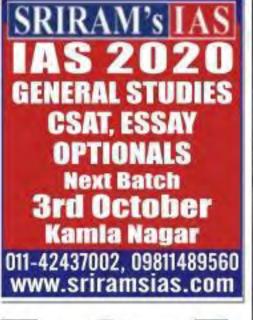
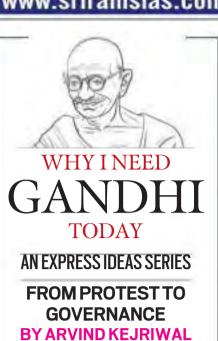
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 24 PAGES

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PAGE 13

Andhra govt takes over liquor shops, prohibition from next year

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 2

IN THE first step towards total prohibition, the Andhra Pradesh government has taken over 3,500 liquor shops across the state, which will be run by the AP State Beverages Corporation. The new excise policy took effect on Gandhi Jayanti Wednesday even as the government said it wants total prohibition within a year.

To gradually cut availability and consumption, liquor shops will stay open from 10 am to 9 pm and later reduced to just 3-4 hours a day. In the last four months, the government has started shutting down liquor

shops and the number is currently down to 3,500 shops 4,380. Liquor sales and consumption has decreased by 18 per cent in the last four

Sales down since Jagan came to power

Congress Party came to power under Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.

the

months since

YSR

Deputy Chief Minister (Excise) K Narayana Swamy said that within a year, total prohibition would be implemented in the state. "We took over 475 liquor shops last month on a trial basis. Now, we have taken over all the liquor shops as the licences expired on October 1. Since Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy took over as CM on May 30, our government has closed down all 43,000 illegal and illicit liquor shops function-

ing mostly in rural areas," he said. "This was Jagan's promise to people during his padayatra. Gradually, we will make liquor unavailable and put a total ban CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

DANGERS OF NRC, **CITIZENSHIP BILL BY HARSH MANDER**



A NATION'S TRIBUTE

On Gandhi Jayanti, at the Mahatma's statue in Parliament House on Wednesday. Neeraj Priyadarshi

REPORTS, PAGE 7

Rural India has declared itself open defecation free: Modi

'Will eliminate single-use plastic in the next three years'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 2

ANNOUNCING THAT rural India and its villages have declared themselves open-defecation free, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Wednesday that the effort to provide toilet facilities to more than 60 crore people in 60 months had amazed the whole world.

Addressing a Swachh Bharat programme in Diwas Ahmedabad to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Modi said that the Mahatma was not an icon of just the Indian Independence movement but also cleanliness. The event was attended by around 20,000 village heads, including 10,000 from Gujarat.

Congratulating every countryman, especially those living in villages, and sarpanchs, who have all worked for 'Swachata', the Prime Minister also announced a second campaign aimed at eliminating single-use plastic by 2022.

"Just as millions of people joined the Satyagrah movement



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Gujarat Governor Acharya Dev Vrat and Chief Minister Vijay Rupani in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. Javed Raja

to oust the Britishers on Gandhi's call, crores of citizens joined this movement of Swachhagrah," he said. "Five years ago, from Red Fort, I gave a call for Swachh Bharat. Then, we only had the public's trust and Bapu's eternal message — the change you want to see in the world must begin with vourself."

With this mantra, he said, people across the country, from all walks of life "picked up brooms and started working".

"The world is amazed and

giving awards for this...in 60 months, more than 60 crore people were provided with 11 crore toilets. But for me...these numbers and accolades mean little. I derive more satisfaction from the fact that Swachh Bharat is giving dignity to women and saving lives of lakhs of children," he said.

During the event, Modi also released a Rs 150 coin and postal stamps to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Minister says single-use plastic ban in monuments

DIVYAA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

TOURISM MINISTER Prahlad Patel has announced a ban on single-use plastic items in and around historical monuments.

"Single-use plastic will not be allowed inside monuments and within 100 metres of them," Patel said at the launch of tourism fair 'Paryatan Parv' at Rajpath Wednesday evening.

The Minister, however, did not specify when the ban would come into force. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had first called for a ban on single-use plastic during his Independence Day speech this year.

Tourism Ministry officials said the ban will come into effect in all ASI-protected monuments — they are currently working on alternatives to single-use plastic items like water bottles and cutlery. "We might install water dispensers and paper cup vending machines inside monument premises. But the challenging part would be to enforce the ban outside, where hawkers sell snacks and beverages," said an official.

EYE ON BLOCK POLLS

Curbs eased on movement of Jammu leaders, **Valley waits**

MoS's brother Rana, former minister Kitchloo, Cong leader Bhalla among those told by police they can step out

ARUN SHARMA JAMMU, OCTOBER 2

ALMOSTTWO months after they were ordered indoors as part of the lockdown in J&K following the removal of Article 370, around a dozen top Opposition leaders of the Jammu region were allowed to move out of their homes Wednesday to resume their political activities.

The lifting of restrictions on movements of Jammu Opposition leaders comes ahead of the first Block Development Council elections in the state, scheduled for October 24.

National Conference provincial president and former J&K minister Devender Rana, younger brother of Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in the PMO, told *The Indian Express*: "A senior police officer called me late Tuesday night, saying restrictions imposed on us have been lifted and now we are free to go anywhere and meet party workers."

Sajjad Kitchloo, another former state minister and ex-NC

BUSINESS AS USUAL By UNNY Jayantill Art 370 Next hearing

lawmaker, and Javed Rana, a former MLC, too said restrictions imposed on their movements outside homes have been lifted. "Police personnel outside our residences have been withdrawn," they said.

Jammu leaders told to stay indoors following the Centre's August 5 decision included Choudhary Lal Singh (Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan), Raman Bhalla (Congress), Firdous Tak (PDP), Surjit Singh Slathia (NC), **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

FATF in mind, Doval makes trip to Saudi, meets MBS





Mohammed bin Salman

SHUBHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2 AHEAD OF the plenary meeting

of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), National Security Advisor Ajit Doval has made a short visit to Saudi Arabia — the first Arab country to become a member of the FATF in June this year — as part of India's diplomatic offensive strategy to push for blacklisting of Pakistan. During his two-day visit

beginning Tuesday, Doval met Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) to enlist Riyadh's support. The FATF plenary session and working group meetings are scheduled to be held from October 13 to 18.

Doval also held separate meetings with Dr Musaid Bin M Al Aiban, Saudi Minister of State and NSA, and other senior Saudi officials, India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Ausaf Sayeed, said. "NSA Ajit Doval was on a

short visit to Saudi Arabia during which he had detailed discussions with Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman. The two sides reviewed bilateral regional and international issues and reviewed strong and fraternal bilateral ties between the two countries. Saudi Arabia and **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

EXPLAINED



HASINA IN INDIA: AMID CHALLENGES, **CELEBRATING TIES**

PAGE 14

Surge in external debt adds to worry over oil price hike

Forex reserves record high but growth in debt in last year highest in last 5 yrs

SANDEEP SINGH & SUNNY VERMA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

EVEN AS the country's foreign exchange reserves are close to their highest ever levels at around \$430 billion, the sharp rise in India's external debt over the last couple of years from \$485 billion in June 2017 to \$557 billion in June 2019 has opened a big gap over the forex cover and potentially renders the economy vulnerable to any external shocks such as a global oil price spike.

As liquidity in the domestic financial market tightened over the last year and companies found it tough to raise funds from banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), India Inc incrementally turned towards foreign markets to raise funds, both for their long-term funding needs and even for short term capital requirement. This resulted in a 8.6 per cent jump in the country's external debt from \$513 billion in June 2018 to \$557 billion in 2019.

The growth in external debt

yet but... WHILE THIS may not be reason to set alarm bells ringing, given that between 2013-2016, the ratio of forex to external

No alarm

debt was lower, the concern this time stems from uncertainties over crude prices. Policy makers may need to factor this in while assessing external risk and the adequacy of the RBI's risk buffer.

est seen in the last five years since the 11.8 per cent growth recorded in June 2014.

Against the 8.6 per cent growth in last year, the compounded annual growth rate of India's external debt between June 2014 and June 2018 stood at just 3.16 per cent.

While the long term debt outstanding increased 8 per cent from \$414 billion to \$447.7 bil-

lion over the last one year, the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

husband's family live in the

village. I go there almost daily

but always in purdah," she says.

Rejecting Pak claim to Rs 50,000 fine for idol immersion rules in favour of India

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

THE UK High Court Wednesday

ruled in favour of India and the grandsons of the last Nizam of Hyderabad in a decades-old legal dispute with Pakistan over funds belonging to the Nizam at the time of Partition and deposited in a London bank account.

The Nizam's descendants, Prince Mukarram Jah, the titular eighth Nizam of Hyderabad, and his younger brother Muffakham Jah, had joined hands with the Indian government in the legal battle against the Pakistan government over some 35 million pounds lying with the National Westminster Bank in London.

In his judgment handed



India had backed Mukarram **Jah's claim.** File

down at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Justice Marcus Smith ruled that the "Nizam VII was beneficially entitled to the Fund and those claiming in right of Nizam VII — the Princes and India — are entitled to have the sum paid out to their order".

"Pakistan's contentions of CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Nizam funds, UK court in Ganga & its tributaries: Centre

HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

THE CENTRAL government has issued a 15-point directive, including cordoning off ghats and imposing a fine of Rs 50,000, to prevent the immersion of idols in the Ganga or its tributaries during festivals, including Dussehra, Diwali, Chhath and Saraswati Puja.

The directive has been issued by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) to chief secretaries in 11 Ganga basin states. "No idol immersion into river Ganga and its tributaries and on their banks," says the directive, which was issued after a meeting between representatives of states and NMCG officials last month.

Officials from Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal were present during the



15-point directive to 11 Ganga basin states. File

meeting, said sources. Apart from these states, the directive has been sent to Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Rajasthan.

Sources told *The Indian* Express that the officials were told to strictly implement norms against the immersion of idols

and disposal of puja material in the Ganga and its tributaries, and to make suitable alternative arrangements in an environmental-friendly manner. Issued under Section 5 of The

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the directive states: "River Bank and Ghats should be CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Rajbir Khedar, who was among

the gathering: "It doesn't look

nice that a politician covers her

face with purdah. If she is

elected to the Assembly, she

may become a minister, too.

over the last one year is the high-

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

PAGE 12

Hisar candidate gets surprise in husband's village: Remove purdah

SUKHBIR SIWACH

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 2

SHE HOLDS Master's degrees in Sanskrit and English and hopes to complete her PhD soon on the work of Pultizer winner and Booker finalist Jhumpa Lahiri. And yet, whenever Asha Khedar visits her husband's village in Haryana's Hisar, she sticks to an age-old practice — she covers her face with a purdah.

On Tuesday, however, Asha was in for a surprise when she visited Khedar village after being named as a BJP candidate for the Haryana Assembly polls

this month. Remove the purdah, go to voters with confidence, she was told.

A Dalit married to a Jat businessman from Khedar village, Asha (36) is the BJP candidate from Uklana, a reserved constituency in Hisar. "In the last 13 years since my marriage, I have never gone to my sasural (home of her in-laws) without a purdah as I was a bahu (daughter-in-law)... the villagers mind these things," she says.

"So, after the announcement of the ticket, I went to my sasural where more than 2,000 people had gathered. But to my surprise, everyone insisted that



I remove the purdah. They asked me to go to voters with full confidence, and called me their daughter. They said such initiatives should begin from the home (village) itself. Now, I will be touring all the villages here to seek votes without a purdah,"

Says Zila Parishad member



BJP's Asha Khedar seeks votes in Hisar. Express

Then it would be odd if she attends big functions in a purdah." Says former village sarpanch, Shamsher Singh: "Being the bahu of the village, she was in purdah. But how could she have met the voters in a purdah? We want her to succeed and asked her to focus on the elections by removing the purdah."

Asha says she completed her post-graduation in Sanskrit from Panjab University and in English from Kurukshetra University. "I have also completed B.Ed and M.Phil in English from Kurukshetra University. I am about to complete my PhD on 'Identities in Jhumpa Lahiri's novels' from BMU in Rohtak. Only the viva process is left," she says.

Asha grew up in Chandigarh, where her father worked for Haryana Roadways. She is now based in Uklana town, about 200 km from Chandigarh and 20 km from Khedar village, with her husband Vinay and 11-year-old daughter. "Vinay runs a petrol pump in Barwala town nearby. The other members of my

Asha joined the BJP in 2007 and is now a general secretary in its Hisar unit. Party workers say she is known for her compering skills and is usually in charge on stage when Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar holds

public meetings in the district. "Development of this area will be on top of my agenda in the election (on October 21). A college has already come up in Uklana, fulfilling a 50-year-old demand of residents. An Industrial Training Institute (ITI)

will soon be set up," she says.

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WEBEXCLUSIVE

KEEPING ALIVE HYDERI MANZIL, GANDHI'S LAST RESIDENCE IN KOLKATA

In the last week of September, renovations were feverishly ongoing for the Hyderi Manzil museum, the last known address where Mahatma Gandhi lived during his last visit to the Kolkata before his death in 1948.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



MEET DELHI POLICE'S FRESH RECRUITS

They're playful and they can detect any explosive

FULL COVERAGE



GANDHI JAYANTI 2019 LIVE UPDATES

PM Modi in Ahmedabad visits Sabarmati Ashram

EXPRESS Q AUDIO

Is India close to being open defecation free?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Analysing the complexities of declaring India open defecation free, how to make the project sustainable, and why behavioural changes are required in conjunction to building toilets

FROM PAGE ONE

Idol immersion

cordoned off and barricaded to prevent any stray immersion of idols in the river or its banks. Adequate arrangements should be made for designated idol-immersion sites within the municipal area or bank of river Ganga and its tributaries by constructing temporary confined ponds with removable synthetic liners at the bottom."

If states: "All concerned state government, authority, board or corporation should ensure that there is no use of synthetic material/non-biodegradable material, Plaster of Paris (POP), baked clay, resin fibers and thermocol for making of idols. Besides, the use of toxic and non-biodegradable chemical dyes or synthetic paints for painting of idols should be strictly prohibited."

The chief secretaries of the 11 states have been asked to submit an action-taken report within seven days from the end of each festival. The NMCG has also directed that District Magistrates enforce these directions by ensuring monitoring and enforcement. "If any person violates above directions, then Rs 50,000

Classifieds

EXPRESS EDUCATION

BHARTI CONCEPT

by S.S. Bharti

SSC-T, T2, Banking, CSAT & PCS

as environment compensation should be levied, collected and deposited with State Pollution Control Boards," the directive states.

J&K restrictions

Abdul Majeed Wani (Congress) and Harsh Dev Singh (Panthers Party).

The easing of curbs comes two days before the lockdown enters its second month as hundreds have been detained in the Valley. Over 250 habeas corpus petitions have

been filed in the J&K High Court and the Government told the Supreme Court Tuesday that it had detained over 140 children — most of them are free now.

Although Jammu Divisional

Commissioner Sanjeev Verma claimed that the administration never detained any Opposition leader following the August 5 announcements, Inspector General of Police (Jammu zone) Mukesh Singh said "some policemen were deployed outside their houses in view of the threat perception." He did, however, say there were some restrictions on the political activities of these leaders.

In August, Congress chief spokesperson and former legislator Ravinder

Sharma was whisked away to Pir Mitha police station from his party headquarters in Jammu when he was about to address a press conference. He was released after furnishing personal surety.

Harsh Dev Singh, who had left for his constituency Ramnagar after the lifting of curbs on his movements, described his "confinement for 58 days without any formal orders from the administration as murder of democracy... we are nationalists, peace-loving people who have always held the Tricolour high".

Firdous Tak (PDP) called the end of curbs a "face-saving exercise" by the administration in view of the approaching BDC elections. "It was on the backfoot after the announcement of the BDC elections amid detention of Opposition leaders. By lifting the curbs on us, they now want to show that no one is detained," he said. "How will this help participation in BDC elections when all the top leaders in Kashmir Valley are still under detention?"

Asked whether the National Conference will be participating in the BDC elections, Rana said: "Let me first move out of the house to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150 birth anniversary and meet party workers."

Meanwhile, BJP national general secretary Ram Madhav Wednesday asked people in the country to embrace people of Kashmir because "for us, every Kashmiri is a member of this country, this family".

Liquor shops

on sale and consumption in the state," he said. The minister said that the previous Telugu Desam Party had not stopped the mushrooming of illicit liquor shops due to which consumption of liquor increased.

"People lost their livelihood and homes were wrecked due to increased alcoholism. During his padayatra, lakhs of women pleaded with him to close down all liquor shops and implement prohibition. We have started fulfilling our poll promise," he said.

Between May 30 and September 30, 2, 872 cases were registered and 2,928 people ar-

rested for allegedly operating illegal liquor shops. The state has registered 4,788 cases of brewing illicit liquor arrested 2,834 people.

Incidentally, between January 1 and September 30, AP earned excise revenue of Rs 3,326.68 crore. The excise revenue stood at Rs 3,839 crore in 2014-15 and rose to Rs 5,789.67 crore in 2017-18.

Reddy, during his padayatra, promised to ban alcohol across the state in phases. To keep his promise, the government has taken a step by introducing government-run alcohol shops, said Narayana Swamy.

"AP Beverages Corporation will manage all these alcohol shops. So far, 3,448 shops have been taken for lease. The alcohol shops will run between 10 am to 9 pm. Later, timing will be reduced to 11 am to 7 pm and gradually, all shops will be closed. The drinking rooms attached to most liquor shops have already been closed. Timings of bars will also be reduced," said an official of the AP Beverages Corporation.

Taking over liquor shops from private owners who were given licenses earlier, the government recruited 3,500 supervisors and 8,033 salesmen to run the alcohol shops until they are closed down. The government will also give alternate employment to those dependent on alcohol shops.

Nizam funds

non-justiciability by reason of the foreign act of state doctrine and non-enforceability on grounds of illegality both fail," the order stated.

The dispute revolves around 1,007,940 pounds and nine shillings transferred in 1948 from the then Nizam of Hyderabad to the High Commissioner in Britain of the newly-formed

state of Pakistan. That amount has since grown to 35 million pounds. The Nizam's descendants, supported by India, claimed it belongs to them but Pakistan said it is rightfully theirs.

In New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs said: "The Fund had been held in the account of the High Commissioner of Pakistan to the UK Rahimtoola since September 1948. It had been the subject of earlier proceedings in 1950s in which the UK House of Lords set aside proceedings brought by the 7th Nizam of Hyderabad claiming the Fund as Pakistan invoked state immunity."

In 2013, Pakistan commenced fresh proceedings, thereby waiving state immunity. A subsequent attempt by Pakistan to discontinue the proceedings was rejected as an abuse of process by the UK Court.

"The Court has issued a wide-ranging judgment today after analysing documentation going back more than 70 years and embracing the law of constructive and resulting trusts, unjust enrichment, foreign act of state, illegality and limitation of actions. The Court rejected arguments advanced by Pakistan that the dispute was non-justiciable, either in whole or in part; that the doctrine of illegality somehow barred recovery; or that the claims of other parties were time barred. The Court held that Pakistan's pleading of limitation was an 'abuse of process', and that remedies in trust law and restitution were available against both Pakistan and the Bank," the MEA statement said.

"Having found that the 7th Nizam was beneficially entitled to the Fund, the Court concluded that those claiming in right of the 7th Nizam i.e. India and the two grandsons of Nizam were now entitled to have the Fund," the MEA said.

> who have acted for the VIII Nizam since Pakistan issued proceedings in 2013, said: "We are delighted that today's judgment recognises His Exalted Highness the VIII Nizam's rights to funds which have been in dispute since 1948. Our client was still

Paul Hewitt, partner in Withers LLP,

now in his 80s. It is a great relief to see this dispute finally resolved in his lifetime."

Commenting on the ruling, the Pakistan Foreign Ministry in Islamabad said it would take further action after ex-

amining the detailed judgment.

a child when the dispute first arose and is

Doval

India are set to establish a Strategic Partnership Council, co-chaired by PM Modi & Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman," Sayeed tweeted on Wednesday.

Sources told The Indian Express that

Doval's visit was part of India's diplomatic effort to reach out to the current members of the FATF. Saudi Arabia. which had received an invitation from the FATF at the beginning of 2015 to join as an "observer member", was admitted into the organisation after the group's meeting in Orlando, Florida, on June 21 this year. Pakistan, which was put in the greylist last year under the FATF chairmanship of the US, has to meet a series of commitments. The assessments so far have indicated that it has not met most of those commitments, and faces the threat of being blacklisted during the plenary session.

But, with Pakistan's all-weather ally China as the current chair of FATF, Delhi has cranked up its diplomatic outreach to the 39 members — 37 countries and two regional organisations (Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Commission).

Sources said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met their counterparts of many of these FATF member countries in the last few weeks, especially at the UN in New York. While Modi met leaders from

While Modi met leaders from Belgium, France, US, UK, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa among others at the UN, Jaishankar met his counterparts from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Singapore, Turkey and Japan in New York. He also met his counterparts from the two regional organisations in the FATF — the GCC and the EC.

Farlier Jaishankar met leaders from

Earlier, Jaishankar met leaders from Finland — on his way to New York — and his counterparts from France, Germany, Canada. Doval and Jaishankar had also visited Russia separately. According to sources, between Modi, Jaishankar and Doval, they have had meetings with leaders and ministers from at least 24 of the 37 member countries in the last few weeks.

Sources said India's relations with Saudi Arabia have been on the rise in the last few years, beginning with Modi's visit to Riyadh in 2016. What has helped in the last two months is

that Saudi Arabia has not taken any adverse position on Jammu and Kashmir. After August 5, a Saudi statement said it was "following up the current situation in J&K resulting from India's abolition of Article 370 of the Constitution, which guarantees the autonomy of J&K". While Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Saudi Arabia on his way to New York, Riyadh has been careful in not making any negative statements on J&K.

Sources said India and Saudi Arabia have been closely cooperating with each other in fighting terrorism. On September 14, when a series of drone and missile strikes hit the oil facilities of Saudi Aramco, the country's national petroleum company, India had condemned the attack.

PM Modi

Citing a UNICEF estimate, Modi said that "there is a positive impact, worth Rs 20 lakh crore, on the Indian economy due to the Swachh Bharat campaign. It has created opportunities of 75 lakh jobs out of which a majority have been availed by the rural population". He also urged people not to stop here, saying the next step should be to convince people to use the toilets that have been built.

Underscoring the need to make India free of single-use plastic by 2022, Modi said that the use of plastic carry bags is gradually decreasing. "Plastic is a big danger to the three issues. Therefore, we have to achieve the target of making the country free of single-use plastic," he said.

Oil prices short term debt outstanding rose sharply by

11.1 per cent from \$98.7 billion to \$109.7 billion.

Economists say the rise in debt levels is on

account of slowdown in lending by banks over the last 12-18 months following the IL&FS crisis and their consequently risk aversion. "India's financial system capacity has gone down and it is the shortage of financial capacity in the country that is forcing people to go and borrow abroad. It is good that the RBI has been supporting by way of easing the regulations on external borrowings," said an economist with a leading global financial services firm.

RBI data shows that while total external debt stood at \$224 billion in March 2009, it rose sharply over the next five years to \$446 billion by March 2014. While it remained relatively stable over the next four years till 2018, it has risen sharply over the last one year.

Even during the height of global financial crisis in 2008, India's foreign exchange reserves, at \$310 billion, exceeded the then total external debt of about \$224 billion and provided a much larger coverage, the Bimal Jalan Committee, that reviewed RBI's Economic Capital Framework, noted in its recent report.

"This (rising external debt) needs to be taken into account in assessing the external risk being faced by the country and the possibility that the RBI may be required to increase the size of its forex reserves with its concomitant implications for the balance sheet, risks and desired economic capital. This is especially important given that the RBI's public policy objectives of maintaining external stability during a crisis would have to be pursued irrespective of the adequacy of its risk buffers," the Committee said in its report.

In the backdrop of increase in external debt

in relation to forex, the RBI is working on putting in place a formal mechanism to assess the adequacy of its foreign exchange. An internal group of RBI is working on developing a framework to assess whether forex reserves are adequate to cover various risks.

While the ratio of foreign exchange to external debt stood at 106 per cent in June 2010 and, therefore, forex reserves totally covered the country's external debt, the ratio fell to a level of 69.7 per cent by June 2014. Even as it improved over the following three years to reach 80 per cent by June 2017, it has weakened over the last couple of years and as of June 2019, it stood at 76.7 per cent.

STRAIN ON BUFFER **Forex** Ratio of Total Debt forex to external debt 2010 261.0 277.0 106.1 309.0 2011 316.2 97.7 349.4 289.9 2012 83.0 2013 405.0 284.6 70.3 453.1 315.8 69.7 2014 73.7 2015 482.0 355.2 479.6 360.8 2016 75.2 386.5 79.6 2017 485.5 2018* 513.1 406.1 79.1 2019** 557.4 427.7 76.7 All figures are for quarter ended June of the year

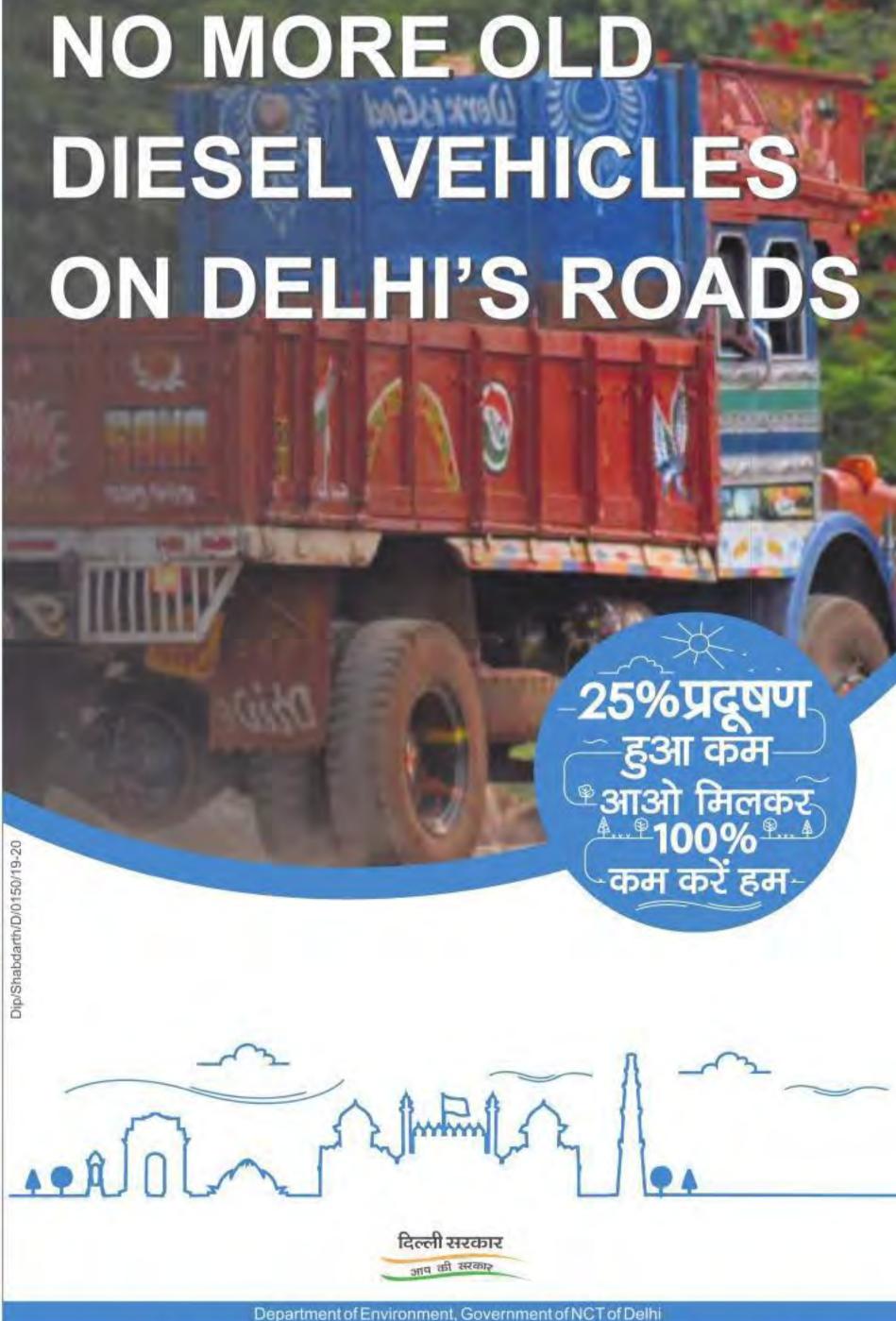
*Partially revised ; **Provisional (Figures in USD Bn)

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IGI AIRPORT

FOLK SINGER'S MURDER

They shot her once, paused, then shot her again: Sister

AMIL BHATNAGAR NOIDA, OCTOBER 2

A DAY after a popular folk singer was shot dead outside her house in Greater Noida, her sister said the killers did not bother to target her or the driver who were

with the victim at the time. The 22-year-old singer, who only goes by the name Sushma, was killed by two bike-borne assailants as she was stepping out of a vehicle at her residence in Greater Noida's Mitra Society

Tuesday evening. "We were returning from Bulandshahr and around 8 pm... Sushma stepped out for a minute and was behind the car when two people stopped in front of us. They took aim and shot her once, then paused. And then shot her again three-four times. It was evident they had come for her since they did not attack me or the driver. They raced their bike away and I could see Sushma lying in a pool of blood as I stepped out. It happened in a couple of minutes, but it was enough to kill her," said Sushma's younger sister Sonu, also a singer.

The murder came a month after another alleged attack on Sushma. According to her family, a man identified as Pramod had attacked her in Bulandshahr after he promised to take her to an event to perform. At the time, the family had alleged that Pramod paid her Rs 12,000 to perform at a religious function but assaulted her on the way to the venue. A police case was filed in Bulandshahr at the time, though the family could not attribute a motive to that attack. Both sisters had gone to Bulandshahr to follow up that



The victim, Sushma

case when they were attacked.

"We are exploring several theories; the previous incident is also under the scanner. CCTV footage from outside the house has been submitted to us. Prima facie it appears there could be personal enmity which led to the murder," said Ranvijay Singh, SP Rural, Gautam Budh Nagar.

Hailing from a Bulandshahr village, Sushma has been singing folk songs for the past 10 years. She was well versed with classical music and her songs depicted rural themes. She and Sonu would often feature together in videos for songs written and composed by them. One such song has over 80 million views on YouTube.

Sonu said Sushma would be invited to perform at musical and religious functions around thrice a week. The two lived together in Greater Noida after Sushma divorced four years

According to sources, one theory police are exploring is a professional rivalry since Sushma had attracted a fan following in the region. A relative said Sushma also had political ambitions. She was also embroiled in a land dispute in her native Nekpur village with a former pradhan, police said.



LIT FEST

Over 5,000 students took part in the Global Student Solar Assembly on Gandhi Jayanti, Wednesday. The event created a world record for the largest assembly and lighting of solar lamps in one place. Union minister Prakash Javadekar congratulated all students later. Tashi Tobgyal

Three 'behind spate of burglaries in Vasant Kunj' held after shootout

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

THREE MEN, who were allegedly involved in a spate of burglaries in Vasant Kunj, were arrested after an exchange of fire with police near a five-star hotel in South West Delhi. Police said nobody was injured.

"We have arrested three men, recovered a pistol and seized the car. They are being questioned," said DCP (South

West) Devender Arya. A police officer said that a tip-off about "movement of some criminals" in the area was received Wednesday evening after which a trap was laid near The Grand hotel. "Attempts were made to stop an i20 with three men inside but they tried to flee. The men fired at the police officers... a tyre of the car burst in the return fire and the According to police, a trap was laid near The Grand hotel. The men tried to flee but their car's tyre burst in the exchange of fire

men were arrested," said a police officer.

Police said the men, during questioning, revealed they were involved in robberies and, around five months ago, started doing burglaries in Vasant Kunj area. "So far, we know that they have been arrested in robbery cases in the past. We are questioning them... it seems likely that they are the same men who have attempted burglaries in Vasant Kunj area in the last few months," said a police officer.

Appoint law officer in every jail within 12 weeks: HC

PRITAM PAL SINGH

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

THE DELHI High Court has directed the Delhi government to appoint within 12 weeks a law officer in every jail in the capital to ensure that each inmate gets timely and free legal aid.

As per a plea by advocate Amit Sahni, there are 16 jails in Delhi — nine at Tihar prison complex, one at Rohini prison complex and six at Mandoli

prison complex.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar issued the direction after Standing Counsel (Criminal) Rahul Mehra and Additional Standing Counsel Gautam Narayan, appearing for the Delhi government, submitted that the steps for creation of law officer posts for each jail is under process.

"As the respondents (Delhi government and Director General (Prisons)) have already A plea by advocate and activist Amit Sahni has contended that there is

only one law officer for the capital's 16 jails

initiated action to appoint law officers in each central jail, nothing further requires to be monitored. Nonetheless, we hereby direct the respondents to complete the

appointment procedure as early as possible and practicable, preferably within a period of 12 weeks...," the bench said.

After passing the order, the court disposed of the public interest litigation by advocate-activist Sahni, seeking enforcement and compliance of Section 6 of the Delhi Prisons Act, 2000, in a time-bound manner. The section mandates the appointment of a law officer for every jail.

Law officers supervise all le-

gal matters, report day-to-day outcomes of court cases, appear in court along with the government counsel, and ensure each convict gets timely and free legal

The section also mandates that there be a superintendent, deputy superintendent, a medical officer and welfare officer for every jail.

In his plea, the advocate had said that from August 2016 to February 2019, no law officer was appointed at the prison

headquarters, and legal affairs were being dealt with by an officer equivalent to the rank of a deputy superintendent.

The petitioner had said Section 6 was being complied with in every aspect, except in appointment of law officers. It added that currently, there is only

The plea had contended that Delhi's jails are overcrowded, and a law officer for every prison would result in better administration.

one law officer for all 16 jails.



H E Sheikh Hasina

Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh





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B. K. Goenka, President, ASSOCHAM











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AFTER RAID AT CALL CENTRE

Police asked to expand probe into IVF sex selection racket

ASTHA SAXENA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

SUSPECTING A deeper racket operating across the country, the state PC-PNDT cell has requested the cyber crime cell of Delhi Police to pull out information about the number of fertility clinics offering sex selection services as part of their probe.

This comes after the team, in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the National Commission for Women (NCW), raided a call centre Sunday associated with the clinic Ela Prime Fertility in East Patel Nagar for allegedly offering sex selection services. The call centre allegedly promised a baby boy through IVF

to couples, and offered them "packages" abroad.

Officials want an investigation to be carried out in all states where such fertility centres may be functioning under the nose of authorities. A letter and an email has been sent by the Director of Family Welfare to the police to act on the data collected so far.

"We will then recommend the Government of India to request appropriate authorities in every state to take necessary action against them. This is a country-wide racket and all such clinics should face immediate action," said Dr Nitin Kumar, special programme officer of PC-PNDT cell, Delhi government.

As per the website mentioned in the complaint, www.elawoman.com, "Ela is the largest and fastest growing fertility and reproductive healthcare platform, having partnered with more than 11,500 maternity and fertility hospitals, clinics and doctors across India and multiple countries around the globe."

The website further says that the network is spread across 31 countries including India, UAE, Greece, United States, New Zealand, Thailand, Poland, Colombia, etc.

The company did not respond to queries sent by *The Indian*

Several infertility and IVF specialists listed on the company's website claimed the company worked in a partnership with the clinics. In many cases, the patients were directly sent by the company to these clinics for treatment.

"I don't know the financial modalities in the set-up but the clinics are working in coordination with the website to promote themselves in the market. Many times, we are not directly involved with patients about the services they are looking for. The company sends the patients to the clinics for a specified treatment," said one of the doctors listed on the company's website.

As per the complaint received by the MoHFW, a team of 14 members was formed and it was decided that decoys would be used for the raid. The team found around 300 computer systems allegedly used to make calls to couples who wanted a child. In a statement Tuesday, the state PC-PNDT cell said the call centre was started by an IIT graduate.

Greater Kailash, CR Park get mohalla clinics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 2

TEN NEW mohalla clinics and two foot over bridges were inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia Wednesday to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The mohalla clinics were opened in CR Park, Greater Kailash-I, Greater Kailash-II, Shahpur Jat, Khirki Flats, Savitri Nagar, Chirag Delhi and Sheikh Sarai.

"We have completed most of the projects that we announced... This has only been possible because we are living in a free country. The freedom has been given to us by leaders like Bhagat Singh, Subhas Chandra Bose, Gandhi, Nehru and Azad. We are also thankful to the people for electing a leader 4.5 years ago who made it possible," said Sisodia.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain had last month said



Inaugurating a mohalla clinic in Greater Kailash

AAP government will meet its target of building 1,000 mohalla clinics by end of the year. At present, there are 200-plus such clinics.

The two FOBs inaugurated were constructed in Chirag Delhi and Sheikh Sarai, the government said. Sisodia and Jain also laid the foundation stones of two other FOBs at Krishi Vihar-Panchsheel Enclave and in front of the Select City Walk mall.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Cop 'siphoned Rs 20 lakh'

meant for HRA, arrested

NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 2

A 34-YEAR-OLD Delhi Police constable, posted with the accounts section of the DCP's office in Outer Delhi, was arrested Tuesday evening for allegedly siphoning Rs 20 lakh, meant for house rent allowance (HRA) arrears of 24 constables, and diverting the money to his wife's account. The arrest was made by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police after the bank conducted an internal audit.

