IT sector, Mudra loan scheme... we had never said that everyone will get a government job. Some people had deliberately tried to mislead the public," the Minister said.

Sena releases manifesto for Maha Assembly polls

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena promised a nutritious meal at ₹10 sold at 1,000 eateries set up across Maharashtra, 30 per cent rebate on charges for electricity up to 300 units, an independent aid of ₹10,000 to each farmer and 200-test medical check-up for only ₹1, to the people in its manifesto released on Saturday.

Releasing the manifesto along with his father and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray ten days ahead the State Assembly polls, Sena leader Aditya Thackeray said: "Our government will set up 1,000 'Bhojnalyas' (eateries) across

Maharashtra, which will provide a nutritious meal at ₹10. There will be centralised kitchens in every district will be managed and operated by women".

Incidentally, most of the promises made by the Shiv Sena in its manifesto, which it called "Vachan Patra", had figured in Uddhav's speech at this year Dussehrea rally held at the Shivaji Park in Mumbai on October 8.

The manifesto consists of a series of populist measures like setting up 1000 joints across the state which will serve food for Rs 10 and reduction of electricity tariff by 30 per cent for units below 300.

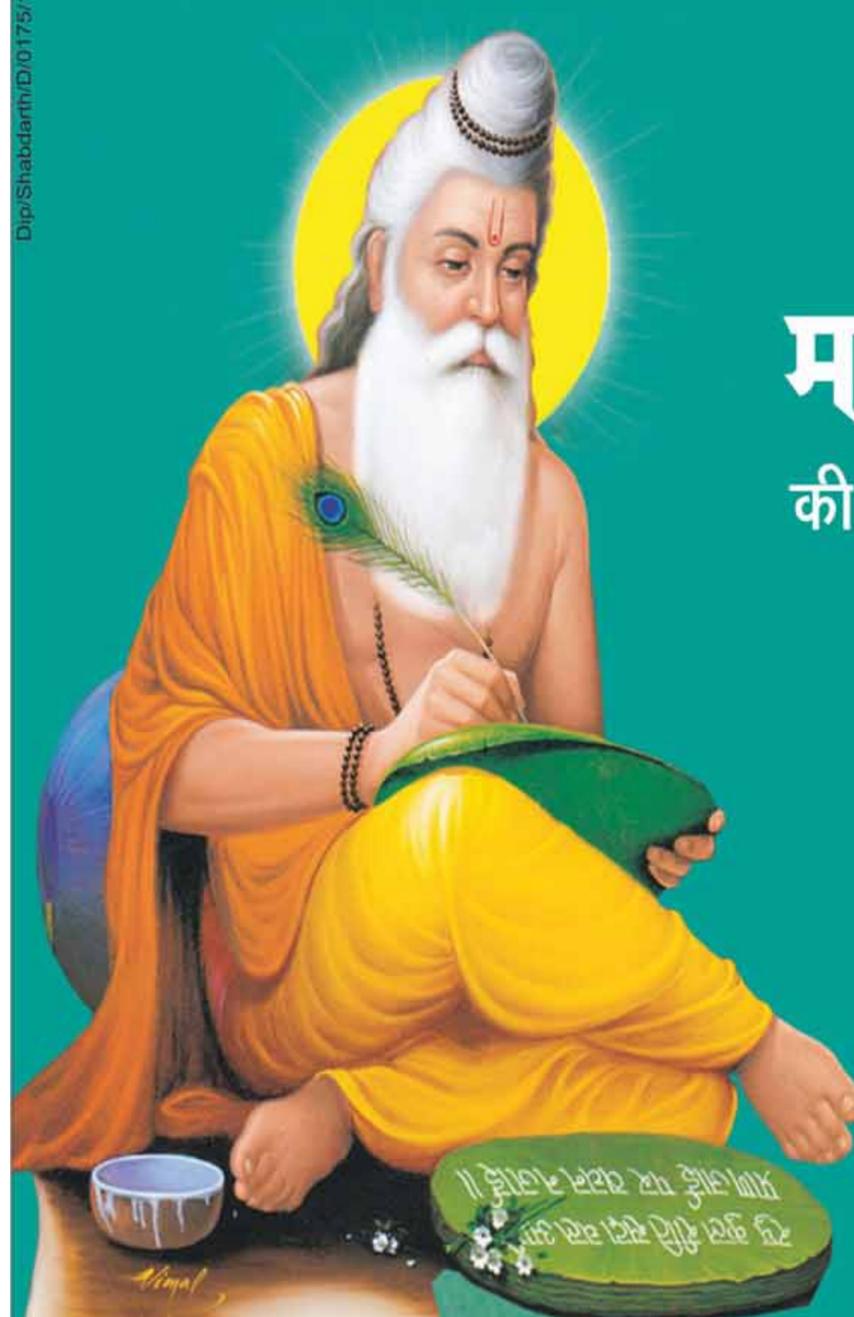
Cong, NCP leaders who joined BJP have clean record, says Javadekar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Dismissing allegations of wrong doing by the leaders from the Congress and NCP who joined his party, Union Environment Minister and senior BJP leader Prakash Javadekar claimed on Saturday that all those leaders who had his party in the recent months had a clean record.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that the BJP had earlier made allegations of corruption against the Congress and NCP who had recently joined BJP, Javadekar said: "These Congress and NCP leaders quit the two parties as they were upset that their respective parties had moved away from their ideologies. All these leaders who had joined the BJP in the recent months have a clean record". Addressing a news conference in Pune, Javadekar said: "There is a huge difference between the Congress and us (the BJP). After coming to power, we implement all over schemes and plans. We works round the clock".

Dip/Shabdarth/D/0175/19-20



“पूर्व जन्म में किया हुआ कर्म ही भाग्य कहलाता है। इसलिए पुरुषार्थ बिना भाग्य का निर्माण नहीं हो सकता”

महर्षि वाल्मीकी जयंती

की आप सभी को हार्दिक बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएं

-अरविंद केजरीवाल
मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली



Have reached 'substantial' trade deal with China: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States has reached a "very substantial" Phase 1 trade deal with China, President Donald Trump announced on Friday, giving a boost to the stock market in New York.

"We've come to a very substantial Phase 1 deal," Trump told reporters at the White House following his meeting with the visiting Chinese Vice Premier Liu He.

However, the announcement came with a rider that the agreement was still to be put on to the paper, which will take somewhere between three to five weeks.

The US and China trade negotiations had collapsed early this year after Beijing

backed off from a draft agreement that was negotiated over six months.

Trump, however, appeared to be more confident this time and said that it might be formally inked in Chile later this year.

"We've come to a deal on intellectual property, financial services, a tremendous deal for the farmers, a purchase of \$40-50 billion worth of agricultural products. To show you how big that is, that would be three times what China had purchased at its highest point thus far," he said.

China, he said, were purchasing products worth \$16 or 17 billion at the highest point and that would be brought up to \$40 billion to \$50 billion.

"So I'd suggest farmers



President Donald Trump shakes hands with Vice Premier Liu He in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on Friday

have to go and immediately buy more land and get bigger tractors. They'll be available at John Deere and a lot of other great distributors," he said.

Currency and foreign exchange were other big issues over which the two countries

had reached an agreement, he said.

"We have an agreement around transparency into the foreign exchange markets and free markets," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said.

"We have also made very good progress on technology transfer and will put some of the technology transfer in Phase 1. Phase 2 negotiations will start immediately after we've concluded Phase 1 and papered it. And I think Phase 1 should happen quickly," Trump said.

The US president said the both sides reached an agreement on intellectual property and financial services.

"The banks and all of the financial services companies will be very, very happy with

what we've been able to get. I think China is going to be very happy because they'll be served very well by these great institutions being able to go into China," said the president.

Commenting on the technology transfer, Trump said, "We will have some technology transfer in the agreement. But, technology transfer will largely be done here and also in Phase 2. So, we're going to start negotiating Phase 2 after Phase 1 is completed and signed."

The Chinese vice premier said it was agreed that keeping the China-US economic relationship right would be in the interest of the two sides and the whole world.

"And we are making a lot of progress towards a positive direction," he said.

Companies welcome US-China trade truce, warn disputes remain

AP ■ BEIJING

Companies have welcomed a US-China trade truce as a possible step toward breaking a deadlock in a 15-month-old tariff war, while economists caution there was little progress toward settling core disputes including technology that threaten global growth.

President Donald Trump said Washington will suspend a tariff hike planned for Tuesday on \$250 billion of Chinese goods.

In exchange, Trump said China agreed to buy as much as \$50 billion of American farm goods. Details of other possible agreements weren't immediately released.

The bruising battle over China's trade surplus and technology ambitions has disrupted

global trade.

Economists warn a final settlement might take years to negotiate.

Despite that, financial markets rise ahead of each round of talks and fall back when no progress is reported.

Companies acknowledged Friday's agreement was a modest step and appealed to both governments to step up efforts to end the fight that is battering manufacturers and farmers.

Washington still is planning a December 15 tariff hike on \$160 billion of smart-phones and other imports.

Before then, Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are due to attend an economic conference in Chile in mid-November. That is raising hopes a face-to-face meeting might produce progress.

Concerns of PMC's customers will be addressed: Sitharaman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Assuring account holders of troubled Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank of support, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said that she has spoken to the RBI governor, who assured that customers' concerns will be taken on top priority.

The bank was put under "directions" by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last month due to weak financial health, wherein the central bank has capped the deposit withdrawals at ₹25,000.

"Spoken to governor @RBI on the #PMCBank matter. He assured me that clients & their concerns will be kept on top priority. I wish to reiterate that @FinMinIndia will ensure that customers concerns are comprehensively addressed. We understand the justified worries of the customers," she said in a tweet.

PMC is in bad health allegedly due to its exposure to near-bankrupt realty player HDIL, to which it has loaned over 70 per cent of its ₹9,000



amendments can be made to the laws, she had said.

"They will discuss legislative steps needed to prevent such incidents from happening and empower the regulator better," she had said.

The government will bring in a legislation to this effect in the winter session of Parliament, she had said.

Earlier this week during a media interaction, she had said, "Finance Ministry may have nothing to do with it (PMC bank matter) directly because RBI is the regulator. But from my side, I've asked the secretaries of my ministry to work with Rural Development Ministry and the Urban Development Ministry to study in detail as to what is happening."

Secretaries from the department of financial services and economic affairs will be meeting a deputy governor of RBI soon to look into the "shortcomings" of the functioning of multi-state cooperative banks and see if any

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GST Network to release new version of return filing interface this month

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST Network (GSTN) will release improved version of GST return filing interface on October 22 with an aim to further simplify the process.

"Many of the suggestions were incorporated in version 2 which is in place right now. Version 3 is going to come on October 22 of this month," GST Network CEO Prakash Kumar said at a seminar organised by IIT Delhi Alumni Association here.

GST Network provides IT infrastructure and services to central and state governments, taxpayers and other stakeholders for implementation of the GST.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) has reduced complexity in indirect taxation as its implementation has lowered the number of forms to be filed by businesses to just 12, from 495 under as many as 17 central and state laws in the pre-GST era, Kumar said.

The indirect tax administration now shares data with the income tax department, a move that has helped in unearthing instances of tax evasion, he added.

Over half of unsold flats in Noida, Gr Noida, Gurugram in affordable category: PropTiger

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Unsold housing units in Noida, Greater Noida and Gurugram stood at nearly 1.09 lakh at the end of July, of which 54 per cent were priced at ₹45 lakh and below, according to property brokerage PropTiger.

With fall in interest rates on home loans and additional tax deduction of ₹1.5 lakh on interest for flats up to ₹45 lakh, PropTiger expects that developers would be able to sell significant number of unsold stocks in the affordable price category.

"Real estate developers in the key NCR markets had a total of 1,08,937 unsold units till the end of July 2019. Of these, 58,516 homes were priced at ₹45 lakh or less," PropTiger said in a report.

Gurugram market includes data of Bhiwadi, Rewari, Neemrana and Dharuhera.

"Rising instances of builders facing insolvency have severely impacted the market sentiment in the NCR, especially in Noida property market.

Telecom Infra revenue potential may touch ₹31K cr by 2023: Study

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: Indian telecom infrastructure's revenue potential is expected to reach ₹21,500-₹31,000 crore by 2023, as latest information technology developments are driving demand for new business models, an EY study released on Friday evening said.

However, in order to catch up with the revenue potential the sector will need investment in the range of ₹66,000-93,000 crore, the study said.

"Tower cos today are well placed to tap in on new opportunities that represent a revenue potential of ₹215 billion-₹310 billion by 2023. With the high momentum from tower cos, and government's push on infrastructure growth, the future is promising for the telecom infrastructure sector," Prashant Singhal, Emerging Markets TMT Leader, EY said.

As the demand for data and 5G knocking at the door, there is seismic shift in the industry leading to plenty of opportunities are arising for tower companies to shift their attention from a macro tower focused business, towards new business models hinged on fiber, small cells.

Banks' credit growth rate slows to 8.8%, shows RBI data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mumbai: Indian banks' credit growth rate, for the first time this fiscal, slowed to single digit at 8.8 per cent to ₹97.71 lakh crore during the fortnight to September 27, according to the Reserve Bank of India supplementary data. During the same period, deposits climbed 9.4 per cent.

Outstanding loans rose ₹596.53 trillion (\$8.40 billion) from a fortnight earlier to ₹97.71 trillion as on September 27.

Non-food credit gained ₹64.30 billion to ₹97.11 trillion, while food credit fell Rs 46.51 billion to ₹600.85 billion while bank deposits grew ₹1.83 trillion to ₹129.07 rupees in the two weeks ended September 27.

Choksi cheated Punjab & Sind Bank of ₹441 m

IANS ■ MUMBAI

The public sector Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) has revealed around ₹441 million loan exposure to the absconding diamondaire Mehul Chinubhai Choksi, here on Saturday.

This is the first time the 111-year-old bank has come clean on the default perpetrated by Choksi, who has now settled as a citizen of Antigua & Barbados, the West Indies.

The New Delhi-based PSB has issued notices proclaiming him as a "willful defaulter" who owes the bank the amount for which it has initiated recovery proceedings against him.

According to PSB, Choksi's company, Gitanjali Gems Ltd., including its merged entity, Gitanjali Exports Ltd., had availed the loan from the bank.

Choksi is a director plus a guarantor in the company and legal heir to Gunijal Choksi in the loan account.

However, since they failed to clear the loan amount, the PSB declared it as a 'non-per-



forming asset' on March 31, 2018, days after it dawned that Choksi and his family had already fled the country in February that year.

The bank has now demanded that Choksi cough out the loan amount plus interest and other costs with effect from October 23, 2018 onwards. As he failed to comply, the PSB on September 17, 2019 declared him as a 'willful defaulter'.

With this, Choksi joins the bank's band of 27 other defaulters from different fields, based mainly in New Delhi, Punjab and Chandigarh, one in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and two in Chennai, Tamil Nadu,

against whom it has filed recovery suits. The latest development makes PSB the third prominent government-owned bank to reveal its exposure after Oriental Bank of Commerce came clean of loan defaults by Choksi and his nephew Nirav Modi totaling to around ₹289 crore. (IANS story, September 6, 2019).

