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USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Cong's mock indignation at FIR against celebrities

It is understandable that Rahul Gandhi has abruptly discovered that the age of democracy is over and that India is in the throes of authoritarian rule. It is customary for political leaders to overstate things and cry "woi!" at the drop of a Gandhi topi. This is even more so when those affected are honoured members of the Congress ecosystem, notables who can be wheeled out on appropriate occasions to warn against "fascism" and during elections to plead for voters to defeat "communal forces" resoundingly.

I am of course referring to the former Congress president and MP for Wayanad's tweet about an FIR involving a round robin letter signed by prominent intellectuals asking the Prime Minister to put an end to beef-linked lynchings. The FIR, registered by the police in Muzaffarpur in Bihar, wasn't a decision of the local State police which must have been quite bewildered. It was an order of a local court in response to a private prosecution against those who signed this modestly publicised petition, one of the many hundreds that the Prime Minister's Office receives each day. The petitioner requested the lower court to file the signatories of the petition with sedition — a grave charge that cannot be used liberally. Although the matter is yet to be decided, the local court in its infinite wisdom deemed that the matter warranted adjudication. The FIR is presumably a first step in what the local judge has deemed is a fit case for the notables to answer.

I have no desire to either question the legality or the wisdom of the decision by the local court. There may be abstruse questions of law that need to be settled. Alternatively, it is possible that there are hidden facts about which most people — observing the matter from a distance — are unaware of. However, having registered these caveats — since I have absolutely no desire to be summoned to Muzaffarpur on the charge that I held the court in contempt — I have a different perspective. The prism through which I look at the incident is plain common sense.

Politically, I have little sympathy for the members of India's liberal Establishment that put their names to the petition. They are habitually accustomed to protesting too much and at the same time being selective with their indignation. This is the nature of their politics. However, I do sincerely believe that the Constitution and, more important, the public culture of India gives everyone, including every Congress-inclined individual, the complete and uninhibited right (within the norms of decency of course) to express their views to either the Prime Minister or the citizens in a bazaar. Writing a letter to the Prime Minister runs the big risk that it may never be personally read by the intended recipient. But apart from this, we cannot put restrictions on what the Prime Minister should or should not see. Narendra Modi, or so we are informed, is habitually accustomed to browsing through social media. As such he doesn't need to be insulated from blunt talk.

There is the danger that what the notables signed will be used by entities that want to paint India in the vilest of colours. That risk is permanent. There are individuals who have nothing better to do all day and night except unearth evidence to prove that India is worse than both Nazi Germany and Pol Pot's Cambodia. Some of them may even be bankrolled by foreign entities. However, unless it can be demonstrated that some individuals are guilty of espionage, it will be improper to lump them with the charge of sedition. Sedition involves more than mere disloyalty but actually helping the enemies of both the Indian state and the Indian nation. In any case, like "fascism" and "socialism" or, for that matter, "scientific temper" — some of these terms find a place in the Indian Constitution — "sedition" is a loaded term that is not prone to any exact definition. It is, however, a lovely charge to hurl against those we dislike.

I don't particularly like the politics of those who signed the letter to the Prime Minister. I am, however, friends with some of them because friendship is not based on the voting intentions of individuals. Sufficiently provoked I may even say they are being treacherous. However, not even in my wildest dreams will I suggest that be hauled up before a court or a people's tribunal and be punished for what they have said.

There are two reasons for my belief. First, I am an amateur stamp collector and regret the fact that if people don't write enough letters, the postage stamp will become history very soon. That would be sad, although it would raise the long-term value of my collection.

The second reason is that I feel that every country needs a silly season. I will not elaborate this point because Indian politics lacks a sense of humour.

NC team to meet detained bosses

Govt allows party delegation to call on Farooq, Omar Abdullah today

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A delegation of Jammu-based National Conference leaders, led by former MLA Devender Singh Rana, has been granted permission by the Jammu & Kashmir administration to meet party president Farooq Abdullah and vice-president Omar Abdullah, both under detention for the last two months in Srinagar.

The father-son duo was placed under detention the night before the Centre scrapped Jammu & Kashmir's special status under Article 370 on August 5. Rana said the delegation will comprise 15 former legislators.

NC spokesperson Madan Mantoo said, "The Government conveyed permission in response to the request made seeking permission to meet their party president and vice-president."

The delegation is scheduled to visit Srinagar on Sunday. Earlier, these National



Conference leaders were allowed to meet family members but granting permission to meet a political delegation is seen as a major political development in the corridors of power ahead of the block development council polls beginning October 24.

The much-awaited elections will see 26,629 elected panchs and sarpanchs elect, 310 block development chairpersons in the first phase. This will be followed by polls for 22 chairpersons for the District Development Boards. Currently, three-time Chief

Minister and sitting MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah, is under house arrest at his Gupkar Road residence, while his son Omar is confined to Hari Niwas, a state guesthouse turned into a jail, barely 500 metres away.

He said the decision to meet Farooq and Omar had been taken at an emergency meeting of the senior functionaries and district presidents of the Jammu Province two days ago, soon after restrictions on the movement of Jammu-based National Conference leaders was lifted.

Sq Leader Ravi, martyred by Yasin Malik, on war memorial

New Delhi: The name of Squadron Leader Ravi Khanna, who was killed by JKLF terrorists in 1990, will be added to the National War Memorial after it was approved by the IAF, sources said.

Khanna, along with three other IAF personnel, was killed in Kashmir allegedly by Yasin Malik. Twenty-seven bullets were pumped into Khanna's body.

An Air Force official said the Khanna's name was missed out in the National War Memorial and the error has now been rectified.

The National War Memorial at the India Gate is dedicated to the Defence personnel who laid down their lives for the country. The NWM has names of such defence personnel with details of their acts. The three armed services approve the names of the soldiers after which they are included in the NWM. **PTI**

Horses for courses: ISI terror strategy in J&K

Cadre loss forces division of labour among Let, JeM, HM to pick targets

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

A mid a dwindling cadre base coupled with tight security on the ground in Jammu & Kashmir, the Pakistan Army and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) have resorted to division of labour and tasked different terror groups for hitting different targets for maximizing the impacts of hits in the Valley.

While Lashkar-e-Tayyeba has been tasked to hit security forces especially in transit on highways, Jaish-e-Mohammad has been assigned to hit VIPs and various security installations. Likewise, the Hizbul

Mujahideen has been asked to target panchs and sarpanchs who represent the panchayats and are the torchbearers of grassroots democracy.

According to an input from security agencies, a Pakistan-based LeT commander has tasked his Jammu-based associates to carry out grenade attack on security forces in Mendhar, Surankote or Poonch town (all in Poonch district) in coming days. The purpose of the latest nefarious design of the terror groups is to make their presence felt post-abrogation of Article 370.

In addition, inputs also indicate movement of unidentified terrorists in and around Zonakar, Rainawari, Safakadal and Dhramshal areas of Srinagar to target police.

As per Intelligence reports, about 275 terrorists are prowling along various launch pads across the Line of Control (LoC). The inputs say 80 ultras are waiting across Gurez, 60 across Machhal, 40 opposite Keran, 15 across Naugam, 50 opposite Karnah, 20 across Uri and 10 across Rampur.

Detailed report on P5

10 hurt in grenade attack in Anantnag

Jammu: At least 10 people, including a traffic cop and a local journalist, received injuries in a grenade attack outside Anantnag Deputy Commissioner's office on Saturday.

According to reports, "Around 10.30 am, an unidentified terrorist lobbed a grenade on a busy Lal Chowk area of Anantnag causing injuries to 10 people". DIG, South Kashmir, Atul Goel said, "The grenade attack was carried out to spread fear among the local population in the area."

Detailed report on P5

Aarey tree felling encounters rage

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A massive indignation erupted among environmentalists, politicians and people from different walks of life in the metropolis on Saturday over the arrest of 29 activists who staged a protest on Friday night against the felling of trees at Aarey Colony in north Mumbai, even as the Bombay High Court dismissed a petition seeking a stay on the felling of trees at Aarey Colony.

Hours after the Bombay High Court dismissed four petitions challenging the felling of 2,646 trees in Aarey Colony, 29 activists, including six women, were arrested by the police between 8.30 pm and 11 pm on Saturday, when they resisted the tree felling operation started by the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL) to make way for the construction of a car shed for Metro phase-III.

The arrested activists were booked under sections 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 143 (punishment for unlawful assembly) and 149 (every member guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object) of the IPC.

Bombay HC refuses to stay its order, 29 arrested for protest



While the activists alleged that the police behaved in a high-handed manner, a senior police official stationed at the Aarey Colony police station said, "The green activists numbering anywhere from 100 to 200 obstructed the police from carrying out their duty. They also assaulted a police constable and one Ms Anita Shankar Sutar, who is a complainant in the case. We have arrested 29 persons, including six women, connection with the incident".

The arrested activists were produced before a Suburban court which remanded them in police custody for five days.

Turn to Page 4

Vikas, paryavaran must go hand in hand: Javadekar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

Citing the example of the Delhi Metro and the Bombay High Court ruling, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Saturday justified the felling of trees at Aarey Colony in north Mumbai to set up a Metro car shed.

"There was a need to fell 20 to 25 trees for setting up the first metro station in Delhi and then also people had similarly opposed it. But for each tree that was cut, five saplings were planted," he said while pointing out that the forest cover in the national Capital has increased since then and public transport system has also improved.

"Now, there are 271 stations (in Delhi). Forest under cover area has increased in Delhi. 30 lakh people are using the Metro as public transport," he said, adding, "this is the mantra of 'vikas bhi, paryavaran ki suraksha bhi' (development with environment protection)".

The Minister was responding to a query from media in Lucknow where he was asked about Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd hacking trees to make way for a car shed, hours after the High Court dismissed four petitions filed by NGOs and activists challenging the decision to allow felling of 2,600 trees.

This is not the first time that the trees have been felled for developmental projects. According to a report prepared by a Parliamentary Standing Committee in February 2019, in the last five years since 2013-2018, at least one-third of the 2,39,572 hectares of forest land that India overall lost to various developmental activities in the last 15 years (2003-2018).

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Hasina raises NRC, Rohingya with PM; 7 agreements inked

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday raised her concern over the rollout of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), meant to identify illegal Bangladeshi migrants in Assam, and also touched the issue of Rohingya refugees even as India and Bangladesh signed seven pacts, including for a joint Coastal Surveillance System.

Hasina took up the contentious issues during her "productive and comprehensive" talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to further broad-based bilateral ties.

Government sources said the Indian side conveyed to Hasina that publication of the NRC was a court-monitored process and the final scenario on the issue is yet to emerge.

The issue of controversial Rohingya refugees also figured in the talks and the two Prime Ministers agreed on the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina launch a bilateral project after a meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Saturday **PTI**

need to expedite safe, speedy and sustainable repatriation of the displaced persons to their homes in Rakhine of Myanmar, officials said.

A joint statement said Modi appreciated the zero-

tolerance policy of the Bangladesh Government against terrorism and commended Hasina for her resolute efforts to ensure peace, security and stability in the region.

Turn to Page 4

Ex-Haryana Cong chief quits, cries plot to oust all groomed by Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/ KARNAL

In a blow to the Congress I-ahead of the Haryana Assembly polls, its former State unit chief Ashok Tanwar resigned from the party's primary membership on Saturday, alleging that there is a conspiracy to eliminate leaders groomed by Rahul Gandhi.

Tanwar announced his resignation on Twitter and posted a four-page resignation letter addressed to Congress president Sonia Gandhi. He said he took the decision after long deliberations with party workers and his supporters.

"I, after several months of consideration, tender my resignation from the primary membership of the Congress party, which I nurtured with my sweat and blood. My fight is not personal but against the system which is destroying the grand old party," Tanwar said.

Turn to Page 4

Thai judge kills himself in court after railing at justice system

AFP ■ BANGKOK

Thai judge shot himself in the chest in front of a packed court after acquitting several murder suspects and decrying the kingdom's judicial system in an impassioned speech broadcast on Facebook Live.

Critics say Thailand's courts often work in favour of the rich and powerful, while delivering swift and harsh sentences on ordinary people for minor offences.

But it is virtually unheard of for judges to criticise the system. Kanakorn Pianchana, a judge at Yala court in the heart of the insurgency-battered Thai south, was delivering the verdict for five Muslim suspects in a gun murder case on Friday.