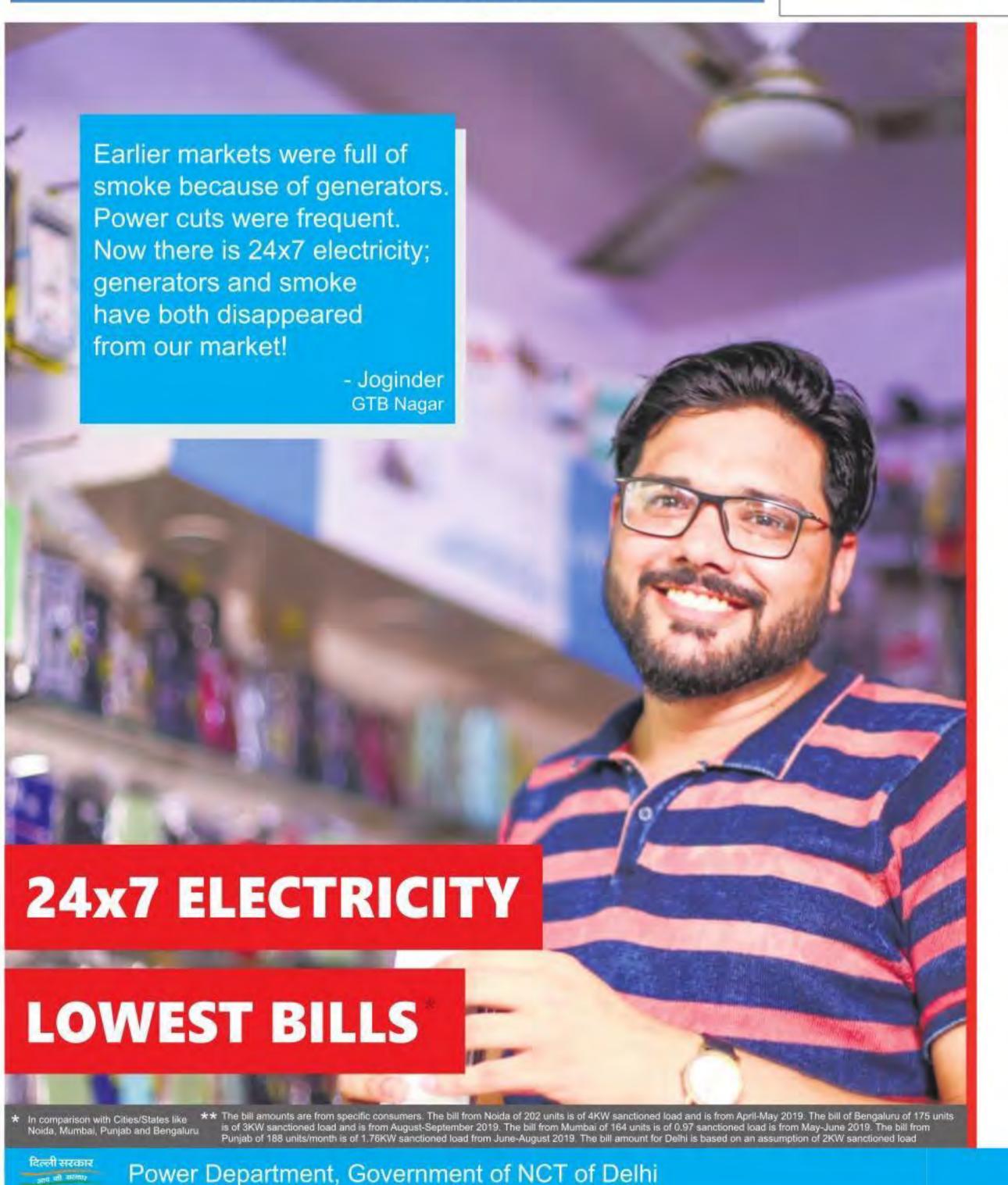
Additional CP (EOW) O P Mishra said they have arrested constable Anil Kumar after lodging an FIR under IPC sections 420 (cheating), 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant), and 120-B(criminal conspiracy). "We produced him before a Delhi court and he was sent to one-day police custody," he said.

DCP (outer district) A Koan

said action was taken by the EOW after his department lodged ar FIR with them on the basis of confidential information.

Police said investigation has revealed that around Rs 1.2 crore was siphoned by account sections, and two people, including a woman sub-inspector, are absconding. "Senior officials were receiving complaints of corruption and they asked the bank for an audit. That's when they found some accounts where the money was transferred," a senior police officer said. A team was sent to arrest Kumar, but two of the accused managed to escape in the commotion, police sources said.

During questioning, the arrested constable disclosed that he was posted with the accounts section from 2016. "He revealed that he and some other cops were siphoning lakhs received as grants for fellow policemen. He had been diverting the money to his wife's account," an officer said.





DELHI NOW HAS LOWEST BILLS

Upto 200 units/month			
City	Units	Bill**	
Delhi	200	0	
Noida	202	1374	
Mumbai	194	1244	
Bengaluru	175	1272	
Punjab	188	1357	

दिल्ली ने कर दिखाया



Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi

FIRST CCTV CAMERAS NOW 2 LAKH STREETLIGHTS



SALIENT FEATURES OF MUKHYAMANTRI STREET LIGHT SCHEME

- O DISCOMs will install all streetlights as part of this scheme
- O With the permission of owners, streetlights will be installed on the wall of homes or shops, to provide lighting for dark spots
- O The electricity for the streetlight will be taken from the concerned home or shop. The electricity bill will be paid to the DISCOM directly by the government. This will be done along the same lines as the CCTV Camera policy, and no financial burden shall be put on the home or shop owner
- O These are modern streetlights with light sensors. These will automatically switch on when it becomes dark, and switch off in the morning

There are many dark spots in different part of Delhi, where women are unsafe. We will identify every such dark spot, and install more than 2 lakh streetlights, so that women feel safe in this city.

- Arvind Kejriwal Chief Minister, Delhi

To get a streetlight installed in your area, please contact your area MLA

दिल्ली सरकार

Urban Development Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

Ancient epic gets modern tweaks in Ramlila featuring Manoj Tiwari

ABHINAV RAJPUT NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

THE DIVINE bow of lord Shankar lay broken on the stage as the scene depicting the Sita Swayamvar ended. The audience at the Nav Shri Manav Dharm Ramlila in Model Town now awaited the appearance of the star performer, actor-turned-politician Manoj Tiwari, on stage.

Tiwari, playing Parashurama, arrived dressed in a leopard skin vest, clutching an axe. In the half hour that followed, the MP from North East Delhi and Delhi BJP chief delivered a performance that kept the audience hooked, with dialogues peppered with political overtones.

"Ye sab kahan se aaye hain, ye koi videshi ghuspaithiye hain ya tumne bulaya hai (Where have they come from; are they illegal immigrants or have you called them)?," he said, addressing Vishwamitra about the crowd gathered for Sita's Swayamvar.

In another scene with Lakshman, he referred angrily to "aatankvaadis (terrorists)". "My axe has spilled rivers of blood, and in this land of the Aryans, several terrorists have been sent to the graveyard," he said.

Hours before he got on stage, Tiwari sat with Bollywood actor Shahbaz Khan, who played Ravana, rehearsing his lines in a vanity van. Trying to squeeze his

MAHENDER SINGH

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

TO PREVENT senior police offi-

cers from leaking internal com-

munications and ensure "posi-

tive stories" are published in the

media, a special meeting of 15

DCPs was called by Delhi Police

Commissioner Amulya Patnaik

at the police headquarters

Monday afternoon.

MANRAL



Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari prepares for the Ramlila in Model Town. Abhinav Saha

feet into shoes one size too small, he said: "Recent political developments have kept me busy; I started rehearsing the script when I was in car... but I do modifications in the script to suit the present context."

"I am not going to use the word Kshatriya which is in the script; I have changed it to Raja kul because when Parshurama said Kshatriya, he meant kings and not just any caste," he said.

This is fourth time Tiwari has acted in the Ramlila — previ-

A message was sent to all DCPs

Monday morning by special CP

(crime) Satish Golcha, and they

were asked to reach the meeting

at 3 pm. "The agenda was about

their relationship with the media,

and it started with slides about

dos and don'ts along with guide-

lines made by the ministry of

home affairs," a senior officer said.

been called for such a meeting, an

officer said, adding that in the last

six months, two media workshops

This is the first time DCPs have

ously, he has twice played Angad and once played Kewat.

Tiwari's vanity van is rarely ever empty — from children of organisers itching for a selfie to people trying to break into politics to fellow Ramlila actors, someone's always knocking on the door

At one point, he tells the organisers, "Please call Ram and Lakshman, I have the most scenes with them."

"It is important to make juniors comfortable; they should

were conducted for DCPs, but

Golcha showed news reports on

recent incidents of snatching,

and told them that the next day

they must make an effort to get

positive news published if the

case was cracked. According to

one officer. DCPs were not sure if

Patnaik would attend the meet-

ing, but he reached midway. He

is learnt to have taken a stern

view of some recent crimes, and

During Monday's meeting,

were taken by senior journalists.

not be in awe else it will affect their performance... this is an art I have learnt from Amitabh Bachchan ji, who called me to his vanity and made me comfortable before we started the shoot of the movie Ganga," he said.

Asked how he made time when assembly polls are drawing close, he said: "This is far more important than any election in the country. We do politics so we can do some good for the people... here, they are already doing good things."

In meeting with DCPs, police chief brings up need to highlight 'good work' in media

the conduct of some DCPs. "He raised the issue of details of law and order meetings being shared with the media," an officer said.

Golcha also checked how many press releases each DCP had issued. Later, Patnaik asked them to form cordial relations with the media and to give them press releases of their "good work". "DCPs were also asked to read the content of FIRs of heinous cases more carefully," an officer said.

CLOSURE OF THERMAL POWER PLANTS 25% YEAR OF THE POWER PLANTS 25% YEAR OF THE POWER PLANTS 25% YEAR OF THE POWER PLANTS PART OF THE POWER P

ACCUSED ARRESTED

Civil Lines: Woman dead as car 'driven by 20-yr-old' rams 2 cabs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 2

A 48-YEAR-OLD woman died and three people were injured after a Ford Figo rammed into two cabs — a Honda Amaze and a Swift Dzire — opposite Vidhan Sabha Metro station in North Delhi Wednesday afternoon. Police said the car was being driven by 20-year-old Shrey Gupta, a resident of Timarpur, who has been arrested.

Police said the Ford Figo is registered under Gupta's father's name, Samundar Gupta, who is a scientist at Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and lives at the DRDO Complex in Timarpur.

"The incident took place around 3.55 pm when Gupta, along with three friends, was driving from Civil Lines towards IP College. Opposite Vidhan Sabha Metro station, Gupta, who was at the wheel, took a sharp turn in a rash and negligent manner and hit the two cars," said DCP (North) Monika Bharadwaj. Police said the vehicle first hit

the Honda Amaze, in which the victim was seated, and then the Swift Dzire, which was slightly ahead. "It was a loud crash and someone called the SHO of Civil Lines, who reached the spot and was told by eyewitnesses that the accused's three friends had fled. The injured people were removed from the car and rushed to nearby hospitals... The woman was declared dead on arrival at Parmanand Hospital," said a police officer.

The victim, Rajeshwari Yadav, was a resident of East Delhi's Laxmi Nagar and was in the cab with her daughters Deepti (26) and Jyotsana (24), who received minor injuries. The three were on their way to a relative's house in

Pitampura. Yadav's post-mortem will be conducted Thursday. The driver of the taxi, Ishwar Singh (55), sustained a leg fracture, while the driver of the Swift Dzire, Sonu (29), escaped unhurt.

While Gupta was arrested, investigators have not yet traced his friends. "Gupta suffered minor injuries on his toes and received treatment. He was discharged soon after," said a police officer.

"The accused studied up to class XI and dropped out after that. He is currently unemployed. The four men were just driving around and had no specific destination in mind," said a police officer.

An FIR under sections 279 (rash driving) and 304A (death by negligence) of IPC has been registered at Civil Lines police station. Police are currently looking for Gupta's three friends to get more clarity on the incident.

BRIEFLY

Snatcher held for murder of businessman

New Delhi: Three years after a businessman was shot dead in Faridabad while getting off his Audi outside his home, police have found the crime was committed with the aim of stealing his vehicle. The revelation came with the arrest of the mastermind of a car snatching gang, Sharad Pandey. Police said Pandey was earlier arrested in connection with a similar crime in South Extension in 2016. "The accused has been remanded in six-day judicial custody," said Sube Singh, PRO, Gurgaon police.

Plogging at 80 locations

New Delhi: To raise awareness on the plastic ban, South corporation Wednesday organised plogging at 80 places in which 20,000 people took part. Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti said that the exercise was taken to collect maximum quantity of spread out plastic waste so that a strong message could be disseminated on putting a stop to plastic use.

Two dead in accident

Noida: Two people died and one was injured after an e-rickshaw they were travelling in was hit by a car coming from the wrong side near Panchsheel in Noida's Phase 2 Wednesday, said police. Police said the car halted for a moment after the collision, and then sped away. A case has been registered.

Senior citizen murder: 1 held

New Delhi: A 32-year-old man was arrested for allegedly killing a senior citizen Tuesday in Outer North Delhi's Swaroop Nagar. Police said the accused was working for Charan Singh (68), a plumber, and was unhappy with his wages.

Man held with bullets at IGI

New Delhi: A 68-year-old man was apprehended at Indira Gandhi International Airport Wednesday for allegedly carrying four bullets in his baggage. **ENS**

IIT tribute to Gandhi: A tactile book on his journey

New Delhi: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi Wednesday commemorated Gandhi Jayanti by renaming the Gramodaya Parisar after the father of the nation, and launching a tactile book on his life.

Anon-profit start-up from IIT, called Raised Lines Foundation, Wednesday launched three tactile books — which use braille and other visual aids for visually impaired children — one of which was on Gandhi. The books are in braille and are bilingual (Hindi and English). The book on Gandhi is called Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi.

Priced Rs 445, the book on Gandhi is supposed to be the "first affordable tactile book" on his life. "The book focuses on the life, work and teachings of the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi. It contains tactile representations of key elements and articles related to Bapu's life...," said Pulkit Sapra from RLF.

Meanwhile, Jamia Millia Islamia and Indira Gandhi National Open University commemorated Gandhi Jayanti by going single-use plastic-free.

Jamia has issued an order banning single-use plastic on the entire campus. IGNOU has signed an MoU with South Delhi Municipal Corporation to keep plastic items like polythene bags, plastic spoons and straws away from the campus. **ENS**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal after paying tribute to Lal Bahadur Shastri, at Vijay Ghat Wednesday. The Delhi CM later tweeted: "Today is the birth anniversary of two great souls. Gandhi ji, a symbol of truth and non-violence, and Shastri ji of simplicity and integrity. I hail Mother India, who gave birth to these sons." Amit Mehra

Delhi Govt Gets INTACH Proposal

Malcha Mahal, the 14th Century hunting lodge, could see a revamp

SOURAV ROY BARMAN NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

THE DELHI government has received a proposal from the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) to restore Malcha Mahal, a 14th Century hunting lodge built by Feroz Shah Tughlaq, which was occupied between 1985-2017 by members of a family that claimed its lineage to the royals of Awadh.

Official sources said that while the proposal, which also has financial components, was still being examined, the government is inclined to accept it, provided the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has no plan to restore the structure, which now lies in ruins.

Founded in 1984, INTACH is a non-profit organisation working to generate awareness on heritage and conservation.

"The government, which had approached INTACH, recently received a proposal. It's not a detailed project report (DPR) though. INTACH will submit a DPR once they get a go-ahead. Although the mahal was not with the ASI, they will get the first opportunity in case they are also interested in conserving and restoring it. But the Delhi government



According to sources, the Delhi government is examining the proposal and is inclined to accept it. Archive

wants to take up the project," an official said.

Malcha Mahal is located deep inside the Central Ridge, off Sardar Patel Marg in Chanakyapuri. It is named after Malcha Marg, which houses the elite of the city, including diplomats, businessmen and authors.

For years, the existence of the structure, which has a few arched chambers and a hall, was nearly forgotten. The death of Prince Ali Raza, the last occupant of the mahal, in 2017 sparked renewed interest around it. Raza, known as Cyrus, was found dead inside the

mahal on September 2, 2017, having led a life in abject penury, devoid of any material comforts that one associates even with a commoner, let alone a royalty.

"In the first phase, consolidation and conservation works have been proposed. The task of restoration will come later as the challenges are immense. There is thick foliage in and around the structure, which has obviously damaged the building. Excavation work has also been proposed at a later stage.

proposed at a later stage.

"Currently, the main hall stands. There are arched cham-

bers, but they are damaged. The government and the project executing agency plan to work together in illuminating the area and putting up signages for visitors. For years, the family lived without any power and water supply, so arrangements for basic necessities will also have to be made," another official added.

Raza, his sister Sakina and their mother Begum Wilayat Mahal had moved into the mahal along with around a dozen hounds in May, 1985. Before they moved in, the structure was known as Bistadari ruins. The Begum was allotted the mahal after she camped in a first-class waiting room of the New Delhi Railway Station in the 70s, demanding recognition from the government.

The entire duration of their stay in the mahal remained shrouded in mystery as the family detested any outside interference

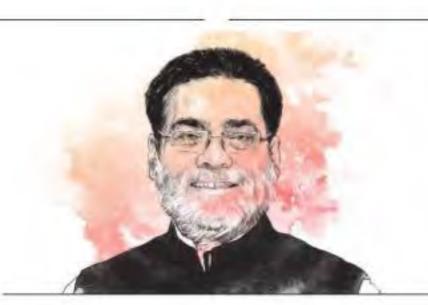
Begum Wilayat Mahal died in 1992, having allegedly swallowed crushed diamonds in her possession, while her daughter passed away a few decades later. Cyrus was the last one to die.

The last Nawab of Awadh, Wajid Ali Shah, ruled for nine years till 1856, and died near Kolkata in 1887.

GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



WATER FALL

UNION MINISTER and first-time Lok Sabha MP Ravi Shankar Prasad cancelled all appointments in Delhi and rushed to his constituency, Patna, which is reeling under flood. His party colleague from neighbouring Patliputra constituency, former Union minister Ram Kripal Yadav, also rushed in, albeit a day late. Yadav was ostensibly busy with his Parliamentary committee engagements, but he tried to compensate by touring the flooded areas in a makeshift boat — only to find himself slipping in the water after the boat capsized. Another former Union minister, Anupriya Patel, had also slipped into water while taking stock of flood-hit areas in her constituency recently.

SOURCING CROWD

PRIYANKA GANDHI Vadra was in Lucknow to lead a Congress padyatra marking the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, but state Congress president Raj Babbar was nowhere to be seen. Although Babbar has submitted his resignation, he is still the state Congress president until a successor is appointed. There was a rumour some time ago that Babbar could join the BJP. The turnout at the padyatra, however, was respectable. Since the Congress is set to announce a new state unit chief, state office-bearers and district party presidents and other leaders eyeing various posts left no stone unturned to bring their supporters in a show of strength.

NO REPLACEMENT

IT HAS been over a week since Justice Manmohan Singh, chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal for Prevention of Money Laundering Act, retired, but former Delhi High Court judge Sunil Gaur, who was tipped to succeed Singh, is yet to take over. Justice Gaur had rejected the bail plea of former finance minister P Chidambaram in the INX Media case days before he retired. The tribunal is currently headed by G C Mishra, acting chairperson and the lone member.

36-hr UP House session begins, Oppn boycotts

MAULSHREE SETH LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 2

A MARATHON 36-hour special session of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary began here on Wednesday with the Opposition boycotting the same. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hit out at the Opposition, calling the boycott a "contempt of the House and an insult to Mahatma Gandhi".

The Opposition said the BJP government was more interested in "setting a record" instead of taking up peoples' issues.

Besides Samajwadi Party, BSP and all but one MLA of the Congress, Suheldev Bhartiva Samaj Party also boycotted the proceedings. Only members of the ruling BJP and its ally Apna Dal were present in the House.

Addressing the special session, Adityanath said that whenever such a session is convened, Opposition leaders say that there should be a discussion on issues like poverty, but maintained a distance when the government took the initiative. "In this scenario, if the Opposition distances itself from a constructive discussion on poverty, development of the state and achieving goals of development, then it is not just the contempt of the House but also an insult to Bapu... It is also

an insult to the poor, farmers and common people of Uttar Pradesh," the Chief Minister said.

Setting the proceedings in motion, Speaker Hriday Narain Dixit said, "It's unfortunate that the Opposition leaders, who agreed for the session, are not present. Probably, they did not remember that they had given consent for the session."

Congress leader Ajay Kumar Lallu said his party was boycotting the session as it has been called only to set a record.

SP spokesperson Rajendra Chowdhury said the party had other plans for October 2. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav also justified his party MLAs skipping the session, saying "the BIP will use it to further its commu-

BSP chief Mayawati said that the reason behind holding a special session was to hide the failures of the BJP government.

nal ideology".

Cong MLA attends Meanwhile, Congress MLA from Rae Bareli Aditi Singh spoke in the House, even as the Opposition boycotted proceedings. "I tried to speak on the issue of development while rising above party politics... I would accept whatever decision the party takes," she told the media.

Baghel calls on BJP to publicly condemn Godse

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAIPUR, OCTOBER 2

CHHATTISGARH Assembly held a special session on Wednesday on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, with the ruling Congress keeping its pressure on the BIP to publicly condemn his assassin Nathuram Godse.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said, "There is now a battle between ideologies. One is the ideology of Gandhi and his followers while the other one never wanted India to become an Independent nation."

"These days when we speak

of Gandhiji, we are also reminded of Nathuram Godse who assassinated him. The other ideology was represented by Godse.Godse represented people that were against Independence. We should have the courage today to also raise slogans condemning Godse when we praise Gandhi."

Baghel also said that while the Central government and the BJP make a "huge noise about nationalism", the Constitution was being undermined under its garb.

Congress legislators later chanted slogans of "Nathuram Godse murdabad". BJP legislators did not join when the slogans were being raised.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and other leaders pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament. Neeraj Priyadarshi

'Gandhi's soul will be pained at India's condition in last 4-5 yrs'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

ON THE 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Congress president Sonia Gandhi launched a sharp attack on the BJP and its government, saying Mahatma's soul would be pained looking at what has been happening in India for the past four-five years. She said those who are thirsty for power and indulge in the politics of falsehood cannot understand Gandhi's ideals of truth, self-rule and selfless service.

Sonia, in a rare move, referred to former Prime Minister P N Narasimha Rao while recalling contributions by Congress prime ministers. The Congress has always downplayed the contributions of Rao. And Sonia, who shared a cold relationship with him, has rarely acknowledged his role in public.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

RSS CHIEF Mohan Bhagwat on

Wednesday hailed Mahatma

Gandhi's ideas of social equality

and harmony and took a pledge

to emulate Gandhi's "sacred,

dedicated and transparent life".

quoted Bhagwat as having said,

"Gandhiji, who believed in the

Swa-based reorganisation of

Bharat, firmly stood for social

equality and harmony and trans-

lated his vision into action, had

In a series of tweets, the RSS

NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 2

The Congress took out padyatras in state capitals to mark the occasion. While former party president Rahul Gandhi led a march of party workers to Rajghat, AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra led a padyatra in Lucknow.

Addressing party workers at Raighat, Sonia targeted the BJP, saying it is "easy to take Gandhi's name but not easy to tread on his path".

"There was no dearth of people even earlier who, while taking Gandhi's name, tried to divert India from his path towards their own. But during the last few years, through a blatant resort to saam, daam, dand, bhed...they consider themselves to be very powerful. If India has not strayed from its path despite all this, it is because the country's foundation is laid on the principles of Gandhi," Sonia said.

"India and Gandhi are synonymous. It is another matter

set an example for all through his

life. We must perceive, under-

stand and manifest it in our life."

Bhagwat as having said,

"Remembering the Mahatma on

his 150th birth anniversary, we

shall take a pledge that we will

emulate his sacred, dedicated

and transparent life and Swa-

centric life vision, and through

which we must inculcate the

qualities of dedication and re-

nunciation in our lives to make

flected in the latest issue of

The sentiment is also re-

Bharat the Vishwa Guru."

In another tweet, RSS quoted

Must emulate Gandhi's dedicated life to

upon reversing that. They want the RSS and not Gandhi to be the symbol of India..." she said.

following politics based on falsehood understand that Gandhiji was a devotee of truth? How would those who are ready to do anything for power understand that Gandhiji was a worshipper of non-violence? How would those who want to centralise all powers in their hands understand the meaning of Swaraj?" Sonia said.

After recalling the contributions by Congress prime ministers, she said, "I feel Gandhiji's soul must be pained looking at the condition of India in the last four-five years. It is very regrettable that farmers are in distress. The youth are grappling with unemployment. Industries and businesses are shut. Forget the villages, my sisters are not even safe in big cities..."

Organiser that hit the stands on

Tuesday — it is dedicated to

Mahatma Gandhi and the idea of

Swaraj. "In the post-independ-

ent Bharat, Gandhi's name and

surname has been used, mis-

used and abused without fol-

lowing his message to a large ex-

tent. Now when we are in a

position to play a constructive

role at the global level, we need

to revisit arguably the most in-

fluential son and messenger of

Bharat to address the contempo-

rary global challenges," an edi-

In another piece, RSS leader

torial in the *Organiser* stated.

that some people are insistent

"How would those who are

only PM to have made cleanliness a movement

Shah: Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah, BJP working president J P Nadda, Union minister Harsh Vardhan and other senior party leaders on Wednesday exhorted people to shun single-use plastic and take initiatives to make this a mass movement as a tribute to Mahatama Gandhi.

After flagging off the party's 'Sankalp Yatra' to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma, Shah and the other party leaders undertook a 'padyatra' for 500 metres amid tight security in Delhi's Shalimar Bagh area.

Schoolchildren had set up stalls on the theme of environment protection and giving up single-use plastic along the padyatra path.

Shah said the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has organised several events to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhiji to reestablish values and principles of the Mahatma. Mahatma Gandhi, he said, "not only played a vital role in getting the country its Independence but also displayed the power of satyagrah to the world".

He said, "Gandhiji was the ambassador of cleanliness, and after Independence, Modi-ji is the only Prime Minister who has made it a mass movement."

Speaking at Chand Vatika near Khaira village in the national capital, Nadda said Gandhiji believed that wealth without doing any work, happiness without logic, religion without sacrifice, knowledge without character, trade without morality, science without humanity and politics without principles are meaningless.

Satyagraha and considered this

as his greatness," Vaidya wrote

in the article, which carried an il-

lustration of Gandhi saluting the

RSS flag at Wardha in 1934.

make Bharat the Vishwa Guru: Bhagwat Manmohan Vaidya sought to argue that RSS always admired them out," he said. Gandhi. "Despite disagreeing with him and his surrender to the extremist and Jihadi elements among the Muslim community, the RSS has always ad-However, sources said the mired his efforts to broaden the public support for Bharat's freedom struggle through simple means like Charkha and easily acceptable method like

NRC ISSUE MAY COME UP

Modi, Hasina to meet Oct 5, focus on economic ties

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

A WEEK after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina in New York, the two leaders are scheduled to meet for a bilateral meeting on Saturday in Delhi.

Sources said the contentious issue of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was discussed during their meeting in New York, where Hasina told Modi that it has become a matter of "great concern" for Bangladesh. Modi is learnt to have replied that there is "nothing to be worried" since India and Bangladesh have good relations.

However, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has again reiterated that the government would first amend the existing citizenship norms — by the passage of Citizenship Amendment Bill — before it implements a nationwide NRC.

While speaking in Kolkata on Tuesday, Shah accused West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee of "misleading" the people.

"Mamata Banerjee is saying that lakhs of Hindu refugees will be thrown out of the country. I have come here to assure all my refugee brothers that there is no need to worry as the central government will not force them out," Shah is reported to have said. "I want to assure all Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist and Christian refugees that you will not be forced to leave India. Don't believe rumours. Mamata Didi is saying there will be no NRC in Bengal. But we will identify each and every infiltrator and drive

In the light of these remarks by the Home Minister, the NRC issue could figure during the discussions between the two prime ministers.

Prime Minister has already assured Hasina on this matter. "It will depend on the Bangladesh PM. The Indian position will remain the same as articulated by the PM during their meeting in New York," a source said. Sources said that Hasina's visit

is primarily to attend the World



Sheikh Hasina



Hasina, who will be in Delhi to showcase the country's economic achievements, will meet PM Narendra Modi for the second time in a week. With Home Minister Amit Shah upping the ante on NRC, Hasina's meeting with Modi will be watched. Although Modi had reassured Hasina in New York, Shah's comments have re-kindled the issue between Delhi and Dhaka.

Economic Forum in Delhi and the main focus is to pitch for better and improved economic ties with India and the rest of the world.

"This is a visit to attend the

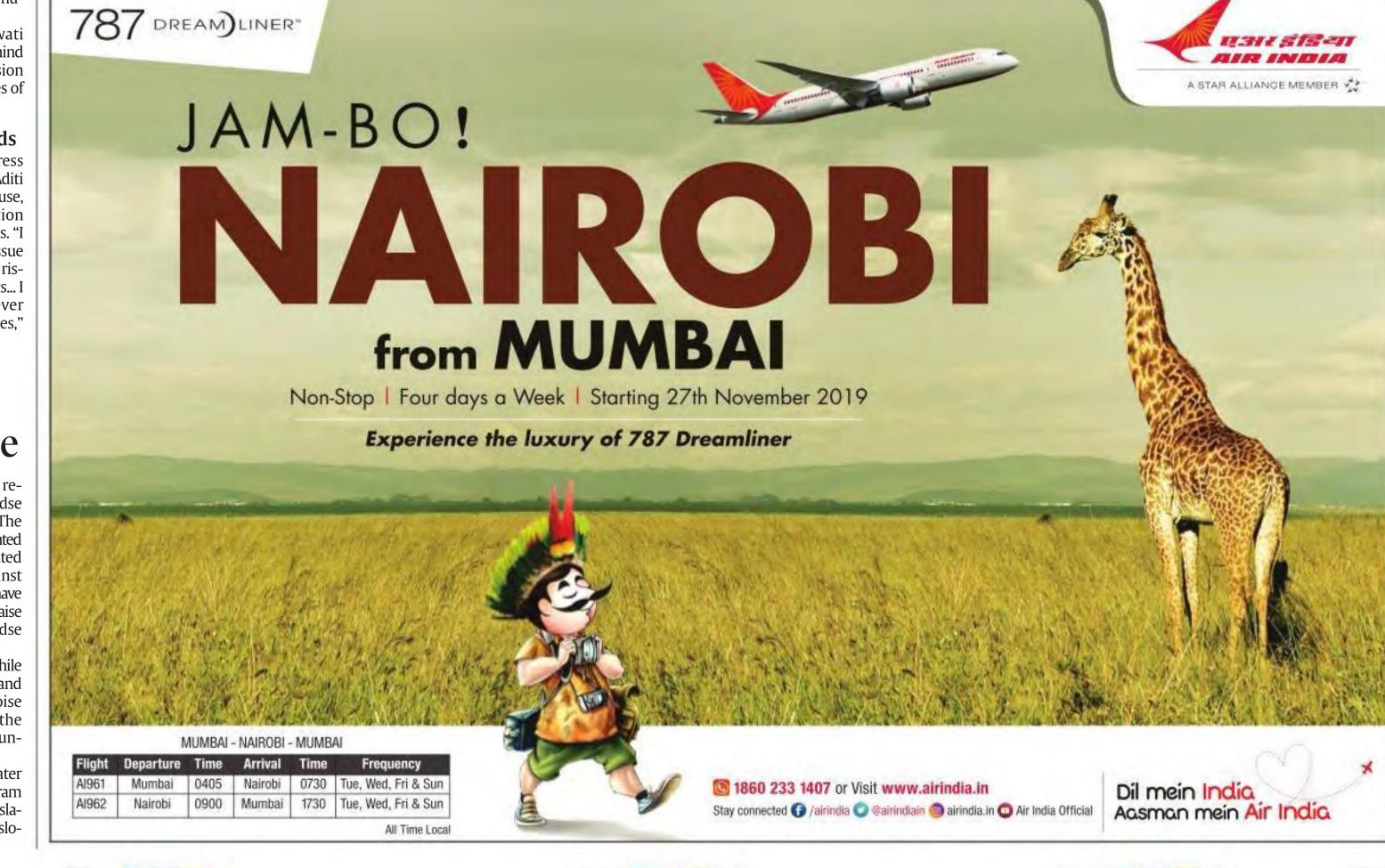
World Economic Forum in Delhi But, there is a bilateral meeting. It is not a strictly bilateral visit," a Bangladesh official said. Hasina will hold a meeting

with CEOs of top Indian companies on October 4 where she is likely to make a pitch for investments in Bangladesh.

In New York, the two leaders had also discussed sharing water of common rivers, including Teesta. But, there is no sign of any solution right now, sources said citing West Bengal Chief

Minister's opposition to the pact

During their upcoming meeting, three pacts are likely to be signed — the sharing of white shipping information, air services and the SOP on the use of Chattogram and Mongla ports for movement of goods to and from India.



Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Sushma Rani W/o Sanjay Bhalla R/o- A-58, Nanhey Park Matiala Delhi-110059 have Changed my Name to Sushma 0040514619-1

Shabbir Ahmad S/o Mr. Abul Hasan R/o H. No.23, Jogabai, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name from Ahmad Shabbir to SHABBIR AHMAD for all future purposes.

Ravinder Kumar Kanojia, S/o Barphi Lal Kanojia R/o-21B-C5, B-Block, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Ravinder Kumar, permanently. 0040514795-2

I, Priyanka W/o Sumit malik R/o-Aq-3 BPTP PARK Sector-81 GF Faridabad Haryana have add surname to PRIYANKA GROVER permanently.

I, Mohd vaseen s/o Mohd yameen R/o, A-60 sec-71 Noida district-Gautambuddh Nagar UP have changed my minor son's name 15 years old(30-7-2004) from Mohd ashad to asad yaseen permanently.

I, Mohammed Magdum Ahmed S/o Ahmed Ali R/o-House No.421, Block-B, Dakshinpuri Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi-110062, inform that the name of mine has been wrongly written as Mohd Magdoom Ahmed/Mohd Magdum Ahmed/Mohd Makdoom in my Voter Card/EPIC/Ration Card/Water Connection/Electricity Connection respectively. The actual name of mine is Mohammed Magdum Ahmed which may be ammended accordingly.

I, Chander Mohan Singh Negi S/o Pan Singh Negi R/o F-4/28, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110089, inform that my name wrongly mentioned in my son's (Abhijeet Negi) school record as Chander Mohan Negi. But my correct name is Chander Mohan Singh Negi. 0040514787-1

I Amandeep D/o Baldev Singh R/o-RZ-B-133, B-Block, Narsingh Garden, New Delhi have changed my name to Amandeep Kaur. 040514795-3

Anita Saxena W/O Sanjay Saxena R/O-F-2/17, Sector-15, 2nd Floor Block-F, Rohini Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Anit Rani.

I. Balwinder Kaur W/o Davinder Kumar R/o WZ-G-9, Sant Nagar Extn., Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my

LOST & FOUND

name to Balvinder Kaur for all

0040514649-1

purposes.

LOST my Original Marksheets of CBSE Class X Examination (Roll No-6160988, Year 1998) & Class XII Examination (Roll No-6248284, Year 2000). Finders please contact: Abhishek Mukherjee #9873845822

that my Original Qualifying Examination Marksheet of Main Secondary Examination of Year 2010, Roll No.8206898 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of Candidate: Sidharth Chaudhry S/o Paras Chaudhry, R/o 9199/4B, Multani Dhanda, Paharganj, New Delhi-110055, Tel.8700915157 0040514678-1

It is notified for the information

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, Vinod Narula and Preeti Narula, do hereby irrevocably, unconditionally and irreversibly declare and state that we **DISOWNED** and **DISINHERITED** our son Anuj Narula and his wife Bhavya Vats from al movable immovable properties with the effect from today.

ANAM SIDDIQUI (Advocate)

Devi. Both Rio House No-67, Pocket-1 ector-A6, Narela, North West Delh 10040 had severed all their relations with their son Mr. Ashish Kumar Age 25 rears and disowned him from all their novable and immovable properties on 22 June 2017 by public notice in Indian Express and Jansatta News Papers Now my clients have cancelled their disown will/Statements and merged all the relations with his son Mr. Ashish umar and give him to all the The Legal Today, Law Firm

TOP 3 IN RAJASTHAN Jaipur cleanest railway station

in India: audit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

JAIPUR HAS emerged as the cleanest railway station in India, followed by Jodhpur and Durgapura, according to a thirdparty audit by the Indian Railways, assessing cleanliness. Railway Minister Piyush

Goyal released the Station Cleanliness Survey on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. The survey covered 720 of the busiest stations in India, including suburban ones, expanding the scope of the annual audit from the previous 407 stations. "Today, we are committed to developing a clean India, healthy

India and prosperous India. The Railways is doing its bit to provide a clean and hygienic environment to the travellers," the minister said. "Many governments came

after Independence, but there was a delay in carrying out Bapu's (Mahatma Gandhi's) vision until Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over the responsibility of the country," he said, adding that the railways has also banned single-use plastic on premises starting Wednesday.

In Delhi, Anand Vihar was the cleanest station at the 26th spot, followed by New Delhi Railway Hazrat (165), Nizamuddin (241), Shahdara (378), Delhi Cantonment (389) and Delhi Junction (390).

Cong infighting spills onto streets, Tanwar protests outside 10 Janpath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

INFIGHTING WITHIN the Haryana Congress and deep divisions over selection of candidates for the Assembly elections spilled onto the streets on Wednesday when former state Congress chief Ashok Tanwar and his supporters staged a demonstration outside the 10 Janpath residence of Congress president Sonia Gandhi here.

Congress leaders predicted the possibility of a large number of rebels entering the fray which could mar the party's prospects. Virtually signalling that he was ready to take the party down if his supporters were ignored, Tanwar announced that he was a "human



bomb". He also asked his followers to keep nomination papers ready. "If you get tickets...well and good...otherwise you have my support," he told his supporters. Targeting Congress legisla-

ture party leader in Haryana, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Tanwar said, "They are not following any criteria. Mr Hooda is distributing tickets on his whims and fancies... And the AICC is siding with him...He says he will finish Ashok Tanwar...Tanwar cannot be finished that easily."

Sources close to him said the

"lion's share" of tickets have gone to Hooda's supporters. They said the Congress central election committee has cleared names for as many as 70-75 tickets but the infighting is delaying the announcement. They also said AICC treasurer Ahmed Patel spoke to Hooda in the presence of AICC general secretary incharge of the state Ghulam Nabi Azad about the selection of candidates in the wake of rebellion in the party.

Addressing supporters, Tanwar said his fight is for ideology and is based on principles while Hooda is fighting to "save himself from going to jail". He alleged those who are in-charge of candidate selection have even entered into some sort of tacit understanding with the BJP.

INLD releases list of 62 candidates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 2

THE INDIAN National Lok Dal (INLD), led by former Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala, on Wednesday announced its first list of 64 candidates for the Haryana Assembly polls.

Chautala's younger son and sitting MLA Abhay Chautala has been fielded from Ellenabad seat in Sirsa district again. The BIP has again fielded Pawan Beniwal against him. In the 2014 feated Beniwal for the seat.

The party had announced that 33 percent of its tickets will go to women. In the first list, it has picked 12 women.

The party has fielded former MLA Dr Sita Ram from Dabwali constituency in Sirsa, considered a stronghold of the Chautalas. In 2014, Naina Chautala won the Dabwali seat as an INLD nominee. This time, she may contest from this seat again but as a candidate of the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) — led by her son Dushyant Chautala.

son of late Jagdish Chander, who

was youngest among four sons of former deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal.

The party has fielded Inderjit Dahiya from Rai constituency of Sonipat district again. Dahiya had lost the 2014 poll battle to Jai Tirath Dahiya of the Congress by a margin of just three votes.