The 'mama-bhanja' diamondaire duo shot into limelight in February 2018 after the Punjab National Bank revealed a massive fraud perpetrated by them running into over Rs 13,500 crore, sending shudders in the country's banking industry.

"Besides PSB, which has been a perpetually loss-making entity, several other banks have exposure to Choksi-Modi and their group companies. Why can't all the government banks come clean and jointly take legal action to recover their dues," former and Trade Unions Joint Action Committee (TUJAC), Maharashtra Convenor Vishwas Utagi told IANS.

Utagi said the other bigger

questions are: what action has been taken against the departments and officers dealing in foreign exchange in Reserve Bank of India and other affected banks, how much of the outstandings from (Nirav Modi-Choksi and others) accused have been recovered so far and whether the details emerging now are under pressure' before the upcoming merger of banks.

He has demanded a 'forensic audit' into all the accounts in all Indian banks held by the realty, gems & jewellery sectors on priority to reveal the extent of defaults and the collateral damage to society in the public interest.

Earlier this year, the State Bank of India (SBI) had first bared its chest on a ₹405 crore outstanding loan from Choksi and his family members.

The SBI's disclosure had come barely two days after it became public that Choksi had surrendered his Indian citizenship and taken the nationality of Antigua & Barbados Islands.

JAMMU & KASHMIR POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub-Transmission Division-III Kathua
E-mail: xenstdkathua@gmail.com
e-NIT No.: STD-III/e-NIT/2019-20/06 Dated: 10-10-2019
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
For and on behalf of the Governor, Jammu and Kashmir State, e-Tenders are hereby invited from firms having valid registration certificate issued by MES/ State/ Central Govt. of appropriate class and meeting eligibility criteria as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document.
S.No.1, Name of work :- Replacement of OLD 11 KV Panel Sets By Way Of Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 11 KV VCB Panel Sets at Receiving Stations Basohli with (1+5) 11 KV Panel Sets, Ramkot, Bhoond with (1+4) 11 KV Panel Sets & Macheedi Bani with (1+3) 11 KV Panel Sets of Sub-Transmission Sub-Division-III, Billawar and return of dismantled 11 KV Panel Sets to Divisional Store, Kathua on Turnkey basis.
Estimated Cost (in Lacs) :- Rs 142.43
Cost of Tender Documents (in Rs) :- 3000/-
Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.) :- 285000/-
Last Date of submission of e-Bid :- 29.10.2019
1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.
2. The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SUB-TRANSMISSION DIVISION-III
KATHUA
No. DIPJ-7405/19
Dated :- 10-10-2019

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI.
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001.
OA DY NO 1849/18
DATE:19.09.2019
AXIS BANK LTD.
...APPLICANT
VERSUS
KIRAN VIJAY PANDIRI & ANR.
...RESPONDENT

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI.
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001.
OA DY NO 1842/18
DATE: 19.09.2019
AXIS BANK LTD.
...APPLICANT
VERSUS
ANIL WADHAWAN & ORS..
...RESPONDENT

TO, DEFENDANT
1. Kiran Vijay Pandiri, A-1202, Wembley Estate Rosewood City Sect.-49, Gurgaon HRY-122001. Also At: Open Solution Software Service Pvt. Ltd. Tower-A, 1st Floor Space 17 Park Block-Shopping Store Sect.-49 Gurgaon-122002.
2. LA Residentia Developers Pvt. Ltd 220, 2nd Floor Vardhman Sunrise Plaza Plot N. 1, L.S.C. Vasundhara Enclave Delhi-96. Also At: Amrapali Corporate Tower C-56/40, Sect.-62, Noida UP-201307.
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs 56,07,803/- (Rupees Fifty Six Lakh Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Three 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 22.11.2019 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

TO, DEFENDANT
1. Anil Wadhawan, House No. 149, Sect.-7, Urban Estate Dayal Mkt., Gurgaon HRY-122001. Also At: Bhushan Steel Ltd. 23 Site-4 Sahibabad Industrial Area Ghaziabad UP-201010
2. Kiran Wadhawan W/o Sh. Anil Wadhawan, House No. 149, Sect.-07, Urban Estate Dayal Mkt. Gurgaon HRY-122001.
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs 50,99,332/- (Rupee Fifty Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Two 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 22.11.2019 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

Boeing splits CEO, chairman role amid MAX crisis

AFF ■ NEW YORK

Boeing unveiled a shift to its leadership structure on Friday as it manages the 737 MAX crisis, announcing that Dennis Muilenburg will remain chief executive but step down as chairman. The company said splitting the roles would allow Muilenburg to focus full time on running the company "as it works to return the 737 MAX safely to service" while ensuring full support to customers sharpening Boeing's focus on safety.

"This decision is the latest of several actions by the board of directors and Boeing senior leadership to strengthen the company's governance and safety management processes," it said in the statement.

The company named David Calhoun, currently lead

independent director, to serve as non-executive chairman.

Calhoun said the "board has full confidence in Dennis as CEO and believes this division of labor will enable maximum focus on running the business with the board playing an active oversight role."

Boeing's top-selling 737 MAX plane has been grounded since mid-March following two deadly crashes that killed 346 people.

Boeing is targeting regulatory approval for the plane's return to service this year following upgrades, but the aerospace giant has noted government authorities will have the final say.

More companies back away from Facebook's Libra coin

AFF ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Facebook's digital currency alliance lost more companies on Friday amid heavy criticism from regulators around the world on the planned Libra global cryptocurrency.

Credit card giants Visa and Mastercard, online marketplace eBay and digital payments firm Stripe each announced they had changed their minds about being founding members of the Libra Association assembled to promote the digital currency.

"Mastercard has decided it will not become a member of the Libra Association at this time," the company said in an emailed statement.

"We remain focused on our strategy and our own sig-



nificant efforts to enable financial inclusion around the world. We believe there are potential benefits in such initiatives and will continue to monitor the Libra effort." A Visa spokesperson offered a similar statement, indicating the company was dropping out of the alliance but could rejoin in the future.

expectations," Visa said.

Silicon Valley-based eBay said: "We highly respect the vision of the Libra Association; however, eBay has made the decision to not move forward as a founding member." Stripe also said it will follow the progress of Libra and remain open to working with the association at a later date.

"Stripe is supportive of projects that aim to make online commerce more accessible for people around the world," Stripe said. "Libra has this potential."

Libra Association confirmed that the companies would no longer be founding members, but said that it would continue building an alliance of businesses, social-good organizations, and others to implement the cryptocurrency.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI.
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001.
OA DY NO 1847/18
DATE: 19.09.2019
AXIS BANK LTD.
...APPLICANT
VERSUS
ASHISH AGRI & ORS.
...RESPONDENT

TO, DEFENDANT
1. Ashish Agri S/o Sh. Ramesh Kumar Agri, Flat No. 106, Tower C Assotech The Crossing Republic Ghaziabad UP-201016 Also At: Catapult Services Pvt. Ltd. 310 & 311, 3rd Floor Plot No. 05, Krishna mall Sect.-12 Dwaraka New Delhi-75 Also At: G-16, PC Colony Kankarbagh Patna Bihar-800020
2. Veronical Lal W/o Sh. Ashish Agri Flat 106 Tower C Assotech The Crossing Republic Ghaziabad UP-201016. Also At: G-16, PC Colony Kankarbagh Patna Bihar-800020
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs 95,47,569/- (Rupee Ninety Five Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Nine 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 22.11.2019 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

CHANGE OF NAME
I Pratap Sheoran S/o Shri Yatender Singh R/o House No. 90 Police Station Compound Sector-39, Noida G.B. Nagar (U.P.). My Son name from Rishabh Sheoran to Rishabh Sheoran in future his name. be known to all as Rishabh Sheoran.
Pratap Sheoran

WESTERN RAILWAY
LEASING OF SECOND PARCEL VAN (VP) OF 23 TONNES CAPACITY
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Mumbai Division, DRM office building, Ground Floor, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008 invites open e-tender, for leasing of Second Parcel Van (VP) of 23 tonnes capacity on round trip basis in Train No. 19023/24 for a period of 05 years. Reserve Price per round trip (in ₹) : 1,49,526/- (Exclusive of DC & GST). Date & Time of submission of Tender : up to 05.11.2019 at 15:00 hrs through online www.ireps.gov.in only. Date & Time of opening of Tender : up to 05.11.2019 at 15:30 hrs. For details please visit www.ireps.gov.in
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

WESTERN RAILWAY
BULK ADVERTISING RIGHTS AT CIRCULATING AREA OF OR AT BORIVALI E-NFR Notice No. & Date : CA-11-NFR-OOH-BVI-23, Dtd. 09.10.2019.
Work and location : Bulk advertising rights at circulating area of or at Borivali station for display of advertisements by dismantling & replacing the existing hoarding structures with new structure or by modifying, repairing, strengthening & painting of existing structures as well as erection & display of new hoarding structures, for a period of five years. First Year Reserve Price : ₹ 93,88,800/- (excluding taxes etc.). Approx. cost of Work : ₹ 4,99,11,376/- (excluding taxes etc.) EMD : ₹ 9,98,300/- . Website where Tender form available : www.ireps.gov.in. Date &

IT'S A FINE JOB

With the recent amendments in the Motor Vehicles Act, the traffic regulations have become more stringent, posing heavy challans in case of violations. MUSBA HASHMI tells you how the increased fines have brought in rich results

Poorly maintained roads with potholes and open manholes, a traffic signal which always has a red light on, zebra crossing occupied by a colossal amount of vehicles, pedestrian crossing the road from wherever and whenever they wish to and an empty traffic police stand is a day-to-day visual for the daily commuters in India. Amidst all this chaos, the new *challan* regulations come as a boon for some and a bane for others.

Under the new regulations, the fines have increased manifold. For general offences, the previous fine was ₹100 which now is ₹500. For driving without licence, the fine was ₹500 and has now increased to ₹5,000, for no seat belt it was ₹100 and now ₹1,000, for over-speeding it was ₹400 and has now increased to ₹1,000 and many more. This massive increase shows that our country has started taking the traffic laws seriously which were earlier ignored. The new rules are definitely improving the traffic conditions if not immediately changing it for the better.

Sri Ravindra Kumar Vashishth, Traffic Incharge, Noida says that the amendments in the act has brought in rich results. "The traffic conditions have improved in Noida. Now, people hesitate in standing on the zebra crossing, they wear seat belts and never skip a red light even if there are no policemen standing on the road," he says.

He tells you that the CCTV cameras have been deployed almost everywhere in Noida, including the Yamuna Expressway.

Since the fines have been increased, people have started coming up with more excuses to get away with the *challan*, but Vashishth says that law is law and there is no escape from it. "We come across people making different excuses for instance some say that 'hum toh hamesha paper apney sath rakhtey hain aaj bhul gaye sir' or hamarey ghar mein koi beemar hai iss baar chor do sir'. But, the law is law and no one can escape it. If someone is guilty of violating the rules then we have to abide by the law and punish him," he tells you.

Mohammad Imran, Founder, Safe Road Foundation who has conducted various researches on roads and signages says that the Government's step of increasing the fines is commendable but there is much more that the Government should do.

"Some people are of the opinion that keeping in mind the condition of the roads, increasing the fines is not a great idea. But I am of a different opinion. Out of all the deaths that happen on roads, only 3,000 are because of the bad condition and almost a lakh are a result of road accidents. The reason being lack of trained drivers.

"Many of us have learnt driving from our family members, some have learnt it on their own and only a handful have gone to a driving school. This is why we only know the basics of driving and not how to drive properly. Many of us don't even understand the meaning of various signages. Even a lot of driving schools don't have trained drivers. All they do is to teach you how to work the clutch, accelerator, gear and brake. That's all. They don't know about the signages themselves. Here the need is to train drivers and create awareness about road safety. There should be a proper training course for the driving schools employees. The Government should keep a check on these driving schools that claim to teach driving in a matter of 20-25 days and are present in every nook and corner. Many people don't even know the purpose of the zebra crossing. All this needs to be taught to the people and then only these *challans* could bring about any change," he says.

The leniency in issuing driving licence is also a matter of concern. "In India, anyone can get a driving licence. There are no stringent rules and no proper tests conducted. This also becomes one of the reasons why there are so many untrained drivers on the roads," he says. He tells you that the *e-challan* system will not bring in the desired results.

"The purpose of imposing fines or issuing *challans* is to prevent people from violating the traffic rules and thereby preventing accidents. But, these *e-challans* just serve the purpose of fining people and earning money. If a person is speeding without realising it, the cameras will click a photo and send the *e-challan* to him via



A man pleads to get away with the challan; (below) Traffic police stops two bikers without helmets
Photos: Ranjan Dimri

a message. But, unfortunately if he meets with an accident then the purpose of issuing *challans* gets nullified. The better way here is to issue the *challans* manually. The policemen should stop the violators and hand over the *challans* to them. This will bring in the realisation in people that they should drive within the permissible speed limit otherwise they can get fined," he tells you.

To make the new traffic laws effective, the mindset of the people has to change. "Many people know that they should wear a helmet but they don't citing various reasons including *yahin paas mein toh ja rahay hain, koi policewala nahin hoga* or that they feel uncomfortable in helmets. Same goes for seat belts. This has to change. We have to become disciplined. It has to be done on a grassroot level. The parents and schools should teach children the importance of helmets and road safety measures. Many students drive to school without having a driving license and when you take this matter to the school staff all they say is that they are only concerned about what is happening inside the school premises, 'school ke bahar bachcha kese aa raha hai yeh hamara concern nahin hai' is the take. This thought process has to change. Each one of us has to take the responsibility and then only any law can be successful," he says.

Advocate Pooja Sareen is of the opinion that such high fines will not do any good but will be a bane for the common man who is already burdened with a lot of taxes and debts.

"The Government should first focus on building better and safe roads that are free from potholes and rectify the current

IN INDIA, ANYONE CAN HAVE A DRIVING LICENCE. THERE ARE NO STRINGENT RULES AND NO PROPER TESTS ARE CONDUCTED. THIS ALSO BECOMES ONE OF THE REASONS OF SO MANY UNTRAINED DRIVERS ON ROADS

— MOHAMMAD IMRAN (Founder, Safe Road Foundation)



infrastructure. In the wake of such bad roads, the increased fines are nothing less than a burden on the common man. It comes as a death blow. At times, the fines are way more than the actual cost of the vehicle. How can one expect that people are in a position to pay such heavy fines?" Sareen asks.

Yogesh, a private cab driver for more than 12 years now and drives all over Delhi-NCR says that the traffic seems to have come under control since the new Motor Vehicles Act came into effect from September 1, 2019.

"People have become more conscious while driving now. Even the other cab drivers think twice before stopping in the middle of the road to drop off the passengers. The fine of causing obstruction in the free flow of traffic can now lead to a penalty of ₹500 which was only ₹50 earlier. This has reduced the unnecessary jams that often occur on busy roads. These stringent laws will definitely help ensure smooth movement of traffic thereby eliminating any risks of accidents and road

rages," he says. He was fined ₹2,000 for over-speeding a few days back.

"I was driving with a speed of 53 kmph and the speed limit in the area was 50 kmph. I was issued a *challan* and I paid it. I could have taken up the matter and debated on it but I chose to pay it instead so that I can drive more responsibly from now. I am satisfied with the increment in the fines because it has brought positive results and people have started taking these traffic laws seriously," he says.