Detailed report on P7

CAPSULE

MIZORAM AGAINST C'SHIP BILL, CM TELLS AMIT SHAH
Aizawl: Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga on Saturday told visiting Union Home Minister Amit Shah that the people of the State are against the proposed amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955. **P6**

BSF SEIZES 2 PAK BOATS, ABANDONED NEAR KUTCH BHUJ
The BSF seized two Pakistani fishing boats abandoned in Sir Creek area near Kutch district in Gujarat. **P6**

ROHIT SHARMA SMASHES HISTORIC HUNDRED
Visakhapatnam: Rohit Sharma smashed another hundred as India set an improbable 395-run target for South Africa in the first Test. Revelling in his new role, Rohit effortlessly walked his way into the record books as he scored 127 off 149 balls, following his 176. **P10**

SHOW TIME

It has fantastic action



WAR
*ing: Hrithik Roshan, Tiger Shroff, Vaani Kapoor, Ashutosh Rana
Rated: 6/10

What happens when you have a movie that stars Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff? Besides the fact that the film has entered the ₹100-crore club, it will have fans of the two actors thronging the theatres to see their favourite actors battle it out. And they do battle it out like never seen before in Bollywood.

Directed by Siddharth Anand, who directed and wrote *Bang Bang!* starring Hrithik Roshan and Katrina Kaif is a rollercoaster ride that takes you some beautiful foreign locales.

The opening scene gives you a preview of what will happen for the next 156 minutes. We just love our heroes and Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff deliver this plenty of muscles thrown in and groovy dance steps in the middle that makes no sense. But

that doesn't matter. We just love to see the two show their prowess — be it on the dance floor or go after the villains in the name of their country even though there might be a hidden personal agenda.

Bullets flying, fisty cuffs, bike chases, jumping from an aircraft and betrayal. Does it sound like a scene from *Mission Impossible* series, right? But it isn't given the *desi* twist that *War* comes — the *gaddari ka kalank mitana hai* — resonates loud and clear. Then there is the obsession that Bollywood has to make films where the entire nation is at risk of an invasion and it is only a one-man army, our hero, who can save the day.

What makes this film enjoyable is the fantastic action sequences. There haven't been many movies that our industry churns out that has this level of stunts. Those looking for a meaningful cinema, need to stay away from this film which is all about brawn and beauty too.

— Shalini Saksena

Watch it for Joaquin's acting

JOKER
*ing: Joaquin Phoenix, Robert De Niro, Zazie Beetz, Frances Conroy
Rated: 7/10

When Jack Nicholson played Joker in *Batman* directed by Tim Burton, people had gone ga-ga over him — the purple suit, a teal shirt with a purple tie and a crazy persona to match. The image left a lasting mark on one's psyche. However, he was not the first person to have played the Clown Prince of Crime with a charm. Cesar Romero, Mark Hamill and Heath Ledger are some of the actors who played Joker.

Back then, nobody thought that anyone could top what Nicholas or for that matter what Ledger did in *The Dark Knight* (he won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor posthumously).

Enter Joaquin (pronounced Wa-Keen) Phoenix and plays Joker. Fans of DC Comics already know how crazy and OTT this character is.

"I hope my death makes some cents than my life," his character says and takes the viewers on a journey that is dark and filled with negativity. Yet, one is glued to his seat.

Joker is grim, it is disturbing to the point that it leaves one uneasy and the violence will make you gasp. In the midst of all this, Phoenix stands tall and takes the audience on a ride that is absolutely brilliant and leaves you spellbound. It is a movie one must-see for the mastery with which Phoenix plays Joker.

— Shalini Saksena



Shradha and Alam

Prince and Yuvika

Started back in 2005, *Nach Baliye* has been grabbing eyeballs ever since. Now even after almost 15 years down the line, the show still gives some TRP boost to the channel if not much. The reason may be the endless number of dance reality shows that are launching day in and day out.

It is the ninth season of *Nach Baliye* and like every time there are 10 celebrity couple fighting for the title. However, there has to be some unique element to break the monotony. It is the most cheerful judges duo — Ahmed Khan and Raveena Tandon, who take the audience on a joy ride in every episode. Not to mention, the laughter and one-liners that Manish Paul brings in. Till date, four couples have been eliminated while two couples have quit the show due to injuries. The last few weeks have been a roller-coaster ride for the contestants as well as the audience due to various twists and turns in the show.

SHALAM
Shradha and Alam aka Shalam's journey has been full of

Let's dance

Nach Baliye has become more lively in its ninth season. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with the jodis to tell you about their experience and journey

ups and downs. But all the duo believed in was to pour their heart out while dancing.

For Shradha the journey has been an eye-opening one. "My journey has helped me to know myself better. Before the show, I thought of myself as a decent dancer. It was only after taking part in the show that I realised I do have the sense of rhythm as well. I am evolving as a dancer and every day I am learning something new," she says. On the other hand Alam feels that his dance his pathetic.

"Before coming to the show, I thought I can dance well. But the show made me realise that what I am doing is not dance. It has been tough for me to shifting from the kind of dance I used to do to the real dance. But I am enjoying every bit of it," he tells you.

However, *Nach Baliye* is not only about dance but also fighting till the end. "There is a lot of competition. All the *jodis* are strong. We just cannot disregard any one of them. They all are tough competitors," Alam says.

Not only the audience but the *jodis* too are all praise for the judges. "They are the finest people on the show. They have great judging power. Whenever we make any mistake, they catch it easily. They see things with a birds eye view. But at the same time they are gentle enough to point it out rightly without being rude," Alam tells you.

PRIVIKA
The most lovable and confident *jodi* of the season Prince and Yuvika aka Privika is leaving no stone unturned in proving that they are not just an adorable couple but good dancers too.

However, not all was good for the couple. The couple's journey started on a sad note with Prince's cousin's demise. This left the duo shattered but the show gave them courage to stand-up and fight. And since then, they have shown nothing but improvement in their life. This makes them the most favourable *jodi* to reach the semifinals if not the finals.

This is Prince's first show after marriage and he was apprehensive of doing the show. "I was not into dance and I was confused what to do. But things change after marriage. Your decisions should be inclusive of your spouse's choice as well. So I signed the show for my wife Yuvika and now I have learnt dance too," he tells you.

Recalling some behind the scenes moments, Prince says that Yuvika is a responsible wife. "We have so much fun while practicing but at the same time there are a lot of injuries that come during the rehearsals. There was a time when I get injured and Yuvika was there for me, she took care of me and vice-versa," he tells you. Whenever the duo step on to the stage, there is only one thing that goes in their mind — winning.

We hope to see more powerful and meaningful performances from the *jodis* in the coming weeks. And which *jodi* will manage to take the title, only time will tell.

दिल्ली सरकार
आज की शान

“हे माँ दुर्गा, मैं आपसे इस पावन अवसर पर मेरे दिल्ली वासियों के लिए खूब तरक्की, भरपूर खुशी और सदैव अच्छा स्वास्थ्य मांगता हूँ”

- अरविंद केजरीवाल
मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

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- Avoid using thermocol and plastic decorations.
- Do not use idols made of POP and colors, instead use only made of natural clay and food colors.
- Before immersion of idols, must remove the pooja material and collect it at the specified place.

Do not immerse idols in the **River Yamuna**.

Immerse idols at the places prescribed by **Delhi Government**.

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Violators can also be punished under section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which include imprisonment upto five years and / or fine which may be extended to Rs One Lac or with Both

Click to view list of prescribed locations :
<http://environment.delhigovt.nic.in> | <http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in> | <http://revenue.delhi.gov.in>

Department of Revenue and Department of Environment, Government of NCT of Delhi

"Let us all together save our life-giving Yamuna river from being polluted and immerse idols only at the places prescribed by Delhi Government instead of Yamuna."

Dip/Shabdant/01/24/19-20

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SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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DELHI'S AIR GETS CLEANER! POLLUTION DOWN BY 25%

INCREASE IN GREEN COVER IN DELHI



25% प्रदूषण
हुआ कम
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100%
कम करें हम

DIP/Shabdarth/D/016/1/19-20

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

But we can't stop here! We have to make every possible effort to make Delhi pollution free

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

*Source: Central Pollution Control Board, Government of India



Delhi Govt starts drive to make city pothole-free

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To make national Capital roads potholes free, Delhi Government on Saturday launched a mega exercise to fill potholes on roads managed by its Public Works Department (PWD).

Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal in a series of tweets said it was first time that such a big scale road inspection was being done to free the PWD roads from potholes caused by rains and wear and tear.

The PWD maintains around 1,260 km roads in the city. 'Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) 50 ruling legislators, each accompanied by a PWD engineer will inspect 25 km of road stretch in their areas. An app will be used to locate and record the potholes and other damages, which will be



repaired immediately," said the Chief Minister.

"Some roads in the city which comes under the PWD are used by lakhs of vehicles every day. The exercise is aimed at ensuring people face no problems due to bad roads after the rains, Kejriwal said.

He said that if team consisting of an MLA and a PWD engineer finds potholes, a photo of the same will be

uploaded on department's software for swift action.

On Tuesday, Kejriwal has announced to launch the city-wide exercise from October 5 to identify potholes on roads. "It will be like physical audit of PWD's roads and we will have complete information about the current condition of city's roads. Fifty MLAs will be part of this exercise," he had said.

36-yr-old techie held for sending threats to Kejriwal via emails

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 36-year-old techie for allegedly sending offensive and threatening email to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The accused have been identified as Manish Saraswat, a resident of district Ajmer in Rajasthan. Police said that the accused is a Bachelor in Engineering in Information Technology but was presently unemployed.

According to a senior police official, two offensive and threatening emails were received on the official email address of Delhi's Chief Minister.

"On September 20, Ajay Chagti, the chief secretary in Delhi Government, filed a complaint with Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik.



Chagti had given copies of two identical emails which were received on official email of Chief Minister. The sender had used derogatory language and threatened the CM of dire consequences," said the senior police official.

"A case under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code was registered and during investigation, the Cyber Cell of Delhi police mounted a technical surveillance which led to the arrest of Manish from Ajmer. Police have also seized the laptop from which the accused had sent the email," said a police official.

Anil Baijal inaugurates two aerobic composters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to deal with green waste, Lieutenant Governor (L-G), Anil Baijal inaugurated two aerobic composters, one each at Delhi's East of Kailash and Chirag Dilli.

Speaking on the occasion, L-G while referring to the fast increasing population in Delhi and limited resources available exhorted the local bodies to make all out efforts for optimum rational and conservation of natural resources.

Baijal stated that the population of Delhi was just 20 lakh in 1977 which has increased ten times today at 20 million. "This is the reason in the big stride in the generation of waste. It is a daunting challenge to manage and process entire quantity of waste," he said.

He appreciated the efforts of SDMC in establishing rele-



vant and much needed plants which will go a long way in production of enriched organic manure.

LG underlined the need of more such plants under SDMC jurisdiction. Baijal heaped praises over SDMC for taking new initiatives one after another.

Gyanesh Bharti, Commissioner of SDMC said that the SDMC has decided to prepare manure with green

waste. "This will go a long way in moving fast in the direction of waste to wealth. It will also help in maximising the quantity of waste management. The SDMC have decided to set up four aerobic drum composters out of which one aerobic drum composter was made functional in February 2019. The two such plants are being inaugurated today at East of Kailash and Chirag Dilli and the rest one will take a few months in commissioning," said Bharti.

"The aerobic drum composters are Plug and Play model and can be shifted to another site at any time. These are zero discharged plants with minimal requirement of water for cleaning. These plants process bio degradable municipal solid waste to produce organic manure and compost. The cost of one aerobic drum composter it is 36.5 lakh," Bharti said.

Tanwar won't be given entry into BJP: Khattar

PTI ■ KARNAL (HR)

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday ruled out any possi-

bility of inducting former State Congress chief Ashok Tanwar into the BJP fold after the latter quit his party.

Khattar slammed the Opposition Congress, saying Tanwar's allegations of irregularities in ticket allotment have exposed the party, and asserted only those people who have a "clean past" and "carry no baggage" will be allowed to join the BJP.

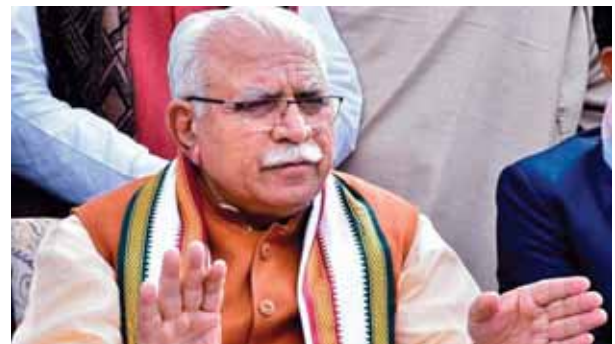
"We will not give him (Tanwar) entry (into BJP)," he told reporters here.

Asked about Tanwar's reported remarks that the BJP had invited him, Khattar said it was completely wrong. "Had the BJP invited him (Tanwar), he would have come by now," the chief minister said.

He was speaking after Tanwar resigned from the primary membership of the Congress on Saturday, in a setback to the party ahead of October 21 Assembly polls.