But the Punjab and Haryana High Court had recently declared Jai Tirath's win as void. From Yamunanagar, the party has fielded former MLA Dilbag Singh while former legislator Rekha Rana's son, Maninder Singh, has been fielded from Gharaunda.

Bhajan Lal nephew in BJP's second list

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 2

FORMER CHIEF Minister Bhajan Lal's nephew Dura Ram Bishnoi is among the 12 candidates announced by the BJP on Wednesday for the upcoming Haryana Assembly polls.

The party had earlier announced 78 candidates for elections to the 90-member Assembly. Two ministers of the Manohar Lal Khattar cabinet, Rao Narbir Singh and Vipul Goel, could not find a place in either list.

The BJP has not given a ticket to Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh's daughter Aarti from Rewari and has instead fielded his associate Sunil Musepur. Rao's close associate and sitting MLA Umesh Aggarwal has not been fielded from Gurugram.

The party has fielded Sudhir Singla, son of former minister Sita Ram Singla, from this seat.

Sources close to Rao Inderiit Singh said that while his daughter did not get a ticket, "due regard has been given to his views on ticket allocation" after an intervention by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BIP chief Amit Shah.

Sources further said as many

as seven candidates fielded are known to be close to Inderjit Singh. Former MLA Dura Ram Bishnoi, who recently joined the BJP after leaving the Congress, has been fielded from Fatehabad constituency. Bhajan Lal's younger son Kuldeep Bishnoi, who is a Congress leader, is likely to be fielded by the party from Adampur constituency. The BIP has fielded TV actor Sonali Phogat from Adampur.

Gandhi Peeth to be set up in all **MP varsities: CM**

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Wednesday announced that a Gandhi Peeth will be established in all universities and a Gandhi Stambh built in every college of the state to make students aware of Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts, principles and struggles.

Speaking at an event, Mai Hun Gandhi, the Chief Minister said the credit for the country standing under one flag despite diversities of castes, religions, languages and cultures goes to Gandhi's ideology.

At another function, he flagged off a Gandhi Darshan Yatra Rath that will visit all 52 districts of MP and spread awareness about Gandhi's ideas.

Three raths in the yatra will showcase films inspired by Gandhi's ideas, ashrams, bhajans songs and exhibitions.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards for 12 award will go to Raghavan B Sunoj

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

TWELVE SCIENTISTS have been awarded the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award for science and technology for 2019.

The award is given annually in different categories to scientists below 45 years.

This year, the award for Biological Sciences will go to Kayarat Saikrishnan of IISER, Pune, and Soumen Basak of National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi. Chemical Sciences of IIT-Bombay and Tapas Kumar Maji of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru. Subimal Ghosh of IIT-Bombay won the award for Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences. The award for Mathematical Sciences went to Dishant Mayurbhai Pancholi of Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, and Neena Gupta of Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

Recipients of award for Physical Sciences are Aninda Sinha of Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, and Shankar Ghosh of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. Manik Varma of Microsoft Research India, Bengaluru, won the award for Engineering Sciences. Dr Dhiraj Kumar of New Delhi-based **International Centre for Genetic** Engineering and Biotechnology and Dr Mohammad Javed Ali of I V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad on in Medical Sciences category.

Awarded by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, it is named after CSIR founder-director Dr Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar.

S. E. RAILWAY TENDER

e-Tender Notice No. E-Dv-W-PU-

Painting 2, Dt.: 28.09,2019. Dv. CME

(Wagon)/KGP/S. E. Railway invites (open

Tender) through e-Tender from reputed

contractor for and on behalf of The

President of India for the following work.

Name of the Work: Painting & Marking

of BOXNHL/BCNHL wagons as per

RDSO technical bulletin WD-02-BOXNHL/

BCNFIL/paint-2016. Approx. Cost of the

Work: ₹ 1,72,04,400/- including GST (a)

18%. Earnest Money: ₹ 2,36,000/-. Date

& Time of Closing e-Tender: 24:10:2019

at 15.00 hrs. Website particulars &

details: www.ireps.gov.in South Eastern

Railway/Wagon Shop-KGP Mechanical.

Interested Tenderers may visit website

The BIP has fielded Aditya Assembly poll, Chautala had de-Devi Lal from this seat. Aditya is

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED A Joint Venture of Govt. of India and Govt. of Tamil Nadu) Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai - 600107, Tamil Nadu, India. NIT No: CMRL/MEP/DEPOT/03/2019-20

e-Tender No: CMRL/MEP/DEPOT/03/2019-20 **TENDER NOTICE**

CMRL invites online tender through e-procurement bids on National Competitive Bidding for the Tender No- CMRL/MEP/DEPOT/03/ 2019-20 - "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of RO, UV System (250LPH x 2) with ozonator and Providing bottleless water dispensers at G+6 Floors of Administrative Building of Chennai

Tender Documents can be downloaded from E-procurement website. For further details, please visit e-procurement website: http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

Metro Rail Limited including pipeline connectivity".

DIPR/3430/TENDER/2019

Chief Advisor / System & Operations



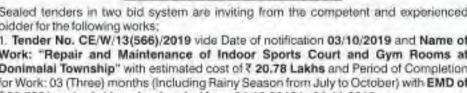
OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender No. CE/W/13(566)/2019 vide Date of notification 03/10/2019 and Name of Work: "Repair and Maintenance of Indoor Sports Court and Gym Rooms at Donimalal Township" with estimated cost of ₹ 20.78 Lakhs and Period of Completion for Work: 03 (Three) months (Including Rainy Season from July to October) with EMD of

Work: "Construction of Compound Wall for Tungabhadra Boys Hostel at VSKU PG Centre Nandihalli" with estimated cost of ₹ 22.77 Lakhs and Period of Completion for work: 06 (Six) Months (Excluding Rainy Season from July to October) with EMD of R

For any clarification bidders may contact DGM (Civil), by mailing to diomcivil@nmdc.co.in or by fax message to 08395-274644.

Date: 03/10/2019



Tender No. CE/W/10(136)/2019 vide Date of notification 03/10/2019 and Name of

DONIMALAI TOWNSHIP-583 118, DIST. BALLARI (KARNATAKA)

20.780/- and sale/download period from 04.10.2019 to 04.11.2019.

22,771/- and sale/download period from 07.10.2019 to 06.11.2019. For accessing the tender document or download from NMDC Limited website https://www.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender/default.aspx.

For and on behalf of NMDC Limited

Uttarakhand Metro Rail, Urban Infrastructure and **Building Construction Corporation Limited (UKMRC)** (A Government of Uttarakhand Undertaking) **Notice Inviting Tender** UKMRC invites Open Tender in sealed cover as per the following: -Method of Selection: Open lenders Two packet system

05/UKMRC/2019/117/Civil/AMC. UKMRC/2019/121/Elect/Tender (i) Name of Work: Supply installation (i) Name of Work: Annual Maintenance testing and commissioning of Access Contract for Facility Management control/Surveillance/Integrated Security/|Services including miscellaneous

EPBAX LAN related works, Along with 02 services at Uttarakhand Metro Office. Years CMC, after completion of 1-year (ii) Approximate Cost of work: ₹ 34.87 DLP (ii) Approximate Cost of work: Lakh (iii) Earnest Money Deposit: ₹14.17 Lakh (iii) Earnest Money ₹69,749/- which will be accompanied with Deposit: ₹ 28,350/- which will be "Technical Bid" (iv) Last Date and time of accompanied with "Technical Bid" (iv) Receipt of tender: 24.10.2019 upto Last Date and time of Receipt of tender: 1400 Hrs. 25.10.2019 upto 1400 Hrs Full tender details can be downloaded from the website of UKMRC i.e.

www.ireps.gov.in for full details/ description/specification of the Tender and submit their bids online NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE (Through e-Tender)

e-tender Notice No- 2019-21- Buffer Plunger Date 01.10.2019 On the behalf of President of India e-Tenders are invited by the CWM.

Carriage Workshop, NWR, Jodhpur. 1. Name of Work with its Location: Repair Work of Buffer Plunger of BG Coaches at Carriage Workshop, NWR, Jodhpur. 2. Approximate Cost of work: Rs. 2816640.54 (Rs. Twenty Eight Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred Forty and Fifty Four Paisa only) 3. Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs. 56400.00/- (Rs. Fifty Six Thousand Four Hundred Only) 4. Last date and time for Submission of e-tender and Opening of e-tender: 01.11.2019 Up to 15:00 Hrs. and 01.11.2019 after 15:00 Hrs. 5. Web site from e-tender forms can be obtained: www.ireps.gov.in 6. Address of the NIT issuing Office. Office of the CWM, Carriage Workshop, NWR, Jodhpur-342001(Rajasthan) Note: 1. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be summarily rejected. 2. Cost of tender document & EMD online through etransfers i.e. through payment gateway facility on the IREPS website. 974-AL/19

Directorate of Food & Civil Suplies & Consumer Protection Department Government of Chhattisgarh Block 2, Third Floor, Indravati Bhawan,

Naya Raipur (C.G.) Phone: 0771-2511974 Fax: 0771-2510820 E-mail: dirfood.cg@nic.in

TENDER NOTICE

No. 7637

Raipur, Dated: 30/09/2019

Directorate of Food & Civil Supplies & Consumer Protection Department invites online proposal for Selection of "System Integrator for Implementation of Aadhar Enabled Public **Distribution System".** The information cum Tender document can be downloaded from website http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in & https://khadya.cg.nic.in

Commissioner / Director Directorate of Food & Civil Suplies & Consumer Protection Department

Contact help line no. 138 for general complain

Extension Notice Due to no response to the e-NIT No. Acctts/PS/NIT/2019-20/757-62 dated: 17/09/2019 for Purchase of Plant Protection Chemicals for the year 2019-20 is hereby extended as per the details given hereunder with same Terms and Conditions:-Last date of Last Date of Submission of Date & Time of Opening of Download of e-tender Hard Copy/Online Submission Tender. 11/10/2019 at **01:00 PM** or 09/10/2019 up to 4:30 10/10/2019 up to 12:30 PM subsequent convenient Yours faithfully.

No. Acctts/PS/NIT/2019-20/ Dated: /09/2019. DIP/J-7041/19

Accounts Officer, Member Secretary, SLPC Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu.

उपायुक्त -शह- जिला दण्डाधिकारी का कार्यालय, शुमला (जिला योजना)

अति अल्पकालीन कोटेशन / पसंद की अभिव्यक्ति (Expression of interest) आमंत्रण सूचना Proposal for improving the health of 5000 anemic women in Gumla District Dated-30/09/2019

1. Carrying out an initiative to help bring out 5000 women from Anemia: -

The Agency can be an experienced organization/NGO/Government Organization. The agency's key responsibility would be to carry out a well-planned and effective initiative which will be a strong step towards an Anemia free Gumla. The initiative will be carried out in Raidih, Gumla, Palkot and Ghaghra blocks of Gumla District. Also, necessary monitoring and timely analysis along with regular reporting will be expected from the concerned agency. The Administration will be closely monitoring the progress of the Agency's activities and will suggest necessary course

correction if needed Results expected and Measurable Outcomes

1.1 At Least 5000 identified anemia affected population should show a positive shift in their anemic condition, both through data and Visual Appearance after the project interventions. 1.2 The initiative should lead to improvement in awareness about Anemia and its ill effects.

1.3 The agency will ensure Hemoglobin test of the identified women at VHNDs every month. This will also act as the main monitoring component to evaluate the agency's efforts. The total expenditure should not exceed 1 Crore including all the cost components

(GST, Taxes, etc) Till 13/10/2019 upto 1:00 PM at District Planning Office. Last date of receipt of EOI Gumla Date, Time, Venue for the power point presentation and

नोट :-Expression of interest /Quotation से संबंधित नियम एवं शर्ते www.gumla.nic.in से प्राप्त की जा सकती

P.R.218618 Gumla(19-20):D जिसे अनतक ना समझे, वो कहानी हैं मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी हैं मैं।

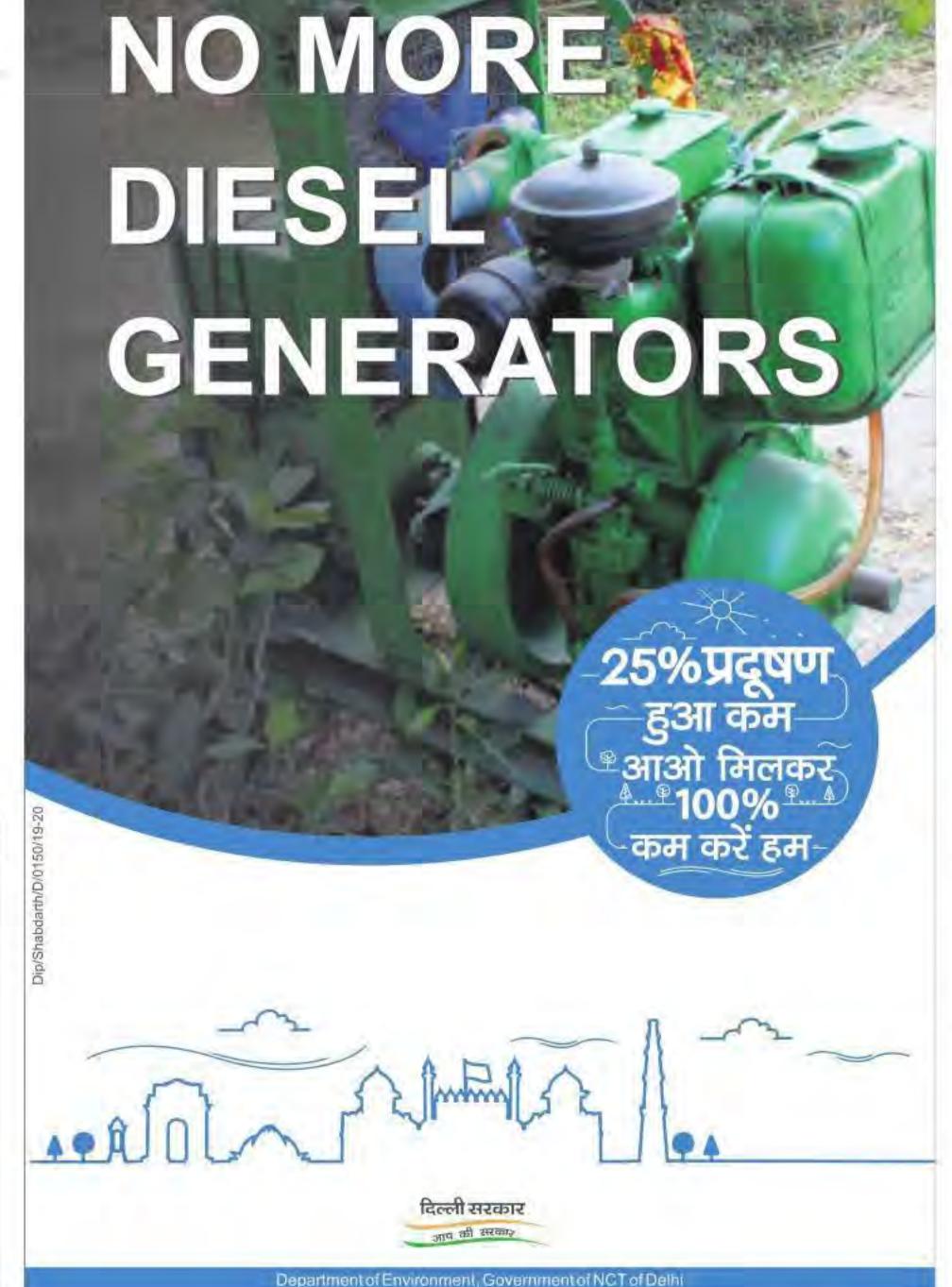
Opening of Expression of interest.

जिला योजना पदाधिकारी. गुमला।

On 14/10/2019 after 11:00 AM at DC Office, Gumla

उपायुक्त, गुमला।

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EXPRESS NETWORK



North

Aligarh businessman's son kidnapped, murdered; 2 held

Lucknow: The 13-year-old son of an Aligarh businessman was kidnapped and murdered by two people, who demanded a ransom of Rs 10 lakh, police said Wednesday. Yug was kidnapped on Tuesday and his father Harish Agarwal received the ransom call at 12.43 pm. "The two youths, Gagan and Sachin, who stay in the same locality,

were caught in the evening after the kidnappers' phone number was put on surveillance revealed their identity. Both confessed that they had kidnapped the boy and killed him around two hours before making the ransom call," SP (City) Abhishek said. Yug's body was found on Wednesday following the kidnappers' interrogation. ENS



A Durga Puja pandal in Kolkata, modelled on the Balakot air strike. Partha Paul

EAST Six elderly forced to consume excreta, teeth pulled out

Berhampur: A mob in Odisha's Ganjam district, suspecting six elderly men of practicing witchcraft, forced them to consume human excreta before pulling their teeth out, police said Wednesday. The incident occurred at Goparpur village on Tuesday night. The mob suspected the six men of being responsible for the death of three women

and sickness of seven others, police said. SP Brijesh Rai said the police have arrested 29 people. "We have the names of other accused persons and they will be nabbed soon," he said. Fearing arrest, almost all the male persons have fled from the village, said inspector in-charge of the Khallikote police station, Satya Narayan Pradhan.

WEST

Court acquits 2 Pak nationals in 2014 boat capsize case

Mumbai: Over a year after a metropolitan magistrate court sentenced three men, including two Pakistani nationals, to two years in prison after their merchant vessel allegedly dashed into a boat, killing five fishermen, the sessions court recently set aside the ruling and acquitted them. Setting aside the conviction and the

two-year prison term awarded to them, the sessions court said the two Pakistan residents, who were restricted from leaving the country since the incident in 2014, will be handed over their passports only after the appeal period for the prosecution to approach a higher court against the acquittal is over.

South

35 kg gold jewellery looted from showroom in TN

Tiruchirappalli: Unidentified masked men decamped with about 35 kg of gold ornaments from the showroom of a popular chain of jewellery here, police said on Wednesday. The heist came to light Wednesday morning when the employees opened the showroom, police said. A CCTV grab showed two masked men inside the

showroom in the wee hours, and police have formed special teams to nab the culprits. A hole was found drilled in a wall, apparently to help the burglars gain entry into the showroom, police said. Senior police officials visited the spot. The Chennai-headquartered store has branches in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Thai court hands over custody of suspected Dawood aide to Pakistan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 2

IN A setback to the Indian government, that had been seeking the extradition of fugitive gangster Mudassar Hussain Sayyed alias Munna Jhingada from Thailand, a Thai court recently handed over

his custody to Pakistan. Both India and Pakistan have been seeking Jhingada's custody — an alleged aide of underworld kingpin Dawood Ibrahim. Both sides have claimed he is their citizen ever since he was detained by Thai authorities in 2000 after a failed assassination attempt on gangster Chhota Rajan.

Jhingada was sentenced to 11 years in jail in connection with the case, after which both coun-

tries started seeking his custody.

According to Indian authorities, Jhingada was a resident of Jogeshwari in Mumbai, is said to be close to Dawood, and has several cases registered against him in the city. To prove the extradition case, the police had sent DNA samples of Jhingada's parents to the Thai authorities but Jhingada refused to supply his own DNA samples for a match.

A senior crime branch official said, "It is true that the court has ruled in favour of Pakistan. To the best of my knowledge, there are no other higher authorities before whom this ruling can be appealed. A lower court had earlier ruled in favour of India, but Jhingada appealed it in the higher court that has now overturned the ruling."

India, US will find way to fix their trade issues: Jaishankar

LALITKJHA WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 2

INDIA AND the US have experienced dramatic changes in their relationship over the last two decades, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, exuding confidence that the two countries will find a way to "fix" their bilateral trade disputes.

laishankar said the world was increasingly becoming multipolar and is unlikely to return to bipolarity, predicting that a strategic appreciation of the emerging global landscape would bring India and the US

"I can't believe that people today are less ingenious than we were in our time. So I'm reasonably confident that we will find a fix," Jaishankar, currently on a three-day official trip to Washington, said.

One of the challenges is really how do one define the issue for which they are trying to find a fix, he said. "My understanding of the conversations is that he (Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal) has had with his counterpart and (that) his officials, have had - team to team - progress on what are considered rate," he said.

in New Delhi on Wednesday. Renuka Puri

SAMPAD PATNAIK

BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 2

THE ODISHA government on

Wednesday launched a scheme

called 'Mo Sarkar', as part of which

the government will collect feed-

back on telephone on quality of

service delivered at government

hospitals and police stations

launched Mo Sarkar with visits to

Bhubaneswar's Capital Hospital

and Saheed Nagar Police Station. "I

spoke with nine men and women

regarding corruption and harass-

ment at police stations. The feed-

poor feedback will impact promo-

tion of policemen, and doctors

and hospital staff will be asked to

issue explanations on any griev-

as an effort by the Patnaik govern-

ment to woo the urban electorate

ahead of the urban local body

elections, scheduled next year.

The programme is being seen

ances filed against them.

As part of the programme,

back was satisfactory," he said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

across the state.



S Jaishankar

that there's been a very intense engagement. I am hopeful that something would come out of it," Jaishankar said at an event here on Tuesday.

The External Affairs Minister said that ahead of the New York meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump, there were multiple rounds of very positive conversations on the trade issue.

"I think they needed more time. Many of their issues were more complex," he said.

"It isn't simple arithmetic. A lot of variables are out there. So we will have to work our way through that," he said, adding that trade officials from the two countries would naturally want

Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar with Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and

Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel at the inauguration of an interactive digital exhibition

Odisha's dial-a-feedback scheme

seen as bid to woo urban voters

to be the outstanding issues. "But I think there's also some

desire to look beyond. So when people speak about what's gonna be the a trade deal, we'll have to see about that goes," he said. "So it's going to be sort of you trade the size of it and the complexity of it for the time and the energy for it. I think that part of it is still a little open, but again, my understanding is that they would be talking with each other continually over the coming days." Referring to the 'Howdy,

Modi!' event in Houston last month, Jaishankar said "we couldn't have conceived" of such an event 10 years ago.

The 'Howdy, Modi!' event in a sense reflects a phenomenon which is going to be the future of the world, which is a flow of talent from one geography to the other, he said.

"You've really seen in the last 20 years a dramatic change in this relationship. And dramatic change between big countries is not that common," he said.

"When I say dramatic change, there isn't a sector today you wouldn't say that there has been a very, very high growth

EAM: India should not advance prescriptions on

Afghanistan

Washington: India shares a historical relationship with Afghanistan, but should not advance prescriptions at the moment on the efforts to bring peace in the war-torn country, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

Jaishankar expressed hope that achievements of the last 18 vears are safeguarded in whatever direction the developments go in Afghanistan.

"India has a relationship with that country, with that society, which is historical. It was there. It'll keep continuing. It will be in the future as well. But at this time, it doesn't make sense for me that India should advance prescriptions. India can have an approach," Jaishankar said Tuesday at Atlantic Council, an American think-tank.

"When we say, Afghan owned, Afghan controlled and Afghanled, that for us is a serious statement. It's not a cliche," he said in response to a question from a former Afghan diplomat.

MARADU FLATS FACE DEMOLITION

Panchayat flip-flops major cause of crisis

SHAJU PHILIP KOCHI, OCTOBER 2

AS 343 residential flats in four apartment complexes at Maradu face demolition for violation of Coastal Zone Regulation (CRZ) norms, documents show that flip-flops by the local self-govenment body played a major role in precipitating the crisis.

In 2005-06, Maradu panchavat issued building permits without taking KCZMA's consent. When the lapse was exposed during a departmentlevel inspection in 2007, then panchayat secretary M Asharaf issued stop memo to builders, citing violations. Asharaf was then removed from the post.

Later, when the builders challenged the stop memo in Kerala High Court, P J Antony, who replaced Asharaf, filed an affidavit, saying the buildings were in a CRZ II area and hence building permits did not infringe upon the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP).

One of the builders said they went ahead with the construction on the basis of the affidavit. "The Maradu panchayat secretary who issued the building permits faced action for failure to get KCZMA's consent. Then uation," he said.

why did another secretary tell the court that the areas fell under CRZ II?" asked the builder.

Last year, the Supreme Court formed a committee to ascertain whether the area was CRZ II or III. The committee, which had two officials from local self-government department, adopted the stand that Maradu was a CRZ III area as per the CZMP approved in 1996. This was contrary to the stand of the department in high court in 2007.

An official at the local selfgovernment department said the matter of CRZ violations had not been addressed by the high court. "Most of the files related to the issue are now missing," he said.

The documents show that Golden Kayaloram, one of the four apartments facing demolition, had not faced allegations of violations of CRZ norms in 2007 when the panchayat issued a stop memo.

A representative of K P Varkey and V S Builders, who built the Golden Kayaloram, said, "There was no issue of CRZ when we completed the project in 2007-08. We figured as a respondent in the issue only in the Supreme Court. We have moved a curative petition citing our sit-

In HC, CBI seeks more time to finish probe against Asthana

PRITAM PALSINGH NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

THE CBI has moved the Delhi High Court and sought further time to complete the investigation in an alleged bribery and extortion case involving the agency's former special director Rakesh Asthana.

Tuesday, a day after four-month time given to the agency to wrap up the probe expired on September 30. It is likely to come up for hearing before Justice Vibhu Bakhru on October 9.

The CBI, through Special Public Prosecutor Anupam S Sharma, stated in the application that a "status report containing developments made in the investigation is being submitted in a sealed cover" for the court's consideration. The agency claimed that some issues relating to investigation abroad are pending, which need to be probed in order to bring the facts on record.

"Hence it is most humbly port," the application reads.

On May 31, the High Court had granted CBI four months' time to complete the investigation, which also involves DSP Devender Kumar, alleged middle-

Asthana, Kumar and Prasad had moved court seeking quashing of the FIR against them. In January this year, the High Court dismissed their plea and ordered that investigation into the FIR In Assembly polls, while BJD against all four should be combagged 112 of 146 seats and won pleted within 10 weeks.

15, 2018 after Hyderabad-based businessman Sathish Babu Sana alleged to have paid bribe to get relief in a case related to meat exporter Moin Qureshi. He had also made allegations of corruption and extortion against Asthana.

The application was filed on

prayed that this court may allow the prayer made in the status re-

man Manoj Prasad and others.

The FIR was filed on October

DOORDARSHAN CHENNAI KENDRA

PM speech not aired live, DD official suspended mention the reason for

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, OCTOBER 2

R VASUMATHI, the assistant director (programme) of the Chennai Doordarshan Kendra, has been suspended, reportedly after Doordarshan's Tamil language channel failed to broadcast live a speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Chennai on Monday.

While Doordarshan News, Delhi and several other channels telecast Modi speeches live, DD Podhigai, handled by Vasumathi, skipped the broadcast of the PM's first speech at IIT-Madras.

"We carried his speech addressing a small gathering at the airport on his arrival (in Chennai) and his speech at the IIT-Madras Convocation ceremony but missed his speech at the India-Singapore Hackathon 2019 event," said a DD official. An order dated October 1,

signed by the Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati, did not

Vasumathi's suspension but cited sub-rule (1) of Rule 10 of the Central Civil Services Rules (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965.

A senior official said, "She had a standing instruction to telecast both speeches live. But she chose to skip one event (PM Modi's first speech at the IIT-Madras research park)...The decision to suspend her came to Prasar Bharati from

the top level.' However, another official said Vasumathi just made a mistake. "She seems to have had a belief that there is a model code of conduct in place ahead of state bypolls (for the Vikravandi and Nanguneri Assembly constituencies, scheduled for October 21),'

the official said. When contacted, the Prasar Bharati CEO said, "It is an internal administration matter and I will not be offering any com-

ment on the same.' Vasumathi was not available

for comment.

UK woman charged with human trafficking kills self

SRINATH RAO MUMBAI. OCTOBER 2

A BRITISH national, who was arrested in 2017 on charges of human trafficking, allegedly committed suicide in Goa last week. Julie Warner was depressed

that the trial in her case was at a standstill and that she was unable to return to the UK, police said. She was found hanging from a tree in Calangute, Goa on Saturday. Inspector Santosh Dessai of the Saligao police station said that after the police circulated pictures of the deceased around the town, the owner of a lodge identified her.

Dessai added, "We have spo-

ken to a friend of the deceased who told us that she was depressed."

The Goa Police has informed the British Nationals Assistance Office in Panaji and kept Warner's remains in a morgue.

Warner was caught at the Mumbai airport in March 2017 along with three other Britishers while allegedly helping four Sri Lankan nationals to fly illegally to the UK using their identities. Earlier this year, the British nationals were released on bail by the HC.

While she was lodged in the Byculla jail in Mumbai, Warner was present when fellow inmate Manjula Shetye was allegedly beaten to death by jailers in 2017.

Meghalaya starts turning single-use plastic to road-building material

ESHAROY

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

EVEN BEFORE Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the nation to shun single-use plastics in his Independence Day speech, the state of Meghalaya, its streams and rivers choked with singleuse plastics (SUP), knew firsthand the havoc it caused.

Chief Minister Conrad Sangma issued directives to look for solutions and in 2018, the state had a solution — it built its first plastic road in Nongstoin in West Khasi Hills. Now, Meghalaya's counter against SUPs has taken off with the impetus it got after Modi's message, and the Swachh Bharat Mission. After the 2018 success, two

more roads were built in Nongstoin in quick succession (each of the three plastic roads are 1 km each), followed up by 5 km of plastic roads in Sangma's home constituency of Tura in 2019, and 10 more kilometres are currently under construction. And the roads are funded through the Chief Minister's Rural and Urban Development Funds. The best part about these proj-

ects, according to Sangma, is not just the effective reuse, and the elimination of plastic from Meghalaya's landscape. He says that the communities that live in villages and towns near the new roads collected and supplied the plastic required to construct them.

The state is now looking at using SUPs to build roads across the state, with one signature



'People-centric'

governance to

reach out

MO SARKAR, the Naveen Patnaik government's project under the CM's 5T vision — Transparency, Teamwork,

Technology, Time and Transformation — is aimed at

chosen randomly, on a daily basis.

The tenure of more than 60

civic bodies in Odisha expired in

September last year, and they are

operating with administrators ap-

pointed by the government.

While the BJD had won more than

40 of those in the 2013 elections,

many in the Opposition, as well as

some in the party, feel that figure

can drop this time, given the sharp

rise in BJP's vote-share in this sum-

mer's Assembly polls and Prime

bringing a shift in government services by proactively

seeking feedback from people. As part of the programme,

those visiting a hospital or a police station will be asked to

leave their phone numbers, which will be uploaded online.

Patnaik can directly take feedback on any of these numbers,

seats.

Odisha.

Chief Minister Conrad Sangma

Minister Narendra Modi's popu-

44.7 per cent votes, BJP's share

jumped from 18 per cent to 32.5

per cent; the party bagged 23

being seen by many to tilt the bal-

ance in BJD's favour in urban

The Mo Sarkar scheme is thus

larity in urban pockets.

road slotted for capital Shillong "to create awareness".

"We could have just built plastic roads but it would never have had the kind of impact it does now if we had not involved the community. Creating awareness about single-use plastic was equally important," Sangma told The Indian Express.

With the movement picking up across Meghalaya, the government has already collected 70 metric tonnes of SUPs, says Sangma. For instance, over the past

two months, just in Pynursla block, five tonnes of plastic waste was collected. Also, 50,000 cloth bags manufactured by cement companies in the state have been distributed as alternatives to plastic bags.

"Cement companies are some of the highest producers of plastic waste because of the bags they store cement in. The manufacture of cloth bags was a part of their Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Of course, the entire plastic collected so far will not be used iust for plastic roads but for other purposes, and a lot will be sent for recycling," said Sangma.

"The plastic roads we have constructed have been cheaper than bitumen roads and have also been water-resistant. In a high rainfall state like Meghalaya, this has been effective," he said. The man who spearheaded

the North East's first plastic road, Arun Kumar Kembhavi, said plastic roads were an "effective way to eliminate single-use plastic". He was DC West Khasi Hills when he took on the Nongstoin project. Sangma has since made him Mission Director for Swachh Bharat in Meghalaya.

While the technology for plastic roads has existed for decades, and roads have been built across the country on an experimental basis, it has not received the kind of impetus witnessed in Meghalaya, say officials.

"When I spoke with Solid Liquid Resource Volunteers, who are in charge of collecting waste in the state, they told me that while they could sell SUPs like

was no resale value of articles like chips packets and confectionery packets because of the aluminium lining. Recycling them was difficult," said Kembhavi.

pet bottles to scrap dealers, there

"So after research, we decided to use them to build plastic roads. We sent one of our engineers to train under a professor at Tyagaraj College of Engineering in Madurai, who is an expert on plastic roads. He came back and the process started...."

He said that according to known research, plastic heated at this particular temperature has no toxic emissions. "It's been two years since the Nongstoin road and the roads are still in good condition. Despite heavy rains, we have not had to repair them even once," he said.

10 THE WORLD



MEANWHILE

MEGHAN MARKLE SUES UK NEWSPAPER

Meghan Markle, the wife of Britain's Prince Harry, has started legal proceedings against the Mail on Sunday newspaper over the publication of a private letter that her lawyers said was "unlawful". In an emotional statement, Harry said the couple had taken legal action in response to what he called "bullying" by some sections of the British press.



Bernie Sanders undergoes

heart procedure Washington: US presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders was hospitalised on Tuesday with chest pains and a blockage in one artery and will suspend his campaign for the White House until further notice, an adviser said. Sanders, 78, was in Las Vegas, Nevada, for 2020 presidential campaign events when he experienced discomfort and was taken to a hospital for evaluation. "Following medical evaluation and testing, he was found to have a blockage in one artery and two stents were successfully inserted," Sanders senior adviser Jeff Weaver said in a statement. "Sen. Sanders

WEST ASIA

Weaver said.

Palestine issues stamp to honour **Gandhi legacy**

is conversing and in good

spirits. He will be resting

up over the next few days,"

Ramallah: Palestine has released a commemorative postage stamp on Mahatma Gandhi, honouring his "legacy and values", to mark his 150 birth anniversary. Palestinian Authority's (PA) Minister of Telecommunication Information Technology Ishaaq Seder released the stamp on Tuesday in the presence of Representative of India in PA, Sunil Kumar, at a ceremony held at the ministry here. Seder said, "Palestine's issuance of the commemorative

stamp comes in honour of Gandhi's memory, legacy, and values that guided and shall continue to guide humanity."

BRAZIL Amazon fires fall

sharply in Sept

Rio De Janeiro: The number of fires has declined sharply in Brazil's Amazon region an alarming rise in July and August, but state environmental workers say the fight continues as officials still promote economic development in protected natural areas. Fires in the Amazon went down 35.5 per cent in September compared to August, with 19,925 fires, according to data published Tuesday by the National Institute for

Space Research.

Iran's Rouhani says French plan for talks with US is broadly acceptable

Plan requires Iran to stop pursuing nuclear weapons, help secure region, while US lifts all sanctions

REUTERS GENEVA OCTOBER 2

A PLAN for talks presented to the United States and Iran by French President Emmanuel Macron is broadly acceptable to the Islamic Republic, President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday during a Cabinet meeting that was broadcast live on state TV.

He said some wording needed to be changed in the plan, which would require Iran not to pursue nuclear weapons and to help the security of the region and its waterways, while Washington would have to remove all sanctions. It would also allow Iran to immediately resume oil sales.

But Rouhani also told the cabinet that mixed messages about sanctions received from the United States while he was attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York last week had undermined the possibility of talks.

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

House Democrats

say will subpoena

White House if it



French President Emmanuel Macron held talks with his Iranian counterpart, Hassan Rouhani, last month on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session. Reuters

He said it was unacceptable for US President Donald Trump to say publicly that he would intensify sanctions while European powers told Iran in private that he was willing to negotiate.

"The American president on two occasions ... said explicitly that we want to intensify sanctions. I told these European

friends, so which part should we accept? Should we accept your word that you say America is ready?" Rouhani said.

"Or the words of the president of America who in 24 hours said explicitly twice... that I want to intensify sanctions? [The Europeans | didn't have a clear answer."

PUTIN: NO PROOF IRAN BEHIND SAUDI ATTACK

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that there was no evidence that Iran was responsible for an attack on Saudi oil infrastructure last month and that the United States had not presented any proof of Iran's role.

"We condemn these (attacks) but we are against shifting the blame to Iran because there is no proof of that," Putin said, adding that Iranian

European powers were continuing efforts to arrange talks, Rouhani said. Germany, Britain and France were among signatories to Iran's 2015 nuclear pact with world powers, which Trump quit last year.

Iran's foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Macron's four-point plan for talks

nothing to do with the attacks. Last month's attack briefly reduced Saudi Arabia's oil output by half, causing a spike in oil prices, but Riyadh has been able to quickly restore production, calming the market.

President Hassan Rouhani had

personally told him Tehran had

Russia has close ties with both Iran and Saudi Arabia, and Putin credited Moscow-Riyadh cooperation with stabilising global energy prices. **REUTERS**

was "presented in his words and

"It's necessary that these

does not contain our viewpoints" but that work would continue.

negotiations continue until the issues are presented in a clear way. We will continue these contacts," Zarif was quoted as saying by the official IRIB news agency.

"We are coming out of the EU on October 31, come what may," Johnson told party members, after expressing "love" for Europe in a speech which focused mostly on domestic issues such as health, the economy and crime. "We are tabling what I believe

are constructive and reasonable proposals which provide a compromise for both sides," Johnson said. "Let us be in no doubt that the alternative is no deal." Quitting the EU is Britain's most significant geopolitical move

it will leave with a deal or without one — or even not leave at all. Johnson said he wanted to

for a no-deal — a scenario that

since World War Two. But with

less than a month to the scheduled

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson leaves the stage after

delivering his keynote speech to the Conservative Party annual conference in Manchester. Reuters

UK PM pitches final Brexit offer to EU, but warns of no deal

ELIZABETH PIPER, WILLIAM JAMES & KYLIE MACLELLAN MANCHESTER, OCTOBER 2

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday made a final Brexit offer to the European Union but said that if Brussels did not engage then Britain would leave on Oct. 31 without a deal.

In his closing speech to his Conservatives' annual conference, Johnson stuck to his hard line on Brexit, giving the party faithful some of the first, albeit vague, details of what he described as his "fair and reasonable compromise" to the EU.

departure date it is still uncertain if get a deal but that he was ready

No-deal Brexit still looms large

BORIS JOHNSON'S 'final' bid to get a deal from the EU has hit roadblocks on the very day it was unveiled. With the government not having a majority in Parliament, it needs Opposition MPs to back a new deal if it emerges from Johnson's new proposals. But Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has already rejected the proposals and called them worse than the previously rejected plan put forth by Theresa May. Johnson's new plan takes the whole of the UK, including Northern Ireland, out of the EU customs union and envisages physical checks on goods passing from Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland, which is an EU member. The EU has maintained that such an arrangement could endanger the Irish peace agreement, and is likely to reject it.

would spook financial markets and send shockwaves through the global economy. **REUTERS**

US special envoy in Pak for revival of Afghan peace talks with Taliban

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 2

US SPECIAL envoy to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad has arrived in Pakistan to discuss revival of the peace talks with the Pakistani leaders and a possible meeting with a Taliban delegation headed by the group's co-founder and chief peace negotiator Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.