Due to the new traffic laws, people have also started wearing helmets in the areas where no body ever wore a helmet before.

"In areas like Mayur Vihar Phase 3, Dilshad Garden and others only a handful of people wore helmets before but now almost 60 per cent people have started wearing their helmets," he tells you. He highlights that the main reason of traffic jams is the e-rickshaws and the drivers who are associated with online cab booking apps.

"These people drive carelessly. The e-

rickshaw drivers are fearless because they know that nothing can happen to their vehicle and they drive as if they own the road. This causes a lot of trouble for the other commuters. The online cab booking app drivers also create a lot of nuisance on the roads because they are fully dependent on the maps. Once their device stops working they stand in the middle of the road and decide which way to go next. The Government should cancel the licence of such irresponsible drivers and they should only be issued another driving licence after a proper driving test. There should be a programme every six months to assess the driver's professionalism and failing which should result in cancellation of the licence. Timely training on road safety measures should also be given to the drivers. This way the traffic will reduce and the roads can get rid of untrained drivers," he opines.

Another cab driver, Hari Om says that the new traffic rules is causing certain problems to the cab drivers as there is no proper drop point or stand where they can drop off the passengers.

"In most of the places, there are no proper cab stopping points, also the passengers request to drop them at the exact location. They are not willing to walk even 20-30 steps. In such situations the cab drivers become helpless and they have to stop the cab at improper places as per the passengers request. Now, this is leading us to *challans* as much as ₹500 which is difficult to pay as we are hardly earning more than ₹2,000-₹2,500 per day. So the Government should first focus on providing us with the proper infrastructure and then should impose such heavy fines," he says.

IS IT WORTH BREAKING RULES?

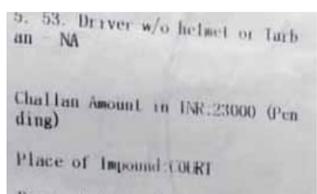
₹23,000 CHALLAN FOR SCOOTER WORTH ₹15,000

Delhi-based man Dinesh Madan was fined ₹23,000 for violating various traffic rules.

Madan was stopped in Gurugram for not wearing a helmet. The police asked him to show his documents, failing which he was asked to pay the huge fine for different violations and his vehicle was impounded.

Madan was given 10 minutes to produce the documents, which he couldn't because he is a resident of Delhi and was stopped in Gurugram.

He was fined ₹5,000 for driving without licence, ₹5,000 for not carrying the registration certificate, ₹2,000 for driving without insurance, ₹10,000 for violating pollution laws and ₹1,000 for driving without



A receipt of the ₹23,000 challan

helmet. The cumulative fine for all the traffic rules' violation was ₹23,000.

He decided to surrender the impounded vehicle as he claimed that his second-hand scooter cost only ₹15,000.

NOW, HELMET IN CAR

In yet another bizarre incident, Piyush Varshney from Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh was sent an *e-challan* of ₹500 for not wearing a helmet while driving a four wheeler.

Varshney says that the *challan* sent clearly stated his car number and reason for the penalty imposed.

In protest of the incident, Varshney has now started wearing a helmet while driving his car.

He says that such incidents are going to set a poor example



Piyush Varshney wearing a helmet while driving his car

for the common man as they will not take the traffic laws seriously.

Aligarh police has said that if the *challan* is found to be false and the verification number is wrong, they will rectify the situation and will cancel it immediately.

However, these cases are enough to sow the seed of doubt in the minds of the people for the system. Such mistakes not only mar the image of the police but also give rise to a number of questions.

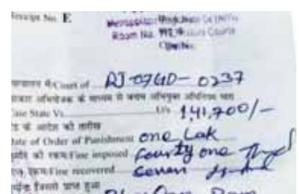
TRUCK DRIVER FINED ₹1.41 LAKH

On September 5, 2019 a Rajasthan truck driver was fined ₹1.41 lakh in Delhi for overloading and violation of registration certificate and permit rules under the new Motor Vehicles Act, 2019.

The owner, Harman Ram Bhambhu, who hails from Bikaner said that his driver went to Delhi to deliver silica sand to a customer when he was fined and the truck was seized by the Delhi police.

It took him five days to arrange the money and only then the vehicle was released.

Bhambhu said that the police fined him ₹20,000 for first one tonne and ₹2,000 for every additional tonne, making it ₹48,000. And ₹10,000 each for RC and permit



A receipt of the ₹1.41 lakh challan

violations. This made it ₹70,800. The owner was also fined the same amount, making a total of ₹1,41,600.

Earlier on September 3, a truck driver from Odisha was fined ₹86,500.

India in cruise control

Ashwin 4/69 gives hosts 326-run lead despite gritty fight from Proteas tail



India vs South Africa (Day 4)
Live from 9:30am IST
STAR SPORTS 1 & 3 NETWORK

Indian captain Virat Kohli celebrates with teammates after the dismissal of Keshav Maharaj during the third day of the 2nd Test against South Africa in Pune on Saturday AP

PTI ■ PUNE

Tail-enders Keshav Maharaj and Vernon Philander set an example of gutsy batsmanship as South Africa fought hard against a quality attack but could not stop India from taking a massive 326-run lead on the third day of the second Test here.

While a total of 275 in 105.4 overs is far from India's mammoth first innings total of 601, the 109-run ninth wicket stand between Philander (44 not out) and an injured Maharaj (72) showed what the top-order could have done had they shown some stomach for fight.

It will be interesting to see if India captain Virat Kohli enforces a follow on or give his bowlers more rest before unleashing them, eyeing a series-clinching victory in the three-match rubber.

The duo ducked the bouncers, defended doggedly and attacked the loose deliveries as the Indian bowling attack suddenly lacked answers during the final session of the third day, which certainly belonged to the Proteas.

Coming together at 162 for eight, Philander-Maharaj pair not only had a century-plus stand but more importantly consumed 43.1

HIGHEST 9TH WICKET STANDS FOR SOUTH AFRICA IN TESTS

Runs	Partners	Opp	Venue	Season
195	Mark Boucher/Pat Symcox	PAK	Jo'burg	1997-98
180	JP Duminy/Dale Steyn	AUS	Melbourne	2008-09
137	Eric Dalton/Chud Langton	ENG	The Oval	1935
132	Allan Donald/Shawn Pollock	WI	Bridgetown	2000-01
109	Keshav Maharaj/Vernon Philander	IND	Pune	2019-20

HIGHEST SCORES BY NO 10 FOR SOUTH AFRICA IN TESTS

Runs	Batsman	Opp	Venue	Season
108	Pat Symcox	Pakistan	Johannesburg	1997-98
76	Dale Steyn	Australia	Melbourne	2008-09
73*	Chud Langton	England	The Oval	1935
72	Keshav Maharaj	India	Pune	2019-20
66*	Fanie de Villiers	Pakistan	Johannesburg	1994-95

FAISAL FEATURES

overs, taking away a lot of second innings overs from India.

Ashwin, who had the best figures of four for 69 in 28.4 overs, lauded the fighting ninth wicket stand between the lower-order batsmen. "I think the myth of tail-enders is over-stated and when he (tail-ender) bats well, he bats well. Nowadays, nobody is really a mug with the bat. In our team also, everybody bats pretty well till No 11," he said.

Asked if India will enforce the follow-on, Ashwin said that it will

be the captain's prerogative.

"At least, I haven't thought about the follow-on. I think the captain will decide overnight on what he should be doing. It is also important, how bowlers recover, tomorrow (Sunday) morning."

The pitch has shown no considerable signs of wear and tear over three days but nothing can be taken away from Philander, whose defensive technique against Ravichandran Ashwin (4/69) and Ravindra Jadeja's (1/81) tight bowling, was laudable.

On a pitch where Indian batsmen looked at ease, it was an every moment struggle for the Proteas batsmen.

Nightwatchman Anrich Nortje (4) was uncomfortable from the start with Virat Kohli setting an attacking field that included four slips and a gully.

Shami got deliveries to rear up from the length and one such delivery was awkwardly fended by Nortje and skipper Kohli at fourth slip took a smart catch diving to his right.

Theunis de Bruyn (30) hit a couple of cover drives but it was a moment of inspiration from Saha that brought about his end.

Trying an expansive drive off Yadav, De Bruyn's hard flash was flying towards first slip and an aerial Saha plucked out of thin air, leaving South Africa tottering at 53 for five. However Du Plessis and De Kock batted positively, punishing the loose balls and didn't look in much trouble like the earlier batsmen.

Faf had 10 hits to the fence including one maximum while De Kock hit seven boundaries.

It was Ashwin, who removed De Kock with a classical off-break that pitched on the middle and the southpaw was squared up and beaten trying to play for the turn with bails clipped.

In the post lunch session, spin-

ners took control as Senuran Muthusamy (7) shouldered arms to delivery from Jadeja that turned back sharply and he was adjudged leg-before.

Philander kept me in good frame: Maharaj

PTI ■ PUNE

South African tail-ender Keshav Maharaj, who braved a sore shoulder to hit a gritty 72, said not going into a shell was key to their splendid rearguard action.

He said his lower-order colleague Vernon Philander (44 not out) kept him in good frame of mind.

"Vernon and I said to ourselves that we'll just get through to tea and see after that. Being a lower order batsman your fingers do it to play a big shot but Vernon kept me in a good mind space," Maharaj said after the third day's play.

"But I remained positive, because if you go into your shell a ball with your name will come along sooner or later."

Ashwin happy to be bowling again

PTI ■ PUNE

Ravichandran Ashwin on Saturday said he wasn't "frustrated" for once during the century-plus stand between Vernon Philander and Keshav Maharaj as he is just happy to be bowling again in a Test match rather than cooling his heels in the reserves.

Ashwin is no longer India's first-choice spinner even in Test cricket and it was understandable when the cocky Tamil Nadu tweaker gave a cheeky reply to a question on the resilience shown by the South African tail on the third day.

"I don't get frustrated and don't want to get frustrated either as I am happy to be bowling again. Whoever bats again, I am happy to keep bowling at them," Ashwin said and it wasn't very difficult to read between the lines as to what he meant after Ravindra Jadeja was preferred in the West Indies.

He didn't also forget to praise Wriddhiman Saha's superb glove-work, which included an airborne catch to dismiss Theunis de Bruyne off Umesh Yadav's bowling.

"It's a no-brainer to say that Saha is one of the best going around. I have hardly seen him miss anything from the rough and today you saw how he took Rabada's (missed) cover drive. It just indicates what good set of hands he has got," said Ashwin.



Sanju Samson bats during practice session Twitter

Samson hits record-breaking 212

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Kerala wicket keeper-batsman Sanju Samson made a case for himself for the upcoming T20s against Bangladesh by hitting a blistering double century as Kerala thrashed Goa by 104 runs in their Elite Group A game of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Saturday.

Riding on Samson's record-breaking unbeaten 212 off just 129 balls, Kerala posted a mammoth 377/3 on the board and restricted Goa to 153/3 after play was called off due to inclement weather.

Goa were 104 runs short of the revised target.

The cynosure of all eyes at the Alur Cricket Stadium II was Samson.

Opting to bat, Kerala lost openers skipper Robin (10) and Vishnu Vinod (7) cheaply and were in a spot of bother at 31-2.

But Samson, who struck 21 fours and 10 sixes in his knock, hammered the opposition bowlers.

With this knock, Samson holds the record for the highest Indian List A domestic score, after he went past Karn Kaushal's 202, scored for Uttarakhand.

Samson is the eighth Indian to score a double hundred in List A cricket. His 212 is also the highest score by a wicket-keeper in List A matches, surpassing 209 by Abid Ali.

Also Samson hit the fastest List A 200 by an Indian, (in 129 balls). He also became the first Indian to score a list A 200 at number three position.

Samson and two-down Sachin Baby (127 off 135 balls) conjured a massive 338-run stand for the third wicket.

Baby struck seven boundaries and four sixes.

The partnership of 338 between Samson and Baby is a new List A record for the third wicket, as they went past the 309 run stand between Tim Curtis and Tom Moody for Worcestershire in 1994.

Samson thus made a case for himself and played a timely knock, with Rishabh Pant struggling and the future of veteran stumper-batsman M S Dhoni uncertain.

The chase was always going to be uphill task for Goa, who fell way beyond the target.

Elsewhere, Jharkhand eked out a three-wicket win versus Andhra with middle-order batsman Virat Singh remaining unbeaten at 74.

Karnataka defeated Saurashtra by eight wickets to win full four points.

Medvedev, Zverev fight for Shanghai title



AFP ■ SHANGHAI

Dominant Daniil Medvedev reached a staggering sixth final in a row and will play Alexander Zverev for the Shanghai Masters title today.

The US Open finalist defeated fellow rising star Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 7-6 (7/5), 7-5.

In the other semi-final on Saturday, Germany's Zverev eased past Matteo Berrettini of Italy 6-3, 6-4 in a showdown between two more budding talents.

The 23-year-old Russian Medvedev embellished his fast-growing reputation with a fifth victory in as many matches against Tsitsipas, 21.

In contrast, he is yet to overcome the 22-year-old Zverev in four attempts.

"I did say before this year and during this year in the beginning that Sascha (Zverev) was the best in our 'Next Gen' group," the world number four said.

"He won three Masters when none of us were even close to doing this."

"Positions have changed a little bit so I think I can contest him right now," Sixth-ranked Zverev, long touted as the man most likely to join the "Big Three" of Federer, Djokovic and Rafael Nadal, has had a disappointing year, winning only one title.

But the German defeated 20-time Grand Slam champion Federer on Friday and took that momentum into his last-four clash with the 23-year-old Berrettini.

Kipchoge busts two-hour marathon barrier



AFP ■ VIENNA

Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge

on Saturday made history, smashing the mythical two-hour barrier for the marathon in the "best moment" of his life on a specially prepared course in a vast Vienna park.

With a time of 1hr 59min 40.2sec, the Olympic champion became the

first ever to run a marathon in under two hours in the Prater park with the course readied to make it as even as possible.

"I'm the happiest man today. The message that no human is limited is now in everybody's mind," an elated Kipchoge told reporters after the run, adding he expected more athletes to match his feat in the future.

"From the first kilometres I was really comfortable. I have been training for it for the last four and a half months, and above all I have been putting in my heart and in my mind that I'll run an under-two-hour marathon."

Manju enters World final

Mary, 2 others sign off with Bronze

PTI ■ ULAN-UDE

Debutant Manju Rani (48kg) was the lone Indian to enter the final, while six-time champion M C Mary Kom (51kg) and two others signed off with Bronze medals in the World Women's Boxing Championships here on Saturday.

Sixth-seeded Rani defeated Thailand's Chuthamat Raksat 4-1. She will take on second-seeded Russian Ekaterina Paltceva in the summit clash today.

"I had fought this Thai girl earlier too so that experience came in handy. This is the biggest win of my career so far and I am very very happy," Rani said referring to her earlier fight against Raksat.

However, Mary Kom, Jamuna Boro (54kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) settled for Bronze medals. In case of Borgohain, it was her second successive third-place finish.

Mary Kom, seeded third, lost 1-4 to second seed Busenaz Cakiroglu of Turkey who is the reigning European Championships and European Games Gold-medallist.