The former MP announced his resignation on Twitter and posted a four-page resignation letter addressed to Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

"Nothing works in



Congress without money. The former state president (Tanwar) made such an allegation. I will say Congress has been exposed," said Khattar.

The chief minister said it is not the first time that accusations of corruption in ticket distribution in the Congress have been made.

"Earlier also, it used to happen there (Congress). Now people and leaders have understood that they should not remain in such a party. A lot of their people are contacting us and we are saying that we will take people whose past is clean and who face no allegation and carry no baggage," Khattar said. There is "no trust" between

Kerala tops list of startup destinations in country: Report

PTI ■ KOCHI

Kerala has emerged as one of top start-up destinations in the country, according to a report compiled by digital media platform Inc 42 in association with TiE Kerala.

The state has made an impressive compound annual growth of 17 per cent since 2012, taking the total number of ventures based out of the state to 2,200 and displaying high competence in netting funds, said the report.

In a single year since 2018 alone, the number of startups marked a steep increase of 35 per cent, said the report unveiled at the valedictory function of the TiECon Kerala 2019 in Kochi on Saturday.

Subramanian Swamy, MP, released the report titled Kerala Startup Ecosystem 2019' in the presence of CEO of Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) Saji Gopinath, organisers of TiECon said in a press release here.

P Chidambaram referred to AIIMS for medical check-up after stomach ache

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following a stomach ache, former Finance Minister P Chidambaram, who has been in Tihar jail since September 5, on Saturday was referred to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for a medical check-up.

Though, the inmates lodged in Tihar prison are usually referred to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospital but as per direction of the Court Chidambaram was taken to AIIMS for the treatment. Earlier, a court order had said that if P Chidambaram complains of any medical issue, he should be referred to AIIMS, RML hospital or Safdarjung hospital.

P Chidambaram has been under CBI custody since August 21. Chidambaram is facing investigations in the INX Media case. The CBI and ED have accused him of misusing his position as India's Finance Minister to benefit INX Media.

Delhi Govt to install 100 more automated jet sewer suction pumps

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Government has decided to deploy 100 more automated jet sewer suction pumps in the national Capital.

According to statement issued by Delhi Government, It has been decided by the Delhi Government to deploy 100 more automated jet sewer sucking machines in addition to 200 deployed earlier through an open bid by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). The cost of one machine, its fabrication and working capital total ₹40.16 lakhs. The manual cleaning of sewers have resulted in deaths of several sanitation workers in the past.

"This practice of manual sewer cleaning is present since generations and only one particular community is forced to continue this practice," said Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam. "A financial help to successful bidders from among sanitation workers for operating the

machines has been approved by the Government," said an official.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Be it known to general public at large that my client Suresh Kumar Chaudhary Sh. Satyanarayan Chaudhary, R/o House No. 2015A, HIG Housing Board Colony, Sector-3, Ballabgarh, Faridabad (Haryana) has disowned his son namely Mohit Garg from his all moved and immovable properties and severed all the active relations with him. From today my client shall have no concern with the acts & deeds of his son Mohit Garg in future. He shall not be responsible to any person for any kind of claim whatsoever arising while dealing with him. Joginder Singh, Advocate Faridabad

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

LOST & FOUND

Lost original perpetual lease deed papers of property 23/15 Choti Sabzi Mandi Janak puri New Delhi-58. Manisha Jethwani & Tanuja Kapoor. #9560328444

PD/8673/C

WESTERN RAILWAY COMPREHENSIVE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT: Tender Notice: EL/5/31/37/C HG/WA/2R(19-20) dt. 24.09.2019. Name of work: Comprehensive preventive maintenance contract for M/s Autometer make inverters fitted in the Railway SGAC Coaches for three years. Approx. cost of work: ₹3,38,29,251/- Location: BCT. EMD: ₹3,19,200/- Date & Time of Submission: Not later than 15.00 hrs. of 30.10.2019. Date & Time of opening: 30.10.2019 at 15:30 hrs. NOTE: Please visit our website www.iregs.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

THE KHATTAR CO-OPERATIVE URBAN BANK LIMITED: 24, ANSARI ROAD, DARYAGANJ, NEW DELHI - 110002. Rule 8(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of The Khattar Co-Operative Urban Bank Limited, 24, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of power conferred upon the undersigned under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated '12.04.2019 calling upon the borrower M/s. Neha Enterprises, through its Proprietor Ms. Neha Bhardwaj w/o Sri. Rishi Bhardwaj to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 40,26,500.21 (Rs. Forty Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Five Hundred and paise twenty one only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken physical and actual possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 9 of the said Rules on this 04th day of October of the year 2019. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not deal with the property and any dealing with the property consisting of Plot No. C-3/106, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi - 110045 within the registration Sub-Registrar J. Kapashera. Bounded: On the North by Others Plot On the South by Others Plot On the East by 20 Ft Wide Road On the West by 12 Ft Wide Road s/rl. Authorised Officer (The Khattar Co-Operative Urban Bank Ltd.)

Ambulance runs out of fuel, pregnant woman dies on way to hospital

Baripada (Odisha): A pregnant woman died on the way from one hospital to another, as the ambulance carrying her ran out of fuel in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, an official said on Saturday.

The 23-year-old tribal woman who was in an advanced stage of pregnancy was admitted to a government hospital in Bangiriposi.

However, the doctors there referred her to another hospital at Baripada on Friday night as the condition Tulasi Munda has become critical, the sources said.

"The ambulance stopped near Kuliana it ran out of fuel. We had to wait for more than an hour till another vehicle could be arranged for the forward journey," said Tulasi's husband Chittranjan Munda.

He said though an ASHA worker was accompanying his wife, she was also helpless in that situation.

"Finally, another ambulance was arranged and she was taken to Baripada hospital. By the time we reached the hospital, my wife had died," Chittranjan said.

Chief District Medical Officer of Mayurbhanj, PK Mohapatra, admitted that the ambulance could not reach its destination because of insufficient fuel.

The CDMO claimed that the ambulance had enough fuel when it started its journey to Baripada, but it ran out of fuel due to a breakage in the oil pipe. He said the matter will be enquired by the district authorities. PTI

Ex-Haryana Cong chief quits, cries plot to oust all groomed by Rahul

From Page 1

"Congress is going through an existential crisis, not because of its political opponents but because of serious internal contradictions," he said. Tanwar has been miffed with the Congress ever since he was replaced as Haryana Congress chief by Kumari Selja early last month. Earlier this week, alleging corruption in distribution of tickets for the October 21 Haryana Assembly polls, Tanwar and his supporters protested outside party president Sonia Gandhi's 10 Janpath

residence here. The Congress has denied his charges and said due process was followed in distribution of tickets.

In his resignation letter, Tanwar alleged that hardworking Congressmen, who rise from the grassroots and belong to non-political and humble family backgrounds, are not valued in the party anymore.

"Money, blackmail and pressure tactics seem to work at the end. Now the Congress is the anti-thesis of democracy, plagued by feudal attitudes and medieval conspiracies," he said.

Aarey tree felling encounters...

From Page 1 As the news of late night massacre of trees and the arrest of green activists at Aarey Colony at Goregaon in north Mumbai spread like wild fire, there was an instant public outrage in the social media.

One of the petitioners Zoru Bhatena who had earlier challenged the felling of trees at Aarey Colony, moved the Bombay High Court on Saturday morning, seeking to a direction to restrain the MMRCL from continuing tree felling at Aarey Colony.

Bhatena's counsel Pushpa Thapa urged that the court to restrain MMRCL to proceed with tree felling till the affected parties moved the Supreme Court. Another lawyer Sonal, appearing for the original petitioner, told the court that after the dismissal of petitions on Friday the MMRCL was expected not to go ahead with the felling of trees, but the expect-

ation was belied at the ground. She urged the court to impose restraint on MMRCL till October 14 when opens after Dussehra vacation.

However, MMRCL's lawyer Akashay Sinde opposed the petition saying that the request had been made by the petitioner orally and it had been rejected.

He urged the court not to grant any relief to the petitioner, "keeping in mind the huge investment any delay in the project, the overriding public interest would suffer".

Rejecting the plea for restraint on tree felling at Aarey colony, a HC bench of Justices AK Menon and SC Dharmadhikari noted: "There is nothing on record to show any request to stay the operation, implementation and enforcement of the judgement and order, nor any specific restraint was sought.

We cannot proceed on the oral understanding. Merely

because another bench is constituted, it would not be proper to grant any relief".

A HC division bench of Chief Justice Pradeep Nandrajog and Justice Bharati Dangre had on Friday refused to declare Aarey Colony a forest and also declined to quash the BMC tree authority's decision allowing felling of over 2,646 trees in the green zone to make way of a metro car shed.

Dismissing the petitions filed by green activist Zoru Bhatena and Shiv Sena corporator Yashwant Kamalakar Jadhav, the HC bench had observed, "Thus, as in the two companion petitions which we have dismissed today, the Greens fail even in these two petitions, but not on account of sailing their boats in the wrong channel, but on merits".

The HC bench issued a fine of '50,000 on Yashwant Jadhav, who had filed a petition against the approval

granted by the civic body's tree authority. He is a member of the BMC's tree authority.

Termining all the petitioners "Davids" (environmentalists) taking on the industrial "Goliaths", apparently suggesting that they are fighting an unequal battle, the court had said, "Relationship with nature and love for environment alone is true and all other relationships are unreal and temporary, is their (environmentalists) belief. Their hearts are a temple of devotion to flora and fauna".

"The issue is pending before the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal. Hence, we are dismissing the petitionality and not on merits," the HC bench had said.

The police had clamped prohibitory orders barring the assembly of four or more persons in the areas surrounding Aarey Colony.

FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK TODAY FIGHT DENGUE EVERY SUNDAY



Kids, do you all remember your Sunday homework?

Are you all ready to defeat Dengue?

You have to make sure that everyone spares 10 minutes
at 10'o clock today, to defeat Dengue

All children need to check their homes to ensure that clean water has
not accumulated anywhere.

If it has, then remember to pour it out!

And this Sunday homework is not just for you,
but for your parents and neighbors too.

Remember to knock at your neighbors' door and
remind them about the Sunday 10'o Clock check.

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

दिल्ली कर दिखाएगी



डेंगू से
वार हर
रविवार

10 injured in grenade attack in Anantnag



PNS ■ JAMMU

At least 10 people including a traffic cop and a local journalist received injuries in a grenade attack outside the office of deputy commissioner, Anantnag on Saturday.

According to reports, around 10.30 am, an unidentified terrorist lobbed a grenade in a busy Lal Chow area of Anantnag causing injuries to 10 people.

DIG South Kashmir Atul Goel rushed to the spot to take

control of the situation. Interacting with the media he said, "The grenade attack was carried out to spread fear among the local population in the area". He said large number of people were present in the market area at the time of the grenade attack.

Official sources said the injured received minor injuries and all of them were stable.

In a separate statement, J&K police spokesman said, "follow up action has been initiated to nab the culprit".

MAHA ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS Parties' big guns lined up for campaign

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Bigwigs from various political parties, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress president Sonia Gandhi, her predecessor Rahul Gandhi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and actor-turned politician Shatrughan Sinha will be among the prominent campaigners for their respective parties in the Maharashtra Assembly polls.

Given that the Assembly polls are scheduled for October 21, the electioneering in the State will be less than a fortnight-long affair.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray will lead the ruling BJP-Sena alliance campaign in the State.

Modi, Shah, Adityanath, working president JP Nadda, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Ministers like Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal, Prakash Javadekar, Smruti Irani, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Purushottam K Rupala, Raosaheb Patil-Danve and G. Kisan Reddy will be among the other key campaigners for the BJP in the State Assembly polls.

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, Karnataka's deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi, his counterpart from Uttar Pradesh Keshavprasad



Maurya, BJP's Vice-President Vasundhararaje Scindia, key functionaries like V Satish, Saroj Pandey, Bhupendra Yadav will be other key campaigners.

Sonia Gandhi, former PM Manmohan Singh, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra, Shatrughan Sinha, Mallikarjun Kharge and Ghulam Nabi Azad will be among the key campaigners for the Congress.

Current and former Chief Ministers like Kamal Nath, Ashok Gehlot, Sushilkumar Shinde, Ashok Chavan and Prithviraj Chavan, leaders like Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sachin Pilot and Mukul Wasnik will be Congress' other campaigners.

The other notable listed campaigners include: State Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat, yesteryear actress Nagma, Vijay Wadetiwar and Nana Patole.

While Sharad Pawar will lead the NCP's campaign, its leaders Praful Patel, Ajit Pawar, Supriya Sule, Chhagan

Bhujbal, Jayant Patil and Dhananjay Munde and television actor Amol Kole will be other key campaigners.