The visit comes days after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to the US where he met President Donald Trump and among other issues discussed the revival of negotiations to bring peace in Afghanistan.

Khalilzad also met Prime Minister Khan in New York, where he was to attend the UN General Assembly session, and exchanged views about renegotiating with the Taliban.

The US and the Taliban had agreed on draft peace plan, but



special envoy to Afghanistan

the process was suspend by Trump following the killing of an American soldier in Kabul last month in a suicide attack claimed by the Taliban.

Trump stunned the world when he suddenly declared that the Afghan peace talks with the Taliban were "dead".

He cancelled a secret meeting

with the Taliban and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani at Camp David after the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in Kabul. **PTI**

doesn't provide info **NICHOLAS FANDOS** listened in on WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 2

HOUSE DEMOCRATS said

Wednesday they planned to subpoena the White House by Friday if it did not comply with broad requests for documents related to President Donald Trump's efforts to pressure Ukraine into investigating Joe Biden and his son, and any attempt by the administration to conceal his actions.

Representative Elijah Cummings of Maryland, chairman of the Oversight and Reform Committee, notified his committee of the impending subpoena on Wednesday. He said the White House had thus far ignored Congress' voluntary requests.

"I do not take this step lightly," Cummings wrote. "Over the past several weeks, the committees tried several times to obtain voluntary compliance with our requests for documents, but the White House has refused to engage with — or even respond to — the committees."

The subpoena threat came as House Democratic leaders were preparing to lay out the next steps in their rapidly unfolding impeachment inquiry, and as lawmakers expected to hear a mysterious bit of new information abruptly offered up by the State Department's independent watchdog.

Steven Linick, the State Department's inspector general, is set to brief lawmakers about urgent material he said was relevant to the investigation. What exactly Linick intended to share with Congress remained a matter of intense speculation. **NYT**

Pompeo says he Trump's call to Ukraine leader

ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 2

SECRETARY OF State Mike acknowledged Pompeo Wednesday he was on the July phone call between President Donald Trump and Ukraine's president that's at the centre of the impeachment inquiry. But Pompeo continued to push back against what he said was Democrats' "bul-

lying and intimidation." Pompeo has tried to delay five current and former officials from providing documents and testimony in the inquiry that could lead to charges against Trump. But Democrats were able to set closed-door depositions for Thursday for former special envoy to Ukraine Kurt Volker and next week for ousted US

Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch. Pompeo acknowledged at a news conference in Rome on Wednesday that "I was on the phone call" on July 25 between Trump and the Ukraine president, saying that as America's chief diplomat he was well-versed in US policy toward Ukraine.

But he continued to sound a defiant note on the House impeachment probe, asserting the State Department would "do our Constitutional duty to cooperate" with Congress but wouldn't tolerate "bullying and intimidation."



in solidarity with the 18-year-old on Wednesday. Reuters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA HONG KONG, OCTOBER 2

FLASH-MOB RALLIES broke out in Hong Kong Wednesday as anger mounted over police shooting a teenage protester who attacked officers in a dramatic escalation of the violent unrest that has engulfed the territory for months.

Large crowds of demonstrators held unsanctioned marches through the commercial centre and then in multiple districts throughout the evening, when police fired brief volleys of tear gas in one neighbourhood, chanting anti-police and antigovernment slogans.

Hundreds of students also staged a sit-in at the school of Tsang Chi-kin, 18, who was shot in the chest by a policeman as he and a group of masked protesters assaulted officers with umbrellas and poles.

Police fired brief volleys of



Schoolmates of a student protester who was shot by police in Hong Kong on Tuesday gather

New protests erupt in Hong Kong

The teen who was shot is in **stable condition.** Reuters

teargas at crowds.

hub has been left reeling from the shooting, the first time a demonstrator has been struck with a live round in nearly four months of increasingly violent pro-democracy protests.

The spiralling violence underscored seething public anger

police launched a spirited defence of their colleague saying he feared for his life and the safety

against Beijing's rule and shifted

responded for the most part with tear gas, rubber bullets, and water cannon. As criticism rose,

The international finance commissioner Tang Ping-keung told reporters on Wednesday.

Tuesday witnessed the worst clashes of the summer as China celebrate 70 years of Communist Party rule with a massive military parade in Beijing.

of his colleagues. "He only had one option, that is to fire the gun to immediately resolve the danger," deputy

the spotlight from China's carefully

hours across multiple locations

as hardcore protesters hurled

rocks and petrol bombs. Police

Running battles raged for

choreographed birthday party.

The Junior Police Officer's Association also called on authorities to use emergency regulations and impose a curfew as it launched a stinging attack on the city's pro-Beijing leaders.

"The Police force has been fighting alone," JPOA chairman Lam Chi-wai said, lamenting the lack of a political solution to the chaos.

LAWSUIT ONE OF THE BIGGEST LEGAL CHALLENGES TO AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN US IN RECENT YEARS

US judge rules in favour of Harvard on Asian-Americans and race

ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS OCTOBER 2

A FEDERAL judge on Tuesday rejected claims that Harvard had intentionally discriminated against Asian-American applicants, in a closely watched case that presented one of the biggest legal challenges to affirmative

action in years. The lawsuit against the university came from a group hoping to overturn a long-standing Supreme Court precedent that allows race to be considered as one factor among many in admissions, but prohibits universities from using racial quotas. The group argued that

Harvard had favoured black and Hispanic applicants at the expense of another minority group — a strategic reversal of past affirmative action lawsuits in which the plaintiff complained

treated unfairly. The judge, Allison D Burroughs, rejected the plaintiff's argument, and said that the university met the strict constitutional standard for considering race in its admissions process.

that white students had been

In her decision, Burroughs defended the benefits of diversity, saying it was not yet time to look beyond race in college admissions. "Diversity," she wrote, "will foster the tolerance, acceptance and understanding that

will ultimately make race conscious admissions obsolete."

The case drew widespread scrutiny, including from dozens of other top-ranked colleges that expressed their support in court filings, and from the Justice Department, which backed the plaintiff and is pursuing its own investigation. The decision will be appealed and is widely expected to reach the Supreme Court.

The plaintiff, Students for Fair Admissions, represents a group of Asian-American students rejected by Harvard. Led by Edward Blum, a conservative activist who waged previous battles against affirmative action, the students accused the college of violating federal civil rights law by holding Asian-



The case against Harvard drew widespread scrutiny, including from other top-ranked colleges in the US. NYT

Americans, who as a group get better test scores and grades than other races, to a higher standard. Harvard did this, they said, in part by downgrading applications

from Asian-Americans based on a subjective rating system that was vulnerable to stereotyping. Students for Fair Admissions made four interrelated claims: criminated against Asian-Americans; that it used race as a predominant factor in admissions decisions; that it racially balanced its classes; and that it had considered applicants' race without first exhausting raceneutral alternatives to create diversity. Burroughs cleared the university of all four claims. Still, she said that Harvard's

that Harvard intentionally dis-

admissions process was "not perfect".

The judge suggested that Harvard could do more to guard against the unconscious biases of admissions officers, echoing an argument that the plaintiff made at trial. She noted more explicit guidelines on using race that were developed for the officers during the litigation, and said the officers could also be made aware of significant statistical disparities related to race. These criticisms are likely to

drive a review of admissions at

schools across the country. to make sure they are not vulnerable to the same suggestions. Despite the imperfections, she said, the court would not tear down "a very fine admissions

program that passes constitu-

tional muster, solely because it could do better". In an email, Larry Bacow, Harvard's president, credited Harvard students who testified during the trial with vividly making the case for diversity power of American higher education stems from a devotion to learning from our differences,' he said. "Affirming that promise will make our colleges, and our society, stronger still." Other universities breathed sighs of relief when the decision

through their own stories. "The

came out. "We are gratified that this decision unambiguously respects more than four decades of US Supreme Court precedent, Ted Mitchell, president of the American Council on Education, a trade group, said in a statement on Tuesday. But they also recognised that the federal court ruling, while important, is just a step along the way and is far from the final say in the case. **NYT**



WHAT BROUGHT DOWN POLLUTION?

- 24x7 electricity supply brought generator usage to near zero
- Heavy fines on construction sites in violation of dust control norms
- Implementation of Hon'ble Supreme Court's 'Graded Response Action Plan'
- Closure of Rajghat and Badarpur Thermal Power Plants
- Eastern-Western Peripheral Expressways reduced vehicular traffic
- Increase in Green Cover in Delhi

Year	PM 2.5 Levels
2012-14	154
2016-18	115

*Source: Central Pollution Control Board, Government of India





THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

CASTE IS ANOTHER NAME FOR CONTROL.

— B R Ambedkar

The Indian EXPRESS

∽ FOUNDED BY ∽ RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

MAKING AMENDS

SC's recall of 2018 order on SC/ST Act reflects institutional learning, resilience. And affirms new Dalit assertion

HE SUPREME COURT has done well to recall its 2018 order that diluted provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The three-judge bench observed that the March 20, 2018 judgment was "against the spirit of the Constitution". A two-judge bench had, then, forbidden the arrest of public servants and private persons without prior permission in cases filed under the SC/ST Act and insisted on a preliminary inquiry before registering an FIR in such cases. The Court also found that the guidelines for the execution of the Act given in the 2018 order were beyond its remit and an encroachment on the legislature's domain. Indeed, the 2018 order had read the Act apparently without taking into consideration the social context and imperatives that led to its enactment in the first place.

The 2018 order triggered unrest among Dalits and gave fresh impetus to the mobilisations that had started in the wake of a series of high-profile crimes against the community. The political churn following the rise of the BJP in the 2014 general election unleashed a new social dynamic. Even as the BJP's top leadership began a high-visibility outreach to Dalits, the latter came under attack from communities whose political-ideological prejudices found validation from elements of the Hindutva agenda such as cow protection. The public flogging of five Dalits by cow vigilantes in Una, Gujarat, became a symbol of the new political hooliganism. In western UP, attempts were made to crush Dalit assertion. Earlier, the suicide of Rohith Vemula, a research scholar in Hyderabad Central University, had bought to the fore the issue of caste discrimination on campus. While these incidents fitted the pattern of the anti-Dalit violence Indian society has been experiencing for centuries, they also created a new narrative of Dalit resistance and agency that led to the emergence of a new generation of leaders such as Jignesh Mevani and political outfits including the Bhim Army. The 2018 order came in the backdrop of this political ferment and stoked unrest in large sections of the SC/ST communities. A Bharat bandh called by Dalit groups was met with violence and at least nine persons were killed in police firing.

It is creditable that the Supreme Court has revisited its order and recalled it. The apex court's willingness to course-correct in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution points to institutional resilience, especially at a time when questions are being asked on the independence of institutions when a domineering political executive is armed with a large mandate.

WRIT IN WATER

Late monsoon floods are a warning of changing contours of climate that town planners and civic authorities must heed

NDIA'S MONSOON SEASON officially ended on Monday. But a telling image of the vagaries of climate was captured by a photograph taken that day. The visual showed Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi and his family, bag and baggage, after they were rescued from their flooded home in Patna by disaster relief personnel. Bihar is amongst the worst hit by the late monsoon rains that have inundated several parts of the country. Nearly 30 people have lost their lives in the state. In neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, floods have claimed more than 100 people. The death toll in Maharashtra is more than 20. A common feature of the flood stories in all three states is that of civic authorities caught unawares.

Normally, the monsoon begins to retreat in the first week of September. But this year, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) reckons that the monsoons will not withdraw from the northwest of the country before October 7. As a result, the rainy season is likely to linger till October 15. This, according to the IMD, is the most extended monsoon season in more than 50 years — in 1961, the monsoons withdrew on October 1. The recent floods are not the only ones to have hit the country in the current monsoon season. In fact, the season began with Bihar being deluged by a flash flood. Maharashtra, too, had an earlier spell of floods this year. Karnataka, Gujarat, Assam and Kerala have also suffered the ravages of incessant rainfall. Such extreme precipitation events interspersed by dry spells, several studies reckon, could become the new normal for the country.

Dealing with the changing contours of the monsoons would, however, require coordination between weather authorities and state governments. For instance, authorities in Bihar were not prepared in spite of the red alert issued by the met department. Moreover, the drainage systems of most Indian cities are ill-equipped to withstand this change in precipitation patterns. Patna, for example, had more than 1,000 water bodies, which would absorb excess rainfall, 30 years ago. Their number has gone down to less than 500. Pune's canals and streams are similarly encroached upon. Disregard for hydrology has, in fact, been the Achilles heel of planning in most Indian cities. Reviving drainage systems might take time. But civic authorities could make a beginning by unclogging stormwater drains, which often become garbage dumps in several Indian cities. Urban planners should read the warning in the floods this year.

FLIX AND ORKA

The Star Wars universe has its first openly queer couple. It's about time

S WITH ALBUS Dumbledore and the Potterverse, many fans of *Star Wars* Resistance, an animated children's programme set "a long long time ago in a galaxy far far away", suspected that Orka and Flix were in a gay relationship. The creators of the show confirmed the rumours earlier this week, adding the pair to a small but much-publicised list of queer characters in mainstream entertainment for children and young adults.

The characters, and the acknowledgment of their sexuality, are welcome and long overdue. After all, the Star Wars saga has contained from its very inception in the 1970s, talking bear-like creatures, lascivious blob-villains, creatures of every size and shape really. Yet, like so many other fantasy series, its depictions and appeal managed to be restrictive — its protagonists were straight men, on the standard "hero's journey", finding themselves and, in the process, defeating evil. Princess Leia was strong, but also a motivation for Luke Skywalker and Han Solo. A change in that heterosexual male-centric outlook began with the series reboot in 2015, with the lead character now a woman. With Flix and Orka, the ambit of diversity in the vastly popular franchise has expanded, and that can only help normalise something which should never have been not-normal to begin with.

In fact, it is perhaps time to reveal more about the private lives of the Jedi, their friends and enemies. In the celibate order of warrior monks, the main conflict in the original Star Wars trilogy appeared from Anakin Skywalker having to repress his sexuality and hide his love. Such was the damage of being made to feel abnormal for his desire that he turned into one of the most dreaded villains of all time — Darth Vader. There is a lesson there for the writers of sci-fi as well as society at large. In the long run, it's always better to be open and accepting.

The rising storm

Citizenship Amendment Bill, a nation-wide NRC, will result in untold fear and dislocation of Muslim citizens



HARSH MANDER

THERE WAS, FOR a while now, the ominous rumbling of distant thunder. Today, this is fast gathering into a menacing storm, one which can ultimately destroy India as we know it. Many had hoped that the idea of amending citizenship laws in ways which exclude from citizenship people of just one religious identity would be abandoned in the face of vehement opposition in the states of India's Northeast. They also expected that talk during the communally-surcharged summer election campaign of 2019, of extending the National Register of Citizenship (NRC) to states outside Assam, was just electoral provocation, which would be stilled after the polarised election accomplished its objectives.

But it is now apparent that the Union government, the ruling party and their ideological lodestar, the RSS, are determined to introduce both the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) and national NRC, in pursuit of their political agenda. Home Minister Amit Shah declares in Parliament his commitment to deport every "infiltrator" from every square inch of Indian soil, asks states to build detention centres for foreigners, and affirms his resolve to pass the CAB in ways that protect the interests of states of the Northeast. Several BJP chief ministers and leaders call for the extension of the NRC to their states. And Mohan Bhagwat, RSS chief, assures Hindus that they will not be harmed in any way by the NRC.

The result is widespread panic and dread in Muslim settlements across India, including in Bengal, Bihar, UP and the metropolises. People are desperately asking what documents will be required to prove they are Indian citizens, what the cut-off year will be

- 1971, 1947, 1951, 1987 - and what will be the consequences for those who cannot muster these documents. No one in the ruling establishment is supplying answers, and the trepidation and confusion only mounts each day. Even in our homeless shelters in Delhi, Muslim homeless people are asking us – "What will become of us? We have no documents." Meanwhile, Indians of all other religious persuasions are unperturbed.

For the first 40 years of freedom, until 1987, anyone born in India was deemed an Indian citizen. In 1987, the law was amended to require, in addition, that at least one par-

The Citizenship Amendment Bill, and indeed the Union government notifications, fly in the face

of many fundamental rights under the Indian Constitution. One of these is the right to equality. After all, if religious persecution of illegal migrants in India's neighbourhood is deemed to qualify migrants for accelerated citizenship, then why not extend this to Rohingyas from Myanmar, Uyghurs from China, Ahmediyas and Shias from Pakistan and Bangladesh, and indeed secular bloggers and homosexual Muslims from these countries?

ent was Indian. In 2003, I could become a citizen only if one parent was Indian and the other not an illegal migrant, defined as one who has entered or stayed in India without legal authorisation. This laid the seeds of the terrifying ex-

clusions which lie ahead. What the CAB, if passed, would do is to allow illegal migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who are of every religious identity except Muslim, to become Indian citizens. Combined with the 2003 amendment, this would mean that only Muslims who are unable to prove that they did not enter India unlawfully would be deemed illegal migrants. Not only they, but their children, and in turn their children, would be denied the right to Indian citizenship. This denial would be in perpetuity, because there is no redress in the law for the progeny of such persons to ever become Indian citizens, even though they were born in India, and know and aspire for no other country. This amendment would also mean, in ef-

fect, that the NRC will have no impact on people other than Muslims, because all others would qualify for Indian citizenship even if they are undocumented. The NRC, after the CAB, would, in operation, only require Muslim Indians to establish that they or their ancestors entered India lawfully. Other Indians may be mandated to produce documents, but even if they fail, they would qualify for citizenship. The Supreme Court has already shifted the burden of proof to individuals to prove their citizenship based on documents such as of birth, land ownership or voting rights, which most impoverished and poorly lettered citizens find difficult to muster. To make matters worse, the home ministry under Shah has already notified the right of every state government, and even district magistrates, to establish Foreigners' Tribunals, and for these tribunals to frame their own procedures and standards of proof.

The Union government is confident of passing the CAB in the Rajya Sabha, given the divided and ideologically confused Opposition. But even before this change in law, the Union government, by a notification in 2015, had exempted non-Muslim "illegal

immigrants" from the three neighbouring countries from adverse legal action, and in 2018, had accelerated the process for their citizenship.

The CAB, and indeed these notifications fly in the face of many fundamental rights under the Indian Constitution. One of these is the right to equality. After all, if religious persecution of illegal migrants in India's neighbourhood is deemed to qualify migrants for accelerated citizenship, then why not extend this to the Rohingya from Myanmar, Uyghurs from China, Ahmediyas and Shias from Pakistan and Bangladesh, and indeed secular bloggers and homosexual Muslims from these countries?

But even more fundamentally, these amendments strike at the soul of the secular democratic constitution of India. The India we inherited from Mahatma Gandhi, B R Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru and Maulana Azad was a country which belonged equally, in every way, to all its people, regardless of which god they worshipped or if they chose to worship no god. India was not imagined as a country that would either exclude or include people on the basis of their religious identity.

A hundred years ago, the Hindu Mahasabha, and in 1925, the RSS, imagined another India, one in which Hindus would rule and dominate, and in which Muslims would be expelled or forced to live as secondclass citizens. The current ruling establishment believes that 100 years later, their time has come. The CAB, followed by a nationwide NRC, in which effectively only Muslims will have to prove their citizenship, will result in untold fear, suffering and dislocation of millions of Muslim citizens.

This is the fearful tempest that threatens to engulf India in the coming months, one which will destroy in its wake this country as it was imagined and promised. Our Muslim sisters and brothers are today seeing clearly the threat of this impending catastrophe. The rest of us continue with our lives, unconcerned.

Do we not realise that this will mark the death of India's secular democratic constitution?

Mander is a human rights worker and writer



A LEGACY, IN A SALT PAN

Remembering Gandhi means working for the poorest communities

PETER COOK

YESTERDAY, MILLIONS OF Indians around the world honoured one of the greatest figures in Indian history — Mahatma Gandhi. His struggle for equality, his support of the poorest and his non-violent protest for India's independence not just paved the way for modern India, but also served the greater global good by setting new standards for civil, social and economic rights. So many countries now treat these standards as fundamental basic rights that all citizens and society must enjoy.

How should we honour Gandhi in the year of his 150th anniversary? It is not an easy question. Particularly as I represent the country against which Gandhi spent a large part of his life rebelling. Of course, the best answer is not found in words but in deeds, supporting causes and communities that he

fought hard to defend. My team at the British Deputy High Commission in Gujarat had the pleasure of visiting the salt worker (Agariya) community in the Rann of Kutch earlier in the summer. The Agariyas are often forgotten souls who pan the salt in the most remote corner of Gujarat, working in the most inhospitable conditions. It is back-breaking work. They carry freshwater by hand 20 km into the desert. Cars, bikes and cycles cannot make it through the salt mud. There are no roads, only tracks which the line of salt workers have made with their feet. Walking on the salt damages their skin terribly. They have cal-

We all remember that Gandhi's famous salt march in 1930 against the British drew attention to the plight of the salt workers of Gujarat and the Agariya community. SEWA explained to us that many of the salt workers are trapped in a modern form of tied labour, incurring debts that they can never hope to repay. Since their existence is often hand to mouth, they needed to borrow money to pay for medicines, extra food and their children's education.

luses and sores and many suffer badly from skin cancers, eye damage and tuberculosis. Life expectancy for the community is rarely over 60. They do all this for a tiny amount. One of the Agariya women, Rudiben, told us that she started working for Rs 5 a day.

We have been working with the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) to improve the lives of women across the state. SEWA defends and supports women, especially from the poorest communities. They have over two million members, all volunteers. Their story is an example of Gandhian philosophy that is alive and well today and it makes them an ideal partner to work with, especially in honouring Gandhi.

We all remember that Gandhi's famous salt march in 1930 against the British drew attention to the plight of the salt workers of Gujarat and the Agariya community. SEWA explained to us that many of the salt workers are trapped in a modern form of tied labour, incurring debts that they can never hope to repay. Since their existence is often hand to mouth, they needed to borrow money to pay for medicines, extra food and their children's education. The nearest school is many miles away and there is no transportation. The salt traders loan them money in return for future earnings from panning the salt. And so in the next salt season, in order to pay back their debts, more money has to be borrowed. The same cycle continues year after year.

SEWA realised that one way to help the Agariyas would be to provide loans and support to these women to use solar powered pumps instead of diesel pumps. Since they do not have to buy expensive diesel, and the sun is free, the Agariya families have a way to save money to pay off their debts. Over 1,100 Agariya families now have a solar panel installed. For the first time in generations, they have a chance at financial independence. They have been taught how to manage basic finances. Each of them now owns a solar panel and has money to buy medicines, extra food

and can afford to keep their children in school. SEWA asked us to help by training some of the younger Agariyas to manage and maintain the solar panels. We provided training courses so that simple repairs and maintenance could be carried out by young girls. Along with solar panels came Wellington boots. Rudiben told us that the help from SEWA and the UK has made an important difference in their lives. Gandhi's legacy lives on in the spirit of those who continue to support the poorest, who struggle for equality and who work for inter-communal harmony across society. We are pleased to have played a small part in honouring Gandhi on the occasion of his 150th anniversary and in upholding his values as an enduring force for good.

> The writer is British Deputy High Commissioner, Ahmedabad



OCTOBER 3, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

VIOLENCE AT RAJGHAT FOR THE FIRST time, Raighat was the scene of violence in fits and starts and the scent of flowers and incense was mingled with tear gas as the Delhi University Students' Union and its sympathisers tried to oppose the yagna of purification set up by the Lok Dal with Raj Narain presiding. In the violence, six policemen and five youths were injured. Members of the ABVP, DUSU and Janata Vidyarthi Morcha put the figure of injured youths of their group at over a score. Both agree that no one of the yagna party sustained any injuries. One thing that was obvious at Raighat this morning was the partisan

attitude of the police when it came to han-

dling the two factions. While the yagna group was accorded gentle treatment with kid gloves on, the university students were manhandled without any let.

CHARAN'S THREAT

PRIME MINISTER CHARAN Singh, in a sharp rebuke to his party's working president, Raj Narain, announced that he was resigning from the party at a public function but later withdrew his threat on request from his party colleagues. Singh's threat came during an altercation with Narain over tha latter's repeated demand that the general elections be postponed. The PM said whenever Narain made a statement about the government's

policies, he faced the difficulty of contradicting them. Even so, it is said that Narain has the PM's tacit approval.

US DEPLOYMENT

US PRESIDENT JIMMY Carter announced a series of dramatic measures to counter the presence of a Soviet combat brigade in Cuba. They ranged from the establishment of a permanent fulltime Caribbean Joint Taskforce headquarters at Key West, Florida, to reinforcing America's presence in the Indian Ocean, from increasing survellance of Cuba to enhancing the capacity of US forces to respond to protect American interests and respond to requests of assistance from allies.

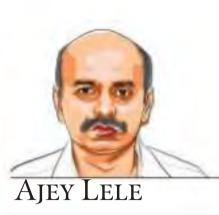
THE IDEAS PAGE

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"With greater technological advancements, particularly in the field of artificial intelligence, the ability to mislead the public through 'fake news' is only going to increase in the years to come." —DAWN

Red weapons, blue skies

CPC's 70th anniversary parade revealed China's well-established architecture for undertaking weather modification



CHINA'S PRESIDENT Xi Jinping announced that "no force" can shake China during the huge military parade to celebrate 70 years of Communist Party rule on October 1. China's progress in the military arena was on full display during this parade. One of the major military systems displayed was the new hypersonic ballistic nuclear missile. Such missiles are capable of breaching all existing anti-missile shields available with the major powers. However, one weapon, which China was expected not to "display" but to "demonstrate" was absent and that was the Weather Weapon.

Chinese authorities always try to ensure that they have blue skies during the conduct of such parades and festivities. However, this time, there was a cloud of smog hanging over Beijing. Though it did not dampen the spirits of the people, it did prove that the Chinese Communist Party may control many things but it still cannot control the weather. However, it is important to note that in recent past China has been manipulating the weather over a limited geographical area with some success before such mega events. There could be various reasons for China failing to do so this time.

In the past, on various occasions, China has successfully managed clear skies. The most talked-about incident was the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting held at Beijing during November 10-12, 2014. During this event, China ensured that Beijing, which is famous for its heavy haze and smog, would have absolutely blue skies. Since then, this Chinese ability to have blue skies on demand is famously referred as "APEC blue". In 2014, this became possible since Beijing and nearby regions were put under most stringent pollution control measures. It was a result of harsh 11-day emissions-reduction measures.

To have blue skies during the October 1 parade, the efforts started well in advance. August 20 onwards, no trucks were permitted to enter Beijing and all construction work was halted. Also, there was a major clampdown on mining activities and fireworks were totally banned. There was even a request for to stop production in the nearby industries. All this was leading to an improvement in the sky conditions. However, just few days before the event, a weather system in the form of a low-pressure front got positioned unfavourably and ended up pushing the pollution from the surrounding provinces towards Beijing. Also, there is a possibility that the authorities would not have employed heavyhanded practices against polluting industries for various reasons.

It is important to note that the Vice Premier Hu Chunhua had visited the China Meteorological Administration and had asked for possible meteorological support just before the 2019 parade. Normally, such support comes in the form of firing missiles/rockets on the rainbearing clouds, making them precipitate before they approach the Tiananmen Square parade ground. Such rockets (with "warheads" containing dry ice, salt and silver iodide) are part of weather modification experiments and make precipitation happen. Usually, such rain also cleans up the smog-filled atmosphere. Possibly, this time there were no clouds around Beijing and hence, there are no reports of firing of any rockets. Exactly 10 years ago during the 60th National Day Parade, China had managed clear skies through such attacks on clouds. As per reports, some 432 rockets were fired then. China has a well-developed infrastruc-

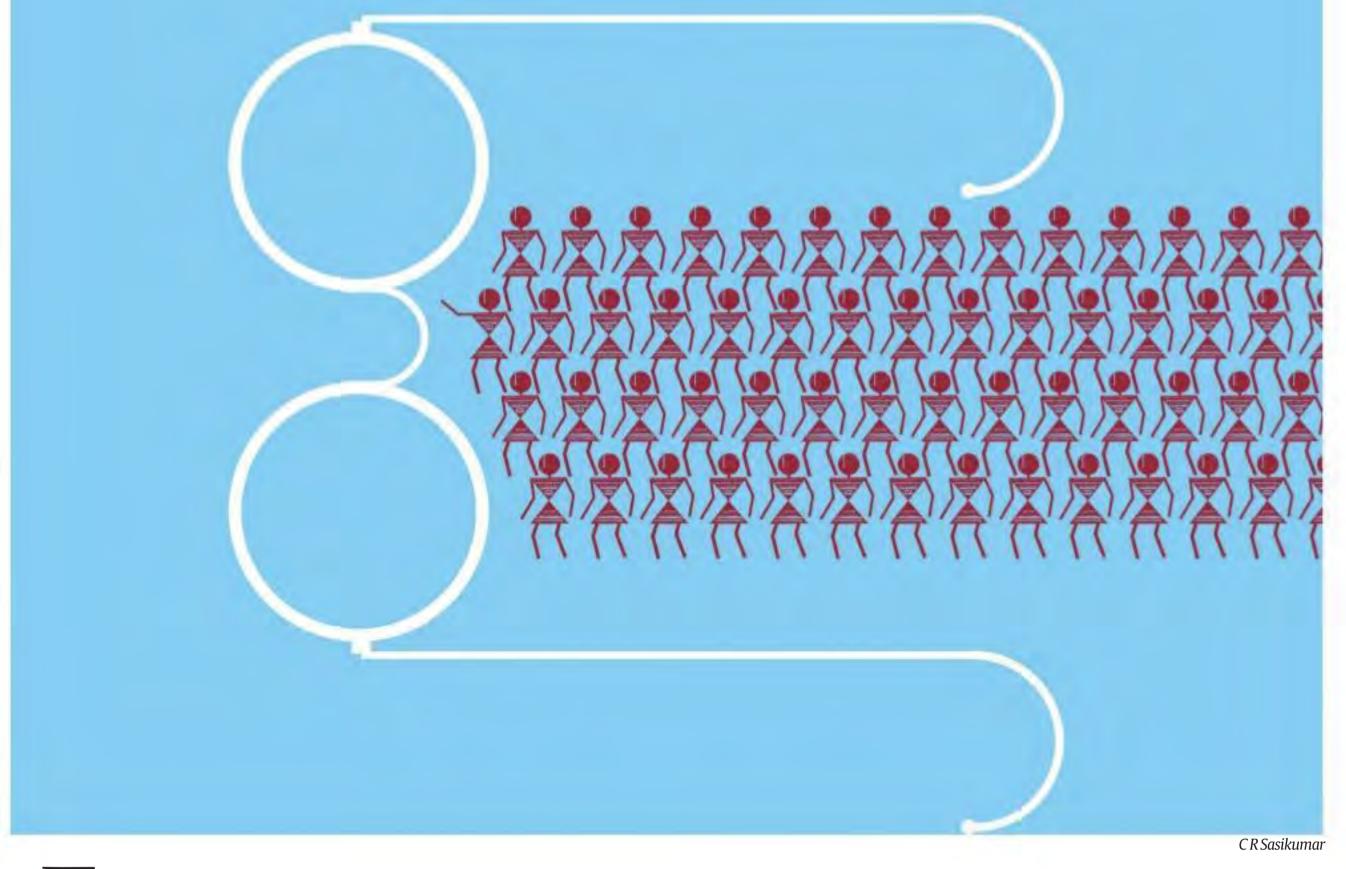
ture to undertake such tasks. They have many specialised vehicles ready to throw streams of air to chase away any approaching fog. Similarly, on August 8, 2008, the day of the Olympics opening ceremony, it was reported that the Chinese weather modification office had fired a total of 1,104 rain dispersal rockets. These rockets were fired to stop rain clouds approaching the Olympics arena. This operation lasted for eight hours and rockets were launched from 21 different sites.

There is evidence that in the past even during wars, states have used such techniques not only to help the advancement of their own forces, but also to cause flooding over enemy territory. During the Vietnam War (1967), US forces had launched Operation Popeye. This led to heavy flash floods and is known to have caused damage possibly worth three years of sustained bombing.

Today, China has a well-established architecture to undertake weather modification at will and runs one of the biggest weather modification programmes in the world, with investments touching millions of dollars. China has modified various aircraft to conduct weather modification experiments. They are keen to change the weather pattern over the Tibet region. There is a plan to use weather modification techniques to divert water vapour (Project "Sky River"). Many scientists are known to be working on the "art of mastering the weather".

There is a United Nations Convention called Environmental Modification or EN-MOD convention, which prohibits states from "engaging in military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques". Various major countries are signatories to this. However, even during peacetime, any large-scale weather modification experiments possibly leading to changes in the ecological balance are not a healthy proposal. Artificial weather changes, which could be a boon for one geographical region, may turn out to be a bane for other nearby regions.

The writer is senior fellow, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi



From protest to governance

Our Lokpal movement to schools, water, power — Gandhi's vision endures



AS A PRODUCT of the Gandhian Jan Lokpal movement against corruption in high places, I have witnessed the power of Gandhian methods of resistance and protest. Mass movements throughout independent India's history as well as around the world have taken inspiration from the original mobiliser of the masses, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. In this context, as long as there is injustice in the world, Gandhi will remain relevant.

What makes Gandhi especially relevant in the times we live in is his unflinching commitment to democracy and the wisdom of the people. The idea of decentralising power from the hands of a few to the hands of many was a romanticised utopia for many of us as activists. "True democracy cannot be worked by twenty men sitting at the centre. It has to be worked from below by the people of every village," Gandhi wrote in Harijan.

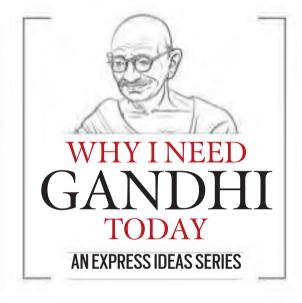
Long before India introduced the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments, the Right to Information (RTI), and other decentralising measures, Gandhi had championed this powerful idea. He believed that the strength of democracy is when power is given not to the executive, but to the people themselves. This was the essence of the Anna movement as well. The movement was not merely a mobilisation against a corrupt regime. It was an attempt to compel the government to involve the people in the process of lawmaking. Unfortunately, the UPA did not see merit in hearing the voice of civil society and forced the ordinary people of our country to enter politics.

In the time I have been chief minister nearly five years, I have witnessed Gandhian decentralisation of power being brought to life. Before 2015, the education minister was the most powerful authority when it came to all issues related to schools. For the smallest of expenses, administrative authority lay with the minister. Such a top-heavy power structure can never effectively run any public system, even in a city-state like Delhi.

In 2015, I along with Manish Sisodia met 1,000 principals of Delhi government schools and asked them to give us a list of the things they have wanted to do in their schools, but have not been able to for lack of funds. We made proposals based on the principals' inputs and that is one of the reasons why Delhi's education budget suddenly doubled that year to consume 25 per cent of the entire state's budget. The year after that, instead of going back to the principals once again, we gave them complete discretion over funds, and the freedom to use them. For the first time in the history of India's education system, government school principals were given the means and resources to run their schools the way they wanted to. This transformed the school administration, suddenly making it more efficient and energetic.

Similarly, we formed groups of parents – School Management Committees — to help with the school management: Maintaining cleanliness, keeping up mid-day meal standards, among others. Involving the people in governance by providing them the power to take decisions for themselves, and giving them the means to exercise that power, is the key to progress.

Today, a government school principal, along with the parent-led SMC, is empowered to hire a resource person, maintain their $school\ infrastructure, purchase\ books\ of\ their$ choice for libraries, bring in experts for teaching music, arts, sports. All of this, without sending a single file to the department for permission. This is Gandhian governance being realised.



In the last five years, the government of the common man has been led by the most Gandhian of philosophies — looking out for the last man in the queue. It was Gandhi's dream that we build a country where every child has access to good education, every person gets quality healthcare, and all people live together in peace and brotherhood. I am happy this has started to become a reality in today's Delhi.

In the last five years, the government of the common man has been led by the most Gandhian of philosophies — looking out for the last man in the queue. In one of his last notes before his tragic death, he had said, "Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him." It was Gandhi's dream that we build a country where every child has access to good education, every person gets quality healthcare, and all people live together in peace and brotherhood. I am happy this has started to become a reality in today's Delhi.

Many of us believed that most Indian cities including Delhi have had 24 hours electricity supply for years now, but the reality is otherwise. Many parts of the city did not have access to such a basic necessity when we assumed office in February 2015. Our government had to push for more transformers, infrastructure upgrade to ensure all households have 24-hour electricity. Only about 58 per cent of the colonies were connected by water pipelines in 2015. Today, we have taken that number to 93 per cent, ensuring that lakhs of families do not have to rely on water tankers any more. Most importantly, the government of the common man has attempted to build a system where ordinary citizens no longer have to plead before bureaucrats for basic services.

Gandhi envisioned a country where every person can dream of a better life. In Delhi, today, there is a semblance of opportunity for people to lift themselves out of poverty. We are working towards building a Delhi where a dignified life is the right of all citizens. It is humbling when one realises just how little of India's progress would have been possible without Gandhi and the idea of Gandhi. My heartfelt tribute to the man whose memory continues to inspire a billion Indians.

The writer is the Chief Minister of Delhi

Claiming that liberal imports and FDI

jeopardised the growth of domestic indus-

try and trade and increased foreign owner-

ship, the article has argued for "economic pa-

triotism" and "techno-nationalism" through

ent rise in trade and current account deficits

as well as in the deficit in investment income,

and also to remedy our growing dependence

over foreign investments. along with saving

various sectors of the economy. from further

slipping into foreign ownerships, India

should chart a course of self-reliance and

Swadeshi inter alia by developing 'Made by

India' products and brands through endeav-

ours like promoting and adopting techno-

nationalism and economic patriotism," the

grown technologies and promoting these

It said that the development of home-

"To turnaround this situation of persist-

mandatory norms.

article said.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SWACHH LESSONS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The people's policy' (IE October 2). It rightly describes the Swachh Bharat Mission as a benchmark of transformative policy making. Such policies can also be adopted for pollution control and environmental conservation. Environmental protection is not achievable only by the government's initiative and corporate sector's financial support. It requires public participation as well.