Boro went down 0-5 to top seed and former Asian Games Bronze-medallist Huang Hsiao-Wen of Chinese Taipei. Borgohain (69kg) squared off against China's Yang Liu and was beaten 2-3 in a hard-fought bout.

The Indian contingent sought reviews of the decisions in Mary Kom and Borgohain's bouts but the appeals were turned down by the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) technical committee.

"I am very disappointed with the decision. I think I fought much better and didn't deserve



MC Mary Kom (51kg) reacts after losing her bout against Busenaz Cakiroglu during the World Women's Boxing C'ship PTI

to lose but I will try to ensure that this setback helps me achieve bigger things," Mary Kom said.

Despite this loss, it was a stupendous campaign for the 36-year-old Mary Kom and added to her long list of accomplishments. This Bronze

is her first world medal in the 51kg category.

Boro was up against a much taller rival and although she fought her heart out, the height advantage worked for Huang, who struck some stinging body blow.



Manju Rani (blue) in action during her game PTI/File Picture

"I am happy with the Bronze but I think I could have done better. Obviously I made mistakes, that's why I lost. I will go back and make sure those mistakes are not repeated and I do better next time," Boro said after the loss.

Borgohain found a wily opponent Liu. The Chinese boxer had a definitive reach advantage and she made it count with her jabs.

Borgohain did well in counter-attacks but Liu claimed the upperhand with her more forceful-struck punches.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI. 4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001.	BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI. 4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001.
OA NDN NO 339/19 DATE: 18.09.2019 AXIS BANK LTD. ...APPLICANT VERSUS RAJEEV KUMAR & ANR. ...RESPONDENT	OA NO 1414/18 DATE: 25.09.2019 AXIS BANK LTD. ...APPLICANT VERSUS VIKAS RAWAT & ORS. ...RESPONDENT
TO, DEFENDANT 1. Rajeev Kumar, BHP-1308, Amrapali Village Gyan Khand Indrapuram Ghaziabad UP-201010 Also At: C-56/40, Sect.-62, Noida UP-201301 2. Ultra Home Constructions Pvt. Ltd. 307, 3rd Floor Nipun Tower Kankardooma Community Centre Delhi-92. Also At: C-56/40, Sect.-62, Noida UP-201301.	TO, DEFENDANT 1. Vikas Rawat S/o Sh. Raje Singh Rawat, House No. 43-E Pkt.-03, Phase-1 Mayur Vihar New Delhi-91. Also At: Inducts India Pvt. Ltd. A-96/97, Sect.-58, Noida UP-201301 2. Darshani Rawat W/o Sh. Raje Singh Rawat House No. 43-E Pkt.-3, Phase-1 Mayur Vihar New Delhi-91
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 14,40,979/- (Rupee Forteen Lakh Forty Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Nine 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 13.11.2019 At 10.30 A.M.	Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs 63,74,557/- (Rupee Sixty Three Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Seven 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 28.11.2019 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.	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	By Order of the Tribunal Section Officer, DRT-II, Delhi

AFP ■ PRAGUE-VRSOVICE

Czech mate

Three Lions suffer first qualifiers defeat in a decade as Cristiano nears 700 goals



Czech Republic players, front, celebrate at the end of the Euro 2020 group A qualifying match against England AP

England missed an opportunity to qualify for Euro 2020 on Friday as they slid to a 2-1 loss in the Czech Republic, while Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 699th goal in a routine Portugal win over Luxembourg.

Harry Kane converted a fifth-minute penalty in Prague after Raheem Sterling was clipped by Lukas Masopust, the Tottenham striker taking his qualifying tally to seven goals.

But Czech Republic, humbled 5-0 by England in the reverse fixture last March, levelled shortly after as Jakub Brabec bundled in from a corner for his first international goal.

Substitute Zdenek Ondrasek swept home the winner on his debut for the hosts on 85 minutes, a goal that ended England's decade-long unbeaten run in qualifying spanning 43 matches.

"I think we have had a lot of credit over the last couple of years and tonight we did not do enough," England manager Gareth Southgate told ITV.

"Our performance was not good enough, it's as simple as that. The goals we conceded were typical of the chances we gave away."

England's last qualifying defeat came ahead of the 2010 World Cup when they lost 1-0 away to Ukraine in October 2009.

Southgate's side remain top of Group A on 12 points alongside the Czechs, who have played a game extra. England could still clinch qualification on Monday with victory in Bulgaria if Kosovo fail to beat Montenegro.

World champions France claimed a 1-0 win away to Iceland as Olivier Giroud delivered the only goal with a penalty on 66 minutes in Reykjavik.

Giroud has played sparingly for Chelsea this season but the 33-year-old is now just four goals behind Michel Platini (41) for second on France's list of all-time leading scorers.

France are level on 18 points with Turkey atop Group H ahead of Monday's showdown in Paris, where victory would send Didier Deschamps' men through to the finals. "It was very difficult, a really hard match. We needed to



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring Portugal's 2nd goal against Luxembourg AP

take the three points and now we have an important game coming up at home," said Antoine Griezmann, who was fouled for the penalty.

Cenk Tosun popped up with a 90th-minute winner for Turkey as they scraped past Albania 1-0 in Istanbul.

Iceland's first home loss in qualifying since June 2013 dropped the Nordic island nation six points adrift of the top two.

Juventus star Ronaldo grabbed his 94th goal at international level in Portugal's 3-0 home victory over Luxembourg.

Bernardo Silva opened the scoring in Lisbon in the first half before Ronaldo added a second on 65 minutes with a magnificent chip following an error in the visitors' defence. Goncalo Guedes added a late third although defending champions Portugal still trail Group B leaders Ukraine

FIGURATIVELY

43 England have lost a European Championship/World Cup qualifying match for the first time since October 10th 2009 (a 1-0 defeat to Ukraine), ending a sequence of 43 qualifying matches unbeaten (W34 D9)

1 Zdenek Ondrasek has scored on his international debut for Czech Republic, scoring with his first shot in international football

20 Harry Kane has scored 20 England goals in games when starting as captain - in the history of the England national team, only Vivian Woodward has scored more goals when starting as captain (23 goals between 1908 and 1911).

2 England named two players (Trippier & Sancho) in their starting XI for a match who are playing their club football for non-English clubs; the last time that happened was in the 2006 World Cup quarter-final against Portugal (Beckham & Hargreaves)

4 Olivier Giroud scored 4 goals against Iceland, their favorite prey under the shirt of the France. He is even involved in 7 goals in 5 games against Iceland (4 goals, 3 assists).

Stimac names 23-member squad for B'desh clash

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Head coach Igor Stimac on Saturday named a 23-member Indian football squad for the FIFA World Cup qualifier against Bangladesh to be played in Kolkata on Tuesday.

Defenders Sandesh Jhingan and Anwar Ali (Jr) were ruled out of the match to be played at VYBK Stadium due to injuries, while Halicharan Narzary, Farukh Choudhary and Nishu Kumar did not make it to the final 23 and were released from the national camp here. "Halicharan, Farukh and Nishu gave others a tough run for money and the decision was not an easy one. They came very close to their competitors. It was in fact a tough decision to take," Stimac said.

Seasoned defensive bulwark Jhingan suffered an Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) tear on his left knee during the team's 1-1 draw against Guwahati-based North East United in a friendly on Wednesday and he will undergo a surgery that may rule him out for six months.

"Sandesh has suffered on his left knee ACL tear and need to undergo surgery. It usually takes 6 months for return to sport. He will be monitored constantly during the rehabilitation phase so that he comes back on the field sooner," Team Physio Gigy George said.

"Sandesh is our Iron-man. He will be missed in Kolkata but knowing him, I'm pretty sure, he'll come back much stronger," Stimac stated.

Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who led from the front as captain in the drawn match against Asian champions Qatar in Doha, termed the ruling out of Sandesh as 'a big loss' for the Blue Tigers.

"It's really sad. It's a big loss for us, especially at this moment. I could imagine how would he feel missing this game but he's a strong guy and he'll come back strongly soon," Sandhu said. The Indian team will reach Kolkata on today.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Kamaljit Singh.

Defenders: Pritam Kotal, Rahul Bheke, Adil Khan, Narender, Sarthak Golui, Anas Edathodika, Mandar Rao Desai, Subhasish Bose.

Midfielders: Udanta Singh, Nikhil Poojary, Vinit Rai, Anirudh Thapa, Abdul Sahal, Raynier Fernandes, Brandon Fernandes, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Ashique Kuruniyan.

Forwards: Sunil Chhetri, Balwant Singh, Manvir Singh.

SINGLES

₹ 8 CR PRIZE MONEY FOR PKL-7

NEW DELHI: The 'Toughest Week of Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) season 7 is all set to treat fans with exciting matches at EKA Arena and the league has announced a consolidated prize money of ₹8 crore for this edition. All the teams qualifying for the playoffs are assured of some prize money, with the champions to bag ₹3 crore. The runners-up will be handed ₹1.8 crore, third and fourth placed teams will win ₹90 lakh each and the fifth and sixth position teams will win ₹45 lakh each. The remainder of the prize money pool will be towards various individual awards.

INDIA BEAT MALAYSIA 4-2 IN JOHOR CUP

JOHOR BAHRU: The Indian junior men's hockey team rallied from two-goal deficit to beat hosts Malaysia 4-2 in its opening match of the 9th Sultan of Johor Cup here on Saturday. Pratap Lakra (19th and 33rd) struck twice while Shilanand Lakra (39th) and Uttam Singh (60th) scored the other goals for India. Muhammad Hassan (8th) and Muhammad Zainudin (9th) were the goal-scorers for Malaysia. India will face New Zealand in their next round robin league-stage match today.

GAUFF REACHES MAIDEN WTA FINAL

LINZ: American teenage sensation Coco Gauff reached the first WTA final of her career on Saturday as the 15-year-old beat Andrea Petkovic 6-4, 6-4 in the last four in Linz. Gauff, who burst onto the scene with a run to the Wimbledon last 16 earlier this year, is the youngest woman to make a WTA final since Nicole Pietrangola won the Tashkent title in 2004. "This is definitely unreal, my first final on the WTA," said Gauff, who only got into the main draw in Austria as a lucky loser.

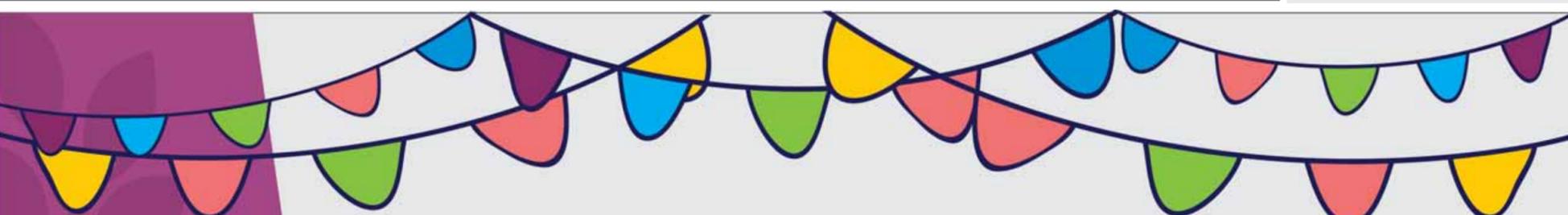
LAKSHYA ENTERS FINAL OF DUTCH OPEN

ALMERE: Rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen stormed into the men's singles final with a straight-game win over Felix Burestedt of Sweden at the Dutch Open Super 100 tournament here on Saturday. The 18-year-old Indian, who had clinched the Belgian Open last month, beat Felix 21-12, 21-9 in a lop-sided semifinal contest that lasted 33 minutes. Lakshya had earlier sailed into the men's singles semifinals with a 21-9, 21-16 win over compatriot B M Rahul Bhardwaj on Friday night. He will now take on Yusuke Onodera of Japan in the summit clash today.

VIKY REPLACES SIKANDER IN U-23 TEAM

NEW DELHI: Junior World C'ship Bronze medallist Viky has replaced Sikander in the Indian squad for the Under-23 World Wrestling Championship as the preparatory camps began in Sonapat and Lucknow. The Gold medal winners at the recent Under-23 National Championship in Shiridi were chosen for the World Championship, to be held in Budapest, Hungary from October 28 to November 3. Sikander had emerged champion in the 92kg category at the Nationals but has reportedly suffered an injury. The men's and women's squad will leave for Budapest on October 26, two days after the training camps conclude in Sonapat (men's) and Lucknow (women).

AGENCIES




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Talktime

MANAV KAUL

He is known for his roles in films like Tumhari Sulu, Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyun Aata Hai and Badla. Kaul speaks with Musba Hashmi about the challenges he faced, best moment and a lesson learnt in the industry

From Jagantram Mamantram to Badla, how has your journey been?

It has been a long one. After doing *Jagantram Mamantram*, I took a break from acting for 12-13 years. I wasn't getting good roles. I got busy in writing, directing and travelling to different parts of India and abroad. Then I got tired of writing and travelling and decided to take up something else. In 2013, suddenly *Kai Po Che* happened and things changed. With the film, I realised that the industry had changed a lot. People now are way more professional than before. This is the best time to be in the industry. I started taking things seriously. I took workshops and worked on my acting skills. Since then, till now, the journey has not been bad. It is going slow but it's fine, good things take time.

Did you always want to be an actor?

When you grow up in a small town in Kashmir and crave for attention then it is said that you want to be an actor. I used to dance, break dance to be specific, in events just to get attention. Not only acting but performing arts was in my blood.

What challenges did you face?

Based on the struggle, I have a lot of stories to tell. I come from a humble background. My family used to think I wouldn't be able to do anything in my life. There was less burden on me because there were no expectations from anyone. When I came to Mumbai, I was living in a *chawl* and didn't have money to eat. So was the case with everyone around me therefore it didn't bother me much. I was always friends with poor people. I believed that this is the world I belong to. I am a humourist and I used to laugh off the hard times that I went through.

Does that mean you had a tough time giving auditions too?

Not really. After some time I stopped giving auditions and meeting people. I was enjoying doing theatre. I was doing good work and I was liking it. At that time, I had everything except

THIS INDUSTRY IS BRUTALLY HONEST AND I LOVE IT. IF SOMEONE IS NOT WORTH IT, THE INDUSTRY WILL NOT WASTE EVEN A SINGLE SECOND ON HIM. NOBODY WILL TREAT YOU WELL IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE SPARK

money.

A lesson learnt in the industry.

This industry is brutally honest and I love it. If someone is not worth it, the industry will not waste even a single second on him. Nobody will treat you well if you don't have the spark in you. The moment you are worthy enough, it will bless you with all the good things. Some people say that it is brutal but I believe

it is good to be honest.

What kind of roles would you like to experiment with?

I don't ask for roles. I get scripts and take the ones that are appealing. I don't have any image of doing a certain kind of role.

Do you have any regrets?

I have only one regret that happened last week. I was going from one cafe to another in my car and thought: 'Oh, I can walk up to there'. After having my coffee in the other cafe while I was walking back to my car, I regretted that I had parked it so far. Apart from this, I don't have any regrets. (laughs)

Some best moment from your journey.

My best moments are always when I am travelling. When I was in London, writing my travelogue, it was one of the best moments.

Would you like to share some anecdotes from your journey?

My travelogue *Bohot Door Kitna Door Hota Hai* is going to be published this month. Every anecdote from my journey is there in the book. I would want the readers to read the book and find out more about me.