Dr Kolhe, who had quit Shiv Sena early this year and joined NCP, is a popular face in Maharashtra after having portrayed the roles of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj in the television serials.

The NCP's other notable campaigners will include Nawab Malik, Majeed Memon, Sunil Tatkar, Dilip Walse-Patil, Arun Gujrathi, Anil Deshmukh, Jitendra Awhad, Hasan Mushrif, Anna Dange, Fauzia Khan, Narendra Verma and television actor Amol Kolhe. From the Shiv Sena side, Uddhav and Aditya Thackeray will be the key campaigners. Senior leaders Ramdas Kadam, Subhash Desai, Diwakar Raote, Priyanka Chaturvedi and Sanjay Dina Patil will be other campaigners.

Raj Thackeray will be the star campaigner for the MNS. The other campaigners will be Shalini Thackeray, Bala Nandgaonkar, Sandip Deshpande, Nitin Sardesai and Yeshwant Killedar.

Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi's campaign will be led by its chief Prakash Ambedkar, while the All India Majlis-e-Mulleehul Muslim chief Asaduddin Owasi and Syed Imtiaz Jaleel will campaign for their parties.

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL Mizoram CM expresses opposition to Amit Shah

Aizawl: Opposition to the contentious Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 was expressed by Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga and civil society organisations of the State during their meetings with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday.

Shah was on a day-long visit to the State, his first since assuming office.

Zoramthanga met Shah at the Raj Bhavan and told him that people of the State are opposed to the CAB, an official statement said.

The proposed amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955 could "open floodgate of illegal immigrants" to the north State, it said.

The chief minister urged Shah for raising two battalions of Mizoram Border Guard Force to be deployed along the Mizoram-Myanmar and Mizoram-Bangladesh international borders, it said.

The Assam Rifles guard the Mizoram-Myanmar borders, while the vigilance at the Mizoram-Bangladesh borders is entrusted to the Border Security Force. However, there have been complaints of infiltration from the two neighbouring countries and the state home department had on earlier occasions sought the creation



Union Home Minister Amit Shah visits the North East Handloom and Handicraft Exhibition in Aizawl on Saturday PTI

of such a battalion by the Centre to guard the border areas.

The Mizoram NGO Coordination Committee, an umbrella organisation of major civil society bodies and student associations of the State, changed its plan to hold a protest rally during Shah's visit and opted to meet him instead and place its demands.

During the meeting the committee submitted a memorandum demanding that the CAB should not be legislated in Parliament but if it is done then Mizoram and other north eastern states who are opposed to it should be exempted from its ambit, a press release issued by the NGO body said. PTI

Court permits SIT to collect voice samples of Chinmayanand, victim

Shahjahanpur: A local court on Saturday permitted the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to collect voice samples of former Union Minister Chinmayanand and the law student who accused him of raping her.

The SIT had on Thursday moved an application for collecting their voice samples, besides those of three youths who were charged with demanding extortion from the BJP leader.

After hearing the counsels, Chief Judicial Magistrate Omvir Singh, who had reserved his order on Friday, gave permission to take the five of them to Lucknow for the purpose.

The law student's counsel, Anoop Trivedi, said he and others had objected to SIT's



application seeking permission to collect the samples, saying that if required, it should have been sought within the stipulated time of 15 days.

Meanwhile, BJP leader and former MLC Jayesh Prasad on Saturday held a press conference, accusing the top Congress leadership of hatching a conspiracy to defame the Yogi Adityanath government in connection with the case.

Over 8,600 bunkers constructed along LoC, IB in Jammu

Jammu: Over 8,600 community and individual bunkers have been constructed along the Line of Control and the International Border in five districts of the Jammu region, an official spokesperson said on Saturday.

The information was given at a meeting, chaired by Divisional Commissioner (DC) of Jammu, Sanjeev Verma, to review the progress of construction of bunkers in Samba, Kathua, Jammu, Poonch and Rajouri districts, he said.

According to the spokesperson, the highest number of 4,431 bunkers has been constructed along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch, followed by 1,238 in Rajouri.

He said 1,063 bunkers have been constructed along the

International Border (IB) in Samba, 1,039 in Kathua and 869 in Jammu.

In December 2017, the Centre had sanctioned construction of 14,460 bunkers at a cost of ₹415.73 crore for residents of border areas facing Pakistani shelling along the LoC and the IB in Jammu division.

While 7,298 bunkers were sanctioned for the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch along the LoC, 7,162 were sanctioned for residents of areas along the IB in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts. The spokesperson said the DC directed the deputy commissioners of the border districts to expedite the construction of the remaining bunkers. PTI



A Border Security Force (BSF) soldier performs a drone demonstration in Jammu on Saturday PTI

Reject Maha CM's nomination over notary error, demands Cong

Nagpur: The Congress on Saturday demanded rejection of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' nomination paper affidavit for the State Assembly polls claiming the date of the notary seal on it "expired" last December.

The BJP has dismissed the allegation and said it was a "mistake" on part of the notary.

Fadnavis had filed his nomination papers as a BJP candidate for Nagpur south west seat on Friday.

His Congress opponent Ashish Deshmukh said the seal on the affidavit states that the term of the notary, a person authorised to perform acts in legal affairs like witnessing signatures on documents, expired on "28-12-2018".

Deshmukh said the concerned returning officer (RO), Shekhar Ghadge, should have rejected the form as well as Fadnavis' candidature but had failed to do so, and alleged government pressure for the inaction.

Deshmukh cited a supreme court judgement to the RO to demand the rejection of Fadnavis' nomination papers.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate also approached the RO on the issue. Meanwhile, brushing aside the allegations, BJP leader Sandip Joshi said the expiry date on the notarial seal was a mistake and it should have actually been "28-12-2023". PTI

Green crackers may miss this Diwali

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is ready with its much-awaited green crackers! Union Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Saturday announced that Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) labs have been successful in developing various environment-friendly fireworks such as sound emitting crackers, flowerpots, pencils, chakkar and sparklers.

"These fireworks, based on new formulations developed by CSIR, have been manufactured and are available in the Indian market for consumers and sellers," he said.

However, sources said that these crackers may not be available this Diwali as those with 'improved formulations' need legal approval while manufacturers are yet not ready for preparing these friendly products based on new formulations.



A network of nine CSIR laboratories has come up with two categories of alternatives - "new" crackers without barium salt and "improved" crackers with a lesser quantity of barium. Both would lead to a 30-35 per cent decline in emission.

However, since the court has prohibited the use of barium salt, the manufacturers will have to wait for the Supreme Court to decide the matter when it comes for hearing on October 22.

Dr Harsh Vardhan said that

al analysis facility.

CSIR-NEERI Director Dr Rakesh Kumar said that new formulations have been developed for reduced emission light and sound emitting crackers with 30 per cent reduction in particulate matter using potassium nitrate as an oxidants.

These new and improved formulations are available for adoption by fireworks manufacturers like of Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation (PESO), Indian Fireworks Manufacturers Association and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Similarly, Dr Kumar said we have developed improvements in conventional formulations based on Barium Nitrate to meet the stipulated norms of gree crackers as per the recommendation of a technical panel. The implementation of these formulations is subject to recommendation of PESO to apex court for approval, he added.

DMK chief demands withdrawal of sedition case against celebrities

Chennai: DMK president MK Stalin on Saturday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi take steps to withdraw the FIR filed in Bihar against celebrities "to protect democracy and basic features of the Constitution."

Condemning the sedition charge against the celebrities, the leader of the Opposition in Tamil Nadu said "labelling them as anti-nationals" for writing an open letter to Modi, voicing concern over growing incidents of mob lynching, was "unacceptable."

"How can seeking to uphold the basic tenets of the Constitution like tolerance and communal harmony be construed as anti-nationalism?" he asked in a statement.

Targetting the Prime Minister over the issue, Stalin

alleged that the Government led by him at the Centre got involved in acts against freedom of expression, which was "unacceptable."

The BJP Government should realise that those who had taken up autocracy and clamped down on freedom of expression only faced defeat and it was evidenced by history, he said.

Hence, realising such aspects, the Prime Minister should "take steps to immediately withdraw the sedition case against the celebrities and protect Indian democracy and the basic tenets of the Constitution," the DMK chief said.

Tamil film maker Maniratnam and Tamil actress Revathi are among the celebrities named in the FIR. PTI

This Diwali go desi with Swadesh festival

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With Diwali round the corner, it is time to start with your festive shopping and pamper your near and dear ones with thoughtful gifts that would bring smiles to their faces. So if you have made up your mind not to opt for 'fast fashion' but go 'swadeshi', then a 'Swadesh festival' by Dastkari Haat Samiti at IGNCA with a diverse range of traditional unique items offers the perfect picks for you.

Around 90 artists from various parts of the country have come under one platform showcasing their traditional craft that include home decor, hand-painted divas, trinkets, textiles and other rich essentials that are perfect gifting option. There is a live music by folk artists and treat of local street food too for those just keen to have a dekho at the creative works.

An ode to the Mahatma



who revolutionised the handloom and handicraft sector, the exhibition will remain open till October 8. In a befitting tribute to the Father of the Nation, craftspeople have created 25 hand crafted images of him,

Madhubani, Worli, kavad art and Terracotta combined with art. These are being showcased at Twin Art Gallery at the IGNCA.

"Swades' was a notion much supported and nurtured by Gandhiji. This laid the foundation for village industries and helped the artisans and crafts people to connect to the consumer. It is with that same zeal and effort that Dastkari Haat Samiti has handpicked craftspeople to help them come to the forefront, said Jaya Jaitly, founder of Dastkari Haat Samiti which has organised the craft exhibition.

"Our bazaar honours the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi that specifically spoke of the rural crafts person and sustaining the environment. Apart from the bazaar we are proud to present an exhibition dedicated to craftspeople's portraits of Gandhiji in each one's craft skill, she added.

Jawan captured by Pak in 2016 quits Army over alleged harassment

Dhule: Soldier Chandu Chavan, who inadvertently crossed into Pakistan in 2016, has said he is quitting the Army due to incessant "harassment" in the force.

"Since I came back from Pakistan, I have been continuously harassed in the Army and am being looked at with suspicion, that is why I decided to quit," he said.

Chavan has sent his resignation letter to his unit commander in Ahmednagar, sources close to him have said.

Chouhan was captured by Pakistan Rangers and for four months, was beaten, tortured and almost killed before being handed over to India.

Last month, he met with an accident and remained admitted in a hospital with deep injuries to his face and skull. Chavan's four teeth broke and he also sustained abrasion below his eyebrow and left chin, as well as his upper lip.

The accident occurred when he was riding his two-wheeler without a helmet which bumped a pothole near his home town Bohrivir in Dhule district of Maharashtra. PTI

Vocal about Amazon fires, Mumbai cops' Twitter handle mute on Aarey trees felling

Mumbai: The Twitter handle of Mumbai Police, which had recently lamented fires in the Amazon rainforest, was silent on Saturday as protests erupted against cutting of trees in Mumbai's Aarey Colony.

Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation began chopping down trees to make way for metro car shed on Friday night after the High Court dismissed petitions challenging the permission for tree cutting.

"Loss of the Amazon Rain forest is a loss to the entire Mankind. Let us all resolve to protect & conserve our flora & fauna before it's too late," Mumbai Police had tweeted on their official handle on August 28.

"If not us, then who? If not now, then when who?" #SaveAmazon #SaveMotherEarth," it tweeted.

However, on Friday night and Saturday, as more than 200 trees were cut and 29 protesters were arrested in Aarey Colony, the police Twitter handle was silent.

@MumbaiPolice, which has 48 lakh followers, is known for expressing views on variety of issues through text or memes, sometimes in a sarcastic vein.

The last tweet had come on Wednesday, on Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.



"On 150th birth anniversary of Bapuji and 115th of Lal Bahadur Shastriji, let's pay tribute to both by walking down the path of truth and simplicity laid down by them," the police had tweeted.

But though cops were silent, green activists took to Twitter on Saturday to express anger about cutting of trees and action against protesters.

"If you mean even an ounce of what you say this would not be happening to people who stood for #SaveAarey. The #India that these leaders dreamed of is just not this. #StopThisMadness of siding people who are out to finish the city through their greedy plans," tweeted Nayana Harish Pai. Replying to her tweet, Falgun Pawar said, "I guess @MumbaiPolice were busy posting tweets and couldn't tell right from wrong. This is so sad. #SaveAareySaveMumbai." PTI

Democrats subpoena WH as Prez probe intensifies

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

Democratic lawmakers on Friday demanded that the White House turn over documents related to allegations that President Donald Trump pressured Ukraine for political favors, as the explosive impeachment investigation against the US leader intensified.

The congressional committees leading the probe cranked up the heat on the White House as evidence mounted that Trump illicitly used his office to enlist Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky's help to damage 2020 Democratic rival Joe Biden, in exchange for military aid.