Jainil T Shah, Ahmedabad

TOLL ON STATES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'States at Centre' (IE, October 2). Doling out of subsidies, freebies, leakages/pilferage, over-staffed government departments and evasion of taxes are taking a toll on the financial health of the exchequers both at the state and Central levels. Disinvestment needs to be aggressive. Futile expenditure in the name of cow shelters and statues should be shunned. Advertising welfare schemes amounts to misuse of government resources. Rather than engaging in witch hunts, agencies should effectively uspin down tax dodgers.

Deepak Singhal, Chennai

CLEAN AIR

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Bad air but how bad' (IE, October 2). Crop residue burning in Punjab and Haryana is detrimental to the region's air quality, There is a need to exterminate this method of disposal of residue and create alternatives to stubble burning.

Nayan Agarwal, Ujjain

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader

intervention, The Indian **Express offers the Letter of** the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10,

Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES **SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS**

HISTORIAN, CRITIQUE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Her way of seeing' (IE, October 1). The writer says that his film was called good by two different political dispensations but not acceptable for airing on DD because one objected to Romila Thapar's critique of Emergency while another found the film's depiction of the Babri mosque's demolition objectionable. Thapar is above such narrow minded operators. "Caste is immutable while class is mutable," a sentence that I read in the early 1970s in a history book written by Thapar still rings true.

Basudev Mazumdar, Kolkata



VIEW FROM THE RIGHT

GOING GLOBAL

IN THE WAKE of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US, the cover story of RSS mouthpiece Panchjanya has said that through the Howdy Modi event at Houston Texas, Modi has not only showcased a new, rising India, but has also exposed the reality of the neighbouring country to the world.

In a report titled 'Togetherness Improves Credibility', Panchianya said, "The America which had the image of being the world's policeman; which is needed by other countries of the world; on whose dias every leader wants to reach: the same America has come onto Modi's dias. Modi's address in Houston was that moment when the global superpower saw India as another superpower, when due to Modi's magic the American president became a guest in his own country. In that moment America felt elated to find Modi in its company."

The article said Modi made India's stand

gation of Article 370. It said that through his references to 9/11 and the 26/11 attacks, Modi exposed Pakistan. It said the Houston event also showcased a new movement by India to connect with all expats across the

Attacking left liberals on the issue of terrorism, the article suggested President Donald Trump had exposed the lie of "terror has no religion". "Till now, on the issue of rising terrorism across the world and in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India, the so called seculars would say terrorism has no religion and that it should not be associated with any faith. But President Trump made it clear from the dais that he would fight extremist Islamic terrorism jointly," the report

GANDHI ON SAVARKAR

IN ITS LATEST issue dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, *Organiser* has attempted to clear the air on Hindutva ideologue Veer Savarkar's clemency plea to the British administration when he was lodged in the cellular jail in the Andaman islands.

The article, written by J Nandakumar, has claimed that Gandhi was all praise for Savarkar and had called him "brave", "clever" and "true son of Bharat". The article has said that filing clemency pleas with the British was commonplace in those times and the narrative of a chasm between Gandhi and Savarkar, and the latter's capitulation before the British power had been created by newage leftist historians in the wake of Congress's defeat post the emergency.

Quoting a note by Gandhi as published in a book, the article said Gandhi had positive views about Savarkar and his elder brother, GD Savarkar: "The Savarkar Brothers' talent should be utilised for public welfare. As it is, India is in danger of losing her two faithful sons, unless she wakes up in time. One of the brothers I know well. I had the pleasure of meeting him in London. He is brave. He is clever. He is a patriot. He was frankly a revolutionary. The evil, in its hideous form, of the present system of government, he saw much earlier than I did. He is in the Andamans for his having loved India too well. Under a just government, he would be occupying a high office. I therefore feel for him and his brother."

SWADESHI AND SWARAJ

IN ITS SPECIAL issue, Organiser has also carried an editorial espousing Swaraj and an article by Prof Bhagwati Prakash which has argued that India must shift from Make in India to Made by Bharat to realise the dream of Swaraj.

should be done "through mandatory norms and other methods". It can alone help the country to launch 'Made by Bharat' products and brands to alleviate the country's growing dependence upon imports and FDI. "Economic patriotism inter alia reflects one's resolve to buy the Made by India goods,

wherever available. Which can be said as pursuing 'Swadeshi'," the article added.

Compiled by Deeptiman Tiwary

clear on Jammu and Kashmir and the abroepaper<mark>.india</mark>nex**on**ess.com

#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

HOW TO READ NORTH KOREA'S LATEST MISSILE TEST



A report on N Korea firing what seems to have been a submarine-launched ballistic missile is broadcast on S Korean TV in Seoul on Wednesday. Reuters

ON WEDNESDAY morning, North Korea testfired a medium-range missile from an undersea platform — its 11th missile test in 2019, and its first submarinelaunched ballistic missile (SLBM) test since August 2016.

WHAT, WHEN, HOW: Japan said the missile was fired from a point in the Sea of Japan 17 km northeast of the North Korean naval base of Wonsan a little after 7 am, or 3.30 am India time. The projectile, launched from either a submarine or an offshore rig, landed in the waters of Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Jeong Kyeong-doo, the Defence Minister of South Korea, said the missile flew 450 km in a trajectory that peaked at 910 km

HOW BIG A THREAT: As it has done earlier too. North Korea fired the missile in a very steep trajectory; had the launch followed a more standard trajectory, it could have travelled 1,900 km, standard for a medium-range missile. Such a missile would reach South Korea and Japan easily, especially if it were launched from a submarine with a significant range. North Korea's 1990s vintage Romeo-class submarines are thought to be able to travel 7.000 km, or about the distance to

the United States territory of Hawaii. A saving grace, from the perspective of the West, is that these diesel-electric powered machines are extremely noisy, and can probably be detected.

WHAT TEST INDICATES:

Commentators have underlined the apparent range and capabilities of the missile, and the fact that it demonstrates continuing progress on Pyongyang's SLBM

programme, long recognised as a very potent threat. It is difficult to anticipate the time and place of a submarine-borne strike, and SLBMs are seen as extending crucial second-strike capabilities to militaries faced with a nuclear attack. However, it is not certain that North Korea's submarine programme is very advanced as yet.

The missile test came days ahead of the planned resumption of nuclear talks between North Korea and the United States. Negotiators from the two sides are scheduled to meet on Saturday – and several analysts said Wednesday that Pyongyang was trying to raise the stakes and send out the signal that it will return to the table on its own terms, and expected Washington to back off from its demands for full denuclearisation.

TIP FOR READING LIST

WHAT DROVE SUSAN SONTAG

GS SCORE

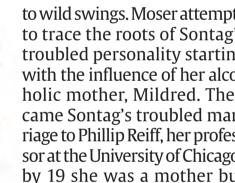
An Institute for Civil Services

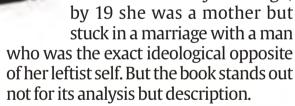
www.iasscore.in

EVER SINCE Susan Sontag, American writer and political activist, died in 2004, a number of books have been published on her. These include Swimming in a Sea of Death, which is her son David Rieff's account of the leukaemia that caused her demise, and Phillip Lopate's *Notes* on Sontag. The latest addition to

this list is Benjamin Moser's Sontag: Her Life and Work; it is the authorised biography. Sontag was a difficult subject, prone to wild swings. Moser attempts to trace the roots of Sontag's troubled personality starting with the influence of her alcoholic mother, Mildred. Then came Sontag's troubled marriage to Phillip Reiff, her professor at the University of Chicago;

who was the exact ideological opposite of her leftist self. But the book stands out







SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Highway versus forest

Protests in Wayanad after Supreme Court asked Centre for alternatives that would enable permanent closure of Kerala-Karnataka highway that cuts through tiger reserve. A look at both sides of the debate

SITE OF DISCONTENT

SHAJU PHILIP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 2

OVER THE last one week, Kerala's Wayanad district has witnessed a series of protests against a ban on night traffic on the forest stretch of NH 766, a key highway between Karnataka and Kerala that passes through the Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka. Although the night ban was first enforced a decade ago, the immediate trigger for the current agitation was a recent Supreme Court direction to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) to suggest alternative routes so that NH 766 could be shut down permanently. Since then, Wayanad has witnessed an ongoing indefinite hunger strike and several protest marches.

In what circumstances was night traffic on the highway banned?

In August 2009, the district administration of Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka, banned night traffic on the 19-km forest leg of NH 766. This was after the project officer of Bandipur Tiger Reserve had prepared a report on the number of animals being hit by vehicles at night. An inspection had found that 44 vehicles were on this 19-km stretch in a span of 30 minutes. The report said night traffic would affect behaviour biology such as breeding and parental care of animals, disrupt their life cycle and make them stray to human habitats.

Using the central Motor Vehicle Act read with the Karnataka Motor Vehicle Rules, the district administration banned traffic from 9 pm to 6 am. Vehicles were stopped on both sides of the stretch and allowed to resume the journey in the morning.

Were there no protests then?

After the ban, transport operators in both states and people's representatives in Kerala petitioned the Chamarajanagar Deputy Commissioner, who lifted the ban. Then conservationists moved the Karnataka High Court, which reinstated the ban by an interim order. At one point, the court observed that the interest of protecting wildlife is important, and no less important is the need to protect the interest of the public, who are commuters and traders.

In 2010, the court upheld the night traffic ban. Pointing to an alternative road that is 35 km longer than travelling through NH 766, the court directed the Karnataka government to upgrade this road, which runs from Mananthavady in Kerala to Mysuru via Gonikuppal in Kodagu district.

Kutta-Gonikuppal Wayanad **ALTERNATIVE# 1** Mysuru-Mananthavady (Wayanad) via Nagarhole National Park, closed for night traffic **ALTERNATIVE#2** Nagarhole Mysuru-Mananthavady via Gonikuppal and Kutta Tiger keserve & **National** KARNATAKA

Bandipur Tiger Reserve

and National Park

School students of Wayanad march in protest amid rain on Tuesday. PTI

272 KM LONG

NH 766 links Karnataka

and Kerala via Mysuru and

Mysuru @

Hunsur

The Kerala government moved a special leave petition in the Supreme Court; conservationists too were impleaded. The issue remained inconclusive despite discussions between the states. Kerala's suggestion for an

KERALA

Mananthavady

Wayanad

Has the night ban met its objective?

elevated highway through the forest reserve

According to Bandipur Tiger Reserve proj-

was turned down by the ministry.

ect director Thippaiah Balachandra, animal fatalities have come down significantly. "Before the ban, the stretch was reporting 100-odd animal deaths in accidents, but now it has come down to five to ten. If the highway is opened, fatalities would increase manifold. Over the last one decade, animal populations as well as traffic have gone up." Spread over 990.51 sq km, Bandipur Tiger

Wayanad Wildlife

Sanctuary

Madumalai National Park

Reserve is part of interconnected forests that

include Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu), Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) and Nagarhole National Park (Karnataka). A large variety of wildlife including the elephant moves from one stretch to another, cutting the states. Once a hunting reserve for the Maharaja of Mysore, Bandipur is one of the oldest tiger reserves in the country, having been declared as such in 1973 and a national park in 1984. Bandipur has 140 tigers, 1,600 elephants and 25,000 spotted deer, forest department sources said.

Is there no way to avoid the highway?

The Kollegal-Mysuru-Kozhikode road has existed for 200 years and remains a major link. It was declared a national highway in 1989, then named NH 212, and later renamed NH 766. The opening of the Pune-Bengaluru Hyderabad-Bengaluru highways, along with the development of the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, made NH 766 a major link between Kerala and the rest of the country. With 150-odd registered resorts and hundreds of homestay facilities, Wayanad has emerged a major hill destination, catering to tourists from Benagluru. NH 766 is also used by transporters of essential provisions from Karnataka to Kerala, and by commuters from Kerala to Bengaluru for want of good rail connectivity.

Two other roads exist between Wayanad and Karnataka. One of these, between Mysuru and Mananthavady (Wayanad), part of which passes through the Nagarhole National Park, has been closed for night traffic from 6 pm to 6 am since 2008, on the recommendation of an empowered committee appointed by the Supreme Court. The other road, the only alternative that remains available for night traffic, is the one that the High Court referred to in 2010. Also between Mananthavady and Mysuru, it runs via Kutta, Gonikuppal and Hunsur in Karanataka. This too cuts through forest.

Who are behind the present protest?

On August 8, the Supreme Court upheld the night traffic ban, which was supported by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu while Kerala wanted it lifted. The court asked the NHAI to upgrade the alternative road and sought the Centre's opinion on closing down NH 766 permanently. The protest in Wayanad, which picked up with the hunger-strike starting September 25, is backed by all political parties in Kerala, religious organisations, traders and youth organisations. People fear that a blanket ban on traffic would impact the economic development of Wayanad, particularly in Sulthan Bathery taluk, Besides, the alternative road is 35 km away, which would cost time and money besides raising prices of commodities.

TELLING NUMBERS

All the carbon in Earth, and CO₂ from volcanoes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

> DEEP CARBON Observatory (DCO), a 10-year programme at the US National Academy of Sciences, has released a series of papers estimating the total carbon on Earth. This includes an analysis of the total carbon dioxide released by volcanoes, which are often viewed as a possible main contributor to such emissions, but which, it turns out, contribute much less than human activities.

1.85 BILLION GIGATONNES: TOTAL CARBON ON EARTH

BELOW THE SURFACE

1.845 BILLION Gigatonnes (Gt). This includes:

1.5 BILLION Gt in lower mantle. 315 MILLION Gt in continental and oceanic lithospheres

30 MILLION Gt carbon in the upper mantle

ABOVE THE SURFACE

43,500 Gt. This includes: **37,000 Gt** in the deep ocean (85.1%) **3,000 Gt** in marine sediments (6.9%) 2.000 Gt in terrestrial biosphere (4.6%)

900 GT in the surface ocean (2%) **590** Gt in the atmosphere (1.4%)

Source: Deep Carbon Observatory

Carbon dioxide out-gassed to the atmosphere and oceans from volcanoes and other magmatically active regions is estimated at 280 to 360 million tonnes per year, including that released into the oceans from mid-ocean ridges. Humanity's annual carbon emissions through the burning of fossil fuels and forests, etc, are 40 to 100 times greater than all vol-

canic emissions, DCO said in a statement. Two-tenths of 1% of Earth's total carbon (43,500 gigatonnes) is above surface in the oceans, on land, and in the atmosphere. The rest is subsurface, 1.85 billion Gt in all, DCO said

Hasina in India: Amid some challenges, celebrating a special friendship

ASHIKUR RAHMAN DHAKA, OCTOBER 2

BANGLADESH and India's bilateral ties have rarely been a linear affair. That is why Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India beginning October 3 is a much-anticipated political event. There is little doubt that when India assisted Bangladesh to attain independence in 1971, many believed that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Mrs Indira Gandhi would forge a partnership rooted in progressive ideals and a common vision for their nations in South Asia and the world, one that would last for generations.

Trust and engagement

The assassination of Mujib and most of his family members in 1975, which resurrected the political, Islamic and military leaders from the political right between 1975 and 1996, meant that Bangladesh could not structure any lasting partnership with India. Its relationship with India reached an alltime low when the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami coalition government between 2001 and 2006 allowed Bangladeshi territory to host insurgent activities against the Northeastern states of India. This unfortunate nosedive in the Bangladesh-India relationship was decisively reversed after the electoral victory of the Awami League and Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina in December 2008. There is little disagreement today that Bangladesh-India ties have greatly benefited since then.

That is why, since 2009, Bangladesh and India have peacefully navigated many contested issues that had remained unresolved since 1947. In 2015, the Indian government led by the BIP ratified the 1974 Land Boundary Treaty which executed a land swap of enclaves, settling historical anomalies dating back to the Partition of the subcontinent. Bangladesh and India also peacefully obtained an international court ruling that allowed the two nations to explore resources in the Bay of Bengal without stepping on each other's toes. These milestones show that a partnership based on trust and a willingness to engage on equal terms can help sovereign nations resolve historical disagreements.

Rivers and credit lines

The upcoming trip of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina can be viewed as an effort to re-invest in the special friendship that Bangladesh and India have developed during her premiership. It will likely touch on a wide range of issues that will require improvisation and cooperation from both governments to find new solutions to old problems.

Specifically, Prime Minister Hasina is likely to request New Delhi's cooperation for an improved management of all rivers that Bangladesh and India share, so that a better frame-



Modi with Hasina in New York last week. Twitter photo via PTI

work is created to ensure their equitable distribution. The pending dispute over the Teesta river has shown how difficult it is for India's central government to offer amicable solutions on such matters. Finalisation of an efficient and mutually acceptable river management framework will test imaginations and capacities of the governments on both sides.

Dhaka is also likely to seek New Delhi's cooperation in upgrading its railways, roads, and shipping infrastructure, and might ask

for the export of more electricity to Bangladesh. As of 2017, India had extended three lines of credit worth approximately \$7.4 billion; however, the execution of projects under these credit pipelines has been very slow. Less than 10% of the cumulative commitments have been disbursed so far, while almost no money from the third line of credit promising \$4.5 billion has been utilised. Dhaka might seek both prompt disbursements of the existing commitments and, perhaps, an additional line of credit to finance infrastructure projects in the pipeline.

NRC and the Rohingya

Refuelling of the development partnership aside, some areas of concern too, are likely to be taken up during the deliberations. It remains unclear how the NRC saga will ultimately play out in Indian politics, and the implications it might have for Bangladesh. For now, it has definitely added an extreme level of suspicion about India among ordinary Bangladeshis. And while Prime Minister Modi has assured Prime Minister Hasina during a meeting at the UN that the NRC will have no implications for Bangladesh, this commitment needs continuous reiteration, because an element of

noise has been added to the partnership. Many among the Bangladeshi intelligentsia believe that if the NRC wave gets more air from communal political currents in India, politicians in India might fail to ensure that this wave does not reach international shores. Given that politicians often create forces that they cannot contain — most people are now familiar with the term "unintended consequences" in international policy literature the NRC is likely to remain a real concern for both neighbours, and Bangladesh is likely to keep a close watch on it irrespective of Prime Minister Modi's assurances.

Many in India are also concerned about

Bangladesh's growing partnership with China. This, by any standards, is a misplaced fear. Prime Minister Hasina's China diplomacy is focused to structure a win-win economic cooperation to address Bangladesh's developmental aspirations — and so far, there is no indication that this relationship has any possibility of adding a military dimension to it. This balancing act by Bangladesh is especially important because it needs the support of both China and India to mitigate the ongoing Rohingya refugee crisis. Given India's historical friendship with Bangladesh, New Delhi bears the responsibility of going a few steps further than Beijing on the Rohingya crisis. To what extent Dhaka can convince New Delhi to make the maximum effort to push for a peaceful repatriation of the Rohingya, however, remains to be seen.

On the whole though, Prime Minister Hasina's visit will underline and nurture the special friendship between Dhaka and New Delhi. In a world where building walls and distrusting neighbours have become the international norm, Prime Ministers Hasina and Modi are likely to demonstrate that forward-looking partnerships on equal terms are possible when bilateral ties are rooted in trust, and a common vision of peace and economic progress.

(Dr Ashikur Rahman is Senior Economist, Policy Research Institute, Dhaka)

15 ECONOMY



₹38,140



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₹71.07



\$60.90



₹47,580

SENSEX: 38,305.41 ▼ 361.92 NIFTY: 11,359.90 NIKKEI: 21,778.61 ▼ 106.63 HANG SENG: 26,042.69 ▼ 49.58 FTSE: 7,206.67 ▼ 153.65 DAX: 12,108.85 ▼ 154.98

SECTOR WATCH Insurance

Vehicle 'Own Damage' cover declines as auto sales plummet

Third party premium biz rises 12.9% after SC order, new Vehicles Act

The OD premium

declined by 2.3 per

crore in August 2019

from Rs 10,724 crore

in the same period of

cent to Rs 10,480

last year; the OD

declined by 1.9% in

business had

July also while

rose by 11.5%

overall premium

vehicles (CVs) stood at

18,21,490 units last month,

as against 23,82,436 units in

August 2018, a fall of 23.55

per cent. "With the decline

in auto sales, OD premium

growth is bound to decline.

The spurt in TP premium is

possibly due to the crack-

down by the traffic police

following the amended

Motor Vehicles Act," said an

surance plan has two essen-

tial components: OD pre-

mium and third party (TP)

premium. TP covers any

damage or injury caused by

the insured, to another per-

son or property. A TP liabil-

ity cover is mandatory in

India under the Motor

Vehicles Act, 1988 while OD

lar had stipulated a bundled

cover, including OD insur-

ance cover as a package

product with a stand-alone

motor TP insurance product

one year for OD bundled

with long term TP cover for

new car/ two-wheeler. Now

this has been separated and

vehicle owners can go for

OD and third party sepa-

rately. Bundling of cover for

the OD portion was earlier

permitted as an immediate

requirement, keeping in

view the date of implemen-

tation stipulated by the

Supreme Court from

policyholders have the op-

tion to renew the OD com-

ponent of a bundled cover

falling due on or after

September 1, 2019, with the

same insurer or different in-

do not renew their policies

beyond the first year policy

which is attached to the

players, insurance compli-

ance with CV operators is

high but lower with cars in

the interiors and the lowest

in two-wheelers," said a

Kotak Research report.

According to industry

purchase of the vehicle.

"Vehicle owners often

surer, on an annual basis.

As per the new rules,

September 1, 2018.

Earlier, the IRDAI circu-

is optional.

A comprehensive car in-

insurance sector official.

collection of insurers

GEORGE MATHEW MUMBAI, OCTOBER 2

INSURANCE COMPANIES have reported a decline in Own Damage (OD) cover for motor vehicles, with the automobile industry facing a bumpy ride in the ongoing slowdown in the economy.

The OD premium collection of insurers declined by 2.3 per cent to Rs 10,480 crore in August 2019 from Rs 10,724 crore in the same period of last year, according to the data available from the General Insurance Council. However, the overall motor premium collection (including OD and third party) for the month rose 5.9 per cent to Rs 26,406 crore, mainly due to the 12.9 per cent increase in third party (TP) insurance cover to Rs 15,925 crore after the Supreme Court order on mandatory insurance cover and the enactment of the

The OD business had declined by 1.9 per cent in July also while overall premium rose by 11.5 per cent. OD covers loss or damage to the vehicle insured due to accident including fire and

new Motor Vehicles Act.

The OD business of New India Insurance declined to Rs 1,139 crore in August from Rs 1,325 crore last year, National Insurance to Rs 975 crore from Rs 1,128 crore and United India to 679 crore from

Rs 756 crore. The Supreme Court has made it mandatory for the vehicle buyers to purchase three and five year TP policies during purchase of new cars and two-wheelers, respectively. This will reduce the risk of slippages in 2-5th year. The insurers have option of attaching single or multi-year OD policies along with such TP policies.

The new Motor Vehicle Act, 2019 (which increased traffic penalties on uninsured vehicles) is driving penetration in motor TP as well. The Act increased penalties for driving uninsured vehicles by 2-4 times (to Rs 2,000 for the first offence and Rs 4,000 for the second offence).

Automobile sales witnessed the worst-ever drop in August across categories, with passenger car sales falling by as much as 41.09 per cent, according to data released by industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam).

Vehicle sales across categories, including passenger vehicles (PVs) and twowheelers and commercial

Debt of developing

nations jumps 5%

says World Bank

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

TOTAL FOREIGN debt held by de-

veloping nations jumped more

than 5 per cent to \$7.8 trillion,

driven by a surge in Chinese debt,

the World Bank said in a report on

Wednesday. But the data show an

increasing share of countries

where the debt burden is rising,

WAHINGTON. OCTOBER 2

to \$7.8 trillion,

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

> THE CENTRE on Wednesday kicked off the exercise for preparation of Union Budget 2020-21, asking ministries and departments to upload their estimates of expenditure on the Union **Budget Information System** (UBIS) portal. The Finance Ministry will hold pre-Budget meetings from October 14 onwards with financial advisors of different ministries to prepare Revised Estimates for the current fiscal year and to make preparations for the next year.

"It is proposed to discuss the totality of the requirements of funds for various programmes and schemes, along with receipts of the Departments (viz. interest receipts, dividends, loan repayments, departmental receipts, reof Departmental Commercial Undertakings, etc.) during the pre-Budget meetings chaired by Secretary Expenditure)," the Budget division of the Finance Ministry said in a circular on Wednesday.

asked government departments and ministries to submit their estimates of revenue receipts, capital receipts and public account transactions. Revised Estimates for the current year are important

expenditure estimates on portal EXPLAINED Focus on fiscal math in the backdrop of govt sops, tax cuts

FinMin asks ministries to upload

THE FINANCE Ministry has kicked off preparations for next year's Budget by asking ministries and departments to send expenditure and revenue estimates.

The Centre will be reconciling its estimates for the current year's Budget as significant changes to tax laws have happened since the Budget presentation in July. Next year's Budget is important in the backdrop of a sharp downturn in economic growth and structural changes in corporate tax rates, announced by the Centre to address the slowdown.

as the government announced significant changes in tax laws and other measures after the presentation of the Budget in July.

PRE-BUDGET MEETINGS FROM OCTOBER 14

Less than three months after the Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on September 20 announced cuts in tax rates for domestic companies to 22 per cent and for new domestic manufacturing companies to 15 per cent. The reduction in cor-The Finance Ministry has porate tax rates are estimated to cost Rs 1.45 lakh crore annually to the Exchequer. The government also tweaked various provisions in the budget including removing the surcharge on capital gains

equity markets.

Despite the tax cuts, the government has so far not indicated that it will overshoot its fiscal deficit target of 3.3 per cent of GDP by March 2020. A review of deficit targets is expected during the finalisation of revised estimates of budget for the current year.

For the next year, the finance ministry has revised the format for Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework 2020-21 to capture more details. Since 2017-18, in addition to the financial outlays of schemes of the Ministries being indicated in the Budget document, the expected outputs and outcomes of the schemes are also

being presented in a consolidated document, along with the Budget. During these pre-Budget dis-

cussions, the Finance Ministry will also discuss actual mobilisation of Non Tax Revenue and potential collection in future. While the government has already slashed corporate tax rates, it is expected to take a decision on reducing the personal income tax rates in the upcoming Budget. The government has also

asked ministries and departments to keep the required percentage of allocation for welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as stipulated in the guidelines framed by NITI Aayog. Ministries and departments should "even make endeavor to keep higher percentage of allocation, wherever possible" for the welfare of SC/STs, the government said. The finance ministry has suggested that the ministries ensure that allocation for SC/ST welfare is not less than the Budget Estimates for 2019-20.

The Finance Ministry has also directed all ministries/departments to appoint a nodal officer for coordinating with Ministry of Women and Child Development with regard to compulsory allocations of the gender and child budgeting. The ministries have been asked to capture these allocations as part of the expenditure profile of the next year's Budget.

structure: No MAT

GOVT CUT CORPORATE TAX RATES ON SEPT 20

Opting for new tax

credit, additional depreciation benefits nies with annual sales over Rs 400

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

CLARIFYING ON the recent decision to lower corporate tax rate, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Wednesday said companies that opt for the new tax regime will not be allowed to avail of accumulated credits of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).

Also, a domestic company by opting for the lower corporate tax rate will not be allowed to claim set off of any brought forward loss on account of additional depreciation, it said.

"It may be noted that as the provisions of the section 115JB relating to MAT itself shall not be applicable to the domestic company which exercises option under section 115BAA, it is hereby clarified that the tax credit of MAT paid by the domestic company which exercises option under section 115BAA, it is hereby clarified that the tax credit shall not be available consequent to exercising of such option," the CBDT circular said.

On September 20, the Centre announced cuts in tax rates for domestic firms to 22 per cent and for new domestic manufacturing firms to 15 per cent. It was announced that firms that chose to continue with pre-amended tax rates would see their MAT reduce to 15 per cent from 18.5 per cent. The new effective tax rate, inclusive of surcharge and cess for domestic companies, is 25.17 per cent and for new domestic manufacturing companies is 17.01 per cent.

Earlier, the tax rate for compa-

crore was 30 per cent (exclusive of surcharge and cess). The CBDT circular stated that

"as there is no time line within which the option under section 115BAA can be exercised, it may be noted that a domestic company' having MAT credit and brought forward losses on account of additional depreciation may, if it so desires, exercise the option after utilizing MAT credit/set off of losses so accumulated.

Tax experts said not allowing MAT credit at the time of transition was perhaps done to minimise the cost to the exchequer. In 2017-18, companies had claimed MAT credits worth Rs 15,365 crore according to Budget documents.

Rohinton Sidhwa, partner Deloitte India, said, "The issue was whether at the time of the switch a one-time write-off of MAT credit would be triggered or not. The circular now confirms that it will. This could be a huge cost to some companies who will now perhaps consider continuing under the old regime for the time being. This was perhaps done to minimize the costs to the exchequer for the transition." Amit Maheshwari, partner, Ashok Maheshwary & Associates LLP said, "This is a welcome clarification on the stand of the government on denial of accumulated MAT credits. However, this is the view of the department and since the section related to carry forward of MAT credit is not amended, this may result in litigation. It's important to note that circulars are not binding on taxpayers but are binding on tax department".

'India can become one of the largest e-vehicle markets'

■ Bihar

Delhi

■ Kerala

■ Karnataka

■ Maharashtra

■ Uttarakhand

Uttar Pradesh

■Tamil Nadu

■Telangana

India has the potential to become one of the largest electric vehicle (EV) markets in the world, with the government pushing for the segment in order to curb pollution and reduce reliance on import-dependent fossil fuel, said a report by the World Economic Forum and Ola Mobility Institute

made by portfolio investors in the

SLOW UPTAKE

People have been slow in warming up to EVs due to the high upfront as well as lifecycle costs, but long-term investment in research and development will create sustained growth, according to the report

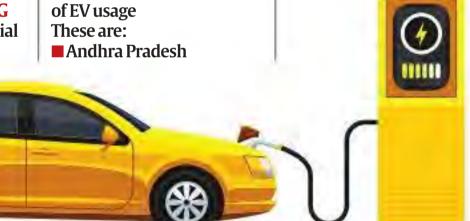
GOVERNMENT BACKING and direction will be crucial for accelerating adoption

and deployment of electric mobility, apart from investment

10 STATES AND UNION

TERRITORIES are leading the way in building production,

infrastructure and services to increase the momentum of EV usage These are:



THREE VALUE CHAINS

The report analysed production, infrastructure and services of these states and found that most emphasised on the production of EV value chain, aspiring to be manufacturing hubs for such vehicles as well as their parts

INFRASTRUCTURE VALUE CHAIN Provisions for installation of charging

infrastructure in public and private places were made by most states to address range anxiety

'Focus on non-tax revenues to offset revenue deficit'

PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 2

DESCRIBING THE recent corporate tax cut as a signal to structural reforms, Chief Economic Advisor KV Subramanian on Wednesday said the government needs to focus on non-tax revenues to offset the revenue deficit if any.

He maintained that the fall in GST collections was expected as the nominal growth has declined. "From 2004 to 2014 we did not implement any structural reforms. During 2014 to 2019 we

have implemented a couple of them like Bankruptcy Code and GST. So I would say that this is the time where we need to focus on implementing structural reforms," he told PTI on the sidelines of a programme.

"The(corporate)tax rate cut is a historic change which clearly signals the intent of the government to implement the structural reforms that are necessary for high growth rate," he added.

According to him, the government is taking steps to ensure that the country grows at high growth rates of close to 8 per cent.

BRIEFLY

CBDT issues

about 17,500

DINs on Day 1

New Delhi: About 17,500

communications with

Documentation Identifica-

tion Number (DIN) system

of Central Board of Direct

Taxes (CBDT) were issued

on the first day of its launch.

To ensure transparency in

tax administration, the

government from October

1 will ensure document

trail of notice, letter, order

and summon or any other

communication by the tax

department with every

communication having a

System 'sound & stable', forced stake sale behind stock fall, says Yes Bank

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, OCTOBER 2

YES BANK on Wednesday said a forced stake sale by a shareholder led to a steep fall in the bank's stock in the previous session.

Stating that its financial and operating metrics remain intrinsically "sound and stable", with liquidity position well in excess of regulatory requirements, the bank said, "Yes Bank's share price observed a material drop on October 1. This fall was primarily on account of the forced sale of 10 crore equity shares (3.92 per cent of the bank's equity share capital) triggered by an invoca-

tion of pledge on the equity shares of a large stakeholder," the bank said in a stock exchange filing. "It may be noted that with this sale, the entire pledge stands extinguished and all sale under the same duly completed," it said.

Milestone Trusteeship Services Ltd, the trustee for an issue of bonds by Yes Bank promoter Morgan Credits Private Ltd, invoked and sold 10 crore shares of the bank pledged by founder Rana Kapoor.

On Tuesday, Yes Bank shares went into a tailspin despite a positive opening, tumbling nearly 23 per cent. The scrip came under massive selling pressure in afternoon trade, giving up its early

gains and plunged 29.91 per cent to Rs 29.05 — its multi-year low during the day on the BSE. It later, closed at Rs 32, down 22.80 per cent. This is fifth consecutive session of fall for Yes Bank when it tanked nearly 43 per cent. During the five days of fall, the company's market valuation

eroded by Rs 4,828.94 crore. "Over the past few days, unfounded speculations regarding the bank's deposits/liquidity have been brought to its notice," said the bank, adding: "The bank had a liquidity coverage ratio in excess of 125 per cent as on September 30, 2019, which is well above the minimum regulatory requirement of 100 per cent."

of mobile phones in China **REUTERS**

Samsung ends production

SEOUL, OCTOBER 2

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS Co Ltd has ended mobile telephone production in China, it said on Wednesday, hurt by intensifying competition from domestic rivals in the world's biggest smartphone market.

The shutdown of Samsung's last China phone factory comes after it cut production at the plant in the southern city of Huizhou in June and suspended another factory late last year, underscoring stiff competition in the country.

The South Korean tech giant's ceased phone production

in China follows other manufacturers shifting production from China due to rising labour costs and the economic slowdown.

Sony also said it was closing its Beijing smartphone plant and would only make smartphones in Thailand. But Apple still makes major products in

China. Samsung's share of the Chinese market shrank to 1 per cent in the first quarter from around 15 per cent in mid-2013, as it lost out to fastgrowing homegrown brands such as Huawei Technologies and Xiaomi Corp, according to market research firm Counterpoint.

RCEP ministers to meet in Bangkok from Oct 10-12

TRADE MINISTERS of the 16-na-

Religare to sell NBFC arm for ₹330 crore

DIN. ENS

New Delhi: Religare Enterprises is selling its entire stake in NBFC arm Religare Finvest Ltd to TCG Advisory Services for around Rs 330 crore, according to a filing on Wednesday. PTI

Walmart pulls heartburn drug Zantac

suspended the sale of heartburn medication containing ranitidine after reports of a probable cancer-causing impurity in it. **REUTERS**

Bengaluru: Walmart has

RETALIATION FOR EU'S 'ILLEGAL' SUPPORT OF AIRBUS

Airbus subsidies: WTO okays US tariffs on \$7.5 bn of EU goods down a preliminary list of goods

REUTERS

LONDON/BRUSSELS/GENEVA. OCTOBER 2

THE US won approval on Wednesday to slap import tariffs on \$7.5 billion worth of European goods over illegal EU subsidies handed to Airbus, threatening to trigger a tit-for-tat transatlantic trade war as the global economy Washington and Beijing.

A panel of three WTO arbitrators said the United States had suffered harm equivalent to \$7.5 billion a year from discounted European government loans for big jets like the Airbus A380, the world's largest airliner. The decision — confirming a figure reported by *Reuters* last week — allows Washington to target EU goods also worth \$7.5 billion, but

Tariffs could still be avoided: Boeing also the wider European econ-

omy.

London: Boeing on Wednesday urged Airbus to comply with World Trade Organization rulings on European subsidies to avoid sanctions from the United States that would hurt not only the planemaker but

ment. **REUTERS**

day because Airbus has refused for years to comply with WTO rulings," Boeing said in a state-

"Europe is facing tariffs to-

in line for tariffs, two US sources said. The agency's provisional list of products eligible to be targeted with tariffs covers European goods with an annual import value of \$25 billion and ranges from Airbus jets themselves to helicopters, wine, spirits, handbags and cheese.

Broad selling amid worries over slowing global growth that had punished European stocks

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

tion Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) grouping will meet in Bangkok on October 10-12, in what could be the last ministerial before a potential deal is sealed in November, an official source said. Commerce and industry Minister Piyush Goyal will attend the meeting next week.

Trade analysts and economists have highlighted the importance of India joining the RCEP to better integrate with the global value chain. But several domestic industries have resisted any such deal on fears that cheap Chinese products will flood Indian markets. **FE**

bars tariffs on financial services. and its US rival Boeing received according to the International falters. pose on US imports. The focus of nervous markets In response, the European earlier on Wednesday accelerated Debt Statistics Report. The decision by the World billions of dollars of illegal subsi-Trade Organization pushes a 15-Commission said US trade sancwill now shift to Washington, dies in the world's largest corpoas the ruling revived worries A growing appetite for yuanrate trade dispute, a legal about damage to the already-aildenominated debt was behind a year corporate dispute over illegal tions would be "short-sighted and where President Donald Trump ing regional economy. The pan 15 per cent surge in China's debt support for transatlantic plane gicounterproductive". There was no marathon dating back to 2004. has taken an aggressive stance on level, which helped push up the ants to the centre of caustic world immediate comment from US of-The global trade body is due to international trade relations. The European STOXX 600 index was down 2.5 per cent, on track for its trade relations and comes on top ficials. The WTO had already decide early next year on the level US Trade Representative is exof a tariff war between found that both Europe's Airbus of annual tariffs the EU can imworst day since December 2018. pected to move quickly to narrow

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total, the World Bank said in a statement.

epaper in

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INCLUDING SELECTIONS FROM THE ECONOMIST

CHARLEMAGNE

Emmanuel Macron's long game

The French president's European strategy enters a new phase

ON SEPTEMBER 26TH 2017 a freshly elected Emmanuel Macron gave a speech at the Sorbonne University in Paris. It lasted over one-and-a-half hours and argued for a hugely more ambitious EU. Amid poetic overtures about Europe's common fate was a long list of proposals to integrate the continent more tightly, in order to toughen it up for a more demanding world. "European sovereignty requires constructing, and we must do it," insisted the new leader. Yet now, on the speech's second birthday and as Mr Macron nears the midpoint of his presidential term, his roster of European achievements is modest.

The timing was poor. Delivered just after Germany's federal election, the speech was meant to inspire the incoming government there. Yet the coalition talks dragged on; then the young German government was plunged into a squabble about immigration; then the anti-establishment gilets jaunes (yellow jackets) protesters took to French streets and mired Mr Macron in domestic matters. His approval ratings have recovered in recent months and Macroniste minds are once more turning to the European picture.