Any actor or director that you

would like to work with?

I would love to work with Shoojit Sircar. I love his work. He is one of the finest directors. Also I would love to work with Zoya Akhtar and Anubhav Sinha. They are great directors.

How was the experience working with Taapsee Pannu and Amitabh Bachchan in Badla?

Taapsee is very professional. We all have grown up watching Mr Bachchan's films. It was surreal every time I met him. I always thought that I am meeting a fictional character and that my dream is going to end soon. I had a good time with him in *Badla*. Though we had only one scene together but we used to have good conversations on the sets. He is one of the most friendly and talented actors I have ever met.

Now that the film has premiered on Zee Cinema on September 29, what would you like to say?

TV has a wide reach. The film will now reach to more audience. It is gripping and the storyline is good, I hope the audience loved the film.

Upcoming projects?

My web series *The Verdict: State vs Nanavati* has just been released. For now, that is what is on the cards.

The legend continues

The Legend of Ram, starring ARUN GOVIL as Lord Ram, was staged in the Capital recently. SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with the actor and the director to tell you more

He won our hearts with his smile and quiet demeanor by playing one of the most popular roles from our epic. People would be glued to their TV sets every Sunday to watch Arun Govil play Lord Ram in Ramanand Sagar's *Ramayan*. Thirty-five years down the line, the actor makes a comeback as Ram in *The Legend of Ram-Ek Shabd, Ek Baan, Ek Naari* directed by Atul Satya Koushik who has also given plays like *Chakravayuh* and *Raavan Ki Ramayan* to name a few.

The teachings from warrior-turned-sage Vishwamitra, experiences with women like Tadhika, Ahalya and the love story with Sita and arch rivalry with the demon king Raavan make Ram's story worth telling a thousand times.

The play presents important episodes from the life of Ram, who began as a promising young prince and reached the status of Vishnu in his times. It also captures the agony of warriors of like Kumbhakaran and Megnad who try to find *dharma* on the wrong side and the darker side of insecurities that found a home in the heart of Raavan. The play is presented in an immaculate juxtaposition of verses with pros form in a Broadway-style presentation with dancers taking a turn to present mesmerising sequences, breathtaking fight sequences and spectacular sets and costumes.

Govil tells you that to begin with, he was not keen on doing this project. But after a couple of months I decided to go ahead because he wanted to feel more alive since he had not worked in the industry for some time. "I wanted to be alert mentally. I had not worked for some time. Live theatre was the best possible option. Since I had played Ram earlier as well and shot to fame, I knew that that I would be accepted," Govil says.

In the play a more human aspect of Ram is shown. It is not shown that he was an incarnation of Lord Vishnu or God. "In every *yug* there is a person who is born with qualities of Lord Vishnu. In the TV series on DD, Ram was God, in this play, he doesn't say that he is God. Also, there are other aspects of his life that are shown like the three women — Tadhika, Ahalya and Sita — who come in his life," Govil tells you.

He opines that the concept of *maryada purushottam* should exist even today, it is not about whether it is relevant. "There should be some limit. One should set a limit and stick to it. If the *maryada* is crossed, man would go astray. If one wants

to lead a peaceful life and within the boundaries set by the society, limit must be maintained," Govil says.

He tells you that more than the destiny, it was the circumstances that led him to play Ram 30 years back. "When I heard it was a mythological show was being made, I knew that I had to play Ram. I gave an audition and got rejected. I was asked to play other characters. But I was adamant to play Ram," Govil tells you.

The actor says that he is blessed that even 30 years later, people think that he has the capability to play the character given that he is no longer a young man. However, Govil, who was not too keen on taking up work in the last 14 years, says that the new content on the digital platforms makes him open to taking up work again. "When I look at some of the cinema on the various digital platforms, I feel that there is so much more to a character, there are so many shades to the role. I know I would enjoy doing such roles,"

WHEN I HEARD THAT A MYTHOLOGICAL SHOW WAS BEING MADE, I KNEW THAT I HAD TO PLAY RAM. I GAVE AN AUDITION AND GOT REJECTED. I WAS ASKED TO PLAY OTHER CHARACTERS, BUT I WAS ADAMANT TO PLAY RAM

Govil says.

As for future plans, Govil is rather philosophical and says that only Ramji knows what is in store for him.

Koushik tells you that the idea for the play stemmed from the fact that he has been reading all religious and historical books for years. "The idea was to try and interpret these texts in a newer light where the audience of today can relate to the

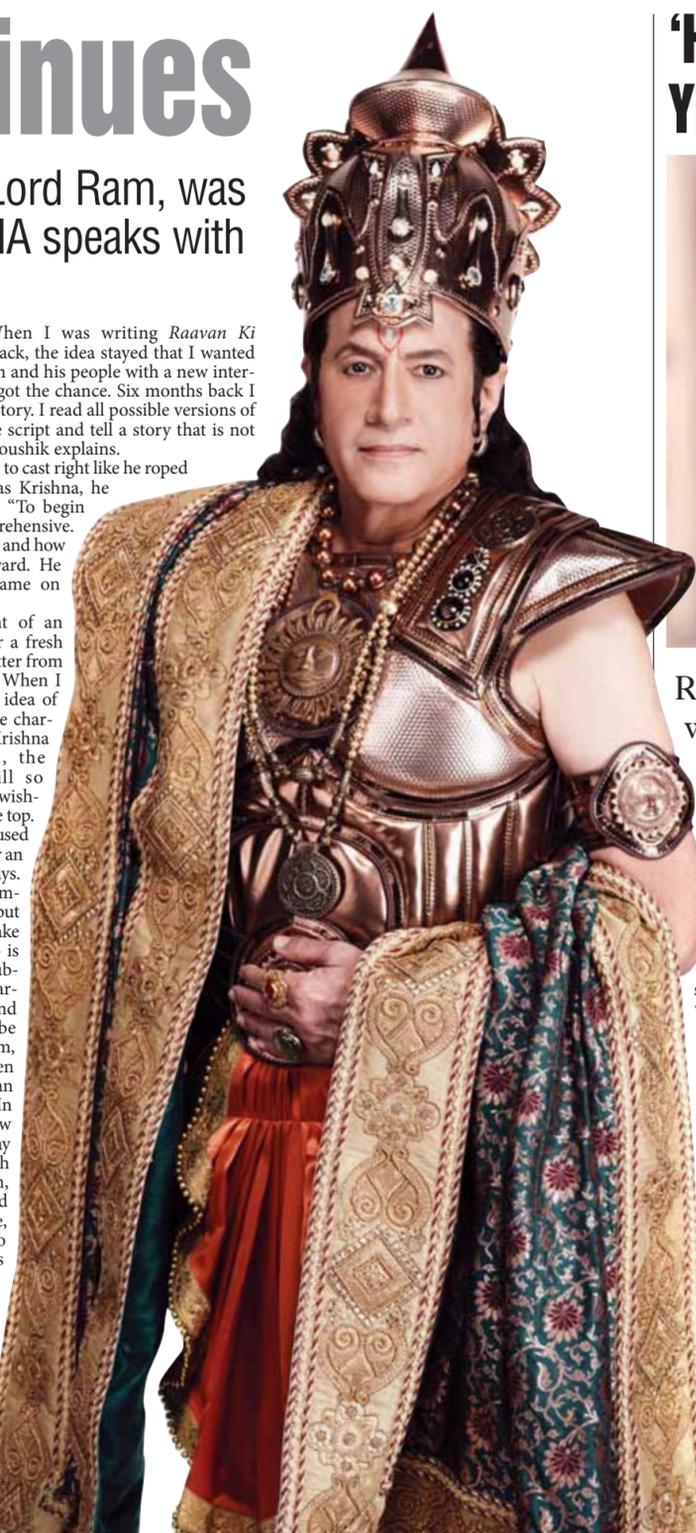
iconic characters. When I was writing *Raavan Ki Ramayan* four years back, the idea stayed that I wanted to tell the story of Ram and his people with a new interpretation whenever I got the chance. Six months back I sat down to write the story. I read all possible versions of *Ramayan* and knit the script and tell a story that is not known about Ram," Koushik explains.

For this, he wanted to cast right like he roped in Nitish Bharadwaj as Krishna, he wanted to cast Govil. "To begin with, he was a bit apprehensive. I explained the concept and how we would move forward. He liked the idea and came on board," Koushik says.

He never thought of an alternative or look for a fresh and better option. "Better from whose point of view? When I tell a story, I have an idea of who I want to play the characters. Bharadwaj as Krishna and Govil as Ram, the impressions are still so strong. We all have a wish-list and Govil was at the top. Of course, if he had refused I would have looked for an alternative," Koushik says.

He agrees that comparisons will be made but the medium doesn't make a difference. "Our job is such that we are in public light. Those comparisons, the questions and curiosities will always be there. As for the medium, an actor is an actor even though you become an expert of a format. In theatre, you know how to say your lines and play a role. It is the approach that changes. In a film, you give a shot and move ahead. In theatre, since we will continue to perform, the actor has to remember his lines. This challenged Arunji since he had not done much of theatre in the past," Koushik tells you.

He tells you that like all his previous plays, this one too will most probably run for 200 shows in the next four-five years.



'Had tough time doing YKIB Season 1'



RJ NEELESH MISRA speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about the latest season of *Yaadon Ka Idiot Box* on 92.7 BIG FM and his recently launched media platform among other things

This is the sixth season of Yaadon Ka Idiot Box (YKIB). What keeps the audience hooked to the show?

The kind of stories that we bring forth is the main reason why people are hooked on to this show. The content comes with a social responsibility and we aim to address as many social issues as possible that are left unaddressed in the otherwise entertaining content. As an artist we all have to be responsible enough to address the issues around us. This season we have been incorporating the suggestions and story ideas of our listeners and we will be happy to give them the credits. We always try to stay true to the soul of our show and concept and weave our stories around those parameters.

Is there any pressure when you come up with different seasons of the same show?

No. I will only be doing this show until the time I am enjoying it. The day I stopped enjoying telling stories, I will stop the show. This is not a job for me, it is one of the things that I love doing. I feel involved when I am doing it.

Any real life incidents that you have incorporated in the stories?

All the stories are some way or the other derived from real life incidents or emotions. The stories are written by a different team and they are putting a little bit of their experience in every stories. I will also be writing some stories in this season and those for sure will be influenced by some real events in some way.

A story that came close to your heart...

All the stories that I have written in the previous seasons are my favourite. But one story, that the listeners liked a lot was *Diwali Ki Raat*, it was the first story of the show.

What made you quit journalism?

I haven't quit journalism. Yes, I have stopped reporting but I am still connected with journalism. I will love to go back to reporting as well.

Having explored different fields, which one did you enjoy the most?

I like writing stories. Also, when I am reporting on the field, it is one thing that I enjoy doing.

What was the most challenging phase of your life?

Creatively, the most challenging phase for me was the first season of *YKIB*. I was writing one story every night and then recording it in the morning. I had to think of a new plot and new characters every night. That was extremely tough.

Did it affect you in any way? Did you ever feel like quitting?

No. That was a completely new high for me. It was a new experience. I had never been in front of a mic and never narrated stories. While it was excruciating and tough but was creatively satisfying.

A success mantra that you follow...

Just be real when it comes to communication. Whether I am writing a story or narrating it, if it will be real and earnest, the audience will feel connected with it. Sincerity of a commentator is paramount.

What next?

We have just come up with a media platform Mic. Through this platform, artist from all across the country can showcase their talent and reach out to a larger audience. This is my dream project. On the storytelling front, I would love to explore different genres.

What made you come up with Mic?

The realisation that from where will the other thousand Neelesh Misra will come from. It can't be a selfish journey that revolves only around me. We have to give platform to other artists too.

WEEKLY NATTER

AAMIR KHAN TO PLAY LAAL SINGH CHADDHA

Aamir Khan visited the Golden temple in Amritsar in order to seek blessings of Waheguru, before he kickstarts the shoot of his upcoming next *Laal Singh Chaddha*. The actor found it important to visit the holy place and seek blessings from the almighty as he is all set to start the shoot! Aamir Khan will kick start the shoot of the film on November 4 onwards.

The film is expected to be shot in 100 different locations across the country one of which is the state of Punjab. This film would be the actor's third film to be shot in Punjab while the initial two being, the massive blockbusters *Dangal* and *Rang De Basanti*. Further, the film marks the bringing together of Aamir Khan with Kareena Kapoor Khan.

Khan has been following a vegan diet in his bid to lose 20 kilos for the film, a remake of *Forrest Gump* (1994).

The film is written by Atul Kulkarni, the film is helmed by Advait Chandan and will be produced by Viacom18 Studios and Aamir Khan Productions. The movie is slated to hit the theatres during Christmas 2020.



SALMAN KHAN WRAPS UP DABANGG 3

Salman Khan who will be seen entertaining fans as Chulbul Panday in the upcoming film *Dabangg 3* wrapped up the shooting. Bollywood's Bajrang Bhaijaan uploaded a video and took to social media to speak about the last day of the shoot. He also paid tribute to late veteran actor Vinod Khanna, whose birthday happened to be on the same day of their pack up. Chulbul's father Prajapati Pandey, which was played by the veteran actor is now being played by his brother Pramod Khanna.

Salman was seen with the entire crew of the film along with the director Prabhudev remembered the late actor. "Today was the last day of *Dabangg 3* and the happiest part is that today is the birthday of our VK sir, Vinod Khanna sir. So today is our Prajapati Pandey's birthday and it happens to coincide with the pack up of our film," Salman said in the video.

Dabangg 3 is being helmed by Prabhudev. The film marks their second collaboration after 2009's *Wanted*.



NEW TRACK BY BLACK EYES PEAS & BALVIN

Pacing for the most-anticipated comeback in recent memory, Black Eyed Peas resurface with a smash on par with their legendary run of hits.

The six-time GRAMMY® Award-winning, genre-bending pioneers x history-making reggaeton superstar J Balvin — who remains one of the hottest acts in the globe today and possibly the biggest Latin star of the millennium — share a new collaborative single entitled "RITMO (Bad Boys For Life)" on October 11, 2019. This marks the group's first release under their newly minted deal with Epic Records. Uniting these two titans, this is undoubtedly the biggest song of 2019, to say the least.

The song heralds the arrival of the anxiously awaited *Bad Boys For Life Original Motion Picture* soundtrack album. It lands in stores and at all digital retailers on January 10, 2020. Meanwhile, the mega-anticipated *Bad Boys For Life* — starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence — opens in theaters everywhere the same day. It stands out as the third installment of the classic *Bad Boys* franchise, one of the most successful action series of all-time.



the pioneer agenda

Weakness is something we don't like to admit we have. We hold it against people, until we experience it, and then we feel more compassion for it
—Olivia Wilde



FROM THE INSIDE

The power of forgiveness

Forgiveness is an essential tool for self-empowerment and self-improvement in a spiritual journey

2



4

Mould your child in time

Watching over your child's behaviour at an early age can help you induce corrections while there is still time

REMEMBERING JACQUES CHIRAC

THE FRENCH BULLDOZER

Former French President Chirac is remembered for his balanced stance between the Left and the Right political ideologies in France and his bold disposition in international matters, be it against the US-led war in Iraq or championing the European Union, writes **MINIYA CHATTERJI**

Jacques Chirac had a loud mirthful laugh which usually accompanied a witty remark. He genuinely enjoyed meeting people, sharing a joke, and exchanging news. Hardly a memorable orator, his words stuck because he was frank. And so his open opposition to the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq came as no surprise and nor did his public recognition of France's role in the deportation of Jews during the Nazi occupation of the country during the second world war.