"The White House has refused to engage with — or even respond to — multiple requests for documents," the Democratic chairmen of the House oversight, intelligence and foreign affairs committees said.

"After nearly a month of stonewalling, it appears clear that the President has chosen the path of defiance, obstruction, and cover-up.

"His actions have left us with no choice but to issue this subpoena." In their letter to act-

ing White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, the committees demanded that he turn over the requested files by October 18.

The subpoena followed a demand earlier Friday for documents from Vice President Mike Pence.

The investigators pointed to Pence's knowledge of Trump's calls to Zelensky and his own meeting on September 1 with the Ukraine leader, as well as discussions he may have had with Trump and US diplomats about Ukraine and obtaining political dirt on Biden.

A series of text messages between US diplomats dealing with Ukraine, made public by the congressional investigators, supported Democratic accusations that Trump had illegally sought foreign help for his reelection effort.

And the Wall Street Journal reported that, in an interview, Republican Senator Ron Johnson said he had learned that a quid pro quo had been

proposed to Zelensky's government by Trump's emissaries, tying military aid to a Ukraine corruption investigation into Biden.

Trump pushed back hard, saying there was no quid pro quo and, in an effort to recast the entire saga, insisted it was his responsibility to investigate "corruption." "I don't care about Biden's campaign but I care about corruption," he told reporters.

"I don't care about politics," he said. "I believe there was tremendous corruption with Biden." The former US vice president responded by calling Trump "the most corrupt president we've had in modern history."

"I am not going to stand for it," Biden said at a campaign event in Los Angeles, deeming Trump "unhinged." "He has indicted himself by his own statements," Biden added, one day after Trump openly called to investigate the Democrat for corruption.

Baghdad curfew lifted but Iraq on alert for new protests

Baghdad: A curfew was lifted in Baghdad on Saturday following days of protests which have left nearly 100 dead, but tensions remained after firebrand cleric Moqtada Sadr demanded the Government quit.

The largely spontaneous protests over chronic unemployment and poor public services that erupted in the capital on Tuesday have escalated into a broader movement demanding an end to official corruption and a change of government.

At least 93 people have been killed and nearly 4,000 wounded, as protests spread to cities across the south, the par-

liamentary human rights commission said.

Sadr threw his weight behind the demonstrations on Friday with a call for the resignation of Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi.

His movement has the power and organisation to bring large numbers of supporters onto the streets, but at the risk of alienating many of those who have taken to the streets in recent days to express their rejection of all of Iraq's feuding political factions.

Speaker Mohammad al-Halbusi was due to convene a session of parliament session later Saturday to discuss job creation and social welfare

schemes, after he too extended a hand to the protesters, saying: "Your voice is being heard." In Baghdad on Saturday, municipal workers were out and about cleaning up the rubbish burned by protesters in recent days.

Shoppers trickled back onto the streets to buy vegetables and other perishable goods the price of which has more than doubled since the deadly protests started.

With the daytime curfew in place since Thursday lifted, demonstrators began gathering near the emblematic Tahrir Square in the morning although many main thoroughfares remained shut and

an internet blackout was still in force.

The mainly young, male protesters have insisted their movement is not linked to any party or religious establishment and have scoffed at recent overtures by politicians.

"These men don't represent us. We don't want parties anymore. We don't want anyone to speak in our name," said one protester late Friday. Abu Salah, a 70-year-old resident of Baghdad with wispy white hair and a matching beard, said the streets would be full until Iraqis saw real change. "If living conditions don't improve, the protests will come back even worse," he told AFP.

Iraq protest death toll nears 100: rights panel

Baghdad: The death toll from mass protests in Baghdad and cities across southern Iraq rose to 93 on Saturday as the unrest entered its fifth day, parliament's human rights commission said.

Nearly 4,000 people have also been injured since the protests against chronic unemployment, poor public services and widespread corruption erupted in the capital on Tuesday, the commission said.

It was not immediately clear whether the latest deaths were from Friday's huge protests or fresh demonstrations on Saturday.

The authorities have imposed a virtual blackout of the internet and confirmation of protest casualties in the provinces has trickled in slowly. AFP

Pompeo blasts 'harassment' by Congress over impeachment probe

Athens: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Saturday accused members of Congress of harassing his department to obtain documents linked to an impeachment investigation against President Donald Trump.

"There have been congressional inquiries that have harassed and abused State Department employees by contacting them directly and seeking to have them provide documents... That belong to the State Department, that are official US government records," he said during a visit in Greece.

"That's harassment. And I'm never going to let that

happen to my team." The US congressional committees leading the impeachment probe cranked up the heat on the White House this week amid mounting evidence that Trump may have illicitly used his office to enlist Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky's help to damage the bid of 2020 Democratic rival Joe Biden in exchange for military aid.

After dodging questions for days, Pompeo finally confirmed Wednesday that he had been on the telephone call when Trump pressed Ukraine for damaging information on Biden. AFP

Nine jihadists killed in Russia strikes on Idlib: Monitor

Beirut: Nine jihadists were killed on Saturday in Russian airstrikes on Syria's war-torn province of Idlib, a monitoring group said.

"Russian strikes this morning targeted the Hurras al-Deen group and Ansar al-Tahwid in eastern Idlib... Killing nine jihadists," said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, adding eight others were wounded.

Six of the dead were members of the Al-Qaeda linked Hurras al-Deen, a group which is also targeted by the US-led coalition.

Moscow is a key ally of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in the country's civil war, and despite an Idlib ceasefire deal reached on August 31, the province has continued to be targeted by Russian air attacks.

Russia-backed regime fighters have for weeks been chipping away at the edges of the province bordering Turkey that is the last jihadist stronghold outside of Assad's control. AFP

HK protesters defy mask ban as city grinds to halt

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Pro-democracy protesters marched through Hong Kong in defiance of a ban on face masks as the city ground to a halt on Saturday with the subway suspended and swathes of shops and malls shuttered following another night of violence.

Hundreds of protesters, almost all masked, staged an unsanctioned march through the popular shopping district of Causeway Bay, a day after the city's leader outlawed face coverings at protests invoking colonial-era emergency powers not used for half a century.

The latest act of resistance came after a night of widespread night of chaos as hard-core protesters trashed dozens of subway stations vandalised shops with mainland China ties, built fires and blocked roads.

As the crowds were marching on Saturday, city leader Carrie Lam released a stony-faced video statement in which she condemned protesters for

"a very dark night".

"We cannot allow rioters any more to destroy our treasured Hong Kong," Lam said as she called on citizens to distance themselves from the more hardcore protesters.

But the march in Causeway Bay, which came despite the city-wide subway closure, showed protesters were still willing to defy the mask ban as they chanted "No rioters, only tyranny" and other popular slogans.

Hong Kong has been battered by four months of increasingly violent pro-democracy protests.

The rallies were ignited by a now-scrapped plan to allow extraditions to the mainland, which fuelled fears of an erosion of liberties promised under the "one country, two systems" model China uses for the finance hub.

After Beijing and local leaders took a hard line, the demonstrations snowballed into a wider movement calling for more democratic freedoms and police accountability.

Lam has refused any major concessions but struggled to come up with any political solution that might end the chaos, leaving police and demonstrators to fight increasingly violent battles as the city tips into recession.

UN rights chief says troubled by HK violence

AFP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said on Saturday she was "troubled" by Hong Kong's increasingly violent pro-democracy protests, and stressed that any measures to quell the unrest must be grounded in law.

The city endured another night of chaos Friday, after leader Carrie Lam banned face masks at demonstrations, invoking colonial-era emergency powers not used for half a century.

Hardcore protesters trashed dozens of subway stations, vandalised shops with mainland China ties, built fires and blocked fires.

"We are troubled by the high levels of violence associated with some demonstrations that have been taking place in the past days," Bachelet said during a visit to Malaysia.

She said she was "alarmed" by injuries to police, protesters and journalists covering the demonstrations.

"I strongly condemn all acts of violence from all sides," she added.

GLOBE TROTTERING

EIGHT KILLED, 18 WOUNDED IN RWANDA ATTACK

Kigali (Rwanda): Unidentified gunmen killed eight people and injured 18 during an overnight attack in northern Rwanda near the border with DR Congo, police said on Saturday.

CHINESE PEOPLE SEEK MODERN TREATMENT

London: While the western world looks at embracing alternative forms of treatment, activists in China are protesting the use of ancient and traditional medicine, which hospitals are obliged to offer to patients on an equal footing with modern medical care.

Trump to block immigrants unable to pay for healthcare

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The US will block the entry of immigrants without health insurance or the ability to pay for medical bills, President Donald Trump revealed Friday.

Consular officers will only be allowed to issue visas to prospective immigrants who can prove they "will not impose a substantial burden" on the US health care system, according to a proclamation authored by Trump.

"Lawful immigrants are about three times more likely than United States citizens to

lack health insurance," Trump said in the proclamation. "Immigrants who enter this country should not further saddle our healthcare system, and subsequently

American taxpayers, with higher costs." The measure will go into effect on November 3.

Trump made cracking down on immigration a key part of his 2016 presidential campaign platform.

He has pushed wide-ranging immigration law reforms, while tasking authorities with carrying out mass deportations of people in the US illegally. Last week Washington also announced plans to dramatically lower its ceiling on a decades-old refugee resettlement program by 40 per cent.



Protesters walk next to a banner with the words "May Glory be to Hong Kong" in Hong Kong on Saturday. AP

N Korean, US officials at N talks after latest missile test

Stockholm: North Korean and US officials on Saturday gathered for new nuclear talks in Stockholm after months of deadlock and Pyongyang's defiant test of a sea-launched ballistic missile this week.

North Korea's Kim Myong Gil and Stephen Biegun, the special envoy of US President Donald Trump, are part of the teams at the talks.

The two were to meet at a heavily guarded venue on an island off Stockholm, several hundred metres from the North Korean embassy, an AFP correspondent said. The first cars with tinted windows started arriving just after 9:00 am (0700 GMT).

"I am encouraged that US and (North Korean) working level delegations are currently in Sweden to hold talks," Swedish Foreign Minister tweeted.

"Dialogue needed to reach denuclearization and peaceful solution." Similar-level talks on North Korea's nuclear disarmament were held in Stockholm in March 2018 and then in January this year.

North Korea frequently couples diplomatic overtures with military moves as a way of maintaining pressure on negotiating partners, analysts say, and many believe this weapons system gives it added leverage.

Pyongyang tested what it called a "super-large" rocket on Wednesday just hours after it said it was willing to resume working-level talks with Washington. AP

Taliban meet US peace envoy for first time since 'dead' deal

Kabul: The Taliban met US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in the Pakistani capital for the first time since President Donald Trump declared a seemingly imminent peace deal to end Afghanistan's 18-year war dead a month ago, a Taliban official said on early Saturday.

He offered few details of Friday's meeting between Khalilzad and the Taliban delegation led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a co-founder of the movement that was ousted in 2001 by the US-led coalition.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

US officials however have been keen to say there is no resumption of peace talks, at least not now in Islamabad.

Still, the meeting is significant as the US seeks an exit from Afghanistan's 18-year war.

Khalilzad has been in Islamabad for much of the week meeting with senior government officials in what the US State Department described as follow-up meetings he held in New York during last month's UN General Assembly session.

At the time he met Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, who has been calling for a resumption of peace talks.

The Taliban delegation led

by Mullah Baradar - one of its more powerful members - arrived separately in the Pakistani capital for meetings with government officials they said were being held to discuss a wide range of political issues relating to the more than 1.5 million Afghans still living as refugees in Pakistan.

Baradar was arrested in Pakistan in 2010 in a joint Pakistani-CIA operation after he secretly opened peace talks with the then-Afghan President Hamid Karzai, attempting to sideline Pakistan and against the US strategy at the time, which did not support talks with the Taliban. AP

Thai judge shoots himself in court after criticising system

AFP ■ BANGKOK

A Thai judge shot himself in the chest in front of a packed court after acquitting several murder suspects and decrying the kingdom's judicial system in an impassioned speech broadcast on Facebook Live.

Critics say Thailand's courts often work in favour of the rich and powerful, while delivering swift and harsh sentences on ordinary people for minor offences.

But it is virtually unheard of for judges to criticise the system.

Kanakorn Pianchana, a judge at Yala court in the heart of the insurgency-battered Thai south, was delivering the verdict for five Muslim suspects in a gun murder case on Friday

afternoon.

He acquitted the group, delivered a courtroom plea for a cleaner justice system, before pulling out a handgun and shooting himself in the chest.

"You need clear and credible evidence to punish someone. So if you're not sure, don't punish them," the judge said addressing the court and broadcasting his words on his phone on Facebook live.

"I'm not saying that the five defendants didn't commit the crimes, they might have done so..."