But timing was not the only problem. Berlin works differently from Paris; speeches there are not battering-rams but ship's tillers, gently adjusting a course. Some German leaders felt ambushed by the Sorbonne talk. Angela Merkel found it too ambitious (the chancellor and the president admire each other, but she finds him cocky and he finds her complacent). French and German officials can be pessimistic about each other's countries. In Paris they mutter darkly about Germany's export-dependent economic model; in Berlin they fret about the president's fragile grip on his country.

Proposals to integrate the euro zone were just one part of the Sorbonne speech, but a crucial one. They have made virtually no progress. A nascent budget for the monetary union, which Mr Macron suggested in 2017 should be worth "several" percentage points of its GDP, will be tiny. A coalition of northern states led by the Netherlands has bolstered Germany's opposition to anything bigger. A single European banking system and a common government bond, the best ways to avoid the euro zone's collapse in a future crisis, remain distant prospects. The balance in other areas is also meagre. Europe still lacks a "common strategic culture" and member states are generally too divided to talk to their African neighbours, let alone China, with a single voice. A "genuine European asylum office" enforcing a common migration regime has not materialised. The president's hints at a realignment of European party politics, disrupting the established pan-continental party groups, has led merely to the rebranding of the existing liberal group in the

European Parliament after May's elections. It is therefore tempting to write off the Sorbonne agenda as a flight of a fancy by a naïf new president. This would be wrong. Some of Mr Macron's aspirations have been realised. A European Defence Fund is now financing common projects, the euro budget might yet prove a first step to something bigger, and an array of smaller initiatives (European university networks, for exam-



French President Emmanuel Macron arrives to address the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, on Tuesday. Reuters

ple) are in train. One German official claims that Berlin and Paris have achieved more together in the past two years than during the presidencies of any of Mr Macron's recent

predecessors. Anyway, it is unfair to judge the president's ideas after only two years. His initial priority was to change Europe's attitudes (its "software" as they are known in Macronland) towards how ambitious the bloc can and should be. In Brussels and other capitals this is obviously under way; even Berlin is now proposing a common European unemployment reinsurance scheme. Outside events—a fracturing transatlantic relationship, fears of China, security threats, a looming slowdown—are helping. The process of transforming Europe, Mr Macron argued at

the Sorbonne, should come during the EU's

2019-2024 institutional term. Now that is beginning and his prospects look better. The president successfully proposed Ursula von der Leyen, a like-minded German minister, to lead the incoming European Commission. In its personnel and its programme her "geopolitical commission" has a Macroniste flavour. Nathalie Loiseau, the president's former Europe minister and now an ally in the European Parliament, notes that its priorities—such as a more activist industrial strategy, better technology policies and stronger European defence—echo those of the president. That the president also levered Christine Lagarde, an economically doveish Frenchwoman, into the presidency of the European Central Bank also helps him.

Mr Macron has had to adapt. He has dis-

The process of transforming Europe, Mr Macron argued at the Sorbonne, should come during the EU's 2019-2024 institutional term. Now that is beginning and his prospects look better.

covered that Germany is a cautious and insufficient ally. So he is building a broader network of friends. At an EU summit in May he advocated a carbon-neutral EU by 2050 with seven other environmentally minded governments. That pushed sceptics like Mrs Merkel to accept the goal and other member states followed. The president is similarly striving to build "coalitions of the willing" with Germany and others on migration; and with the Nordics and central Europeans on defence. He is learning the value of going out on a limb. At the G7 summit in Biarritz last month he seized the initiative to mediate between America and Iran. It is less clear that his new quest for a breakthrough in talks with Russia over

Ukraine will succeed.

Paris, capitale de l'Europe

The Sorbonne agenda, then, is entering its implementation phase. Mr Macron wants to persuade the new commission to accelerate progress on subjects like digital regulation, trade deals, "strategic" investment in new technologies and co-operation on migration. The goal is a Europe in 2024 that is more confident, sovereign and hard-nosed. He will not achieve all, or perhaps even most, of the ambitions he articulated at the Sorbonne. Even his re-election as president in 2022, though looking more likely than six months ago, is far from certain. But he stands a good chance of realising parts of his vision. That in itself would be an achievement.

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BANYAN

No Jokowi

Where did the reformist just re-elected as Indonesia's president go?

NOT SINCE 1998, when huge crowds demanding reformasi brought down Suharto, Indonesia's late dictator, have university students taken to the streets in such numbers. In cities across the archipelago and, above all, outside the parliament in Jakarta, tens of thousands have gathered in the past few days. Despite tear-gas, water cannon and beatings, their numbers are growing. Joko Widodo, or Jokowi, the recently re-elected president, faces an unexpected test.

The protesters carry a rattlebag of demands tied together by attempts by the political elite and the security forces to roll back two decades of democratic change. They call their movement reformasi dikorupsi, or reform corrupted. That Jokowi has come into the movement's sights is significant. He swept to power in 2014 because Indonesians loved his reputation for clean government and because he was outside the intermarried elites that have long dominated politics, the security services and business. Jokowi's handlers would still have you be-

lieve that in some respects he is on the side of protesters, one of whose strongest objections is to proposed revisions to a criminal code that dates back to the Dutch colonial era. The bill's backers in parliament say it is an essential articulation of Indonesia's independence. Its detractors point out that it badly undermines the rights of women as well as sexual and religious minorities. It also criminalises all extramarital sex (and therefore gay sex) and censors the dissemination of information about contraception. Given that perhaps two-fifths of unmarried Indonesian adolescents have had sex, you start to understand the depth of student feel-

ess.com

The protesters carry a rattlebag of demands tied together by attempts by the political elite and the security forces to roll back two decades of democratic change. They call their movement reformasi dikorupsi, or reform corrupted. That Jokowi has come into the movement's sights is significant.

ing. (Australia has even warned unmarried holidaymakers in Bali to watch out.) The bill would also criminalise criticism of the president.

The law, promoted by Islamic conservatives, was not the government's doing, but Jokowi had agreed that it should proceed. This dismayed many: the president is a pragmatist, mild in his moral views to the point that his fiercest Muslim critics see him as un-Islamic. Yet in a striking reversal on September 20th, four days before the bill was expected to pass, he asked on television for its passage to be delayed, on the grounds that all the criticism suggested there was room for improvement.

That is proof, his defenders say, that he can stand up to Islamist intolerance. Why he left it so late to intervene remains unclear. Perhaps he was preoccupied with another bill, which guts the powerful anti-corruption commission, the KPK. Parliament approved it in mid-



Students protest outside the Indonesian Parliament building in Jakarta, on September 24. Reuters

September—another of the protesters' griev-

Set up in 2003, the KPK is a reformasi success story. Jokowi himself supported its independence when he came to power. But that was before it began investigating his first choice as police chief, who is close to his patron, Megawati Sukarnoputri, the daughter of Indonesia's independence leader. Members of parliament, ministers, regional barons, regulators, central bankers and bosses of state enterprises have also been indicted.

The bill stipulates that members of the KPK must henceforth be civil servants, preventing the recruitment of outside experts. Its new chief will be Firli Bahuri, a senior officer in the police, where the KPK has long hunted for corruption, but which Jokowi has bolstered as a counterweight to the army. MPs cheer Mr Bahuri's appointment: senior police assiduously cultivate good relations with politicians. Meanwhile, wire taps and searches must in future be authorised by an oversight board picked by the president. That, says Kevin

O'Rourke, author of a seminal book on reformasi, will make it easier for errant executivebranch members to cover their tracks.

So what on earth is Jokowi thinking? He hates the politicking side of his job: perhaps he reckons a KPK at heel will make it easier to placate demanding parties in his coalition. Perhaps he thinks a bit of graft is the price for getting stuff built quickly. His true passion lies in new roads, ports and power stations—anything to boost growth to the 7% a year that remains his obsessive if infeasible target. Deeper

institutional reform is clearly off his secondterm agenda.

But it is on the agenda of the protesters. As well as opposing the criminal code and the assault on the KPK, the students are calling for palm-oil giants to be held responsible for forest fires and for an end to the army's brutal rule in the Indonesian half of New Guinea. By ignoring these pleas, Jokowi no longer looks like a reformer.

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Scheduled halts at Ambala, Ludhiana and Jammu

NDLS - New Delhi Railway Station

SVDK - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Railway Station







18 THE RURAL TRACKING THE CHANGING INDIA IN ITS VILLAGES

HOT PROPOSITION

Not every farmer can grow this

Chilli prices are good this time, but the crop is still a risky gamble

HARISH DAMODARAN

GUNTUR (ANDHRA PRADESH), OCTOBER 2

VUYYURU VENKATESWARA Reddy produced about 84 quintals of 'Tejaswini', a $small-sized \ highly-pungent \ hybrid \ chilli, on$ three acres last year. He harvested 35 quintals of this in mid-December and sold it for about Rs 8,000 per quintal at the Guntur Mirchi Yard market in early-January. As prices fell to Rs 7,000-7,500 towards February-March and to Rs 6,500 levels in April, this farmer from Ramachandrapuram village in A. Konduru mandal of Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district decided to wait it out. After leaving nine quintals un-harvested in the field, he kept the balance 40 quintals — from his second and third pickings in early-February and end-March — at a cold store in Guntur. The gamble paid off: At the start of August, red dry chilli rates had recovered and he could realise Rs 11,800 per quintal.

Reddy, however, is a relatively better-off farmer who owns 14 acres, which includes four under mango. On the remaining 10, he has planted chilli this time on four (two each of Tejaswini and Yashaswini, another very high-pungency 'Teja' variety bred by the Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company), cotton on three and paddy on three acres. In contrast, M. Raja Rao Goud has no land of his own. Last year, he grew a medium-quality Teja chilli hybrid on one acre taken on lease for Rs 25,000 in the same village. He harvested 30 quintals, with his first picking of 10 quintals fetching Rs 7,000/quintal, the second of 15 quintals Rs 6,000 and the last of five quintals Rs 5,000.

"My total revenue did not even cover production costs. There was no way I could have cultivated this year (nursery sowing is mainly in early-July and transplanting in August)," says Goud, who cannot afford to play the waiting game either. But even Reddy has reasons to be unhappy: Currently, deluxe-quality Teja chilli in Guntur is quoting at Rs 15,500-16,000 per quintal, way above the Rs 9,000-10,000 at this time last year and almost Rs 12,000 less than two months ago.

"Prices have shot up, as the crop is lower this time and there seems to be sudden demand from China, too. Teja rates had even touched Rs 16,600 per quintal 10 days ago," notes Shekhar Pallela, a commission agent at the Guntur Mirchi Yard. In 2017, this market had recorded arrivals of 1.36 crore bags with average 45-kg weight. In 2018, it fell marginally to 1.27 crore bags. This year, cumulative arrivals till September have been only 91.76 lakh bags and are unlikely to cross 1.1 crore. Unlike the last two years, not many traders or farmers are holding much stock to sell, before the new crop's arrival from

The 1.2 crore bags that the Guntur yard handles on an average annually is equal to some 5.4 lakh tonnes (lt). That is nearly a quarter of India's chilli production of 23 lt, of which over 4 lt, valued at Rs 4,500 crore, is exported to countries such as China (including through Vietnam), Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, US and UAE.

"This yard has 550 commission agents and 250 registered exporter-buyers, ensuring enough liquidity. As a result, farmers from not only Guntur, but even districts such



(Above) P Sivarama Krishna Reddy, owner of a chilli cold store in Guntur; Chilli being auctioned. Harish Damodaran



as Prakasam, Krishna and Kurnool in AP, Khammam, Warangal and Nalgonda in Telangana, and Hubli in Karnataka bring their crop here," explains Pallela, who does a business of 2,000 bags daily in the peak

marketing season from January to May and also owns a one lakh-bags capacity cold store. Guntur has a total of 65 cold stores with an estimated 80 lakh bags capacity.

But for the farmer, chilli is a high-cost,

high price-risk crop. It takes about 15 labourers to harvest one quintal of the small Tejaswini fruits. At Rs 250 per labourer for 30 quintals, picking cost alone comes to Rs 1.1 lakh-plus per acre. The picked fruits have to further be sun-dried, graded (to separate the spotted red chillis from the fine ones) and bagging. These operations will cost another Rs 800 per quintal or Rs 24,000/acre. Besides, the farmer will spend up to Rs 25,000 for pesticides and fertilisers, Rs 4,000 on seed, and Rs 30,000 on land preparation and irrigation. Add to these, cold store charges (Rs 185 per 45-kg bag or Rs 12,300 for 30 quintals), transport cost and interest on loans extended by the commission agent (for purchase of inputs and meeting other expenses), the total investment will work out to Rs 2.25 lakh per acre. It would be even more if the crop is grown on leased land.

"The farmer can make decent money only at a rate above Rs 10,000 per quintal. If he harvests 30 quintals and keep costs within Rs 2-2.1 lakh, the net profit can, then, be Rs one lakh or so per acre," points out Potlapalli Sivaramakrishna Reddy, owner of a 1.5 lakh bags cold store at Kothareddy Palem in Guntur's Chebrolu mandal. He expects Teja prices to rule at Rs 10,000-12,000/quintal in the coming marketing season, with other chili varieties like LCA-334 and Indam-5 (which have lower production cost) fetching Rs 9,000-12,000.

For the farmer, though, few crops are a gamble like chilli.

1200

How agri MNCs are pushing their products

These companies are proactively engaging the Indian farmer more than government departments

HARISH DAMODARAN

AT A time when government agriculture extension systems are crumbling, that gap is increasingly being filled by multinationals and corporates working directly with farmers, even while aggressively marketing their products.

A good example would be Syngenta. The \$ 13.5 billion Swiss agrochemical-cum-seed major, currently owned by the Chinese stateowned enterprise ChemChina, has designed crop-specific integrated solutions or "protocols" for paddy, maize/corn, cotton, chilli and tomato grown in India. These basically guide farmers on the application of its agrochemical products at various growth stages of a crop, right from sowing. Thus, there is a specific GroMore protocol for paddy, Fast Start for cotton, and MaxVeg for chilli and vegetables.

Under MaxVeg, chilli growers are advised first to treat their seeds using 'Cruiser' insecticide (the active ingredient molecule is thiamethoxam) for protection against root grub, termites and nematode pests. At 12.5 gram per acre, it costs about Rs 100. Once sowing happens, the seedlings, after around 12 days in the nursery, are drenched with 100 gm of 'Ridomil Gold' (mefenoxam plus mancozeb), costing Rs 200/acre, to control root wilt fungus. This is followed, within 15-25 days after nursery sowing, by spraying of 40 ml 'Alika' (thiamethoxam plus lambda cyhalothrin: Rs 125) and 15 ml 'Amistar' (azoxystrobin: Rs 100) against a broad range of sucking insect pests (aphids, whitefly and jassids) and fungi, respectively.

Before the chilli seedlings are transplanted 30 days after sowing, a fresh treatment of 'Cruiser' (25 gm: Rs 200) is recommended. On the 15th day following transplantation, farmers are told to apply 150 gm of 'Actara' (thiamethoxam: Rs 350/acre) along with 350 ml of 'Isabion' (a bio-stimulant to enhance crop vigour and growth: Rs 350). On the 20th day, the same dose of 'Isabion' (Rs 350) is given with 80 ml of 'Alika' (Rs 250), with this combination repeated on the 40th day as well. In between are the applications of 'Folio Gold' (a fungicide having mefenoxam and chlorothalonil active ingredients: 400 ml or Rs 500/acre on 30th day) and 'Pegasus' (diafenthiuron active ingredient to control whitefly and mites: 250 gm or Rs 950/acre on 35th day). At this stage, the farmer would already have spent Rs 4,075 per acre.

Once flowering initiation takes place from the 45th day, the MaxVeg protocol requires application of 250 gm 'Splash' (chlorothalonil: Rs 350/acre) and 100 ml 'Score' (difenoconazole: Rs 200) fungicides mainly against anthracnose and leaf spot diseases. Then come a 200-ml dose of 'Amistar' on the 50th day to prevent any flower drop (Rs 1,050/acre), 250 gm of 'Pegasus' on the 60th day (Rs 950), 200 ml of 'Amistar Top' (azoxystrobin plus difenoconazole: Rs 900) on the 75th day and the earlier 'Splash-Score' combination on the 90th day (Rs 550). By this time, the fruits would have started turning red from green, after first appearing in 55-60 days.

Simply put, the entire MaxVeg protocol would cost upwards of Rs 8,000 per acre. The farmer may additionally have to spray against sucking pests or chilli fruit borer on an as-needed basis. These out-of-protocol



Chilli farmers in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district. Harish Damodaran

applications again cost money: Each 80-100 ml round of Syngenta's 'Proclaim' (emamectin benzoate) or 'Ampligo' (chlorantraniliprole plus lambda cyhalothrin) insecticide entails an expenditure of Rs 700-900 per acre. And there could be up to three rounds, taking the total to Rs 11,000-plus

The above application details only capture the level of engagement – how Syngenta is seeking to promote its crop protection products among farmers by developing protocols for usage at different growth stages. These integrated crop protection solutions are, moreover, crop-specific. "We are probably the only company employing this approach, which goes beyond product-selling to providing crop-wise and situationwise solutions. By using our protocols, farmers can expect to harvest significantly higher yields. Our interest is in building trust that will enable us to sell to them year after year,' says J. Erik Fyrwald, chief executive officer of the Basel-headquartered Syngenta International AG.

In 2018-19, Syngenta's total sales in India was Rs 3,131 crore (\$440 million), of which some 65% came from agrochemicals and the balance from seeds (mainly corn, tomato, capsicum, cauliflower, watermelon and other vegetables). "India generates hardly 3% of our global revenues, which we would want to take to 10%. That's fairly realistic for a country housing almost a fifth of the world's population," Fyrwald tells The Indian Express.

Syngenta has just set up an "innovation and learning centre" at Bhimadole in Andhra Pradesh's West Godavari district. The centre, spread over 38 acres, will act as a facility to test out the company's new seed and crop protection products, besides showcasing them to progressive farmers, channel partners and agriculture department officials.

"This centre will focus on paddy, corn, cotton, chilli and such crops grown in south India. The plan is to have three more centres in the country's other regions," adds Rafael Del Rio, managing director, Syngenta India Ltd.

BOUNTIFUL SURPRISE

Why Modi's best monsoon defied all forecasters

This is the first time since 1997 when India has recorded above normal rains even in an El Niño year



JATIN SINGH

THE SOUTHWEST monsoon and Narendra Modi have not always been the best of friends. The Modi government's first innings had begun in 2014 on a drought note, which was followed by another bad monsoon in 2015. There had been only four such instances of back-to-back failures since the last century: In 1904-05, 1965-66, and 1985-87 (three successive years).

While the monsoon season is from June to September, it also leaves its imprint on the ensuing months. Within the season, too, there are long dry spells followed by periods of excessive rainfall; so, you could well have a drought and a flood in the same region. And climate change, of course, has made the monsoon more volatile.

Over a longer period, the monsoon has had a pattern, with certain epochs - a decade or even two - having a higher frequency of droughts. Thus, during this century, there have been five droughts (2002, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2015) and five below-normal years (2000, 2001, 2012, 2017 and 2018). The average monsoon rainfall in the current decade

(2011-2018) has been only 835 mm, as compared to the normal long-period average (LPA) of 887 mm. This would indicate that we are now in a low rainfall epoch.

The above fact was borne out even in 2016, which was a La Niña year. Yet, despite predictions of a bumper/surplus season, the 2016 monsoon ended up with cumulative country-wide rainfall only at 97% of the LPA. Although at the lowest end of the range for a "normal" monsoon, it led to drought conditions in parts of Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and North-East India. 2017 provided no respite either. It was a below-normal monsoon year, with Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh joining the drought-hit areas of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Last year also, the monsoon was 9.4% deficient and only narrowly escaping the definition of drought. While Punjab and Haryana managed to bounce back, the whole of eastern India (Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal), Gujarat and large parts of the South slipped into scarcity.

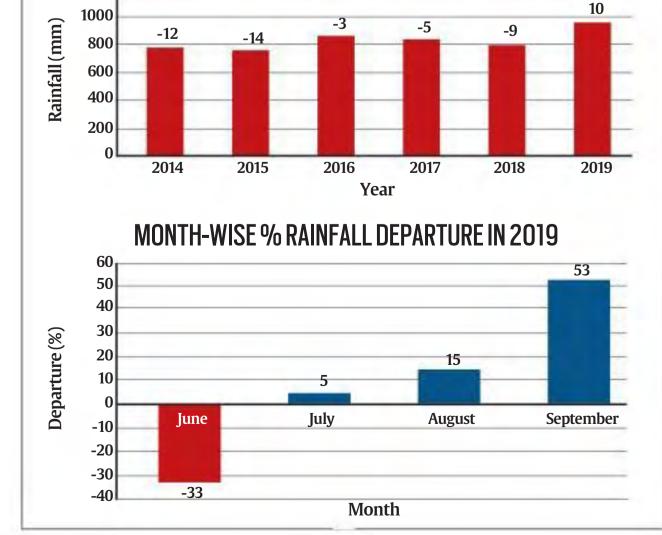
Against this background, the severely deficient rains in June seemed to suggest that 2019 would join the ranks of below-normal monsoon years. But as it turned out, this monsoon has defied all expectations and pat-

On April 3, Skymet had forecast this year's monsoon to be below normal at 93% of LPA. Our prediction was made amidst an ongoing El Niño event. In recent years, it has been seen that even a "weak" El Niño can adversely impact the monsoon, as much as a strong event

did in the drought of 2004. The 2019 monsoon, in contrast, has behaved somewhat on the lines of 1997: That year witnessed a "strong" El Niño and yet it had a normal monsoon, with rainfall at 102% of LPA.

Skymet has been using the Climate Forecasting System (CFS V2) global model. While our model has successfully predicted monsoon rainfall in the past, it is, however, very sensitive to El Niño. The El Niño this time was expected to last through the season, albeit on a weakening note. But it started collapsing after June. At the same time, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) factor seems to have played a dominant role this season, IOD, by itself, is usually not considered a strong driver of the monsoon, particularly during El Niño years. Most models, including Skymet's, underestimated its role. The IOD, right from the beginning, kept growing stronger (positive). In combination with the Madden-Julian Oscillation, as and when it visited the Indian Ocean, this enhanced the overall rainfall.

Skymet normally reviews the monsoon's performance halfway through the season. But we decided against it this time, notwithstanding indications of better rains in the second half of the season. What held us back was the volatility of numerical models and the historical record. Our own model volatility grew so much that projections for the second half showed large variations. At best, we could have revised the forecast to 99% of LPA, although with low confidence. In hindsight, had we done that, our short-range forecast for August-September as well would have gone wrong, as it happened with the India Meteorological Department's (IMD). Also, historically since 1871, whenever



% RAINFALL DEPARTURE FROM LONG PERIOD AVERAGE

June had a rainfall deficit of 30% or more, the season invariably ended up as below normal, if not recording a drought. This time, we had a rainfall deficiency of 33% in June. Given the past record, a recovery from such a huge deficiency is nearly impossible. Monsoon dynamics, moreover, do not suggest enduring good rainfall performance for three consecu-

tive months. In 2019, however, we have precisely had that: July, August and September have got progressively better and the cumulative rainfall for the monsoon season from June 1 has ended with a surplus of 10%.

The Modi government has finally seen its first good monsoon. 2019 is possible the best monsoon year since 1994. What is more, the

September rains have broken the record of the last 102 years, drenching most parts, especially central India. It has taken every forecaster by surprise. We at Skymet had assessed September to be the best month of this monsoon, with rains at 102% of LPA. But the actual number has been 153%, the highest since 1917.

Equally heartening is the fact that the spatial distribution of rainfall has been good this year. Perennially water-stared Gujarat Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have, in particular, received excellent rains. With water levels in India's 113 major reservoirs also at nearly 87% of their live storage capacities - as against the last 10-years' average for this time - the Modi government can take comfort from a great start in its second innings. The excess rainfall, especially in September, would help in the accumulation of residual moisture in the soil that will prove beneficial for the coming rabi winter-spring crop. The replenishment of the water table and aquifers may even see us through till the next monsoon.

The IMD deserves congratulations for predicting a near-normal monsoon at 96% of LPA, even if this may have been the lowest possible normal. Even on August 1, the IMD had revised and retained its forecast at this level. Its August and September projections, at 99% and 102% of LPA, also went off the mark by a huge margin. At the end of it all, none of us, the IMD included, were able to capture what has been the best monsoon at least since 1994.

The writer is founder and managing director of Skymet Weather Services Pvt. Ltd

19 IAIK ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



TELLING A TALE

Oscar-winning director Quentin Tarantino plans to write a novel set in a post-World War II scenario. The plot ponders over Hollywood versus foreign cinema, through the lead character, who is disillusioned with Hollywood.

SNAP SHOTS



Ready, Stead, Stop

WELL-KNOWN STREET artist Banksy, is taking extreme steps to open his new venture — a homeware store called Gross Domestic Product. Currently, a conflict with a greeting card company has deterred the artist from operating a brick-and-mortar space. Banksy's venture popped up in Croydon, but it will never open its doors. All trade will happen online for the next two weeks. "A greeting card company is contesting the trademark I hold to my art," said the artist in a statement. "And attempting to take custody of my name so they can sell their fake Banksy merchandise legally." He added that the card company was "banking on the idea" that he would be absent in court and not defend himself. The homeware store plans to sell a range of products which are "impractical and offensive" and includes disco balls fashioned out of police riot helmets.



The Great Divide

DO WE really know Gandhi? The play, *Jab We Met Gandhi*, revolves around a group of students confronting this question as they attempt to create a play on the Father of the Nation. The play-within-a-play by a group of students of the University of Allahabad, Jab We Met Gandhi begins with several youngsters opposing the need to even create a production on the Mahatma. The arguments turn into a fight, before one student suggests that all of them read something on Gandhi. As the devised play progresses, director Amitesh Kumar reveals how modern teenagers have little knowledge of Gandhi, apart from what they encounter on social media and hearsay. By the time, the students in the play create a storyline based on Hind Swaraj, My Experiments with Truth and Gandhi's lectures before his assassination, they feel a transformation as if the visionary leader is present within them. The play was staged at Swaraj Vidyapith, Prayagraj, on October 1.



Heroes All

IT WAS an evening of honouring "unlikely heroes at unlikely places". The launch of Savvy Soumya Misra's (pictured right) book Beyond Charity (Bloomsbury Publications; Rs 499) at Oxford Bookstore, New Delhi, last week, celebrated 10 years of international NGO, Oxfam. From conversations on the role of an NGO to lives of people post-riots in areas such Muzaffar Nagar, the evening presented multiple perspectives. From being a journalist to moving to Oxfam, Misra says it was a natural progression. "I am from Jamshedpur and I wanted to write about adivasis. But mainstream news media would never let one do that because it is not TRP friendly. At Oxfam, I was covering rural stories. Urban India has no idea what the lives of adivasis are like or how women suffer. People should read books like these so they can understand the diversity we have, and that we need to do more."

CHHAVIARORA

Voice Around

AISHWARYA RAI will voice the character of Angelina Jolie in Hindi, for the forthcoming film *Maleficent*: *Mistress* of Evil. Jolie has reprised her role of the titular character in Maleficent... which she first essayed in the 2014 film. Maleficent: Mistress of Evil carries forward the story after she cursed baby Princess Aurora.



From the Beginning till the End

An immersive exhibition that integrates multiple art forms, from painting to textile, presents a panoramic view of Gandhi's life and philosophy

ANUSHREE MAJUMDAR

ON THE mezzanine floor of the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), Mumbai, a recording of a heartbeat thrums through the space. The sound accompanies a pulse made of white neon lights, as it encircles a suspended infinity symbol made out of textured white khadi, that floats in between a mirrored floor and ceiling. "Two months ago, when I visited Rajghat, I learned that Gandhiji's heartbeat was considered 'the perfect heartbeat' — he lived with such discipline that doctors had predicted that he'd live to be 125 years. He made every moment of his life purposeful. I wanted to create a tunnel where I could capture that essence of infinity," says Gaurav Gupta, couturier, and one of the 10 artists, whose work is featured in an exhibition, "Santati: Mahatma Gandhi Then. Now. Next".

The multi-disciplinary exhibition takes over every floor of the NGMA, merging different forms — painting, photography, sculpture, literature, textile, video — to create a 360-degree view of how Gandhi's philosophy has resonated with artists across time. "It's an exhibition to be experienced. We've tried to create a meditative atmosphere," says Lavina Baldota of the Abheraj Baldota Foundation, and the show's curator. Her grandfather, Abheraj Baldota, was associated with Gandhi during the freedom struggle.

It's been three years in the making, she says, a collaboration that first began with textile artist Gaurang Shah. "In the beginning, we thought of a khadi weaving project. But it just didn't feel enough. Also, Gandhiji's influence wasn't limited to just one kind of art - it resonated with multiple forms, and for the first time, we've brought them all to-

gether under one roof," says Baldota. Santati means continuum, and the exhibition travels through time from the first floor, till the last space below the central dome. It begins with the doyens of the contextual modernism movement, artists Nandalal Bose and Ramkinkar Baij. Across them are paintings by the students of the II School of Art, made during the Independence Movement. Here, a marriage



(Clockwise from top) Gaurang Shah's khadi saris that have paintings by Raja Ravi Varma on the pallus; Klove Studio's *Ahimsa* installation, inspired by Gandhi's iconic spectacles and the Dandi March; a detail of Shah's sari pallu

Gandhiji's influence wasn't limited to just one kind of art. It resonated with multiple forms, and for the first time, we've brought them under one roof

LAVINA BALDOTA, CURATOR

of different miniature styles with a focus on Gandhi is showcased. "While the Bose and Baij works are from the NGMA's archives, the other paintings are from the art school archives, where students interpreted Gandhi-ism in different ways," says Baldota, who also picked out archival photographs of Gandhi, taken by noted photographer Kulwant Roy. Some of the images have been recreated from broken negatives, lending the final product a three-dimensional effect.

Other collaborators include fashion designer Rajesh Pratap Singh, whose installation uses indigo dye to focus on satyagraha; poet Navkirat Sodhi who pays tribute with verses written around the theme of Gandhi's life and ideas; architect Ashiesh Shah's installation features objects created by rural artisans using traditional techniques. Delhibased light designers, Prateek Jain and Gautam Seth of Klove Studio, have designed

a pink rock salt, metal and blown glass installation titled *Ahimsa* that is inspired by Gandhi's iconic round-shaped spectacles and the 24-day Dandi March. Another remarkable section of the exhibition belongs to Jean François Lesage — through couture embroidery, on khadi. The French couturier has recreated Gandhi's letters and postcards. "Kishore Jhunjhunwala, a leading collector of all objects regarding Gandhi, had his ashes and we've also created a shrine for the urn, so that people can pause and introspect in front of it," says Baldota.

The *piece de resistance* of the show is on the final floor. In a first of its kind, Shah and weavers from Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh, have recreated paintings by Raja Ravi Varma on the *pallu* of khadi saris. "This has been done through the jamdaani weave; the yarns dyed in over 600 shades of vegetable dye. With over 40 artisans involved, each sari takes up to six months," says Shah, who credits master craftsman Junaid Khatri from Kutch, who created a colour palette never seen before in textiles. The saris are hung over giant loom-like bamboo structures and are truly an amazing sight. Shah has not thought of selling the saris yet — he'd rather take them around the world first.

> Santati is at the NGMA, Mumbai, till November 15: 11 am to 6 pm



(From above) The Shillong Chamber Choir; Asha Bhosle; Lydian Nadhaswaram; Prasoon Joshi

Music for the Soul

A festival will celebrate the country's treasure trove of musical traditions through baithaks, performances, discussions and films

PALLAVICHATTOPADHYAY

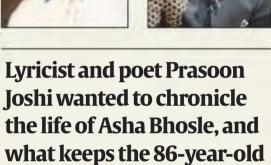
WITH A career that began years before the Partition, singer Asha Bhosle has rendered the most hummable hits for decades. Be it Chura liya hai tumne jo dil ko (Yaadon Ki Baaraat), Aao huzoor tumko (Kismat) or In aankhon ki masti ke (Umrao Jaan), her versatility has been hailed by the most sought after. Lyricist and poet Prasoon Joshi wanted to chronicle her life, what makes her tick, what keeps the 86-year-old playback singer still active, and her choice of music. Beginning October 4, at the threeday long Raymond MTV India Music Summit 2019, in The Fairmont, Jaipur, adman Joshi hopes to know more about Bhosle, who entered the Guinness World Records in 2011 for recording 11,000 songs in 20 languages. "I want to know more about the acting in her voice. She is not only melodious and has the perfect voice but one who has given voice to many actresses, one that is full of emotions. There's a storyteller in her voice," says Joshi, a mentor for the festival, about his upcoming conversation with the artiste.

The third edition of the music summit brings a platter of India's musical traditions on one platform through baithaks, conversations and performances, in over 50 sessions. There's the duo Rajan and Sajan Mishra from the Banaras gharana paying an ode to their city, and the Shillong Chamber Choir from Meghalaya, winner of *India's Got Talent*, who will participate in the festival. The latter's rendition of *Vande Mataram* that was chosen during the Chandrayaan-2 mission last month, will ring at the festival too. The choir's founder Neil Nongkynrih will stage excerpts from his new opera *Sohlyngngem*, set in the Shillong of 1800s, as he weaves together a hybrid of Khasi folk music, western classical and Hindustani classical music to highlight Meghalaya's dying language of Khasi. "People preserve forests and endangered species. This is my effort to preserve the language," he says.

Fourteen-year-old Chennai piano prodigy Lydian Nadhaswaram, who has mastered the art of playing two pianos at the same time, is excited about his upcoming stint at Jaipur. He informs that he will be tracing the bumblebee's steps in the minute-long *Flight of the* Bumblebee. Ustad Mazhar Ali Khan, classical vocalist of the Patiala gharana,







will hold a masterclass on the basic requirements of vocal music, and improving voice and embellishing ragas. He says, "I will bring out the beauty of the Patiala *gharana* through live demonstrations and gayaki. It will be a mix of both theoretical and practical knowledge." The highlight will be his and brother Jawad Ali Khan's showcase of what comprised the beauty of the music of their grandfather, Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan.

playback singer still active

The face of contemporary Indian music, the emerging hip-hop scene being its finest example, will be seen through a performance by Delhi-based Punjabi rapper Prabh Deep, whose compositions are peppered with what he sees around him — the increasing and alarming usage of drugs, poverty, suicide rates and unemployment. Films on stalwarts of Indian music include the National award-winning film *Zikr Us* Parivash Ka, a reminder of Begum Akhtar's music through the lens of filmmaker Nirmal Chander Dandriyal. It will be followed by Gully Life – The Story of Divine, a peak into Mumbai's rap sensation Vivian Fernandes aka Divine, who inspired Zoya Akhtar's Gully Boy.

Tickets available on Bookmyshow

Revisiting the Legend

Actor Arun Govil to play Ram once more, this time on stage

DIPANITA NATH

IN THE 1980s, Arun Govil became god. The lead actor in Ramanand Sagar's television blockbuster, Ramayan, he played the maryada purushottam as an approachable young man with a genial smile. Govil has essayed numerous other roles, including the hero of Vikram Air Betaal, but it was Ram who drew the crowds wherever he went, including airports. Three decades later, the actor will revisit the role in *The Legend of Ram: Ek* Shabd, Ek Baan, Ek Naari, a Broadway-style play directed by Delhi-based Atul Satya Koushik that will open in Delhi during Dusshera next week.

Koushik's previous productions include Chakravyuh, starring Nitish Bharadwaj as Krishna, and Raavan ki Ramayan, in which Puneet Issar plays the king of Lanka. Govil was an obvious choice for his new play since Koushik had "grown up watching Govil in Ramayan". Edited excerpts with Govil:

How different is the Ram of this play from the one you performed 30 years ago?

The Ram I play now is human rather than the divine figure of Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan. He is a normal man, who faces many struggles in life, sticks to his ideals, emerges victorious and begins to be considered a Vishnu of his times. What we are trying to say in the play is that there are people who have sublime qualities and become godlike.

Since Ram has emerged as a political figure and an election issue, does your

play have a message for our leaders? One of the times, you see Ram's human quality is towards the end when he says, 'Praja ke hit ke aagey raja shunya ho jata hai'. (A king has no personal agenda beyond whatever benefits his subjects). This is true even today. It's a positive message to politicians. Don't Members of Parliament have any responsibility towards the lakhs of voters who have elected them? Is it enough to just win an election? When one of Ram's subjects raises a finger of suspicion at Sita, Ram's duty is, first, as a king and he acts accordingly and exiles Sita.

How did Ram impact your life as an actor



(Left) Arun Govil, who has been in the industry for more than four decades, will perform on stage for the first time; the poster

and a person?

Everything that happens has a good and a bad side. On the one hand, I became known as the actor who played Ram on TV and didn't have to introduce myself to people. On the other hand, one starts wondering, 'Why am I known only for this role and not the others?' I started getting the same type of roles because I had been typecast as a character. Then again, I stopped smoking because, if people were coming and touching my feet, they wouldn't want to see me with a cigarette. That was a blessing in disguise. I had to think, 'If people are showering me with the kind of love many actors aspire for, is it necessary for me to smoke, drink and attend parties?' Faith and religion are very strong in our country and we have to respect that.

The Ram I play is human rather than the divine figure of Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan... He is a normal man, who faces many struggles, sticks to his ideals, and emerges victorious...in the play there are people who have sublime qualities and become godlike

ARUN GOVIL ACTOR

Is the stage a new experience after your experiences on the screen?

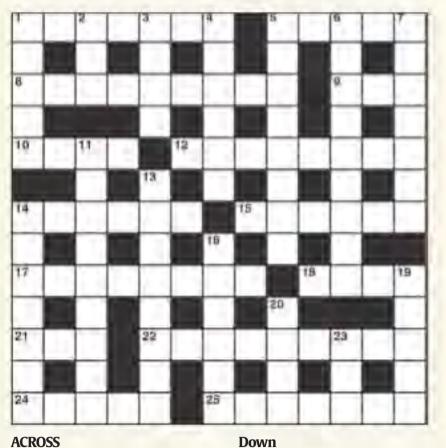
I had never done commercial theatre before this, only amateur plays. When Atul came up with the idea of the play, I thought that a live performance before an audience makes you more alert and agile. As a person, who has had a long stint in acting, I have always been a keen observer. I take in small things, such as the reactions of my co-actors. If I can move them, it means that I am doing the right thing on stage. If they are not affected by my performance, it means that the audience won't be either.