He kept an open mind — he was a staunch defender of *la vieille France* as much a champion and admirer of the East. He had been nicknamed 'the bulldozer' as Prime Minister Georges Pompidou's main troubleshooter in the 1960s, but it was an appellation that belied his ineffectual latter years in politics which was the period during which I knew him.

I first met Jacques Chirac in 2003. I was 24 years old, working as an intern at a political foundation created by Chirac's Chief Counsellor, his best friend for over five decades, and former CEO of Suez (for twenty years!), Jerome Monod. Very soon, Monod had brought me over to work as a policy analyst out of his office, the *salon d'argent* at the Elysee, that was placed right beside the office of Jacques Chirac who was the President of the French Republic at that time.

Chirac liked the appropriate use of the French language. During my earliest meetings with him, he had told me "Speak slowly... French". He quizzed me about India and also China, as if being an Asian I was to know of both. A few times he challenged me to compete with his official speech writers, of which I won the game only twice. Both times, I was to write about Asian topics. In Europe he was losing the race to Germany, of being seen as the main force behind the unification of Europe. But that did not stop him from bringing France to the rest of the world.

He was pro-business as much as he was supportive of the arts. One of my most memorable projects was when Monod and myself, accompanied by another colleague, travelled to India to prepare for Chirac's impending visit the following year in 2006. We met with Ratan Tata at Bombay House, Rahul Bajaj at his manufacturing unit on the outskirts of Pune, Narayan Murthy in his office overlooking the Infosys campus in Bangalore, as well as cultural icons such as Yash Chopra, Alyque Padamsee, Sanjana Kapoor, Mallika Sarabhai and others. My job was to take notes that would feed into the talk points for the President's meetings with his Indian counterparts. Indians in general did not warm up to him too much. The French and Indian leaders often speak different languages — I am not referring to the French, English, Hindi languages here. But Chirac had political friendships in Iraq, Japan, Lebanon, and other unlikely countries in the East. In fact, post retirement, the Chiracs lived in a Paris apartment courtesy of the family of the former Lebanese prime minister, Rafik Hariri.

In February 2006, when Chirac indeed visited India, he was keen to boost economic ties with an emphasis on civil nuclear cooperation. That year, India and France issued a declaration on the "development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes". Civil nuclear energy along with aerospace, healthcare, and education continue to form the cornerstone of the French-Indian relationship even today. In fact, last week, after a 15

year procurement process that was fraught with controversies, India got its first Rafale jet in France with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh taking a sortie in the combat aircraft. The first aircraft will arrive — in a batch of four — in India in May 2020 once the Ambala airbase trains pilots. France and India harbour an unmet potential for greater private sector collaboration. Just in the field of my specialisation, which is corporate sustainability, there is much that French companies can offer their Indian counterparts in terms of technology, equipment, and R&D. There are several collaborations on paper that lack any substantial tangible outputs. The two countries also need to better 'in sync'. The choice of exhibits and content during the recent Bonjour India festival organised by France in India was a glaring example of how France just does not get India.

CHIRAC WAS A DOMINANT FIGURE IN WORLD POLITICS FOR FOUR DECADES. HE WAS PRESIDENT OF FRANCE FOR TWO TERMS, TOTALLING TWELVE YEARS. PREVIOUSLY HE HAD BEEN TWICE PRIME MINISTER AND A HIGHLY VISIBLE MAYOR OF PARIS FOR 18 YEARS. ONLY YEARS LATER WOULD HIS MAYORALTY EMERGE AS THE SOURCE OF SCANDAL: IN 2011, HE WAS CONVICTED OF MISUSING PUBLIC FUNDS TO FINANCE HIS POLITICAL PARTY WHILE RUNNING THE CITY OF PARIS

France has also long been eager to be the top choice for the brightest Indian students. France has hoped that the trumpisation of the US will result in more Indians choosing France as their destination for study. This to some extent is true. The number of outbound Indian students to France has increased several fold over the years yet Canada, UK, and Australia have lapped up the brightest brains who do not make it to the US. The calibre of Indian students going to France is severely lacking and this is an aspect that France's ambassador to India, Emmanuel Lenain, who presented his credentials just last week, could look into as a priority. There was also a surge of MOUs between French universities and their Indian counterparts in the past 10 years which has now slowed down mostly because of the increasing reluctance of French students to come to India to study. For various reasons, French students no longer see India as an exciting destination to live, learn, and study. Moreover student internship visas in India are painfully difficult to obtain and the recruitment of a foreign citizen in India is expensive, further dampening the spirits of young French students to study in Indian universities. EduFrance, a French government agency that continues to be the central node for all international cooperation in the domain of education in France, was established during Chirac's tenure.

Despite his tall and imposing frame, Chirac came across as an ordinary person. He went jogging in public and liked to catch a drink with the locals. I remember once seeing his dog Sumo romping the rose gardens at the Elysee, soon after which Chirac quickly stepped out of his office rushing to get his pet just as any of us would. Many consider that his tact and ability to connect with common people allowed him to bridge the deep divide between the left and the right political ideologies in France.

For example, in 1968 he had successfully negotiated for peace with the leaders of protests that had taken France to the brink of chaos.

However, there are others who say that Chirac was a political chameleon who merely adapted his policies according to what voters wanted. But almost everyone says that especially towards the end of his second tenure as President, Chirac had learnt the art of sitting comfortably on the fence. During the times that I interacted with him, France's economy was dwindling and immigrant riots had broken out. Chirac had indeed energetically campaigned on the *fracture sociale* or social divide in France but in reality, he did little about correcting it. It would be hard to point to any major domestic reforms either that Chirac made for an economy and society that had badly needed them.

It used to be the window above the desk of Francine Ros — the untiring assistant to Jerome Monod for forty years — that had consistently offered me the best view to the kingly welcome parade given to state guests in the courtyard of the Elysee. Francine Ros, wrote to me three years ago informing me of Monod's death and giving me details about the prayer service. She had earlier also told me that Sumo was in depression once he no longer had the Presidential gardens to frolic. But in the past year, my attempts to reach Francine proved futile as did my calls to her when I read with great sadness about the death a fortnight ago of Jacques Chirac.

Chirac was indeed a dominant figure in world politics for four decades. He was President of France for two terms, totalling twelve years. Previously he had been twice prime minister and a highly visible mayor of Paris for 18 years. Only years later would his mayoralty emerge as the source of scandal: In 2011, he was convicted of misusing public funds to finance his political party while running the city of Paris. There have been other criticisms of his personal life, accusing him of affairs and mistresses, confirmed by a book published by his wife Bernadette who calls herself a "prisoner of traditions".

Yet, Chirac is most remembered for his balanced stance between the Left and the Right political ideologies in France and his bold disposition in international matters, be it against the US-led war in Iraq or his championing the European Union.

"Who is Jacques Chirac?" a reporter had once asked.

Chirac had replied: "It is of little importance who he is in private and intimate life. It is only the political personality that should interest us."

The writer is CEO, Sustain Labs. She is the author of *Indian Instincts: essays on freedom and equality in India* (Penguin, 2018)



THE SPIRITUAL PATH IS SIMPLY THE
JOURNEY OF LIVING OUR LIVES.
EVERYONE IS ON A SPIRITUAL PATH;
MOST PEOPLE JUST DON'T KNOW IT
— MARIANNE WILLIAMSON



HIDDENSOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

The world of paranoia



A popular acronym doing round these days about the kind of world we are living in is VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous). Whosoever coined this may not be credited with finding a path breaking idea as the world has always been like that. But the emphasis on volatility certainly makes a lot of sense given the present day milieu. While uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity were always there, the degree of volatility was not as high. Truly an era of disruption. The logical culmination is the growing paranoia. It is this paranoia that is telling on the health of this world. Physical health, mental health and even fiscal health. In fact, they are all related. Paranoia causes delusions and delusions are resulting in a trust deficient society as people are playing cloaks and daggers with one and another. Why this is so may not be difficult to find out. When every human being is a potential competitor, this is what can be expected. A basic fault with an intensely competitive societal paradigm is this assumption that you can only win at the cost of others. Therefore, the focus of every individual is on others. What others are doing, what others are thinking, what others are plotting? In such a situation when one apprehends threats from every quarter, peace is the first casualty. And it is this that has given rise to a kind of mental disequilibrium in the human beings. Look what is happening. Rage, depression, hatred, violence and all other kinds of negativities are on the rise. Seems as if the world is on a short fuse. A stressed world, a traumatised world and also a dramatised world. Dramatised because there is a mask on every face. Mankind is trying to come to terms with itself. Mental health has thus become a global issue. More so, in India which according to a WHO report is leading in number of depression cases. The irony is that it is not because of deprivation. Surveys are there to suggest that around 50 percent of professionals, the rich and the prosperous, are suffering from stress. Where lies the rub? Stress and anxiety, then are not necessarily afflicting only the deprived. Rather, they are affecting the deprived more. This depravity of the mind is burdened with wants. The result is incessant hankering for something. As Buddha said, when someone seeks then what happens is that his eyes see only the thing that he seeks, and he is able to find nothing, to take in nothing... Because he always thinks about the thing he is seeking, because he has one goal, because he is obsessed with his goal, seeking means having a goal. But finding means being free, being open, and having no goal. It is this obsession with goal that burdens the mind, which is always destabilised. Little wonder, the world is witnessing rise in mental illness resulting in societal distress. Suicides mounting, the divorce rates rising, number of gunmen going on shooting spree in prosperous societies like America becoming more common — where are we headed? Difficult to forewarn, but certainly not the best of the signs. The answer is to realise that, "In the end, only three things matter: how much you loved, how gently you lived, and how gracefully you let go of things not meant for you."

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THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is an essential tool for self-empowerment and self-improvement. It is also the first essential step to progress in the eternal spiritual journey, writes SWAMI MUKUNDANANDA



At some point in our lives, we have all felt wronged/let down or deceived. Consequently, we have experienced sadness, disappointment, anger or hurt... In fact, it is estimated that 90% of people experience some kind of emotional trauma at some point in their lives. So, if we are the ones who were hurt, why should we be the ones who forgive? Especially, if there has been no remorse, no apology, no sense of having done the wrong from the perpetrator/s?

To answer that, we must forgive because we would be doing that for ourselves and not for the others.

WHAT IS FORGIVENESS?

Forgiveness means differently for different people. In essence, it means letting go of the anger, resentment, feelings of hurt or even vengeance towards the transgressor/s. The incident or action that hurt us may always be with us, but the sorrow loses its grip, the transgression does not have the power to impact us anymore, forgiveness allows us to move on with our lives. We no longer spend our thought and energy in those emotions and we open them up for more positive, productive, creative and progressive options.

In defining forgiveness, we must remember what forgiveness is not. Forgiveness is not an excuse, forgetting, being in denial or opening ourselves up to be vulnerable to be hurt again. It is growing from it, looking at it as a lesson and moving forward. Forgiveness

is an essential tool for self-empowerment and self-improvement. Saints through the ages in all religions have described forgiveness as the essential crowning virtue on the spiritual path.

HOW AND WHY DO YOU FORGIVE?

"The mind is its own place, and in itself; Can make a heaven of hell, and a hell of heaven" — John Milton

It is essential to forgive to progress in our spiritual journey. We must understand where we are coming from. We live in a material realm. It is populated by imperfect souls, many of whom have been bereft of God consciousness for many lifetimes. Such people, if they behave in ways that are selfish, should not have the power to hurt us. We must adjust our expectations of people, only then we can limit the depth of impact of another individual's hurtful deed or behavior can have on us. When we adjust our perspective, our expectations of others are reduced, and the disappointments also diminish and disappear.

We must remember that we forgive not as a favour to the other, we forgive as a favour to ourselves. We forgive for the good of ourselves, not for the one who has hurt us. Forgiveness is a personal gift that we give to ourselves.

Research shows us that forgiveness is a response that is deeply rooted in our cultural, cognitive, religious and spiritual beliefs and practices. Forgiveness can offer a positive and growth path out of the suffering created by frequently thinking and

FORGIVENESS CAN BE VIEWED AS A FORM OF MERCY THAT REFLECTS KINDNESS, COMPASSION AND EMPATHY, WHICH ARE EMOTIONAL PILLARS OF STRENGTH IN ANY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

analysing the event or circumstances of that wrongdoing or injustice.

Forgiveness brings relief and a way out from mental, emotional and in some cases even physical anguish, and lead to personal restoration, regrowth and upliftment. When we can forgive, we become more open-minded, objective, compassionate, are able to heal from trauma, and re-engage in happiness and spiritual growth again. We may use forgiveness as an emotion-focused coping strategy to decrease the stressful response to a perceived transgression or wrongdoing or injustice. When we can bring ourselves to forgive, our attitude and actions toward the person/s that has caused the hurt, change and become more positive, benevolent, kinder and more generous. We become less reflective and analytical of the hurtful situation or event and consequently become less negative, less angry and less agitated.

Forgiveness can be viewed as a form of mercy that reflects kindness, compassion and empathy, which are emotional pillars of strength in any spiritual journey.

WHAT IF WE DON'T FORGIVE?

"Forgiveness is the economy of the heart ... Forgiveness saves the expense of anger, the cost of hatred, the waste of spirits" — wrote the 18th century poet Hannah More.

Let us consider the consequences. When we don't forgive, we harbour resentment. Harboring resentment is like pouring toxic waste into our

minds. We would not let someone outside to come and throw garbage into our living room, but that is what we are doing to our selves when we keep remembering the wrong and continue with the resentment.

We should not interpret Unforgiveness as just the absence of forgiving; it is a complex combination of delayed negative emotions, negative reactions, of anger, sorrow, disbelief and distrust. The complex delayed negative mental process of unforgiveness can create a stress reaction and sustain undesirable and harmful emotions such as resentment, bitterness, hostility, hatred, anger, distrust and sometimes fear. Unforgiveness is a stressful state in consciousness and therefore bears ill consequences on our individual health. The effects from bottled-up anger, resentment, frustration and sadness can lead to serious health issues for us including but not limited to anxiety, depression, higher blood pressure and risks of heart attack.

If unforgiveness is prolonged and negative emotions are sustained, that negative emotion "poisons" our physical and mental being. Sustaining anger, resentment and vengefulness is similar to the voluntary ingestion of a poison. "It is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die".

Forgiveness, as opposed to unforgiveness, can mitigate the effects negative emotions can have on our individual mental and physical health. Forgiveness is not forgetting or approving or giving up or accepting. Rather it is a process of holding the wrongdoer accountable while replacing the negative thoughts, emotions and behaviors with positive, kind, benevolent, gracious responses.