"But the judicial process needs to be transparent and credible... Punishing wrong people makes them scapegoats." The Facebook feed then cut, but witnesses said Kanakorn recited a legal oath

in front of the former Thai king's portrait, before shooting himself in the chest.

"He is being treated by the doctors and is out of danger," Suriyan Hongvilai, the spokesman of the Office of the Judiciary, told AFP on Saturday. "He shot himself because of 'personal stress'. But the cause behind the stress is not clear and will be investigated," he said.

No Thai judge has ever breached protocol by making similar statements on the wider justice system, he added.

A lawyer working with the suspects said Judge Kanakorn had ruled the prosecutor's evidence was insufficient to convict.

"Right now the five are still being detained and are waiting

to see if the state prosecutor appeals their acquittal," Abduh Hayee-abu, of the Muslim Attorney Centre in Yala told AFP.

Over 7,000 people have died in 15 years of conflict in the Malay-Muslim majority southern region.

Thousands of suspects have been jailed for acts linked to the insurgency, many under emergency laws imposed on the restive region.

Advocacy groups in the Thai south have long accused security forces of trumping up charges against Muslim suspects and using emergency laws to drive cases through the courts.

National Dairy Development Board

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) / INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)

Sealed Bids are invited from eligible bidders for supply of following:

Sr. No.	Description of works / Bid Reference	Duration	Bid Document Sale/Download Start/Close Date	Bid submission / opening date & time
1	Supply of 125 No. imported Jersey Purebred breeding Bulls. NDBB-RGM:ICB:01/2019	3 Months	06.10.19 / 04.11.19	05.11.19 *5:00 hrs/ 05.11.19 *5:30 hrs

For further details pertaining to IFB and for downloading the bid document, please visit NDBB website: www.nddb.coop. For any clarification please contact GM (Purchase), NDBB, Anand-388001 (Gujarat). NB: Any corrigendum/modification etc. will be posted only on this website.

NASA seeks industry inputs on lunar spacesuit

Washington: NASA is currently designing and developing a new spacesuit system, called the Exploration Extravehicular Mobility Unit or xEMU, for the first woman and next man who will put foot on the Moon in 2024. But the US space agency is seeking feedback from industry on lunar spacesuits as it plans to ask US companies to manage production for 2025 and beyond.

NASA on Friday said that it is seeking industry feedback to help refine and mature the acquisition strategy for production and services for lunar spacesuits to enable a steady cadence of Artemis missions over the next decade and beyond.

The agency is prepared to build and certify the initial spacesuits to support a demonstration in a spaceflight environment on the International Space Station in 2023 and the first trip to the lunar surface in 2024, as part of the Artemis III mission.

After Artemis III, NASA plans to transition responsibility for production, assembly, testing, sustaining and maintenance of a fleet of flight and training spacesuits and associated hardware to the US industry.

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 एक सुन्दर शहर..... हमारा संकल्प

THAT PERFECT SHOT

At age 65 when most people are expected to spend the rest of their lives in meditating or taking Bhagwan ka naam, two women decided that age is just a number and that one can teach an old dog new tricks. The women aka Shooter Dadis picked up the revolver and went on to win over 250 State and national medals and trophies. SHALINI SAKSENA catches up with the octogenarians who say that it is the body and not the mind that ages

As one walks down the cobbled path with open drains on either side and pucca houses with huge iron gates one wonders what happened to the image that one has of the villages. As the cities have grown rapidly so have the villages and with them the villagers. This can't be truer for two women from Johri village, Baraut district in Uttar Pradesh. These octogenarians have not only changed the course of their lives, their families but the entire district as well. Meet Chandro Tomar, today 87 and Prakashi Tomar, today 85 who have not just won over 250 medals and trophies between them but have also changed the mindset of the people living there — that girls have the right to education and play a sport. The women aka Shooter Dadis as they are popularly referred to have shown the world that a woman can multitask and when she makes up her mind to pursue something she will excel in it.

Prakashi Tomar's daughter, Seema Tomar, an Indian Trap shooter and the only Indian woman to win shotgun Silver Medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup, tells you that the achievement of her taiji and mother has changed the mindset of the villagers. "There has been a sea change. To begin with, even I was not allowed to play the sport. My family was not keen to let me enter into a sport like shooting which is male dominated. But what my mother has done meant that I was able to assert myself. This meant that the other girls from the area were also able to be a part of this sport. Today, 40-45 girls play at the international level. This is such an achievement," Seema says.

"Taiji and my mother have proved such an inspiration for me. It was Chandro taiji who first started going to the shooting range. After seeing my taiji, we told our mother that she too needs to go and play the sport. I too got interested and wanted to go with her. That is how it all began," Seema tells you.

She gives you an archaic picture of what the life of a woman in a village was like. "One has to understand that in villages it is the women who do all the work, they work in the fields, they tend to the cattle and look after the home. The men generally sit around. When a girl is born, the family's object is to save money for her marriage. Once the girl is 17-18, the family married her off. Everyone was leading this life. The women didn't know and have any life outside of their homes. Today, things have changed. After my taiji and mother's achievements, girls are actually allowed to play this sport. Not only this, parents send them to an academy for professional training," Seema says. She started training with her mother in 1998 and professionally took up the game in 2002.

In 2003, she had won her first national medal. But it was only in 2004-05 that she took up the sport professionally. She tells you that since then a lot has changed. "Shooting was a royal game. Nobody in the village even knew that such a sport existed. Now, this game has become popular in rural India as well. The earlier aim, to save money for marriage, has given way to save money so that their daughter can go to the academy and train and bring accolades to the family," Seema tells you who entered the sport at the senior level when she was 21.

She opines that this change has a lot to do with the feat of the Shooter Dadis. There were instances where the young girls wanting to learn the sport would cite the achievements of the dadis.

"They would tell their parents that the dadis were also going for training. The parents would give their consent. It was not just the other village girls who needed the support. Even I needed the support. Even

though my family got me admission into the academy, it was later cancelled. But my mother was adamant that I play the sport. My brother Ram Vir Singh was a pillar of strength as well. My mother convinced him that with proper training I could win. My mother would save every penny so that I could enter the next competition. My brother would pitch in too. This sport is expensive. Even though I am now playing professionally, it doesn't mean that it has opened doors to good sponsors," Seema says. She tells you that the Government is doing some great work when it comes to providing training.

"The training academy in Bhopal is a case in point. I wish that the other States would also make such academy. If each State has such good academies across India and the training is provided once the child is 13, there is no arson why we can't win plenty of medals for the country," Seema says. She is now preparing for the nationals to be held in November. She will then train and try to qualify for the Olympics to be held in the summer of 2020 in Tokyo.

Prakashi Tomar tells you that it was her children who encouraged her to take up the sport after Chandro started playing the sport. "My son Ram Vir encouraged me. He told me that if his taiji could do it, why not me. That gave me the confidence. However, the elders in the family were not happy when they came to know what we were doing. It was not as if we were neglecting our household duties to play the sport. We would finish our work and then sneak off," Prakashi recounts.

Ram Vir, who works with the UP Roadways tells you that his mother's and taiji's feat has changed the dynamics of the village where most of the families are farmers. Vast expanse of sugarcane fields for miles together tell you that the people in the region depend on agriculture to eke out a living.

"We are a landed class. We were also the first family in the region to own two-three brick kilns. There was no question of our women stepping out of homes let alone compete in the sport with men. All that has changed for the better. My sister Seema competes, Ruby and Preeti, my nieces are international shooters as well as is Shefali who has achieved international shooter status and has taken part in international competitions in Hungary and Germany. There was a time when there were 3-40 of us living together. Back then, our neighbours would think that there was a wedding in the family. Chores were divided. It was the task of the youngest bahu to cook. The rest of the work would be divided among the other women. Now, families have grown. Everybody needs their space. We have gone our separate ways. But taiji still lives in the same home, Ram Vir tells you.

A typical day for Prakashi and Chandro would begin at 4 am. After getting ready, they would tackle the chores — milk the cow, cook food, work in the fields and everything in between. "I was 15 when I was married. But the gauna was done three years later. At that time, if somebody would have told me that at 65 I would take up shooting and win I would have laughed on their face. But life takes you where it has to. The next 40 years or so were spent in raising a family and looking after the home," Chandro recalls. She has recently undergone a surgery. She fell while supervising work at her under construction shooting range and broke her right femur. She may have broken a bone but her spirit is intact.

She tells you how at age 65 she accompanied her granddaughter who to learn how to shoot. "My granddaughter, Shefali, who has achieved international shooter status and has taken part in international competitions in



Chandro Tomar and Prakashi Tomar at their home in Johri village, UP
Photo: Ranjan Dimri

SHOOTING WAS A ROYAL GAME. NOBODY IN THE VILLAGE EVEN KNEW THAT SUCH A SPORT EXISTED. NOW, THIS GAME HAS BECOME POPULAR IN RURAL INDIA AS WELL. THE EARLIER AIM, TO SAVE MONEY FOR MARRIAGE, HAS GIVEN WAY TO SAVE MONEY SO THAT THEIR DAUGHTER CAN GO TO THE SHOOTING ACADEMY AND TRAIN
— SEEMA TOMAR

Hungary and Germany was apprehensive. She didn't want to go alone. I told her that I would accompany her. For the next two days I sat and observed that was happening. I saw that all one had to do was take the revolver, put the bullets, take a stand and shoot at the target. On day three, I picked up a revolver loaded it and gave the revolver to her. I too wanted to know what it was like to take aim and shoot. That is what I did. I

loaded the air gun and took aim — bulls-eye. The club coach at the academy thought that it was a coincidence. He asked me to do it again. It hit the black ring on the shooting target again. That is when he told me that he would love to train me. The elders in the family were not happy. But I didn't want to give it up. I was hooked. I would finish all the household chores and sneak off to train," Chandro says.

She tells you how she would fill a jug full of water and hold her hand out and ensure that it was steady. "This was all part of the training. At the academy, I also understood how to take a stand with feet firmly on the ground and hand at the waist. When I would hold the jug of water in one hand, I would always take this stand. Years of doing chores meant that my hands were steady and we had the muscles to go with them. Then came a competition. I took part and won. The story appeared in a local newspaper with the photograph. I don't know how to read or write. But I did recognise my photo. I was not sure of the reaction at home so I tore the clipping and kept it with me. But the news spread. They asked me to show them the clipping. They were thrilled to read about it in the newspapers. There has been no turning back since then," Chandro says.

Now, a movie is being made on the dadis. The film titled *Saad Ki Aankh* stars Taapsee Pannu who plays Prakashi Tomar and Bhumi Pednekar plays Chandro Tomar. Prakashi tells you how much fun they had when the entire crew was in the village to shoot the film.

"Taapsee was so down to earth. She has no airs. She stayed with us the whole time. She would want us to make her favourite food. She was just like a family member for us. Bhumi too was so good. During their entire stay, not once did we feel they were big movie stars, Prakashi says.

She tells you that Chandro and she never took up the sport with the aim to win. "It was for the love of the sport. We also wanted to prove that age is just a number. It was to let the others know that if one wants to follow one's passion, one can always take time out for it however busy one might be. It was another matter that we hit the target bang on every time and it won us medals," Prakashi says with a grin.

She recalls how and why they are referred to as Shooter Dadis. "When we started off we were already dadis. Then we took up shooting as a sport. That is how we got this name," Prakashi says and recounts an incidence where a DIG refused to be photographed with her.

The story goes that Prakashi was at Tughlakabad Shooting range for a competition where she was handed a 32 bore, a gun that she had never fired from. But she took it in her stride, took her stand and fired. She won a gold. The DIG was second. When it was time for the photograph he didn't want to be in the same frame. He didn't like the fact that he was slighted by a woman that too one who had never fired a 32 bore. There is a photo in her home which shows that the said cop is standing a little away from the rest of the people in the frame.

It has been three years that the dadis have stopped competing. But that doesn't mean that they are removed from the sport. The two plan to teach the young the nuances of the sport. "Keep the hand steady. Feet firmly on the ground. Hand at the waist. Look at the target. Raise the revolver and aim. Don't be in a hurry. Slowly pull the trigger. There is no way that one can miss the target," Chandro shares.

The secret of how she and Prakashi managed to win so many medals over a period spanning around two decades is because they have a mantra: *Tann buddha hota hain, mann buddha nahin hota.*

'I didn't choose Taapsee & Bhumi, they chose me'

SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with director TUSHAR HIRANANDANI about the challenges faced while making a biopic and how they arrived at the name for the film *Saad Ki Aankh*

■How and who came up with this name for the movie?

It was Jagdip Sidhu, the dialogue writer. When he suggested the name there was a bit of a no-no. Anurag Kashyap (producer) was a bit apprehensive to begin with. The name is a take off from bullseye. But over a period of time we liked the sound to it. Also, the name has several connotations. It denotes the feat that the dadis achieved at age 65. It signifies that we have got everything right. We were clear where we wanted to go with this movie and title of the movie. We thought it was catchy.