The play will be staged at Kamani auditorium, Delhi, on October 8, 3 pm and 6 pm. Tickets on BookMyShow. Contact: 9873579796



20 CALENDAR

CROSSWORD 3927



- Possibly a bit past it might
- describe John (7) 5 First odd results of splits (5) Chopping up the garlic with
- apathy (9) 9 The best-known surviving
- creature?(3)
- 10 The fools pass out (4)
- 12 Prior is an outwardly pious clergyman (8)
- 14 Bird seems quietly affectionate (6) 15 Intellectual confused by Iran
- 17 Being prejudiced is only
- right, perhaps (3-5)
- 18 Given employment? (4) Behave like a wild cat? (3)
- 22 Protection money? (9)
- 24 Gain favour with a hot dish (5)
- to play without him(7)

JUMBLED WORDS

the answer for the given quip.

CERED

KYIRS

25 The team won't be prepared

20 Article about a piece of land

life(8)

23 A religious palindrome (3)

Bottle-opener and drinks in

Pussy perhaps is in a sulk (3)

Wild animals create a stir, for

Terrible ruler of vain

5 Hope for the lost and sick (8)

industrial buildings (9)

11 One who defends Cromwell?

13 One of the blessings of city

14 A crop is knocked flat (7)

19 Ear doctor is superior though

16 Domestic service (3,3)

gloomy(5)

7 Leave nothing to be desired

I forecast a change in

disposition (4)

example (6)

packs(5)

Solutions Crossword 3926: Across: 11 Shanghai, 5 Rake, 9 Ruler, 10 Earldom, 11 Make advances, 13 Ration, 14 Scythe, 17 Stage whisper, 20 Gathers, 21 Issue, 22 Sack, 23 Brigands. Down: 1 Spry, 2 At least, 3 Garden of Eden, 4 Amends, 6 Asdic, 7 Enmeshed, 8 Broadcasting, 12 Presages, 15 Treason, 16 Chaser, 18 Attic, 19 Sees.

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to

ERUNTU

AHYMMW

Answer: In the depth of winter I finally learned that there was in me an

SOLUTION: CREED, RISKY, UNTRUE, WHAMMY

the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get

In the depth of I finally learned that there was in me an invincible - Camus (6....6)

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis









CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson







MARVIN by Tom Armstrong





Difficulty Level 5s Instructions

SUDOKU

every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium: 4s = Hard: 5s = Very Hard; 6s =

Genius

3 2 9 6 3 6 3

3987 8 9 **SOLUTION SUDOKU** 7 5 2 8 2 7 5 3 1 6 9 5 4 8 1 2 5 6 3 1 2 9 8 4 5 9 5 8 3 7 4 6

DAY TODAY

might seem like a rather

be deeply pertinent if

emotional tie.

obvious statement, but it may

somebody else has their eyes on

your possessions. As a matter of

interest, you might also be looking at the price of an

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

start afresh. You must stand

your ground if principles are

involved, but may achieve most

through charm and diplomacy.

You also have to take a critical

look at your own motives.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

your sums and get the figures

right. You'll also have to talk to

other people about your plans.

Short journeys are likely, as are

communications and calls.

unexpected visits,

Some decisive

denote that you must have the will to

aspects to your sign

It's not always easy

around the facts, but

you will have to do

to get your head

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) No amount of cash

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) What you earn and what you own are

two sides of the

same picture. This

a certain emotional lack. Yet it may well be useful to spend your way out of a tight situation. Don't be afraid of other people thinking that you are flashy. That is their problem. You must get on and do what you must do.

BY PETER VIDAL

will compensate for

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You know just how incredibly touchy other people can be. However, there's no point in ignoring the fact, for if you tread on their toes they'll only make your life a misery in return. Your best move is to indulge partners' little whims just for a while.

do your spirit good, so put taking some time off to

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) You can make a fresh

start, cleaning the debris out of your for a very long time have you been advised to cut the bonds that have bound you so tightly. You may, if you wish, ease your way out of a burdensome responsibility or obligation you have come to regret.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) Hopefully you have



VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) You may not take

kindly to being told to wait your turn, yet that is precisely what you may have to do. A little self-sacrificing activity will others first. Also, how about recharge your batteries? It could be a better idea than you think.

It's well-known that

you like a challenge.

probably wonder if

However, you

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

emotional life. Not you have set yourself an impossible task, and the stars confirm that you probably have. However, if you strive for the very best that you can manage, the results are bound to be worth the effort.



As you may already

have found out, you have to face up to some extremely harsh situations. I am sorry if you're under a lot of strain at the moment, but never was the old advice more true: a problem shared is a problem halved. It may even be quartered.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Although new

commitments are on the cards, they may well not be binding. There are further developments which are yet to take place, and more information yet to come. Also, busy times are imminent, so stay ahead of the game at work. Also, if social plans are on the

boil, let other people in on the secret. PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You can feel quite safe about letting matters take their own course. If overseas connections are in the air, develop them now. Also, if you have a choice, then go for adventurous options. You might well discover long-forgotten or hidden talents.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS) Total

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.

SI. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	CE/P&C	1021	1
2	CE/C/Transmission	T.27, T.28, T.29 3	
viewing www.ta	and downloading of e-tende intransco.gov.in, www.tender	ue date of submission/opening rs, please visit websites: rs.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov	
nicgep/	арр	DIPR/3438/TEN	IDER/2019

GUJARAT MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)



Regd. Office: Block No. 14/1, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Sector-10, Gandhinagar **2** 079-23250767, 23250766, 23257698 **TENDER NOTICE: D-08/2019-2020**

Tenders are invited online form reputed Manufacturers / formulators / direct importers for Purchase of Tablet & Capsules, Injections, Miscellaneous and surgical items on rate contract basis and details of specification, quantity is available on https://gmscl.quiarat.gov.in All tender documents can be downloaded free on the website: https://gmscl.nprocure.com & Tender Notice Interested bidders are requested to submit the tender through e-tender process.

Duration of downloading of Tender document (online):-03/10/2019 to 01/11/2019 up to 15.55 Hrs.

Last date for Submission (online): 01/11/2019 up to 16.00 HRS. Last date for Submission of Physical document: 04/11/2019 up to 16.00 HRS. Opening of Technical Bid Date (online): 05/11/2019 At 15.00 HRS

PRE-CONSULTATION MEETING (Pre-Bid)

Interested manufactures/formulators/Direct Importers are requested to remain present for pre-Consultation meeting to be held on 11/10/2019 at 12.00 O'Clock at Committee room at above mentioned address. Only representive from each Manufacturer carring a Valid identify card would be allowed to participate in the pre-bid.

INF/1222/19-20

MANAGING DIRECTOR

JHARKHAND MEDICAL & HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE **DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT** CORPORATION LTD. NCH BUILDING, RCH CAMPUS, NAMKUM, RANCHI – 834010

(CIN-U85100JH2013SGC001276), imhidpc2014@gmail.com

Tender Notice No: JMC/NIT-Date:01.09.2019 TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement System)

The Managing Director, Jharkhand Medical & Health Infras tructure Development & Procurement Corporation Ltd. (JMHID PCL) hereby invites tender for "Empanelment of Agency for deployment of Technical

The Blank tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site http://iharkhandtenders.gov.inand.should.be.submitted through e-procurement system only.

SLNo	Particulars	Details
1.	Name of Work	Empanelment of Agency for deployment of Technical Manpower
2.	Date of Publication of RFPDocument	01 dOctober 2019
3.	Last Date of receiving Queries	09-10-2019 , 6:00:00 PM
4.	 Pre-Bid Meeting Date/Time Office, GVI Campus, Tata 1 Namkum, Ranchi – 834010 	
5.	Last Date / time for receipt of Bids (Qualification and Financial Bid) including had copy submission of Qualification Bid) (Bid Due Date)	17-10-2019 at 3:00 PM
6.	Date / time for Opening of Qualification Bid online and physical had copy submission	18-10-2019 at 03:00 PM
7.	Tender Fee (Non-refundable)	INR 1,000.00
8.	Contact email	imhidpc2014@gmail.com gm.proc.imc@gmail.com
9.	Contact no. of the person	7004871564, 9773711992

Note: In case any scheduled date is declared holiday, the scheduled work will be done on the next working day. Detailed tender document can be seen and applied through website

http://jharkhandtenders.gov.inonly, hard copies of Technical bid & Price bid will not be entertained except Tender fee & EMD. Sd/- Managing Director,

JMHIDPCL, Govt. of Jharkhand बूंद - बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तरसँगे Namkum, Ranchi P.R.218636 Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society(19-20):D

ORIENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE RRL Cluster Office: Il Floor, Radha Palace, 78 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Tel: 0135-2746920, 2746053, 7454941, 19, E-Mail: rd_7621@obc.co.in

CORRIGENDUM (E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE)

With reference to our Sale Notice of "E-Auction published dt. 01.10.2019 in The Indian Express newspaper, Delhi Edition, Which are some corrections of Last Date & Time of Submission of EMD And Documents dt. read as 30,10,2019 instead of 29,07,2019 and Sr. No. 3. Borrower name read as Smt. Ratika Rathore instead of Smt. Raika Rathore and Ms. Anubhuti Rathore instead of Mrs. Anubhuti Rathore. All other properties of the E-Auction as per terms & conditions will remain the same.

Date: 02:10:2019 Authorised Officer, Oriental Bank of Commerce

Bid Identification no. 3081/Nivida (Garhwal) /125

Date and Time of Availability of bid documents

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal:

Details of subsequent addendum / corrigendum

cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website

Pre bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place: 14/10/2019-12:00 Hrs.

urther details can be seen from the e-procurment portal "https://tendersuttarakhand.gov.in"

Name and Address of Officer Inviting the Bid

Estimated Cost:

in the portal:

Period of Completion

कार्यालय मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, निर्माण विंग

उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम

(खराराखण्ड सरकार का खंपकम) 403/01, इन्दिश नगर, देहरादून। दूरमाष/फॅक्स-0135-2764075

Dehradun

14 Months

Rs. 1110.00 Lakhs

09/10/2019 - 13:00 Hrs.

24/10/2019-17:00 Hrs.

Nagar Dehradun

Government of Uttarakhand "e" procurement Notice (National Competitive Bidding)

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY Plot No. 26, Sector-3, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon - 122050. TENDER NOTICE ICAT invites sealed tender in 2-Bid system for

the following works: Tender No.: ICAT/OT/VEL/VDY5/2019-20/61 Description: SITC of Steering Robot & Brake Robot for HCV & LCV at ICAT (Centre-II), Manesar, Gurugram, Haryana

For further details of tender visit our website www.icat.in or e-procurement portal, E-mail; prem.purang@icat.in Ph.: +91 124 - 4586111, Fax: +91 124 -2290005

Dated: 01:10:2019

Construction of Modern Doon Library

under Dehradun Smart City Limited at.

General Manager, Construction Wing. Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, 403/1, Indra

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

खली ई-निविदा सूचना निविदा सं, जी-11/सोल राईट/ रानी / 2019 दिनांक : 26.09.2019 अजमेर मंडल के रानी स्टेशन के अंदर व बाहर के क्षेत्र में वाणिज्य विज्ञापन प्रदर्शन के लिए खुली ई-निविदा पत्र www.ireps.

gov.in के माध्यम से आमित्रत की गई है क्रम सं. : 1 आरिक्षित दर : रू 1,81,376/- प्रथम वर्ष हेत्। कार्य अवधि पाच वर्ष बयाना राशि (क. 19,300 / 2. ई-निविदा में भाग लेने की अतिम तिथि व समय : 04.11.2019 को 15.00 वर्ज तक। 3. ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि व समय = 04.11.2019 को 15.30 बजे तक। नोट : सभी सभावी निविदाकर्ताओं से अनुरोध है कि इस निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी शुद्धिपत्र हेत्. वे नियमित रूप से वेबसाइंट www.ireps

I BF ni.vog. Contact help line no. 138 for general complaints

ED.912 THE SALEM DISTRICT CO-OP. MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD.. Sithanur, Thalavaipatty Post, Salem-636 302. Telephone- 0427-6540201/203, Fax-0427-2386871, E.mail: aavinslm@gmail.com TENDER NOTICE

Invited sealed tenders for vehicles by 2 cover system for Transportation of milk from the Primary Milk Producers Co-Op Societies to Salem FBD / BMC's / Chilling Centers at Attur. Namakkal, P. Velur through 16 lorries / Mini Lorries, 22 Mini autos for Milk procurement, 3 Mini autos for LN2 Transport and 5 taxi for the Input work activities. The tender form will be issued from the date of issue of advertisement to 06.11.2019 up to 3.00 p.m. on all working days. The EMD must be enclosed as Demand Draft in favor of "GENERAL MANAGER, SDCMPU LTD" payable at Salem for vehicle routes listed in the tender for Salem Milk union and as Demand Draft in favor of "GENERAL MANAGER, NDCMPU Ltd" payable at Namakkal for vehicle routes listed in the tender for Namakkal Milk union along with duly filled tender forms and should be submitted on or before 07,11,2019 by 2,00 p.m.

The opening of the tender forms will be on 07.11.2019 the same day itself by 02.30 p.m. Tender forms can also be downloaded from "www.tenders.tn.gov.in" on free of cost. All. other details are enclosed with the tender form. DIPR/ 3450 /TENDER/2019 GENERAL MANAGER

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय बराज प्रमंडल गालुडीह Email-eebdgal.chandil@gmail.com अल्पकालीन ई0 प्राक्युरमेंट नाटिस (द्वितीय कॉल) अल्पकालीन ई0 निविदा रेफ्रेन्स नं0-WRD/BD/GALUDIH/IFB-06/2019-20, दिनांक 01.10.2019

1	विमाग का नाम	जल संसाधन विभाग झारखंड सरकार।	
2	कार्य का नाम	Construction of Chakuliya Distry 4 (UGPL), Ex. from K.M. 0.390 of Galedih Loft Main Chrol-	
3.	प्राथालित राशि	क0 11,30,96,458,23 (स्त) प्यारह क्यांट तीस लाख जानने हुए चार सी अवाक्त एवं पैसे तेज्स) नाज	
4	कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय	550 दिन	
5.	वेवसाईट पर ई0-निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	09.10.2019 12.30 बजे अपराह्न से	
6.	इं0-निविदा अभिलेख डाउन लोड/अपलोड करने की तिथि	09:10:2019 से 19:10:2019 5:00 बजे अपराहन तक	
7_	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि	09.10.2019 में 21.10.2019 5.00 बज़े अपराह्न तक	
8	ई0-निविदा (तकनीकी बीड) खोलरें की तिथि समय	22.10.2019 12.00 वज़े अपराह्न	
9.	ईo निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता	औ राजकुमार यादव कार्यपालक अभियता, बराज प्रमंडल, गालुडीह।	
10.	इं0 प्रोक्यूरमेंट नदाधिकारी का मोबाईल न0	(947)543751	
11.	ईव प्राक्यरमेट संख का हेल्प आईन नव	0637-2371768	

नोट:-सिर्फ ई-निविदा स्वीकार होगा। ज्यादा जानकारी के लिए हमारे वेवसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखें।

PR218614 Water Resource(19-20)D ब्रंद - ब्रंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो ब्रंद को तरसेंगे

कार्यपालक अभियंता, बराज प्रमंडल गालुडीह

SHRI KRISHNA AYUSH UNIVERSITY KURUKSHETRA Umri Road, Sector-8, Kurukshetra, Haryana-136118 Website: www.skau.in E-mail ID- ac.skau.hry@gmail.com

ADMISSION/COUNSELING NOTICE Mop-up round counseling of BAMS/BHMS for Academic Session 2019-20

Ph. - 01744-225803, 225804

Online Registration will start from 2nd October, 2019 It is for the information of all the concerned that online applications are invited for Admissions in BAMS/BHMS Courses for Government/Private AYUSH Institutes of Haryana & U.T. Chandigarh. All the eligible NEET qualified candidates are required to register themselves online through the website i.e. www.skau.in or on Admission Link hrybamsadmissions.in.

For participating in Mop-up round of Counseling a Candidate have to deposit Demand Draft of Rs. 67,500/- for Admission in SK Govt. Ayu. College Kurukshetra and MSM Institute of Ayurveda Khanpur Kalan and Rs. 1,56,000/- for all Private College/SGT University Gurugram and SBMN University Asthal Bohar Rohtak

NOTE: 1. The Terms & Conditions and other information regarding the counseling a available on the University website as mentioned above.

Gaur Brahmin Ayurvedic College, Brahmanwas, Rohtak has been allowed Admissions for additional 40 seats as per orders of Hon,ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh dated 25.09.2019 in CWP No. 19002 of

Lal Bahadur Shastri Mahilla Ayurvedic College & Hospital Bilaspur Yamunanagar has also been allowed for Admissions to 50 Seats as per decision dated 27.09.2019 in CWP No. 22703 of 2019 of Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh.

Date: 1st October, 2019 Sd/- REGISTRAF 79268/HRY.

"IMPORTANT" Whilst care is taken prior to

acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in

972-AL/19

BIHAR STATE HOUSING BOARD 6, Sardar Patel Marg, Patna-15 Website: www.bshb.in



आवश्यक सूचना

बिहार राज्य आवास बोर्ड के विज्ञापन दिनांक- 18,02.2019, दिनांक-30.04.2019 एवं दिनांक- 20.06.2019 द्वारा पटना अवस्थित बहादुरपुर एवं लोहियानगर आवासीय कॉलोनीयों में स्थित कुल 25 व्यावसायिक एवं आवासीय सह व्यावसायिक भूखंडों का ई-नीलामी के माध्यम से निस्तार निमित दिनांक- 24.09.2019 PR.No.-03222(Ni.Ni) 2019-20 से प्रारम्भ होने वाले ई-नीलामी प्रक्रिया को तकनिकी कारणों से, अगले आदेश तक स्थगित किया जाता है।

PR.008634 (NI NI) 2019-20

सचिव

बेटा-बेटी एक समान। दहेज-प्रथा करे सबका अपमान।।

झारखंड सरकार ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्रा०का०मा०) मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, रांची

ई- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई-निविदा संख्या:-165/2019-20/RDD(RWA)/DALTONGANJ दिनांक :- 01.10.2019 मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्रा०का०मा०), झारखंड, राँची द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। आईडेन्टी फिकेशन प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपर्थ में) कार्य

310	संख्या			-अक्षार में	समाप्ति की
1 DA	DD(RWA)/ ALTONGANJ 12/ 2019-20	तारी मांड से रजंडरवा एन०एच०-75 माया विक्रम शर्मा के घर वारी ग्राम तक पथ का सुद्दीकरक कार्य (ल- 4.100 कि0मी०)	1,38,97,300.00	एक करोड़ अवतीर लाख सनतानक हजार तीम सी रुष्ट मान	09 제명

इ—निविदा प्राप्ति की अतिम तिथि एवं समय।— 22.10.2019 अपराहन 5.00 बज

जिला नियत्रण कक्ष, रांची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि, शंपथ पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलॉड किये गये तकनीकी योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथि:- 23.10.2019 पूर्वाहन 10.00 वर्ज से अपराहन 3.30 बर्ज तक। निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 24.10.2019 पूर्वाहन 11.30 बजे। निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास

विभाग(ग्रा०का०मा०), झारखंड, रांची, १०२ द्वितीय तल्ला अभियंत्रण भवन, रांची । ई-निविदा प्रकोध्व का दूरमाय सं0- 0651-2207818 निविदा शुल्क भारतीय स्टेट बैंक द्वारा निर्गत बेंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्राठकाठमाठ), कार्य प्रमंडल, **डालटेनगंज** के पक्ष में भुगतेय होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है। नोडल पदाधिकारी

बूद - बूंद नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूंद को तररोंगे PR 218634 (Rural Work Department) 19-20 (D)

ई-प्रोक्युर्मन्ट सेल

any manner whatsoever.

Karachi on Wednesday, thus clinching the series 2-0.

RCB drummer arrested for betting, illegal approach in Karnataka league

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BANGALORE, OCTOBER 2

A CELEBRITY drummer associated with franchise cricket events, including the Indian Premier League, has been arrested by the Bangalore Central Crime Branch (CCB) in an investigation into betting and illegal approach of a player in the 2019 Karnataka Premier League.

Bhavesh Bafna, 26, a drummer who has entertained crowds in the IPL on behalf of Royal Challengers Bangalore as well as in the Tamil Nadu Premier League and the KPL, was arrested by CCB police on Wednesday for acting

as a conduit for bookies in Delhi and Mumbai and on specific charges of enticing a player in the KPL to give away more than 10 runs in an over. He allegedly dangled the carrot of an IPL contract to induce a player to underperform.

Bafna's arrest comes on the heels of that of the owner of KPL team Belagavi Panthers Asfak Ali Thara by CCB police on charges of involvement in an illegal betting racket that was operating during the KPL season in August. However, police are yet to detain a Delhi

bookie identified as Sanyam, on whose behalf Bafna allegedly approached a player in the KPL, a senior crime branch official said.

"In a major breakthrough in the ongoing investigation in the KPL match fixing scanBhavesh Bafna was arrested by CCB police on Wednesday for acting as a conduit for bookies in Delhi and Mumbai and on specific charges of enticing a player in the KPL to give away more than 10 runs in an over.

dal, an FIR has been registered against two bookies Bhavesh Bafna and Sanyam for trying to fix matches. They approached a Bellary Tuskers bowler to give more than 10 runs per over but the bowler refused," joint commissioner of police (crime) Sandeep Patil said.

Police have booked Bafna, based in Bangalore, and Sanyam on the basis of a complaint filed by Bhavesh Gulecha, 26, a fast bowler for the Bellary Tuskers who alleged that he was approached by his childhood friend Bafna to give away more that 10 runs an over in a match.

According to the Gulecha's version, he was offered the prospect of an IPL contract and Rs two lakh as advance if he met bookie Sanyam and agreed to a fixing deal. The cricketer, who played for the Bijapur Bulls in previous seasons, said he turned down the offer.

The information regarding the role of 'en-

tertainer' Bafna in the KPL betting racket was obtained by the police during the course of a probe into the role of Belagavi Panthers owner Thara, police sources said. Thara, a travel and tours businessman who bought the Belagavi Panthers franchise in 2017, was arrested by the CCB last week after several days of interrogation. Along with Thara, several others involved with KPL — including players and coaching staff of more than one team — were also questioned.

Police added that they have not found any evidence as yet to suggest that KPL 2019 matches were fixed. Several players, coaching staff and persons linked with the teams in the league have been questioned in recent weeks about the betting racket. In fact, as many as 12 players in KPL are suspected to have been in touch with Thara for betting as per the investigation, police sources said.

The probe into betting and match-fixing in KPL was opened up by the CCB on the basis of inputs provided by the BCCI Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) soon after allegations of betting and match-fixing in the Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL). Thara, who has business interests in Dubai, had revived the fortunes of the Belagavi Panthers after buying the team. The franchise, which now has India international Manish Pandey as its most high-profile player, won the league

A ton worth the wait

Rohit's unbeaten hundred on opening debut in Vizag looked all too easy, but it included subtle adjustments and great context

SRIRAM VEERA

VISAKHAPATNAM, OCTOBER 2

A COUPLE of years ago, in an interaction with The Indian Express, Rohit Sharma had talked about his Test aspirations. "I have got nobody to blame but myself. I don't have any enemies. At the moment, there is a lot of competition for that spot. It's not going to be easy. Nothing has come to me easily. I have to work my way towards it. I am prepared for it. I have always said Test cricket is my priority."

Clarity, devoid of victimhood, and focus, and on Wednesday, he walked the talk. It was a hundred that he would remem-

ber forever for the context, even if it came on a placid track against an attack that lost sting after eight overs with the new ball. It's easy to dismiss the hundred but it

had a few interesting mental adjustments that Rohit had to make. The skill-test lasted just four overs from

Vernon Philander with the new ball. The man with the briskest walk back to the top of run-up did try to conjure something on a placid morning. The ball just about dinked a little this way and the other, there wasn't really much movement as such but Philander tried to work on his few-away-before-onenipping-in routine to see if he can catch the fish. Rohit was beaten a few times, inside edged a couple and there was an over when he just about held his bat inside the line as the ball straightened outside off.

One waited for that nip-backer and when it came, Rohit was surprised. He had shouldered arms and the ball slanted in but sailed over the off bail. The two — batsman and bowler — looked at each other, and a gentle you-won-that-moment smile lit up Rohit.

Even in those four overs, Rohit made a little adjustment to try and throw Philander off his rhythm. Every now and then, after a couple of initial push-andbeaten moments, he started to walk down the track. It wasn't an aggressive Hayden like move but more to get the bowler to drag back the length – which happenedand to make him think about the length in subsequent deliveries.

It's for those little adjustments that this innings held value. Like how he made a deliberate attempt to get at the spinners. Not because it was all too easy to do so - that came later in his knock – but because he felt he had to do it on a "slow and low" track, else they could get stuck there, pushing and prodding even against bowlers who weren't even trying to spin the ball – or so it seemed.

Or in other words, consider the situation where Rohit had got out early and Cheteshwar Pujara was in. He could well have got stuck out there on a sluggish track, trying to work the angles but finding no pace to work with. Not that there is any fault in it even if he took time as runs on board on a track that is likely to disintegrate later should be enough. But with rain around, India was fortunate that Rohit did what he did. Ensuring that the game didn't stop at any moment.

He isn't usually great when he skips down the track to spinners when he trying to work the gaps. In white-ball cricket, once he is set, he does do the run-down-andsmash routine. But he isn't the kind of batsman who goes down and pushes it wide of mid-off or mid-on.

But he did that really well on Wednesday. Time and again, he went sashaying down to push the ball into gaps,

not allowing the spinners to settle. It helped that there wasn't much turn, no real danger of him being beaten in flight and left stranded. There wasn't even the need to adjust his wrists and play with the turn. It was more the intent to not allow the bowlers to settle in a pattern.

The South African spinners too could have bowled a lot better. They had the right idea about the pace on a slow track, pushing it quicker, but that isn't going to do the trick on its own. To rush the batsmen, to make them sweat, the pace had to be accompanied with spin. That didn't happen and Rohit and Mayank Agarwal made sure

they rotated the strike. Agarwal stayed low, and used his bottom hand to crash square-drives or try the late cut repeatedly. Again, no real turn to make either shot dangerous. Faf du Plessis had two men, short mid-off and short extra cover, in case the cover drive looped up, but for that there had to be some dip, loop, and turn. And so, Rohit and Agarwal kept plundering the runs.



Rohit Sharma raises the bat after bringing up his hundred on day one of the first Test against South Africa in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. PTI

SCORECARD » India vs South Africa

1st Test | Vizag | Toss: India

INDIA

202/0 in 59.1 ov

(183b, 11x4, 2x6)

(174b, 12x4, 5x6)

11.1-2-**34-0**

13-5-**35-0**

23-4-**66-0**

M Agarwal not out

RSharma not out

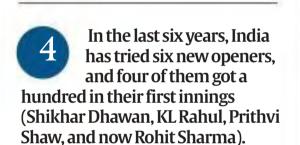
Extras: (lb 1, nb 2) **■** Bowling:

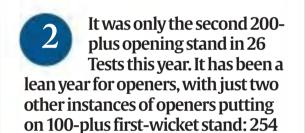
Vernon Philander Kagiso Rabada

Keshav Maharaj Dane Piedt

7-1-**43-0** 5-0-**23-0 Senuran Muthusamy**

BEGINNER'S LUCK



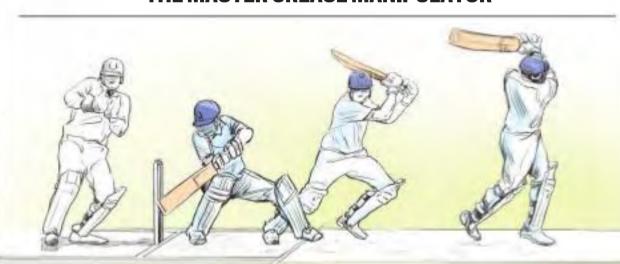




by NZ and 161 by Sri Lanka.

including four tons and five fifties.

THE MASTER CREASE MANIPULATOR



Alongside composure and solidity stood out the simplicity and clarity of Rohit Sharma's methods. He was hardly ever in two minds, seldom took half measures, and adroitly manipulated the crease, as evidenced by his methods against the spinners.

STEPPING OUT WITH ABANDON:

■ Sharma likes to take on the spinners, and did so emphatically. At the slightest hint of flight, he would shimmy down the track, sometimes almost to mid-pitch and even if he's not to the pitch of the ball, he would go through with the stroke through the line. The fluid bat-swing enabled him to get the elevation as well as connection. So controlled was he that he was not beaten even once in flight. The footwork was always precise and decisive, and it instantly threw South Africa's spinners off-kilter. It dishevelled their length, and they soon went shortish, or started bowling flatter and at the stumps.

Sharma also did this to mediumpacer Vernon Philander — not as elaborately – to negate the initial movement he was getting. It forced the South African veteran to pull his length back, besides forcing the wicketkeeper to stand up to him, thus neutralising the threat he possesses.

BACK, BUT NOT ACROSS:

Sharma was equally adept at getting back to play the late cut. He would go deep into the crease, his hands would go further behind. Like the late cut he

literally snatched off the 'keeper's gloves off Keshav Maharaj. It's where the virtues of his minimalism kicked in.

■ Unlike most batsmen from the subcontinent, he doesn't commit forward and then press back after judging the length, rather he stands where he's and then shifts his weight to the back foot. This provides him more time to place the ball.

■ Also, unlike most batsmen, he doesn't drag his back foot across, a bit like Virender Sehwag. It's just one definite backward stride and his arms do the rest as he carves rather than cuts the ball.

He always seems to have so much time at his disposal that he can afford to place the ball anywhere in the arc between backward point and third man. And the deliveries weren't necessarily rank long hops either, even those slightly short of good length, he would look to cut. Later, after completing his century, he played one aerial cut off Philander, wherein he just opened the bat face and slapped the ball past backward point. Here again, the stroke was all hands.

Illustration: Suvajit Dey

Rohit punched the ball to sweeper cover, and ambled across quietly. No fist-pumping, no leaps, no chest-thumping just a quiet raise of the bat to the dressing room, a shake-ofhands with his partner, and a polite acknowledgment of the cheering fans.

Without any guile on offer, the Indian pair didn't even have to try lofting insideout or work their wrists overtime when their aggressive instincts came into play. Instead, they could get down to the pitch of the ball and just cream it up and over to the straight boundary. It didn't even matter on occasions when Rohit wasn't to the pitch of the ball against left-arm spinner Dane Piedt, as he just went through the line to the straight boundary with nonchalance.

And so when the hundred came, no one would have been surprised. Rohit punched the ball to sweeper cover, and ambled across quietly. No fist-pumping, no leaps, no chestthumping — just a quiet raise of the bat to the dressing room, a shake-of-hands with his partner, and a polite acknowledgment of the cheering fans. Then, head down, he slowly walked around at the non-striker's end.

It was an evening, a few years back, when MS Dhoni told Rohit that he will open the next day in an ODI. "Why not, I will try," was his response. "Even now in Test cricket, it's the same position. The first four years, I never knew where I was going to bat," he once said. The opening gambit in Tests has been on the pipeline for a while now and he was told in the West Indies that his time was now. And he has made it count.

Once, during a horrid time in Sri Lanka, Rohit sought out Sachin Tendulkar for advice. "He asked me to do certain things. I still try to follow that now. I relax, go and watch a few movies, try and sing although I am not good at it, or get my friends over and chill with them."

Now he can do all that, not to get over the blues but to celebrate the moment he has been awaiting for years now: a Test hundred.

How Rohit rebooted for new responsibility

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE VISAKHAPATNAM, OCTOBER 2

THROUGHOUT HIS career, Rohit Sharma has been waiting for a spot in Tests, his "no.1 priority". Now and then he would get a chance, only to let it slip out of his hands. The wait continued. And when it came again, it came as an opener. And the wait was over — for both Rohit and India. On a day he smashed an unbeaten hundred, Rohit, once seen as the country's next big middle-order player, talked about how opening the innings suits

him as it gives him a clarity of thought. "The game plan becomes a little easier (as an opener). You know what the two bowlers with new ball can do. You know the field, you know the ball will not reverse. The plan is simple when you face the new ball," he said after the first day's play.

It's a refreshing take on opening, and it made even more sense — and revealing of his game in middle order — when he listed out the problems he would face when batting down. "When you are batting at no.6, the field placements are different, the ball is reversing, you have to score runs in front of the wicket. For my game, I can't say for sure but just padding up and going out to bat suits better," he said.

If there was one thing that held him back in the past in Tests, it was his cluttered mindset. Of trying to make things happen. Now, when he talked about the difficulties there, it all made sense.

Like "scoring runs in front of the wicket". With the new ball, he can work with the pace to deflect the ball behind the square on either side. His punches and glances come into play. With the old ball, he can't start his innings in that fashion, he has to try and go a lot straighter.

Like "you know the ball will not reverse". His feet movement has been iffy in the past when he would get in a tangle with forwardand-across prod and reverse swing was obviously a big problem. It would mess with his forward press and he would get a lot more

The game plan becomes a little easier (as an opener). You know what the two bowlers with new ball can do. You know the field, you know the ball will not reverse. The plan is simple when you face the new ball."

ROHIT SHARMA

constricted — almost unnatural — in his style. Then with his intent to push the game ahead, he would end up trying to loft the spinners too early in the piece and hole out.

All that, he says, has been erased from his system now that he is an opener. There is more awareness about what the bowlers are going to do against him — in the off-stump corridor with the occasional nip-backer. And he can tailor his response accordingly, not worry about much else but those two deliveries in particular.

Of course, not all pitches are going to be like Vizag, or like those that he usually gets in ODIs. When there is some spice, even when he knows what's going to come at him, it can be a different ball game. But in his mind, he says, he knows what's going to come.

"You have to train your mind than anything else. Technically, yes, you've got to look into it, certain aspect of batting. There are a lot of things when you open the innings in red-ball cricket which you have to be aware of. Very clear in my mind as to what I wanted to do. There was no confusion about how I want to approach, no second thought, I was pretty clear in my head.

"You've gotta focus on basics at that time, playing closer to the body, leaving the ball. We have played so much cricket in India, we know personally, I know what happens after 7 or 8 overs. The shine of the ball is gone. It's so humid out there. The ball doesn't swing much thereafter. Then it's about playing your game and taking the game forward. Because its a slow and low pitch. It's very crucial you don't get stuck at any point. That is what my thought process was while I was batting. I've played enough cricket in India to understand that," he said.

epaper indianex

but lose anyway, they spur me on. I can't stop

in the aftermath of her mother's death, when

she stayed at home for a prolonged period

and was asked to take part in a trials to keep

her spot in the national camp. "I lost, I could-

n't centre my mind. But I wrote to the offi-

cials. I am not doing well mentally. Give me

a chance. Then I made the team for the Asian

who doubted her. But it didn't merit a direct

berth to the Worlds. "It doesn't bother me. would say it means a lot more to qualify af-

ter winning the trials," says Sarita, who defeated 2018 Worlds bronze-medallist

Simranjit as the 23-year-old moved a cate-

gory down to 60kg. "She's good. A win do-

mestically gives you the confidence, plus it's also nice that the young boxers get a shot."

Sarita counts her blessings when it comes

"I have been married for ten years now. Ek

bahu ka responsibilities hota hai, chandan la-

gao, saari pehno, pooja karo (The duty of a

daugther-in-law is to wear a saree and pray)

But I have been so fortunate that my in-laws

have treated me like a daughter, not a bahu,'

says Sarita. "An athlete's lifestyle is different

You're travelling the world. Training, physio-

therapy. Sometimes you wear half-pants.

have heard our neighbours pass comments...

but my husband always has my back, he fights

Sarita believes her six-year-old Tomthi

"He's naughty, but he understands every-

thing. He has never tried to make me stay, he

wishes me luck. Bye bye karega, pappi dega,

gate pe khada rahega (He will say bye, he will

give me a kiss and will wait at the gate).

could see his eyes are always moist, but he

has never cried. Main gaadi me fir rote rehti

hun usko yaad kar kar ke. (The I cry in the car

discussion Sarita can only have with fellow

mothers Mary and heavyweight veteran

quickly everyone's growing up. The mo-

ments other parents videotape, record. First

khana, first word. These moments all moth-

ers get, we have had to sacrifice," says Sarita,

Pivotal moments missed as a parent is a

"We three look at photos and think how

thinking of how I will miss him)"

for me. That gives you so much freedom."

is a godsend too.

Kavita Chahal.

to support from both her families.

The bronze, she says, was a reply to those

There was a fleeting thought of stopping

boxing because of such things."

Championship and got a medal."

Lyles steps into the spotlight with gold

ASSOCIATED PRESS/REUTERS DOHA, OCTOBER 2

GOLD MEDAL secured, Noah Lyles took a lap around the sparsely filled stadium with a big decision weighing on him — vanilla or Oreo milkshake?

He just couldn't decide between the two flavors as a reward after winning the 200meter title Tuesday night at the world championships. "That's how I'm going to celebrate my season," Lyles said.

And what a season it was for the charismatic, fun-loving 22-year-old Lyles, who's providing just the boost track and field needs in this post-Bolt era. Just don't refer to him as the new Usain Bolt, though.

"I'm me," said Lyles, who dyedNo his hair silver for the big occasion. "And if you like me, I'll happily entertain you. It's my time." He certainly took a little bit of time to take over the race.

Trailing going around the bend, Lyles kicked it into gear to pass Adam Gemili of Britain. Lyles finished in a time of 19.83 seconds to beat an exhausted Andre De Grasse of Canada by 0.12 seconds. Alex Quinonez of Ecuador was third.

Even behind that late, Lyles, who grew up in Alexandria, Virginia, wasn't the least bit concerned.

"It was one of those situations where I knew I had to get out and I saw they were moving on the turn and I just started pumping my arms on the turn. I knew I could sling off and grab the momentum," Lyles explained. "Because no matter where I am in the race, I will always be able to come back."

After the race, the party was on. Lyles waved the American flag, kneeled a few times and kissed the track. It was rather subdued for the sprinter known for his dynamic dance moves.

months from now at the Tokyo Games.

At this version of the championships, he threw his energy into winning the 200.

Now that the box is checked, he's thinking bigger: Running the 100 and 200 in Tokyo. It could be quite a showdown with teammate Christian Coleman, who won the 100 at worlds and then skipped the 200. He plans to double as well. Same with De Grasse, who did both at worlds and took bronze in the 100. "I will be ready when Tokyo 2020 comes," De Grasse said.

As a reminder of his goal — to win gold — Lyles put it into his phone and muttered it to himself over and over while he was driving. When it finally happened, he didn't know how to really react. "It's like something you've imagined so many times in your head that one you actually active it it's like I thought, ₹We already did this?'" Lyles said. "Finally, to have done it feels unbelievable. It does feel good that I'm at the end of the season and we came out with the ultimate victory, which is a gold medal."