This is an essential process in continuing and progressing in the spiritual path. To attain Divine Love for God we must be able to overcome and discard all the negativity that unforgiveness brings. It is sometimes a difficult and laborious process, but it is one which we do for ourselves. It does not change the transgressor or wrongdoer; it changes us for the better. "What does not kill us makes us stronger". Being able to forgive does just that, it strengthens our resolve, heightens our outlook of on life, and frees us to be motivated on a higher spiritual journey. Forgiveness frees us from our external circumstances, no matter what anybody does, it allows us to choose our emotions. Unless we forgive, we are locked by the environment. And the moment we forgive we become free and that is the first step in moving ahead with the process of mind control. It is the first essential step to progress in the eternal spiritual journey

The writer is a yogi, a spiritual teacher and founder of JKYog

Yoga and mindfulness

Yoga can awaken us to the habitual limitations that we may have built within ourselves, so we can lead a more fulfilled life, says JACQUALINE TARA HERRON



I always say that the greatest and most valuable export from India is Yoga. In every city in the world, in small towns and villages, in mountain retreats and luxurious resorts, you will find the gene of yoga as an essential element of life and of living.

Yoga has become synonymous with words such as energy, rejuvenation, alignment, inner peace, de-stress, decompress, relax and centre. This seems like a lot of claims for one discipline, yet the inner dynamics of yoga, created by the conscious movement of the body in specific postures is a powerfully integral practice honed over hundreds, if not thousands of years of research and the search for freedom from suffering and a call to enlightenment. To awaken to our humanity and our presence in the physical body.

Surely over the years that our varying cultures and societies have evolved, the individuals' initial motivation for yoga practice may be different, but it will lead the human body and mind into the same place. Every human being will experience different quali-

ties and intensity of how yoga can benefit and change you, yet one element remains consistent and true for all — it is the experience of being Mindful. The practice of yoga is rooted in the conscious unity of the body and mind in an activity that brings a heightened awareness and sensitivity to how you really feel and the state of your mind.

Yoga asanas or postures, when practiced with specific breathing techniques affects the circulation of oxygen and of prana 'energy' into the physical system, causing a natural de-toxification of the blood and lymphatic system. The brain and central nervous system is revived through the biochemical changes in the blood when the breath flows into areas that may have been blocked by tension or misuse. This bio-chemical adjustment is generated by your own inner pharmacy, the Endocrine System, which has seven major glands, dynamic areas of endocrine activity.

The wellbeing and 'mood' of the body and mind are intrinsically connected to the influence of your endocrine glands, as these

glands secrete neuro-chemicals and hormones directly into the blood stream. These secretions then circulate throughout your body influencing your mind. Yoga practice is designed to harmonise the body's internal environment, your physiology, by the integration of the changes in the endocrine and nervous systems. This creates the connection on a cerebral and conscious level which then becomes your psycho-physiology. The relationship between the body and mind becomes more conscious, more aware of itself and therefore more positive. You naturally become more mindful and in touch with the reality of the moment both within yourself, within your relationships and other activities such as work and creativity of all kinds. Positive energy is the result of the union of focus, awareness and activity applied in such a way that there is total absorption of energy and therefore regeneration. This is also known as the Zen Mind or an open mind inquiring mind. An experience of human consciousness and its all embracing potential.

We can say that stress happens when we are 'mindless'. When we are unfocused or negative, this can drain the body's vital energy by dividing one's attention into parts. Yoga creates an opportunity to unite all aspects of ourselves and therefore allows the mind and intellect to engage in a process of acceptance creating a space for change and transformation. This is being Mindful.

As human beings, our potential for creativity in every area of life seems to have no bounds, but the biological imprinting in the body-mind through unconscious conditioning can limit our potential for peace, for happiness, good health and wellbeing. Yoga can awaken us to the habitual limitations we may have unconsciously built within ourselves so that we can break through into a more fulfilled life.

Herron is an author, a wellness professional, yoga practitioner and director, The Imperial Spa and Salon

Attention feels good

But, few handle attention well. One should always be careful about who is he or she getting attention from, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

It is no wonder that attention is highly sought. Some people go to ridiculous extent to get attention. In earlier times, kings used to keep certain persons just to sing their praises. Their arrival, etc. were announced with great fanfare. Even now some people surround themselves with sycophants. It costs them money but they feel that it is money well spent.

We get attention due to our karmas, both good and bad. This article is about how to get attention the right way. It is not about the attention a head of a terrorist group gets. Even the good karma are of two types — One is due to what we have done in our past lives; And the other is due to what we are doing in the present one. Some persons have both. A classical example is that of Lata Mangeshkar. Her father was an accomplished musician. He trained her from her childhood as he also trained his other two daughters — Asha and Usha. Lata was the serious one; she practised and practised. She had decided to dedicate her life to a career in singing. She didn't even marry. What is the result? She is venerated as a queen of singing. She has sung all kinds of songs in many languages.

A contrasting example is that of a woman, who was born in a poor family. She had some talent for singing, which many have. However, she used her ability to sing on a railway platform close to her place of stay. People gave her something to eat and some money like they give to a beggar. This continued for many years till a kind soul made a video of her and posted it on a social networking site. Soon she was noticed and invited to a popular reality show, where she was offered a chance to sing for a famous music director; all the years of singing had honed her skill.



Many people are born lucky due to their excellent karma in their past life/lives. This entitles them to excellent birth in nice families, good looks, sharp intelligence, etc. But not everyone makes good use of them as Lata Mangeshkar did. For example, someone is born as a prince, heir to a throne of a large kingdom. He has two choices. One, he can pay attention to his studies and training to be an able king or he can choose to become a despot. The choice is his. He will get attention both ways. A classical example of gaining worldwide attention is the New Zealand's prime minister. Immediately after a mosque mass hate shooting, she got very strict gun control laws passed. People took notice and cite her example for taking similar measures in other countries as well.

Prarabdha or acts of the past life/lives determine at what level one will be placed in this life. A royal baby is very high on the list. His courtiers will be very low in comparison. Though attention is nice but very few can handle it well. Many get sidetracked from the chosen path. Then, one should always

be careful about who is he or she getting attention from, Girls are taught from their childhood about this crucial aspect. Even boys should be trained to be very careful; strangers are not the best persons in this connection. Only those who have noble motive should be welcomed. Generally, we get attention for wrong reasons.

Wise persons are not crazy for attention. Because mostly ego drives it. One is forever trying to prove oneself to others. The nearest and dearest are the best persons to gain attention from. But for that we have to give them attention. There is one place from where attention is most welcome. If you have not guessed already, He is God. One will benefit immensely if one manages that. However, it is not an easy task, but it is not too difficult either, as we may assume. This is where our welfare lies, not fulfilling our desires for gaining attention from others. The cosmic design is for being self-sufficient in this regard. We are best served if we have God as our best friend.

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Hizb-ut-Tahrir bigger menace than ISIS

Following India's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu & Kashmir, there were protests by anti-India elements outside the India House in London during the Independence Day celebrations. One such protest was organised by Hizb-ut-Tahrir or "the Party of the Liberation", a radical Islamist group which calls for the establishment of the caliphate in the Muslim world with a view to uniting the Muslim ummah.

Founded in 1953 by Muhammad Sheikh Taqiuddin-al-Nabhani, a radical activist from Haifa (Jordan), this group aims at establishing an Islamic state where all aspects of human life would be guided by Sharia. Hizb-ut-Tahrir is of the opinion that restoration of the caliphate, with all Muslims living in accordance with Sharia, is the solution to the problems in the West Asia (Middle East). The establishment of an Islamic state, according to Hizb-ut-Tahrir, would be in three stages. In the first stage, the organisation would educate and indoctrinate its ideology to the common people; in the second stage, it would focus on spreading its ideas among those who hold power in the government, military and the civil services; and in the third stage, it would proceed to establish the Islamic state. The Islamic state, according to Hizb-ut-Tahrir, would be ruled by a caliph or khalifah. The caliph would appoint the *amir* and the military head who would lead the jihad activities against non-Muslims.

Although Hizb-ut-Tahrir advocates a strict interpretation of Islam, it does not oppose modern technology, and rather makes extensive use of the internet and social network sites to spread its message. It advocates indoctrination in public places, hoping to change paradigms and emotions so that "people (will) behave in ways that will not anger Allah". While Hizb-ut-Tahrir promotes the concept of caliphate, it does not recognise the so-called caliphate created by the ISIS, which has been on the run after its defeat in Iraq and Syria.

Distribution of CDs containing jihad and radical Islam literature is one of the methods Hizb-ut-Tahrir follows to target people. To attract the youth into joining it, Hizb-ut-Tahrir has a well-maintained website, containing message, literature and other information. In countries where the group is not banned, Hizb-ut-Tahrir activists freely distribute literature such as *The Institutions of State in the Khalifah*, both online and in public places.



They also organise seminars and public discussions utilising various open fora. According to US online Journal CTX, Hizb-ut-Tahrir is slowly increasing its social capital by keeping away from overt acts of terrorism while luring the educated youth. The structure of Hizb-ut-Tahrir makes it really difficult to arrive at the real number of its members. It is estimated that Hizb-ut-Tahrir has a wide base of one million members in 50 countries, including the UK, Central Asia, Iran, Iraq, Algeria, Sudan, Yemen, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Jordan. Due to its involvement in coup attempts and anti-government acts, the outfit has been banned in about 20 countries, which include Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China and Russia. In addition, the outfit has a strong social media network. In the USA alone, it has more than 28,000 followers on the Facebook.

In South Asia, Hizb-ut-Tahrir has a significant presence in Pakistan. It was banned in the country in November 2003 on charges of its links with several terror plots, including that

to kill former President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf. According to available reports, Hizb-ut-Tahrir has made three attempts to penetrate the Pakistan Army in the last decade. This information came to light when Brigadier Ali Khan and four other Army officers were arrested for their links with the outfit. Despite this, Hizb-ut-Tahrir activists were reportedly seen in the garrison areas of Pakistan, openly speaking to military personnel. Hizb-ut-Tahrir's objective is to bring military personnel, intellectuals and the elite under one umbrella with the aim of replacing the government with a caliphate. Although the party claims to be working for the entire ummah, it started operating in Pakistan by declaring the nation as "Wilayah" or place suitable for assumption of power. Hizb-ut-Tahrir is convinced that as a seat of Khilafat, Pakistan has the potential to unite the Muslim ummah and extend the message of Islam to the whole world, as per its manifesto. In Bangladesh, though it was banned in 2009, Hizb-ut-Tahrir has been carrying out anti-state, anti-government, anti-India and anti-US activities

there. It is significant to note that Hizb-ut-Tahrir has not only been able to penetrate the state-run Dhaka University, Rajshahi University and Chittagong University but also some prominent private universities that are affiliated to Western universities. Hizb-ut-Tahrir has also been involved in mobilising sections against the Sheikh Hasina regime and is also suspected to have been linked to the Bangladesh Rifles mutiny in 2009.

Many Hizb-ut-Tahrir activists were seen distributing leaflets calling upon the people of Bangladesh to rise against India. The leaflets are aimed at provoking the Bangladeshi people: "You have been the victims of Indian aggression for decades. The enemy state killed your officers in Pilkhana. She built the Farakka Dam; she deprives you all your rightful share of water from the common rivers and kills your brothers and sisters in the border. And your current rulers have failed to stand up to the Indian aggression against you. There exists only one way of resisting the enemy — establishing the Khalifah state... And we have the action plan

ready to regain India as a Muslim land under the Islamic rule which is the only true assured way of stopping Indian aggression permanently."

There are several means to collect funds for activities of Hizb-ut-Tahrir. These include private donations, through public campaigns and even government subsidies. Donations are primarily raised in London, Europe, the West Asia and Pakistan. Following allegations that the Pakistan envoy to Bangladesh, Mohammad Mazhar Khan, had laundered money for Hizb-ut-Tahrir and other Islamist groups in Bangladesh, the envoy was recalled, according to a report in the Counter-Extremism Project. Besides, the Hizb-ut-Tahrir is funded by wealthy sheikhs from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations. Interestingly it received the British Government's aid to run British Foundation till its nefarious activities came to London's notice.

Hizb-ut-Tahrir has since turned out to be one of the most organised and dangerous radical groups. In the UK, Hizb-ut-Tahrir operated on the university campuses with-

out any restriction by the authorities. Reportedly, the campus of the University of Westminster became a major radicalising area for the youth, some of whom later joined ISIS. Prominent among them was Mohammad Emwazi, aka late "Jihadi John".

Its presence in more than 50 countries makes itself a matter of grave concern for them. According to its website, Hizb-ut-Tahrir organised a demonstration at Batla House in Delhi on June 6, 2010, to protest Israel's alleged atrocities against Palestinians. One important target of Hizb-ut-Tahrir in West Asia is Israel. Its current global leader Ata Abu Rishtha justifies killing of Israeli Jews because he says they are occupying Islamic lands. An article in Hizb-ut-Tahrir's magazine *Al-Waie* June, 2001, justified suicide bombing against Israel. In another magazine of Hizb-ut-Tahrir called *Al-Fajr* in 1988 said hijacking of Israeli planes and killing of Israelis citizens on board was permissible.

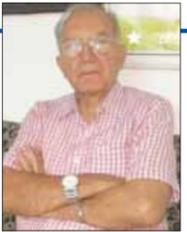
According to the CTX journal, Hizb-ut-Tahrir has an armed wing called Harkat al Muhajirin fi Britaniya that is training its cadres in chemical,

bacteriological and biological warfare.

Although Hizb-ut-Tahrir has not yet set up its office in India, its underground activities in our neighbouring countries is a matter of serious concern. Writing in the "Current Trends in Islamist Ideology", eminent commentators Houriya Ahmed and Hannah Sturt quoting a source have claimed that "Hizb-ut-Tahrir (Bangladesh) has a dedicated India committee, similar to its Bangladesh and Pakistan committees, which focuses on recruiting Indian nationals presently studying in UK universities. Once these student activists finish their studies, the party hopes they will head back to India to continue Hizb-ut-Tahrir's agenda there." It is imperative that the Indian authorities keep a close watch on these developments and initiate necessary steps.

(The writer is associated with the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses and is the co-author of the books — 'Militant Groups in South Asia' and 'Pakistan Occupied Kashmir: Politics, Parties and Personalities')

Hizb-ut-Tahrir's presence in more than 50 countries is a matter of grave concern. Although Hizb-ut-Tahrir has not yet set up its office in India, its underground activities in our neighbouring countries are set to pose challenge to safety and security of Indians



SURINDER KUMAR SHARMA

PERSPECTIVE

Modi, Pathak fulfilling Gandhi's dream of clean India

Inspiring but lesser known to the world, Bindeshwar Pathak, a visionary, started over five decades back a movement to make India open defecation free and restore human rights and dignity to manual scavengers



BN SRIVASTAVA

After taking over as the Prime Minister in May 2014, Narendra Modi has put in a great deal of effort to make Mahatma Gandhi's dream of making India "swachhh" a reality. "Swachhh Bharat Mission" is the flagship programme to achieve that goal.

However, the ambitious target of Swachhh Bharat has its own set of challenges. The hardest one is to make India open defecation free. On the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi this year, the PM declared the rural India open defecation free.

Ending open defecation, creating cities and villages free of litter and stagnant water, and cleaning up air are essential for long and healthy lives of people. By galvanising the nation on the issue of sanitation, Modi has connected with the culture of cleanliness that was the hallmark of the admirable Indus Valley Civilisation; and for this, he will be gratefully remembered by posterity.