■How did the idea for the biopic come up?

It was after I saw the programme *Satyamev Jayate S 1* by Amir Khan, that had done a feature on old age and profiled the dadis and their journey. I was at that time already looking for a story. While watching the show, I started crying. I hadn't even realised that I was crying. That is when I knew I had my subject. It took me five years to put it out. My film is about woman empowerment. My



wife came on-board as a producer and quit her job.

■Why did it take five years?

It took me one-and-a-half years to write. When we met the dadis I

realised that my story was a bit dark. But the dadis were so lively, they had so much enthusiasm and fun. They were so much excitement in them. They at age 65 had celebrated their live. I wanted to make a film on cel-

brating the women. Through them, their family also celebrates life. We took our time to write our story. The next three years were spent to get the cast in place. Everyone in my team has stood by me.

■What are the challenges in making a biopic?

There are three things that are important. First, to keep the family and person on whom you are making the film on happy. Second, the producers. To make them proud and make them money as well. Third, the actors who are playing the character. That they get some recognition and get applauded for it. The trailer was released last week. I was so happy to see the dadis' reaction. They blessed me and hugged me. This made my day. After all this, comes the fact that the movie needs to entertain. The biopic should be able to tell the true story and yet entertain.

■In this sense, how tough was this project since it is your directorial debut?

Filmmaking is tough. Anyone

who says it is easy, he is lying. There is no film that is easy to make. The only thing is how fast these five years have gone by. I have enjoyed every bit of it. There were some days of frustration. Some days when things didn't go our way and didn't know where we were going. But the journey has been great. I hope when the people see the film, they appreciate the effort gone into it.

■Why Taapsee Pannu and Bhumi Pednekar?

Every media person I have been interviewed with has asked this question. I have this answer pat down. I have a memory button that I am going to activate. I went to everyone but these girls were the only ones who had the courage to accept the role. I didn't choose them, they chose me. The film starts not from age 65 but from the time when they were young. It is this journey that I wanted to show. While shooting, one needs a keen eye. I needed young girls since there is a catch line — *tann buddha hota hain, mann buddha nahin.* I have

paid homepage to Mother India in my film. Nargis played the role of a mother when she was young. I am not saying that we have Mother India. People should applaud these girls.

■How true to life is the film?

It is as true to life as it can be. The movie has to entertain. So some characters are fictional. Some scenes are fictional as well. Some scenes like the competition and the time when they shot at the bullseyes — all that is true.

■You shot the film in the village. Were there any challenges?

Not at all. We shot near the dadis' house for 30 days. The actors had to meet the dadis. I wanted to meet the family. The crew was so happy to interact with the family and the dadis. They were so helpful. If this help had not been extended, I would not have been able to make this film. Some scenes even have the villagers and the family in it. I wanted to showcase that India is not poor as well. The village is so beautiful, this is what I wanted to show.

Ton to the power Rohit

Sharma scores 2nd consecutive hundred as first Test heads for exciting finish

India vs SA (Day 5)
Live from 9:30am IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

ond innings at 323 for four in 67 overs, giving themselves 45 minutes on day four and the whole of day five to bowl out South Africa.

In the end only 30 minutes of play was possible due to bad light after South Africa came out to bat.

At stumps, South Africa were 11 for one with Ravindra Jadeja trapping first innings centurion Dean Elgar in front of the stumps. The visitors need another 384 runs for victory.

The pitch remains slow but is offering turn with the odd ball rearing up from the spots created. Ravichandran Ashwin, who took seven wickets in the first innings along with Jadeja, hold the key on the final day.

With the stodgy Elgar removed, the only other factor could be Quinton de Kock, who has often proved to be a thorn in India's flesh.

Considering their spirited effort with the bat in the first innings, South Africa would be backing themselves to bat out the 90 odd overs on the final day.

The day once again belonged to Rohit, who played yet another sublime knock at a brisk pace after the hosts bowled out South Africa for 431 almost one hour into morning session, earning a 71-run lead.

Rohit also broke the record of most sixes in a game with 13 maximums, surpassing Pakistan great Wasim Akram who smashed 12 in a match against Zimbabwe in 1996.

Rohit smashed six sixes in first innings and seven in the second, including a hat-trick of sixes off spinner Dane Piedt in the 56th over when India were looking for quick runs.

His 169-run stand for the second wicket with Cheteshwar Pujara (81 off 148) set the tone for India's second innings before Ravindra Jadeja (40 off 32), Virat Kohli (31 not out off 25) and Ajinkya Rahane (27 not out off 17) played their part. Considering the scenario, Jadeja had come out to bat ahead of Kohli.

With 175 for one at tea, India had extended their lead to 246 runs, scoring runs 140 runs in the session in 34 overs.

While stylish right-hander played in his usual fashion and kept the scoreboard ticking, Pujara found the going tough in the initial part of his innings which he scored eight runs off the first 62 balls faced.

However, after the first drinks break of the session, he went on the offensive especially against the spinners. He stepped out to the spinners more often than not and other times he kept them guessing.

Thinking Pujara will dance down the

HITMAN'S HITS

PI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

• The Mumbai batsman became the first cricketer to slam twin tons in his maiden Test as an opener.

• Rohit also joined an elite list of Indian batsmen who have scored centuries in both innings of a single Test. The others who achieved the feat include Vijay Hazare (1), Sunil Gavaskar (3), Rahul Dravid (2), Virat Kohli (1) and Ajinkya Rahane (1).

• With India looking to score quickly on Day 4 in order to force a result, Rohit was on the offensive, hitting some trademark sixes. He hit seven maximums in the second innings to take his match tally to 13 — the most by anyone in a Test match — going past former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram who struck 12 sixes against Zimbabwe in 1996.

• Navjot Singh Sidhu previously held the Indian record for most sixes in a Test, hitting eight against Sri Lanka in 1994. Rohit

now holds the record for most sixes in a match for India in all the three formats of the game.

• India's overall tally of sixes in this match is 27, which is the most by any team in a single match in the history of Test cricket. The previous record was held by New Zealand, who smashed 22 sixes against Pakistan in 2014 while the previous best for India was 15 sixes against Sri Lanka in Mumbai in 2009.

• Rohit also surpassed Rahul Dravid for most consecutive fifty-plus scores by an Indian batsman at home. Dravid had slammed six fifty-plus scores between 1997 and 1998 while this was the seventh time that Rohit went past that mark. His last seven Test scores in India read 127, 176, 50*, 65, 102*, 51* and 82.

• Rohit also became the first Indian to get out stumped in both innings of a Test. Interestingly, he never got out stumped in his entire first class career before this match.

wicket again, Piedt dropped one short and Pujara stayed back to pull it over deep mid-wicket for a rare six. Before that, he collected four boundaries off Maharaj to push up the scoring rate.

The luck was also on Pujara's side as Kagiso Rabada found the outside edge of his bat in the same over but on both occasions the ball landed between first slip and wicket-keeper before running to the boundary.

Rohit too was fortunate when Senuran Muthusamy caught him at long-on but after the review showed that he touched the boundary rope while releasing the ball for a legitimate catch on the second attempt.

Pujara, who hit 13 fours and two sixes, survived a close DRS call on the last ball before the break.

South Africa, resuming the day at 385

for eight, batted for 13.2 overs in the morning scoring valuable 46 runs courtesy debutant Muthusamy, who remained unbeaten on 33 off 106, and Rabada, who hit three welcome boundaries in his 15-run cameo.

India batted for close to an hour in the session and were 35 for one at lunch in 14 overs, extending their lead to 106 runs.

Maharaj dismissed first innings double centurion Mayank Agarwal (7) with a classical left-arm spinner delivery, which turned and bounce enough to take the edge for a simple catch at first slip.

The hosts would have been better placed if they did not allow South African tail to get some handy runs in the first hour of play. The 10th wicket stand between Muthusamy and Rabada fetched 35 runs.



Vernon Philander, without cap, celebrates with captain Faf du Plessis after dismissing Cheteshwar Pujara

SA batsmen can emulate 1st innings effort: Philander

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

South Africa's most experienced pacer S Vernon Philander on Saturday said his team is still "within a shot" of winning the first Test against India and backed his batsmen to emulate their first innings effort on day five.

In response to India's 502/7, South Africa exceeded expectations by scoring 431 in their first innings. At stumps on day four, they were 11 for one, needing another 384 runs for an improbably victory.

"I still think we are in with a shot. They played really well, myself, KG (Rabada) all started well. Taking 70 runs lead we would have taken it as they scored 500 runs. Hopefully we come ready tomorrow, bat well and take it real close," said Philander, referring to the 71-run lead they conceded to India.

First innings centurion Dean Elgar was the only South African to get out towards the end of final session. Philander expects others in the team to rise to the occasion.

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Rohit Sharma smashed another hundred and a plethora of records as India set an improbable 395-run target for South Africa in the first Test which is headed for an exciting final day.

Revelling in his new role, Rohit effortlessly walked his way into the record books as he scored 127 off 149 balls, following his 176, to become the first ever batsman in the history of Test cricket to score two hundreds in his opening 'debut'.

In a debatable decision, India batted late into the final session on day four before declaring their sec-

Pujara defends timing of declaration

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Senior batsman Cheteshwar Pujara on Saturday said that Indian team timed their second innings declaration in such a manner that they didn't have to start with a soft semi new-ball on the fifth day of their first Test.

Asked if the timing of declaration was right, Pujara said, "It was. We did not want to bowl too many overs because we



Indian players wait for review decision

wanted to keep the ball hard for start of day five. You don't want to end up bowling too many overs and once the ball gets soft, it gets slightly easier to bat."

"We picked up a crucial wicket (Dean Elgar). So as a team, we are happy with the way things went today," said Pujara, who scored a crucial 81 and shared a 169-run stand with twin centurion Rohit Sharma. Pujara also felt that it won't

be easy for batting on a fifth day track.

"Hopefully, on day five, this pitch wouldn't be easy to bat on and there will be a little more assistance for spinners. We have already seen that the pitch offers variable bounce, so the fast bowlers will also come into play. I think so there is enough rough for spinners and the cracks will open up bit more on day five," India's ever-dependable No 3 said.

Hardik undergoes back surgery

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Hardik Pandya's surgery done successfully! Extremely grateful to everyone for your wishes. Will be back in no time! Till then miss me!

London on 2nd October with Team India physiotherapist Mr Yogesh Parmar. On Friday, a successful surgery was conducted. Hardik will soon commence his rehabilitation process."

The all-rounder on his part posted a message on his Instagram account.

"Surgery done successfully. Extremely grateful to everyone for your wishes. Will be back in no time! Till then miss me," Hardik posted a message with a picture on his Instagram account on Saturday.

Hardik first sustained the injury during the Asia Cup in UAE last September. He recovered in time to play in the IPL and the World Cup before the injury resurfaced.

SL shock Pak in 1st T20

AFP ■ LAHORE

New-look Sri Lanka achieved their biggest T20 win over world number one Pakistan by 64 runs on the back of some brilliant batting and bowling in Lahore on Saturday.

Opener Danushka Gunathilaka scored a career best 57 and despite a hat-trick by teenage Pakistan paceman Mohammad Hasnain Sri Lanka posted a challenging 165-5 in their 20 overs.

Fast bowlers Isuru Udana (3-11) and Nuwan Pradeep (3-21) then dismantled Pakistan for 101 in 17.4 overs to give Sri Lanka a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Pradeep had world number one Twenty20 batsman Babar Azam in the second over to set the platform for their biggest win against Pakistan in 19 bilateral matches.

Comeback stars Umar Akmal fell for a first ball duck while Ahmed Shahzad managed just four before skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed (24 off 30 balls) and Iftikhar Ahmed (25 off 24) added 46 runs for the fourth wicket.

However, they batted slowly and the asking rate soared.

Udana then chipped in with three wickets and spinner Wanindu Hasaranga two to stun a miserable Pakistan.

The win is significant for an inexperienced Sri Lanka team — ranked eighth in Twenty20s — who are missing ten top players, including regular skipper Lasith Malinga, who all refused to tour over security fears.

Earlier, Gunathilaka scored a 38-ball 57 with eight boundaries and a six during a quick 84-run opening stand with Avishka Fernando who



made a 34-ball 33 with three boundaries after Pakistan sent them into bat.

Debutant Bhanuka Rajapaksa hit a solid 22-ball 32 with two sixes and as many boundaries while skipper Dasun Shanaka chipped in with a fiery 10-ball 17 with two sixes.

Sri Lanka were looking set for a big total but paceman Hasnain derailed them with wickets of Rajapaksa off the last ball of the 16th over before dismissing Shanaka and Shehan Jayasuriya off the first two balls of the 18th over to complete a hat-trick.