His championships aren't over. He'll likely team with Coleman and Justin Gatlin as part of the U.S. 4x100 men's relay team. Lyles was coy on his relay leg.

Brazier wins, faces questions Donavan Brazier shrugged off the dop-

ing controversy surrounding his Nike Oregon



Noah Lyles, 22, won the 200 metre gold and lived upto the expectations of him being the next big track star. AP

After the race, the party was on. Lyles waved the American flag, kneeled a few times and kissed the track. It was rather subdued for the sprinter known for his dynamic dance moves.

Project training base on Tuesday to blast to 800 metres gold at the World Championships. The 22-year-old American produced a tactical masterclass at Doha's Khalifa Stadium to surge away from the field in a championship record time of 1min 42.34sec, breaking the previous mark which had stood for 32 years.

Brazier is one of several World Championships athletes based at the Nikebacked Oregon Project, whose leader Alberto Salazar was hit with a four-year ban for doping violations after a four-year investigation Perhaps he's saving his best stuff for 10 by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA). Brazier revealed after his win he had been unaware of the investigation against the controversial running guru when he joined the training group last year.

"I didn't know anything about it," Brazier said. "I just woke up to a text this morning and found out."

Brazier emphasised that he had little contact with Salazar at the Oregon Project. where he is coached by Pete Julian."

"From the start, I was only in contact with Pete Julian," Brazier said. "I was never coached by Alberto, and I never asked to be coached by Alberto. When the investigation started I didn't even know what the Oregon Project was. I was in junior high school when it started." Brazier also rejected suggestions that his victory may somehow be tarnished through his ties to the Oregon Project.

"I think it would be really ignorant to associate me with that," he said. "To even think that would be pretty ignorant. I'm just very sad. I've had communication with Alberto, never trained by him, but he is a good guy, and seeing him getting kind of bad reputation, it hurt him a lot.'

THURSDAY'S SCHEDULE:

Men: Decathlon: 7:05 pm onwards; Shot put (Group A qualification) 9:50 pm, (Group B Qualification) 11:10pm. **Women:** (Heptathlon): 8:45 pm onwards;

Triple jump (qualification) 7:10 pm

Rani finishes 8th, Chitra fails to advance

New Delhi: A creditable eight-place finish in the World Athletics Championships under her belt, India's top javelin thrower Annu Rani has called for giving equal opportunities to women in sport as they can also perform and bring laurels to the country. Annu became the first Indian woman javelin thrower to qualify for the final round of the World Championships but in the end finished eighth here on Tuesday. She broke her own national record in the qualification round on Monday with a throw of 62.43m but failed short of the distance in the final as she could only produce a best of 61.12m from the eight attempts.

The 27-year-old Annu had failed to qualify for the finals in the last edition in 2017 in London where she had come up with a best throw of 59.93m to finish 20th overall in the qualification round. Annu could have won a medal in the 2018 Asian Games but a disappointing best throw of 53.93m placed her in the sixth position in the final round.

India's PU Chitra ran her personal best in the women's 1500m first round heats but that was not enough to advance further in the World Athletics Championships. Asian champion Chitra ran 4 minutes 11.10 seconds, a tad better than her earlier personal best of 4:11.55, to finish eighth in heat number two and 30th overall out of 35 runners to crash out of the championships. The top six in each of the three heats and the next six fastest qualify for the semifinals.

Rolling with the punches

Sarita Devi boxed in the first women's world c'ships nearly two decades ago but retains fire in her belly

GAURAV BHATT NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 2

"MY TARGET for the World Championship is simple. It's about giving a reply to those who keep saying 'Sarita is too old. Sarita should

Three-time Worlds medallist Sarita Devi's declaration comes during a breather from the training session for the latest edition which begins on Thursday in Ulan-Ude, Russia. The 37-year-old — one of the two Indian remnants, along with Mary Kom, of the first ever women's World Championships in 2001 — last medalled at the event in 2008.

Her best shot since came last year in Delhi, where a 3-2 pre-quarterfinal defeat left Sarita on the brink of tears. Many chalked up the disappointment as being a typical Sarita reaction to losing a close bout. Almost a year later, Sarita reveals that there were far more distressing things on her mind.

"I wanted to win a medal for my mother, who was on her deathbed. I neither won a medal nor could I meet my mother one last time," Sarita told *The Indian Express.* "Three days after the event, I got word that her condition had worsened. She was waiting for me that morning, but by the time I reached she had already lost consciousness."

Her eyes welling up, Sarita recalls the TV set up in front of her cancer-stricken mother's bed, and how nobody in the family had the nerve to switch the channel. "Maybe it was a wrong decision to show her the bouts. I lost the bout which I won. Maybe she felt that too. She stopped eating the night I lost," says Sarita. "Her condition got bad, and she passed away some days later."

The conversation veers to happier times, to a more successful Worlds campaign in the Capital. To 2006, when Sarita won the 54kg gold in front of her mother.

"She sat there in the stands at Talkatora, hands on her eyes. She couldn't watch the bouts but had to be there," says Sarita. "There was also the feeling that our junior boxers, the future was watching. But it was mostly about the vindication, that our childhood struggles were for a reason."

For Sarita, who spent most of her childhood weaving and helping out in the farm to support her sister and six brothers, physical activities always took precedence over academics. "My father made me strong. The son-daughter partiality isn't as common in Manipur. I don't know what my father saw in me. He always kept me above my six brothers. He taught me how to drive. 'My daughter will make us proud", recalls Sarita. "I was 13 when he passed away. After he was gone, I realised that I had to live up to the expectations.'

After a fling with taekwondo, Sarita took to boxing. She remembers the first World Championship, held two months after the 9/11 attacks, and the days spent pleading for visa before a last-minute approval put the Indians on the flight to Scranton, Pennsylvania. Hours at the airport and a connecting flight later, Sarita landed and scampered straight to the ring.

"Direct boxing hall, change of clothes and then the ring. We were kids back then, and the whole situation was overwhelming for me. I lost the first bout."

Mary won a silver at the event, and improved the colour a year later in Antalya. Sarita took the podium in 2005 at Podolsk, Russia; a medal which kept her from quitting. "My mother was taking care of the entire family. I tried to help with whatever financial rewards I got. That year I decided that if I don't win a medal, I would quit the sport," says Sarita. "Boxing was my life. But I needed a job. I would spend those days thinking 'agar safai karne ka kaam bhi mil jaayega, 2000 rupaye ka, toh kar lungi. (Even if I got the job of a sweeper for Rs 2000, I would do that)"

Sarita took bronze, and won gold the year later in Delhi.

"Just to say women's boxing has changed since is not enough," Sarita laughs, and gestures around the boxing hall, the regular site



(Top right) With her six-year-old son Tomthil. Praveen Khanna

INDIA AT THE WORLDS

MARY KOM (51KG)

Mary has six World titles, but the most successful female boxer at the event



has zero competing in the flyweight category. Her last appearance at the event in 51kg was in 2016, where she lost in the second round and failed to qualify for the Rio

Olympics. The 37-year-old opted out of the Asian Championships to prepare for the Worlds. Given a firstround bye, the third-seed begins her campaign on October 8. Two wins wil assure her of a medal and a berth at next year's Olympic qualifiers.

NEERAJ (57KG)

After taking up boxing in 2012 and making waves on the national circuit, Neeraj was sidelined by an injury. A 51kg national title three years ago got her back in the fray, and the 24-yearold kicked off 2019 with a gold at the India Open, and another at the

Umakhanov Memorial tournament in August, where she beat 2016 World Champion Alessia Messiano. She muscled out last year's silver medallist Sonia Chahal to book the ticket to Russia. 2014 54kg champion Stanimira Petrova could be a stern test in early rounds.

SARITA DEVI (60KG) The three-time Worlds medallist caught

a second wind with a bronze at the

for the national camp. "AC hall. AC rooms. We couldn't imagine

this when we started. There's the foreign coach. Physios. Nutritionists. I remember wishing I had money for bandages, skipping ropes when I first joined camp. I couldn't even ask for more pocket money because I knew the situation. Plus I wasn't used to living outside home," she adds. "But it all changed once women made it to the Olympics."

Sarita is aware of her contribution to Indian boxing, and paving the way for women boxers. But missing out on an Olympic appearance irks her. The constant change in weight to try and fit into the scheme of things (At Worlds, Sarita has a gold

the Worlds. A first-round by e bodes well for the fourth seed, but Sarita may find the younger, stronger crop of lightweights tough to handle. Early wins could set up a showdown with nemesis from Finland, Mira Potkonen. **LOVLINA BORGOHAIN (69KG)** One of the two boxers, along with Mary, to secure a berth without trials, Lovlina

Asian Championships in April and a gold

year-old defeated last year's 64kg silver

medallist Simranjit Kaur in the trials for

at India Open a month later. The 37-

earned a bronze at the last Worlds, a silver at the India



Open and a gold at the Umakhanov Memorial in August. She, however, missed out on a medal at the Asian Championships.

and her spot will be on the 22-year-old, the third seed would be helped by a bye, which leaves her two wins away from the semifinals.

SAWEETY BOORA (75KG) Former World and Asian silver medallist is one of the few competent middleweights in the country, but coming through selection trials and coping with the field at the Worlds would be a tall ask for Boora. A win against her Mongolian opponent in the first round will set up a contest with European champion and second

54. At the Asian Championships, Sarita has

won gold competing at 51, 52, 54 and 60,

with a silver at 57) kept her from establishing

goes that while both Mary and Sarita are

equally skilled, the former was born tough

while the latter needs to be toughened up

before events. Defeats affect Sarita, especially

in bouts she believes she has won. The most

infamous example being the semifinal loss

at the 2014 Asian Games, followed by an out-

burst and one-year ban. "Jo hua, hua. Each

experience teaches you something," Sarita

pauses. "The bouts which I win in the ring

The perception in Indian boxing circles

herself in a division.

adding that Tomthil has given her an insight into her own mother. "It's full circle. Now I seed Lauren Price. **GAURAV BHATT** understand why she was always covering her eyes up. I can't imagine watching my child get into a fight. My mother missed me and a bronze in 52kg, and another bronze in the way I miss Tomthil."

The few days she gets to spend with her son, Sarita ensures that he is caught up on everything through improvised bedtime stories. "I tell her stories from my childhood. His grandmother, and how I became a boxer. My wins and losses. Thoiba told me that our son then goes around relaying the stories to his

friends," she laughs. Any chapters missing from the bedtime story? "Yes, Tokyo. Getting there is very challenging, and I would like to be practical," says Sarita. "But that's the one medal missing from my cupboard. After Tokyo, I will decide if it's time to quit. Till then, the story is in-

Cavalry precedes big artillery for NBA pre-season India games

SHAHID JUDGE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 2

A BARGE floats off calmly, 200 metres off the Mumbai coast framed by the Bandra-Worli sea link. A basketball court is fashioned on top of it. A few kilometres away, an events team is laying the finishing touches, inside the multi-purpose NSCI Stadium, on another basketball court. It's where nothing will remain calm over the weekend.

The latter venue is the all-important one where design specifications and construction guidelines have to be followed meticulously for the game's giants don't stomp on anything less than a perfect turf. It is here that the red carpet will be rolled out for the Indiana Pacers and Sacramento Kings, in the first ever pre-season NBA Game to take place on Indian soil.

But even the red carpet and the aisles have to be tailored according to NBA require-

"The league has its own checklist when it comes to lighting, ventilation, to actual seating in the arena, the width of the walkway between sections of the arena, entry and exit points... all that stuff is accounted for," explains Diane Gotua, NBA's vice-president for global business operations. "Even for hotels, (organisers) check how much time it will

take from point to point. How many buses will be required, who gets into which bus. Then the locker rooms at the stadium are something that we had to install. You have to have a certain number of bottles of a specific brand of water, a specific brand of juice, a special fruit." The checklist goes on.

On Friday, India will be added to the list of select countries – the likes of China, Germany, England, Mexico and even the Philippines – to have hosted a pre-season NBA game, when the Pacers and Kings face off in Mumbai. And once they do, another chapter, a glamorous one at that, will be added to the city's rich basketball history.

"Yes sir," says Kings' power forward Marvin Bagley, in a video post on social media moments after he deboarded the plane. "INDIIIIIAAAAAAAAAAAA..."

This wasn't in Mumbai though. The Kings' travel plan for pre-season games has been rather elaborate. The team, owned by Vivek Ranadive – born in Mumbai before immigrating to the United States – took off from Sacramento, had a refuelling layover in London, and instead of touching down in Mumbai, took a short trip to Agra. And the

"I've seen pictures of it. You've seen pictures of it even if you didn't know what it was. Now being able to see it, being able to go inside..." says 21-year-old point guard



Former NBA player Jason Williams on a floating court on a barge in Mumbai.

De'Aaron Fox in another Twitter post. "I didn't know too much about it. And then learning that this was built for the king's wife, literally their tombs are inside. It's just amazing seeing all the people who are here. Obviously, it's not as big of a deal to me as it is to them. But it's just a great experience for myself to

learn about a different culture." The Pacers' travel plan, meanwhile, was

straightforward – take a 16-hour direct flight to Mumbai. The team's 20-year-old small forward Brian Bowen even packed accordingly, carrying a box of donuts for the trip. The first thing the players saw when they entered the terminal at Mumbai airport was a poster of their star player Miles Turner.

All flight details would of course have to be communicated with the NBA in advance – such as the Kings hiring two Boeing 767s for the trip, which included rap star Drake's own private jet for the players to travel in. Not many planes have First Class seating for that many passengers of that size.

"There's not a lot of planes that can fit a full roster of players (who stand at the height of NBA players)," Gotua explains. "It's not just a regular 747 or 777 that we take from the US to India. It's a specific aircraft and both teams will be coming separately. So we have to get landing permits and all other things sorted."

The pre-season games are, till date, the biggest achievement the NBA has had during their time in India. Basketball's marquee league first came to the subcontinent in 2011.

"We had two people situated at the Taj Lands End when we opened up here," Gotua says. "Now we're over 20 people in a big office. We have an academy in Noida. We've evolved and the business has grown."

Satnam Singh also learnt how tough it was - never mind all that 7 feet of potential picked by Dallas Mavericks in 2015.

ated intrigue among foreign sports bodies,

be it European football powerhouses – acad-

For years, the Indian market has gener-

Entertainment (WWE). The NBA too sought the same opportunity. Since starting up, the

emies of clubs like Barcelona and Arsenal

have been plying across the country for years

- and even the World Wrestling

marquee league has brought down several past and current players for clinics, have set up an elite academy, groomed Satnam who became the first Indian to be picked in an NBA draft. But the global game on Friday is its

biggest project so far.

The idea behind the event is not to simply have two NBA teams play two pre-season matches, but to recreate the same atmosphere that surrounds any marquee basketball match in the United States.

"We're bringing that authentic NBA ex-

perience through these games," Gotua adds. "But at the same time, we want to add local flavour. We want our players and league staff to say 'wow, that was an amazing global game that had a tinge of India Colourful, lively, music, and energy, but still incorporated into an authentic NBA experience. You shouldn't be able to tell the difference, whether this match was in Mumbai or New York.'

Bridging the basketball gap between the US and India has been the biggest obstacle for the NBA. But now they've made the biggest commitment, bringing the actual teams.

as Juve brush

Shock & awe

Bayern Munich stun Tottenham Hotspur, last year's Champions League runners-up, at home

REUTERS LONDON, OCTOBER 2

MAURICIO POCHETTINO is fond of referring to Tottenham Hotspur's incredible journey to last season's Champions League final as the end of a chapter in the club's modern history, and a compelling one at that. It seemed ambiguous when he first said it towards the climax to the last memorable campaign.

Was he saying his five-year 'project' had reached its natural conclusion with Tottenham established amongst the elite of European football? Or was he suggesting Tottenham were ready to step up to the next level? The early stages of this season, played out to talk of disharmony in the squad, support the former theory.

And after a 7-2 drubbing at home to Bayern Munich on Tuesday, it is beginning to feel, not so much like an exciting new chapter, as much as the epilogue to Pochettino's reign.

That Bayern were magnificently clinical as they ran riot in the rain is beyond question. The five-time European champions would have been a handful for any team on the night and for 45 minutes Tottenham went toe-to-toe in an absorbing duel.

What happened after the break when Tottenham capitulated and winger Serge Gnabry, a former Arsenal reject, scored four times represented arguably the worst day in Pochettino's admirable managerial career.

Tottenham's magnificent new 62,000seater stadium was supposed to be the stage for the glory nights. Instead, it now has the dubious honour of hosting club's worst home defeat in a major competition.

The inevitable backlash began even before the final whistle sounded. Fans took to social media to declare Pochettino's magic had expired while former Tottenham winger Chris Waddle described the current malaise at the club as "a shambles".

'Crisis' is a much over-used word in English football and Tottenham are certainly not in one, however hysterical the reaction to the horror show on Tuesday.

After all, look where they were before Pochettino arrived in 2014. They were a club enviously watching London rivals Arsenal and Chelsea rack up Champions League memories. Runs in the Europa League and League Cup were the limit of their ambitions apart from one season under Harry Redknapp when Tottenham reached the Champions League quarter-finals.

Under Pochettino they have qualified for the group stage for four successive seasons and have gone deep into the Premier League title race in two of his five seasons at the helm; all despite spending a fraction of their rivals.

But something does not feel right. Midfielder Deli Alli, who two years ago scored twice in a 3-1 home win over Real Madrid and apparently had the world at his feet, has plateaued, Christian Eriksen appears distracted in the final year of his contract and hinted earlier this year that he wanted to leave.

Cracks have also appeared all over Tottenham's once fortress-like defence with Jan Vertonghen and Toby Alderweireld labouring. Tottenham lack intensity and have perfected a nasty habit of throwing away leads this season, surrendering two-goal starts against Arsenal and Olympiakos Piraeus and losing to Leicester City after leading for most of the game.

Pochettino, who hinted last season that the battle to keep Tottenham punching with the big boys was taking a toll, looks world weary, lacking his usual easy charm.

The concern among many Spurs fans is that the best manager they have had for a generation could decide to cut his losses, having been repeatedly tipped for the main job

NUMBER PLATE

Tottenham are the first English side to concede seven goals in a **L**European game since they lost 8-0 to Cologne in the 1995 Intertoto Cup.

Serge Gnabry is only the second German player to score four goals in a Champions League match after Mario Gomez versus Basel in March 2012.

This was Bayern's joint second biggest away victory in European competition, behind only a 7-1 win against Roma in October 2014.

"It's a tough situation, but you have to face it...you have to be strong and keep going. We have to stay together and help each other. The best medicine is to be all together."

MAURICIO POCHETTINO, TOTTENHAM MANAGER

OTHER RESULTS

GROUP A Real Madrid 2-2 Club Bruges Galatasaray 0-1 PSG **GROUP B**

GROUP C Atalanta 1-2 Shakhtar Donetsk **GROUP D**

Belgrade 3-1 Olympiakos

Lokomotiv 0-2 Atletico Madrid



Serge Gnabry pumped in four goals.

at the likes of Real Madrid who would give him heavier financial backing.

Former Spurs playmaker Rafael van der Vaart questioned the mindset of some of his players. "They think they're better than they are," he told BBC Radio 5 Live. "You have to be really proud to play for Tottenham."

Pochettino appeared stunned by Tuesday's debacle but said now was not the time "for shouting" but standing together.

Tottenham still have every chance of reaching the last 16 of the Champions League and are sixth in the Premier League despite their equal worst points haul from seven games in a decade.

Wins in upcoming Premier League games against Brighton & Hove Albion and Watford and Red Star Belgrade in the Champions League will mute the white noise. Any more mishaps, though, and Tottenham may well be looking at a new chapter - possibly one without Pochettino writing it.



This was the biggest home defeat for an English team in any European competition. Reuters

Leverkusen aside Turin: Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first goal in this season's Champions League, sealing a 3-0 win for Juventus over Bayer

Ronaldo on target

Leverkusen in their Group D game in Turin on Tuesday. Ronaldo blasted in the third goal in the 89th minute to extend his record to 127 strikes in the competition to add to Gonzalo Higuain and Federico Bernardeschi's earlier efforts.

Juventus move top of Group D, level on four points with Atletico Madrid, who defeated Lokomotiv Moscow 2-0 in Russia. The Italian champions had been held 2-2 by the Spaniards at the Wanda Metropolitano in their opener. Leverkusen face an uphill battle after their shock 2-1 defeat at home against Lokomotiv Moscow and are rooted to the foot of the table. Juventus next host Lokomotiv and Leverkusen travel to Atletico on October 22.

Maurizio Sarri opted for Higuain and Bernardeschi up front alongside fivetime Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo.

Leverkusen were struggling from the outset after losing captain Lars Bender in the warm-up to a thigh problem, with defender Mitchell Weiser stepping in. The Germans showed little to threaten the hosts, with Lucas Alario shooting over on three minutes with what would be their best chance of the game. The breakthrough came for Juventus when Leverkusen defender Jonathan Tah failed to head clear Juan Cuadrado's long ball for Higuain, with the Argentine pouncing to drill home.

The 31-year-old Higuain, back in Turin after loan spells at AC Milan and Chelsea, had a chance for a second on 38 minutes but was denied by Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky. Juventus piled on the pressure after the break as Ronaldo tried unsuccessfully to pull off an overhead kick in the 55th minute. Ronaldo then sent Higuain in behind, but although the Portuguese failed to connect with his teammate's return pass, Bernardeschi was lurking to provide the finishing touch.

Juventus almost had a third with Hradecky failing to control the ball and almost turning it into his own net before grappling to save on the line. But the Finnish international did well to deny Ronaldo in front of goal after a Higuain charge down the flank. Welsh international Aaron Ramsey was introduced in place of Bernardeschi with Dybala replacing Higuain for the final ten minutes. AFP

has this talent he loves to score goals, you

always have that feeling. We had chances

but they defended really well and that's

why it was difficult to score a goal," he said.

ing. Today the pass for Phil was perfect. But

still there is a gap to be even more clinical

but it's important that all the time he's

there and that's why he's been able to score

coming four minutes after he came on, left

Guardiola feeling sorry that he was unable

to find more minutes for the talented 19-

Foden's instant impact, with his goal

the goals," he said.

"I think still he can improve his finish-

Super subs hand City 2-0 win over Zagreb

REUTERS

MANCHESTER. OCTOBER 2

MANCHESTER CITY made it two wins out of two in Champions League Group C after goals from substitutes Raheem Sterling and Phil Foden gave Pep Guardiola's side a 2-0 victory over Dinamo Zagreb on Tuesday.

A game that could easily have ended in frustration, with Dinamo defending deep and effectively, turned on the introduction of England international Sterling in the 56th minute.

The Croatians frustrated the Premier League champions with some excellent defending in the first half and all City could manage from their domination was Ilkay Gundogan's shot against the bar in the 21st minute after an earlier effort from Sergio Aguero had been well dealt with by Dinamo keeper Dominik Livakovic.

David Silva screwed a shot wide after the ball fell to him inside the area but City did not create enough from the amount of possession they enjoyed.

Guardiola's side attacked almost exclusively down the left, where fullback Benjamin Mendy was allowed plenty of space, but either the delivery into the box let them down or the Dinamo defence stood firm.

Riyad Mahrez on the right flank saw too little of the ball and City failed to really use the full width of the field, too often getting involved in 'five-a-side' contests on the edge of the box.

The introduction of Sterling increased the tempo and width of City's play and it was the England international who broke the deadlock in the 66th minute, turning in a low cross from Riyad Mahrez after a superb diagonal pass from Rodri.

Dinamo tried their luck in the final stages but were caught on the counter in stoppage time with Sterling breaking and slipping the ball wide to Foden who confidently drove home.

Guardiola's side attacked almost exclusively down the left, where fullback Benjamin Mendy was allowed plenty of space, but either the delivery into the box let them down or the Dinamo defence stood firm.

City move on to six points from their opening two games after winning their first match 3-0 at Shakhtar Donetsk, while Dinamo have three points.

"They defended so well, even the goal from Raheem the defender was there. I didn't expect them to play so deep, they only shot on target at set pieces, but they did what they did so well," said Guardiola, who praised Sterling for his improved finishing.

"He's a player who is always there, he

vear-old. "I know, he deserves to play, I want to give him minutes, I'm unfair to him, I'm

sorry but he has (Kevin) De Bruyne, Bernardo Silva, Rodri (ahead of him). "I know the best way is for him to play minutes but he's so young. I don't know

many players of his age (who) have played so many minutes, he's going to be incredible in the future but it is what it is."

Brothers in arms

The Barretts — Beauden, Scott and Jordie became the first set of brothers — to each score a try at the Rugby World Cup as the All Blacks blanked Canada 63-0.

was amongst the 9 tries the Kiwis romped to playing against the team ranked second from last. Under the closed roof of hot and sultry Oita, Scott and Beauden even botched attempts in similar fashion. Ken, George and Tusi Pisi had all played

on the Samoan team in 2015, while Vavae Tuilagi had four of his brothers — Freddie (1995), Henry (2007), Alesana (2007, 2011) and 2015) play the World Cups. Manu Tuilagi is ofcourse the most famous one turning out for England.

The Barretts grew up on a farm in Pungarehu, a small town near Taranaki, Opunake with seven siblings — four brothers and three sisters.

Besides the three All Blacks, there's also a Kane Barrett who captained Taranaki and was part of the Super Rugby squad Blues. While Beauden was noticed as a teen prodigy and rose in the ranks with his linesmashing play and flights in the wings, debuting for ABs in 2012, the ABs won 19 straight games he first played for them.

He could kick, he could run to touch, and he sure could win, making his way into the star studded ABs teams with his prolific point-pickings. He would eventually Pas on kicking duties to brother Jordie even while Scott was making his way into the formi-

THE HISTORIC Barrett 'tripeat to the tryline dable forward pack. The three brothers got first selected to the squad in 2017 - becoming the first family to boast three siblings in the ABs squad. He would run up 24 points playing Manu Samoa and though him and Jordie never shared pitch time, Scott was in the game with both separately. On Wednesday though, all three

Barretts were in Oita at the same time, and ran riot to fan out and shred the Canadian challenge.

How they fared against Canada

BEAUDEN BARRETT

It was the talisman Sonny Bill Williams who set up Beauden with a calibrated dink kick that bounced up perfectly for the full back to touch down under the bars to make the score 28-0.

He would make a pair of tryline saves most notably when he hauled down Peter Nelson just short of the line to ensure the ABs didn't concede a try. Beauden was also the sensational linkman between Mo'unga whose pass he'd intercept, trap the last defender before passing to Brad

Weber for yet one more try. After what had been a Beauden spectacle, it ended bizarrely when he took off on a 50 metre run chased by Andrew Coe all



Jordie, Scott and Beauden Barrett scored a try each in the All Blacks' nine-try demolition of Canada. AP

the way.

Beauden tried to swap hands in which he carried the ball, but so sweaty were the conditions that he ended up popping it and dropping it three yards out. Beauden accounted for a lot of the 900 metre running (NZ beating close to 200 tackles) with the ball that ABs achieved while Canada barely ran 300m.

JORDIE BARRETT

He started the Tri-Barrett Show by doing absolutely nothing save strolling casually to the right corner from where he picked man of the match Richie Mo'unga's dib cross kick in the 9th minute to take the score to 14-0. He would later attempt an offload to Beauden in the 13th minute but find resistance.

SCOTT BARRETT

Mo'unga's excellent offload released Kieran Read, finding Scott Barrett on his inside to make it 42-0 which completed the brotherly hat-trick. New Zealand were zeroing in on the bonus in just 32 minutes but Scott Barrett — a la Beauden later — had botched the ball mid-dive, the humidity making handling slippery. Bursting

through Canada's defence Scott dove for the line only to watch the ball plop up like a toffee out of a wrapper as he tried to move his hands away for the touchdown.

REACTIONS:

"It was pretty cool to all dot down and share some special moments out there. We had plenty of ball to express ourselves. The haka and game were the fun part."

- BEAUDEN BARRETT

"It's 10 years ago or whatever when we used to play in the backyard and talk about going to the World Cup, and used to heckle each other about having a kick to win the World Cup. It's just cool to be here and be able to play together."

- JORDIE BARRETT

"Beauden is an exceptional footballer. I can't wait to see the GPS numbers on how much he ran. Scott has gone back to his non-flashy dive to score tries. Jordie played with a lot of control and patience."

- STEVE HANSEN,

COACH, ALL BLACKS

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Banga desh to India

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit will further strengthen Indo-Bangladesh ties



Born on Sept. 28, 1947, **Sheikh Hasina**, the eldest daughter of Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is the longest serving prime minister of Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina was elected as the prime minister for the fourth time after her party Awami League won a massive popular mandate in the December 2018 general election. Under her visionary leadership, Bangladesh has become a role model of economic development and women empowerment. She has won international accolade as Mother of Humanity for her humanitarian gesture of providing shelter to over one million Rohingyas fleeing atrocities in neighbouring Myanmar. Sheikh Hasina has been a pioneering leader in the global fight against terrorism and militancy

RIME Minister Sheikh Hasina will be representing Bangladesh at the India Economic Summit in New Delhi on October 3-4, 2019. The Bangladesh Premier will also meet her Indian counterpart Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a bilateral format after the Summit, from October 5-6, 2019. The visit is very significant as this will be Premier Hasina's first visit to India after her re-election in December 2018 and also the first visit after PM Modi was re-elected to office in May 2019. There have been a series of visits in the last five years, both at the Prime Ministerial and Presidential levels between Bangladesh and India. All these visits are the manifestation of the current level of our partnership, which is "all encompassing" and goes "far beyond the strategic partnership", touching upon "virtually all areas of human endeavour". We hope this visit of our Prime Minister would further strengthen our already excellent level of bilateral cooperation.

Bangladesh and India are closest neighbours, as we share the longest border between us. It is a matter of happiness for us that during recent years our cooperation has expanded in multifaceted areas. PM Modi himself has underscored that Bangladesh-India relations are passing through a "Golden Chapter" or "Sonali Adhyay" and have emerged as a "role model" for "Neighborhood Diplomacy" and countries in other parts of the world need to follow this model for developing their "Neighborhood relations". Indeed, the relations have now reached the "best ever" stage, under the dynamic leadership of our two Prime Ministers. As noted earlier, it has gone beyond the strategic partnership level and now encompasses all aspects of our bilateral cooperation. We are confident that the re-election of both the PMs with landslide victories in the latest respective national elections will enable us to further consolidate and expand the ever-increasing bilateral ties, based on shared vision and mutuality of interest.

Bangladesh-India bilateral cooperation had begun in the battlefields of 1971. The emotional bonds stemming from the invaluable contributions of the Government and the people of India during Bangladesh's War of Liberation, led by our Father of Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, remain a dominant factor in the country's political, cultural and social life. It may be mentioned here that, as a gesture from Bangladesh in recognising the supreme sacrifice made by the Indian martyrs for the liberation of Bangladesh, a special "Sommanona programme" was jointly organised by the Government of India and Bangladesh during the last summit level visit of PM Hasina to India.

A stable, strong and friendly neighborhood is a necessity for any country, big or small, and especially in our region where several armed terrorist groups are eager to exploit differences between the two countries to further their own objectives. Since assumption of power for the second time in 2009, PM Sheikh Hasina has consistently tried to improve mutual trust and cooperation and she has brought a change in the mindset governing our bilateral ties. There is now a greater recognition on both sides that the destinies of our two neighbouring countries are inescapably intertwined and we must grow together. Our stability and prosperity are inextricably linked with each other.

Happily, PM Modi, after assumption of office in his first term a little over five years ago, had also expressed a keen desire to promote all-round bilateral cooperation. His historic visit to Bangladesh in June 2015 has taken our ties to newer heights. Sixty eight years after the partition of 1947, and fortyone years after the conclusion of the Indira-Mujib Border Accord of 1974, the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) between the two countries was concluded and ratified. PM Modi had demonstrated how a longstanding complex bilateral issue could be resolved unanimously through consultation, compassion and consensus-building. The successful conclusion of the LBA also signaled fulfillment of the vision of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had taken the initiative soon after the independence of Bangladesh.

During the last Summit level meetings in 2017, our two PMs Sheikh Hasina and Narendra Modi took our bilateral ties to a new level which is well beyond the "strategic partnership". The 11 Agreements and 24 MoUs signed during the visit virtually encompass every important sector in our bilateral cooperation, namely security, trade, connectivity, energy, civil nuclear agreement, defence, introduction of new bus and train services, among others. In addition to the two earlier Line of Credits (LOCs), India also extended a fresh LOC to Bangladesh during the visit, to the tune of \$5 bn which also included \$500 mn for defence purchase. Our private sectors also made their valuable inputs when they signed MoUs for investment to the tune of \$13 bn, primarily in the energy sector. There is hardly any area which is not reflected in the overall Bangladesh-India bilateral relations.

SECURITY AND TERRORISM

Security has been a crucial area of cooperation between our two countries and has been consolidated in recent years. It may be recalled that the security issue had bedevilled Indo-Bangladesh ties in the past. Since assumption of power in 2009, PM Sheikh Hasina has firmly controlled the situation and did not allow any terrorist activities, or any terrorist group, to use Bangladesh soil to launch any attack against India or any other neighbouring country. Likewise, Bangladesh received full cooperation from India. Since then, security cooperation has been the high point of our cooperation and it is based on our reciprocal desire not to tolerate terrorism in any form and not to allow our soil to be used for this purpose. This has significantly strengthened good neighbourly ties between the two countries. Peace, however, does not come for free and we have to be vigilant as various insurgent elements are active in our neighborhood.

ENERGY COOPERATION Cooperation in the energy sector is the hallmark of our renewed engagements. There is a positive momentum in cooperation between our two countries in the power sector and the achievements in the past six years have been highly encouraging. Currently, India has been supplying 1160 MW of power to us. We have also started cooperation on renewable energy and nuclear power. Several projects in the power sector have been included in the new line of credit of \$4.5 bn which was announced during the visit of PM Sheikh Hasina to India in April 2017. Agreements for nearly \$13 bn of Indian investment were also signed during the visit, mainly in the power and energy sectors of Bangladesh. In addition to these bilateral initiatives, we are working on sub-regional cooperation in the energy sector in our existing sub-regional and regional platforms like BBIN, SAARC, BIMSTEC, etc. We are confident it would bring solidity in our bilateral ties and thus make our bilateral cooperation irreversible.

BILATERAL AND SUB-REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

Connectivity is another vital area of cooperation between our two countries. As we are

painfully aware, South Asia is the least connected region in the world and whatever connectivity was established during the colonial period, was disrupted in the past. Currently, we are working to restore road, rail and coastal shipping links that had existed in the pre-partition period. At the same time, new land ports and better infrastructure are being built to facilitate greater trade. Our people have achieved much higher purchasing power and hence, we are now working on air connectivity between Bangladesh and other North-Eastern cities on a priority basis.

It is heartening to note that PM Modi has not only expressed his interest in strengthening Bangladesh-India bilateral ties but also viewed these cooperative ties as a catalyst for regional and sub-regional integration, progress and stability. Bangladesh also figures prominently in PM Modi's 'Look and Act East' policy and both countries are working on strengthening sub-regional connectivity among Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and North-East India under the BBIN as well as inter-regional cooperation with South East Asian countries under the aegis of BIMSTEC and ASEAN.

WATER SHARING ISSUES

Bangladesh and India share 54 common rivers and the issue of water sharing during the lean season has been an important issue as it has a direct impact on the food production and quality of life of our teeming millions. The Ganges Water Sharing Agreement is being successfully implemented. The two countries have also been working on a solution for an interim water sharing agreement for Teesta River. The Union Government of India has been undertaking internal consultations with the Government of West Bengal and PM Modi has assured our PM that the agreement would be finalised soon. Bangladesh is eagerly looking forward to an early conclusion of the Agreement as it would open up newer opportunities for cooperation. The Joint River Commissions of our two countries are constantly engaged in joint consultations on other water related issues.

TRADE & INVESTMENT

The volume of bilateral trade has steadily grown during the past years. The balance of trade, however, is still largely in India's favour. The volume of trade between two countries is worth nearly \$10 bn. In 2018, Bangladesh was India's eighth largest export destination with \$8.8 bn of export and our export to India was about \$1 bn. However, these are for mostly primary products. It should be our common endeavour to bring in qualitative and quantitative changes in our trade exchanges. We would like to see trade and investment together in this regard. The most practical course of action would be to set up a series of "buy-back" projects, where big Indian companies could set up their industries in Bangladesh and the produce could be re-exported to India. Incidentally, such projects do exist for US-Canada and US-Mexico borders. To this end, several mega Indian companies like the Tata group and CEAT Tyres have set up such projects in Bangladesh. These are small projects and we need much bigger projects as joint ventures. We seek substantial investment from Indian investors in three exclusive Economic Zones in Bangladesh that have been offered to India. We are now emphasising all-round economic cooperation between our two countries.

LINES OF CREDIT

India has offered three Lines of Credit to the tune of \$8 bn at a highly concessional rate to Bangladesh. The First line of credit (LoC-1) has been fully utilised, while imple-

mentation of various projects under the Second Line of Credit (LoC-2) is underway. These credits have enhanced capacities in vital areas such as roads, railways, bridges, and inland waterways connectivity. Under the third Line of Credit (LoC 3), the Indian government has given \$5 bn to Bangladesh. In the meantime, infrastructural development of Land Customs Stations/Land Ports is continuing for boosting smoother exchange of goods.

DEFENCE ENGAGEMENTS

Defence engagement between Bangladesh and India has been steadily developing in recent years. During the visit of our PM to India in 2017, five MoUs were signed on Defence cooperation, covering fields of gen-

eral cooperation, training exchange and procurement of equipment, defence financing, medical cooperation and knowledge sharing between the top defence institutes of both the countries. Both the countries are now working for the operationalisation and implementation of those MoUs.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACT

People-to-people contact between Bangladesh and India has increased manifold in recent years and the highest number of tourists coming to India in 2017 were Bangladeshis. Likewise, a large number of technically qualified Indian nationals are currently engaged in Bangladesh's health, IT, banking and other service sectors. Cultural teams from both the countries

have been participating in various cultural programmes, book fairs, film festivals in each other's capital. A good number of Bangladeshi students are also studying

In conclusion, I would say the developments of recent years have taken our bilateral relations to a new multi-dimensional, multi-faceted and comprehensive platform and it is expected that PM Sheikh Hasina's forthcoming visit and her meetings with the political establishment in India would give a fresh impetus to our ever-growing bilateral relations.

Long live Bangladesh-India Friendship.

Syed Muazzem Ali, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, New Delhi

AB Bank Limited Bangladesh





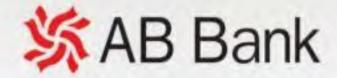






Felicitations to Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Honourable Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for winning the "Champion of Skill Development for Youth Award" and "Vaccine Hero Award".

We are proud to welcome You to India.



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