However, there are also many inspiring people lesser known to the world, like Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, a visionary

who started over five decades back a movement to make country open defecation free and restore human rights and dignity to the manual scavenger (cleaners and carrier of human excreta as headload) community. Pathak's endeavour paved the way for the biggest sanitation drive in India. Every Indian knows of Sulabh Shauchalaya, but not many know the story of the man behind the sanitation giant: Dr Bindeshwar Pathak.

India is a wonderful nation but it also has strange traditions. People get up early in the morning and go for defecation in open in the absence of toilet facilities in their houses.

In India, the inhuman, unhealthy and unhygienic practice of cleaning human excreta manually by scavengers is in existence in some parts of the country. Before Independence, this practice continued in the Buddhist, Mauryan, Mughal and British periods. The scavengers were humiliated and insulted, even by those in whose houses they went to clean toilets. They had to clean bucket toilets before



sunrise so that nobody could see or touch them.

In medieval period they were made to wear bells around necks so that on hearing the sound, people could move away from them. Nobody would touch them while giving them food or water. They had to live on the village outskirts. Their children could play only with pigs and animals. There was no question of their going to school or entering temples. Mahatma Gandhi was the

first person whose attention was drawn towards the plight of scavengers. He wanted scavengers to be relieved from their sub-human occupation of cleaning human excreta manually and wished to restore human rights and dignity to them. He gave priority to clean India over the independence of the country. The two biggest dreams of Gandhi were freedom from British rule and clean India. Indians joined his movement to ensure that the first dream

became a reality. However, the second dream "clean India" remains unfulfilled.

After Gandhi's death, many committees were formed by Governments to find out the solution to the problem of scavenging. Almost all committees suggested only improvements in the working and living conditions of the manual scavengers, none could give a solution to the problem.

At this juncture, India saw a messiah for the manual scav-

engers in Bindeshwar Pathak, who has championed sanitation and the uplift of the untouchables as mission of his life. For the last five decades, he has been working relentlessly to keep the ecosystem clean and bring the marginalised sections of society in the mainstream. He gave new dimension to the Gandhian movement and broad-based his principled fight against all kind of discrimination.

In the process of providing alternative to scavenging and rehabilitation and social upgradation of scavengers, Pathak created a pan-Indian network with 60,000 dedicated and committed volunteers and gave birth to a mini revolution which is popularly known as Sulabh Sanitation and Social Reform Movement.

Lack of sanitation and access to toilets has been a major problem throughout India. Rural sanitation remained almost nonexistent and hardly half per cent of the urban population had access to adequate sanitation in 1991 (according to WHO). It was a coincidence that in 1968 a

brilliant young social scientist of hardly 26 years emerged to solve the problem of sanitation and related untouchability.

This is the story of Dr Bindeshwar Pathak from a village in Vaishali district, Bihar, belonging to an affluent Brahmin family.

An incident which happened during those days in Pathak's life left a scar on his impressionable mind but led to determination later to help and improve the plight of India's untouchables particularly "scavengers". He once touched a woman dom (an untouchable) in the village in his grandparent's house. Unfortunately, his grandmother saw him. Despite his mother's protest, she made young Pathak to swallow cow-dung, sand and Ganga water to purify his soul because he had "committed" a sin by touching an untouchable. This incident left a deep and lasting impression on his mind. Pathak has recollected these events on public platforms.

(The writer is an environmentalist)



IT IS THE PROVINCE OF THE TAROT READER TO MOVE BACKWARDS, FORWARDS, EVEN SIDEWAYS IN TIME —SASHA GRAHAM



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

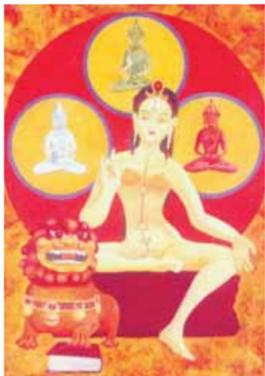
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

Your health needs attention this week. This is the right period to take some time out; go for an improved lifestyle and balance your personal and professional life. Your attitude has been positive of late. On the work front, you need to have patience. Make strategies to get more outputs and productive results. But keep them only to yourself for the moment. Don't disclose your plans to anyone. Some of you may need some assistance to find a better approach to work. Don't hesitate to ask. Those who are looking for work should look in a different field than the one you've been pursuing. On the personal front, warmth, care and concern for each other are indicated. You will feel relaxed, satisfied and comfortable with your dear one.

Lucky number 24
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Make health your top priority. Count your blessings and be grateful for what you have. Sometimes in life, it is best to slow down and take it easy. Pushing yourself when you are too tired can cause illness or injury. On the career front, do whatever you want to do and go wherever you wish to — just do what comes naturally. You must not impose restrictions on yourself. However, be careful in your communication. A word of caution to those of you who are bent upon thrusting your suggestions down somebody's throat — don't be surprised if the other person rebels. Arguments and conflicts are indicated. On the personal front, make peace with someone, who seems to be against you. You need to liberate the mind and reconnect with the heart.

Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You will enjoy good health, food and entertainment this week. There may be an auspicious ceremony at home, like conception, birth of a child, marriage, engagement, or spiritual enlightenment. It is your determination and disciplined approach to life that keeps you strong and healthy. Professionally, you have established yourself. This is the time when your teamwork is being appreciated and acknowledged. Your leadership qualities are being watched and so are your potentials. In relationship, you can expect something commendable to happen. Those of you, who are not in a committed relationship, be open to possibilities. However, evaluate your choices thoughtfully, and be honest to all involved, including yourself, and move ahead accordingly.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

You will be able to balance the challenges and blessings with ease. Your health will show improvement. You will be full of life and dissolve the negativity of the past. Consult a professional, if you find any health problem manifesting. Spending money on medical tests is likely. You have plans on the career front. It could be a change of job, or starting a new venture. Even if things have been lousy in your job for the last many years, there is every reason for hope and positive anticipation. Life can change any time, and those changes can be positive. If you're unhappy in your current work situation, know that you hold the key to changing it. In love, you are ready to start something new. Those in a committed relationship are ready to take it to the next level.

Lucky number 26
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Take time out for yourself and get out of the monotonous schedule. Those of you awaiting results of a test, can expect positive news. You may turn to spirituality for a healthy life. This is the right time to get involved in Yoga, Pranayam and meditation. On the career front, good news is indicated. Someone's advice may come in handy in tackling a complicated issue. Those in the export-import business will bag a big contract. Networking and assignments done in this period will prove fruitful. A partnership in business or personal front, or both, will work in your favour. On personal front, you may get second thoughts or be stuck in a dilemma regarding an ancestral property. Discuss the issue with someone you trust in the family.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You need to strike balance between work and family; body and mind. You are very imaginative and spend a lot of time thinking, dreaming and weaving stories. The desires and passions are likely to rise this week and make you a weak person. Your efficiency may go down. Any symptoms that you are experiencing may be partially due to lack of being grounded. Consult your doctor to be sure. On the career front, the things will progress as per your desires giving you much scope and hopes for the future. This is the time to travel abroad, widen your network and enjoy the recognition. An important project may be assigned to you. This week is not good in terms of emotions and feelings. You may feel emotionally hurt and broken.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Fawn
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

You will have a lot of work this week and you might feel lost. Neglecting your health at this point is not advisable. Be alert, physically and mentally. Listen to your body and nurture it. Avoid junk and unhealthy diet. This is good time to give up all bad habits, re-organise your work schedule and take time out for yourself. On the work front, you may gain a new position or a new set of responsibilities. Promotion, hike in salary or business profit is on the cards. Financially, the week is good. Expansion plans in business may materialise. Something undesirable may occur at the emotional level. A stressful relationship may trigger your temper. Stop and reflect on what sort of a partner would you want in life for things to improve.

Lucky number 5
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Take time out and find space to focus on yourself first, in order for your health to truly improve. If you prioritise everyone over yourself and your needs, then your health will take a beating. Be as nurturing and compassionate to your body as you are to the others. Listen to your body. Career-wise, this is a good week for creative pursuits. Your creativity will be fuelled further by friends you are likely to meet in this period. Some old associate or college mate brings concurrent opportunity to invest time, talent or treasure in something that you have always wanted to do. In matters of the heart, you will feel blessed and blissful. Your romantic notions and desires will be fulfilled. Those of you in a long-term, committed relationship are likely to take it to the next level.

Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

In terms of health, the week is good. Those awaiting test results are in for positive reports. You will be calm, relieved and inspired. Take good care of yourself. You are so in touch with your spirituality. This is a great time for you to reach out to others, and share your wisdom and joy. On the career front, you may expect the unexpected. A powerful person is likely to support you. Those seeking funding from a bank for their business, may find success. Overall, it is a good week for career advancement. On the personal front, life is a party and the mood is social. You will find yourself seeking entertainment and are likely to spend time socialising and making friends. Joy and celebrations are on the cards.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Do not compromise on the health front. Seek spiritual assistance to bring balance in life. Be cautious of cold, cough, constipation and weight problems. Professionally, the situation is getting better and stronger for you. An overseas project that you have been aspiring for may fall in your kitty. This week, you are creative and enterprising. Those who are seeking a job may get an interview call. A leisure trip is also on the cards, and will act as a tremendous stress buster for you. In love and relationship, better understanding between you and your partner is indicated. Allow your partner to have his or her space. Clear your doubts through healthy discussions. Singles, this is the time to go out and mingle.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Parrot Green
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Pay attention to your health this week. Those suffering from serious ailment should take a second/third opinion. Be an active participant in your medical treatment. Spirituality gives you strength. You can deepen your spiritual awareness and practice by actively seeking out new sources of information and insight. On the career front, your expectations are higher and have more weight than your worth. Dreams and high ambitions are good to grow in life but expecting the Moon is not. Stay grounded and be practical. Consider what best can be done with your potential and resources. Those in the fields of drama, arts and music will do well. Maintain balance in relations. Be clear and specific about what you want in a relationship, evaluate your choices thoughtfully.

Lucky number 30
Lucky colour Royal Blue
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Aim your energies towards balancing your chakras or your body/mind/spirit. Paying adequate attention to all three is the key to good health. The benefits are far greater than any effort you can put out. Your health is in a much better shape than you fear. Career-wise, it's a mixed week in terms of positive and negative energies. Anticipation makes an avid learner of you and an excellent student. Those involved in Law, judiciary, sales and marketing fields will do well. This could be a good time for personal growth if you use your energies for something meaningful. Relationship-wise, it may be a hard time for you. It could be that your beloved is undergoing a rough time that has nothing to do with your relationship but needs support. Singles, do not despair.

Lucky number 16
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Check your child's behaviour early

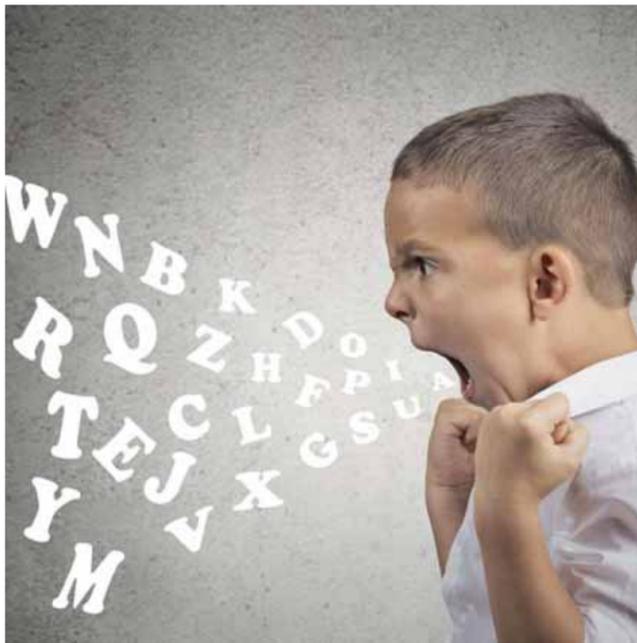
A worried father, concerned about his erratic son, came asking the other day: "What is in store of his destiny? When would he start behaving sensibly? He cares for his elders the least and has no sense of value. If his present attitude continues, I am afraid, he may end up a loner. If ever I try to counsel him to mend his ways, he becomes loud, and I feel embarrassed. Please suggest some remedial measure that could help him change?"

It's now too late for you to influence him anyway. Had you been conscious about shaping him during childhood, observed his tendencies, and accordingly tried to induce change, it could have made impact. Caught up in the grind of your life, you never cared at that stage. What further caused the damage was vitiated domestic atmosphere, which impacted his mind and psyche negatively. So, the emotional relationship, as is naturally forged between a father and child, never gained ground, and with obvious consequences. He is now grown up, lives in his own right out of his own earnings.

Agreed, your son does have attitudinal problems. These problems are root-

ed in his mind, and so, he alone can bring about the desired change. I can help him in this respect, provided you bring him for counselling. "He won't listen to me and so, it is difficult to bring him. Tell me, if I can do something for him," the old man submitted. You won't be able to invade your son's mind-space by any means, nor can any pundit, through any belief driven *puja*. If your son doesn't consciously change himself, the learning lessons he would be put through will force the change in him. But there is a lesson for you as well. The law of Karma doesn't spare anybody. If you ignored your obligations due when your son was a child and didn't care to induce value system in him then, you are to bear with the consequences thereof now.

Remember, astrology doesn't define future course of life in finite terms. It is subject to variables operative during the ongoing life, which includes the environmental conditions one is exposed to. Your son was witness to unseemly happenings in the family all through his childhood, which did not let him develop the sense of love and respect due to his elders.



Let us now have a look at astrological pointers to his personality related problems. Erratic *Rahu* occupies the *lagna* sign Virgo. The *lagna* lord Mercury is tentanted in the 6th house, which doesn't augur well for him. Mercury is placed adverse to Uranus. All put together implies that he is unconventional, who may care the least for laid down societal norms. He seems to be erratic and opinionated, carrying eccentric tendencies. He may often misdirect his energies towards unproductive ends. He would be driven by a sense of "I am the only right person syndrome", as if all others be fools. He may underestimate others. He may wish to live on his own exclusive ways, and if ever things don't move on expected lines, he may overreact.

The Sun conjunct Saturn speaks of negative baggage carried over from the past reflecting a hardened attitude thereby. That has brought in a sense of identity crisis, which tempts him to throw tantrums, if necessary, to prove himself on every count. It is indicative of the sense of inertia, which may not let him take initiatives in time, and so would often miss opportunities in hand. Also, it indicates a sense of alienation from father. The Sun conjunct Mars, but

ill-disposed off to Venus, speaks of emotional imbalance and self-indulgent tendencies. He may get over exercised even on trivial issues and then become loud.

Mind-signifying Moon is ill-disposed off to Uranus and Neptune. This, in the first place, accounts for his mercurial temperament and rebellious tendency. Second, he would be subject to self-delusional perceptions, distanced from ground realities, and not open to go for a reality check, if ever advised by any. He has escapist tendencies, who may not acknowledge truth on its first appearance, and would rather prefer pursuing own line of thinking till pushed to the wall. If all that would not be enough, the conjunction of Mars and Saturn makes him temperamental, malicious, and suspicious of all others. On top of that is conjunction of Uranus and Neptune, which makes him restless, chaotic and confused. And the result is there to see. I wish, parents watch out their child and mould them in time.

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