Hasnain's hat-trick is the ninth in all Twenty20 internationals with Malinga registering the feat twice.

Hasnain is the second Pakistani after Faheem Ashraf to achieve a hat-trick. Ashraf achieved the feat against Sri Lanka two years ago.

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2019									
In addition to already announced Festival Special Trains, Railways have decided to run additional Festival Special Trains as per the schedule given below:-									
Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency/Day	Period	Accommodation	Stoppages	
04002	Anand Vihar (T)	18:35	Bhagalpur	17:30	Weekly	Thu 24.10.19 to 31.10.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Kanpur, Allahabad, Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patna, Bakhtiyarpur, Mokameh Jn, Kiul, Abhaipur, Jamalpur & Sultanpur stations	
04001	Bhagalpur	18:45	Anand Vihar (T)	17:40	Weekly	Fri 25.10.19 to 01.11.19			
04404	New Delhi	19:25	Barauni	18:00	Bi-Weekly	Tue, Fri 22, 25 & 29.10.19	AC 3 Tier	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Barabanki, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Sewan, Chhapra, Hajipur & Shahpur Patoree stations	
04403	Barauni	19:30	New Delhi	22:10	Bi-Weekly	Wed, Sat 23, 26 & 30.10.19			
04406	New Delhi	19:25	Darbhanga	19:15	Weekly	Fri 18.10.19	AC 3 Tier	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Sewan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur & Samastipur Stations	
04405	Darbhanga	20:55	New Delhi	22:10	Weekly	Sat 19.10.19			
04408	New Delhi	19:25	Muzaffarpur	16:30	Weekly	Tue 05.11.19	AC 3 Tier	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Sewan, Chhapra & Hajipur stations	
04407	Muzaffarpur	23:20	New Delhi	22:10	Weekly	Wed 06.11.19			
04414	New Delhi	19:25	Saharsa	20:00	Weekly	Fri 01.11.19	AC 3 Tier	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Sewan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, Barauni, Begu Sarai, Khagaria & S. Bhakhtiyarpur Stations	
04413	Saharsa	22:15	New Delhi	22:10	Weekly	Sat 02.11.19			
82404	New Delhi (Suvidha)	14:55	Patna Jn.	08:30	Tri-Weekly	Fri, Mon, Thu 25, 28 & 31.10.19	AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier	Kanpur Central, Allahabad Jn, Dd Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar, Ara & Danapur stations	
04079	Patna Jn. (Suvidha)	12:00	New Delhi	04:00	Tri-Weekly	Sat, Tue, Fri 26, 29.10.19 & 01.11.19			
04078	New Delhi	14:55	Patna Jn.	08:30	Tri-Weekly	Sat, Tue, Fri 26, 29.10.19 & 01.11.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	New Delhi, Kanpur Central, Allahabad Jn, Dd Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar, Ara & Danapur Stations	
04077	Patna Jn.	12:00	New Delhi	04:00	Tri-Weekly	Sun, Wed, Sat 27, 30.10.19 & 02.11.19			
04084	Delhi	22:40	Purnea Court	22:30	Tri-Weekly	Fri, Mon, Thu 25, 28 & 31.10.19	General	Kanpur, Allahabad, Dd Upadhyaya Jn, Buxar, Ara, Patna, Bakhtiyarpur Jn, Mokameh Jn, Begusarai, Khagaria, Mansi, S Bhakhtiyarpur, Saharsa, Dauram Madhepura & Banmankhi Jn stations	
04083	Purnea Court	15:00	Delhi	18:20	Tri-Weekly	Sun, Wed, Sun 27, 30 & 03.11.19			
04052	Anand Vihar (T)	11:45	Katihar Jn.	12:45	Tri-Weekly	Wed, Sat, Tue, Fri 23, 26, 29.10.19 & 01.11.19	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Cantt, Gonda Jn, Mankapur Jn, Basti, Gorakhpur (RL), Siwan Jn, Chhapra (RL), Hajipur Jn, Barauni Jn (RL), Khagaria Jn. & Naugachia Jn stations	
04051	Katihar Jn.	20:00	Anand Vihar (T)	23:00	Tri-Weekly	Thu, Sun, Wed, Sat 24, 27, 30.10.19 & 02.11.19			
82416	Anand Vihar (T) (Suvidha)	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Bi-Weekly	Wed, Sun 23 & 27.10.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Chandausi Jn, Sitapur Cant, Gonda Jn, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn, Chhapra, Sonpur Jn, Hajipur Jn, Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn, Begu Sarai, Khagaria Jn., Naugachia, Katihar Jn, Purnea, Arariya Court, Arariya & Forbesganj Stations	
04093	Jogbani (Suvidha)	09:00	Anand Vihar (T)	16:05	Bi-Weekly	Fri, Tue 25 & 29.10.19			
04202	New Delhi	15:30	Varanasi	07:00	Weekly	Wed 09.10.19	AC 3 Tier & Sleeper	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow & Sultanpur Stations	
04201	Varanasi	09:50	New Delhi	01:45	Weekly	Thu 10.10.19			
04204	Anand Vihar (T)	00:30	Varanasi	16:45	Weekly	Tue 08.10.19	1AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow & Sultanpur stations	
04203	Varanasi	22:45	Anand Vihar (T)	13:00	Weekly	Wed 09.10.19			
04205	Lucknow	19:05	Anand Vihar (T)	05:30	Weekly	Wed 09.10.19	1AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Bareilly, Moradabad & Ghaziabad stations	
04206	Anand Vihar (T)	09:30	Lucknow	17:25	Weekly	Thu 10.10.19			
82402	Delhi (Suvidha)	13:30	Muzaffarpur Jn.	13:00	Weekly	Tue 29.10.19	Sleeper	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Khallabad, Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj, Padrauna, Tamkuhi Road, Thawe, Siwan, Chhapra, Sonpur Jn & Hajipur Jn stations	
04069	Muzaffarpur Jn. (Suvidha)	14:15	Delhi	13:45	Weekly	Wed 30.10.19			
82410	Delhi (Suvidha)	11:00	Darbhanga	08:30	Bi-Weekly	Mon, Thu 07.10.19 to 04.11.19	AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Sewan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur & Samastipur stations	
04023	Darbhanga (Suvidha)	12:00	Delhi	12:40	Bi-Weekly	Tue, Fri 08.10.19 to 05.11.19			
82414	Delhi (Suvidha)	00:20	Darbhanga	23:45	Bi-Weekly	Tue, Sat, Wed 22, 26 & 30.10.19	Sleeper	Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Barabanki, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Paniajawa, Narkatiaganj Jn, Raxual & Sitamarhi Stations	
04059	Darbhanga (Suvidha)	04:30	Delhi	05:55	Bi-Weekly	Wed, Sun, Thu 23, 27 & 31.10.19			
82411	Allahabad (Suvidha)	19:00	Anand Vihar (T.)	05:30	Bi-Weekly	Mon & Wed 28 & 30.10.19	AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General	Fatehpur, Kanpur Centre, Aligarh & Ghaziabad stations	
82412	Anand Vihar (T.) (Suvidha)	07:50	Allahabad	17:00	Bi-Weekly	Tue & Thu 29 & 31.10.19			

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Better late than never

Milner's stoppage-time penalty spoils Rodgers' Anfield return; Spurs rocked at Brighton

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

James Milner scored an added-time winner as Liverpool moved eight points clear at the top of the Premier League with a thrilling 2-1 victory over Leicester, while Mauricio Pochettino's problems mounted after Tottenham's 3-0 loss at Brighton on Saturday.

Liverpool won for the 17th consecutive league game thanks to Milner's dramatic contribution to a thrilling clash at Anfield.

Jürgen Klopp's side ruined Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers' first return to Liverpool since being replaced by the German in 2015.

By extending their remarkable winning streak, Liverpool have piled pressure on second-placed Manchester City ahead of their home game against Wolves today.

"It was a super game. We upped the tempo. The football we played was so important," Klopp said.

"Without luck we cannot win the amount of games we have won, but over the 90 minutes we deserved it. James Milner held his nerve and that was superb."

Liverpool took the lead in the 40th minute when Milner's long ball was misjudged by Leicester defender Jonny Evans and Sadio Mane clinically slotted in his eighth goal of the season.

Mane has scored exactly 50 goals in 100 Premier League games for Liverpool, making the Senegal winger the 10th player to reach that milestone for the Reds.

James Maddison snatched third-placed Leicester's equaliser in the 80th minute when he collected Ayoze Perez's pass and drove his shot under Adrian's weak attempted save.

But five minutes into stoppage time, Marc Albrighton took the ball away from his own goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel and then clipped Mane, with Milner converting the penalty after a VAR review.

At the Amex Stadium, Tottenham's crisis deepened as they turned in a desperate performance, while Hugo Lloris suffered a serious arm injury after another howler.

Tottenham keeper Lloris dropped the ball on the goal line and hurt himself in the process in only the third minute, allowing Neal Maupay to open the scoring.

It only got worse after that as Aaron Connolly's double gave the impressive Seagulls a deserved three points.

It ranked as one of the worst performances of Pochettino's reign and, following on from Tuesday's 7-2 Champions League humiliation to Bayern Munich, the dark clouds are



James Milner celebrates his winning goal with Jordan Henderson and Divock Origi during English Premier League match against Leicester City at Anfield stadium AP

mounting over the club. Pochettino was forced to emphasise his commitment to Tottenham this week amid speculation he has grown distant from a squad distracted by several players who have been linked with moves.

"We have to keep going. I have to say thank you for the fans. I feel sorry for them," Pochettino said. "Now you cannot find any words to console them and our players because I think we are living a tough moment."

EVERTON WOE
Last season's Champions League finalists have won just three of their opening 11 games of the campaign and five of their last 19 dating back to when these sides last met in April.

An 11th defeat in 2019 left Tottenham without an away league win



in 10 games dating back to January. Everton manager Marco Silva is also under increasing pressure following a 1-0 defeat at Burnley that left his team fourth from bottom.

Jeff Hendrick got Burnley's 72nd-minute winner after Everton had right-back Seamus Coleman sent off early in the second half for a crude lunge on Dwight McNeil.

Aston Villa's 5-1 demolition of Norwich was given a royal seal of approval with Villa fan Prince William in attendance with wife Kate and his young family at Carrow Road.

Dean Smith's side took a 14th-minute lead through Wesley and the Brazilian forward struck again for his fourth goal of the season in the 30th minute.

Wesley wasted a chance to complete his hat-trick when his penalty was

FIGURATIVELY

8 Liverpool have become just the seventh side in history to win each of their opening eight matches to an English top-flight season — and the first to achieve the feat on two occasions having also done so in 1990-91

34 James Milner's penalty was the 34th time Liverpool have scored a 90th-minute winning goal in a Premier League match - at least nine more than any other side

50 Sadio Mane has scored his 50th Premier League goal for Liverpool. He's the 10th player to reach the milestone for the club in the competition, more than any other side

17 Tottenham have lost more games in all competitions in 2019 than any other English top-flight side, now losing (17) as many games as they've won (17) this calendar year

1 James Maddison's goal came from Leicester's first shot on target of the match against Liverpool; Maddison has scored in back-to-back Premier League games for the first time since December 2018

5 Aston Villa have scored five goals in an away Premier League match for the first time since April 2008 (6-0 at Derby)

6 Since the start of last season, Everton have picked up more red cards than any other side in the Premier League

2 Aaron Connolly is the first Irish teenager to score a Premier League brace since Robbie Keane for Coventry v Derby in August 1999

10 Tottenham have conceded 10 goals in their last two games in all competitions; the first time they have done so across two matches since December 1997 (1-6 loss to Chelsea, 0-4 loss to Coventry).

2 Neal Maupay's opener (2:30) for Brighton was their fastest-ever goal in the Premier League

saved by Michael McGovern.

It didn't prove a problem for Villa as Jack Grealish got their third goal in the 49th minute and Conor Hourihane made it four.

Douglas Luiz's 83rd-minute goal completed Villa's biggest away Premier League win for 11 years despite Josip Drmic's reply for Norwich.

"I will put a call in to see if we can get them on the coach next game," Smith joked of the royal visitors.

Watford remain bottom after a goalless draw with Sheffield United.

SINGLES

KKR ROPE MILLS AS BOWLING COACH
NEW DELHI: IPL side Kolkata Knight Riders on Saturday named Australian David Hussey as the chief mentor and former New Zealand pacer Kyle Mills as the team's new bowling coach. Both Hussey and Mills will work under former New Zealand wicket-keeper batsman Brendon McCullum, who has been appointed as the head coach of KKR for the next IPL. "It's great to welcome David Hussey and Kyle Mills to the Kolkata Knight Riders family. They bring a wealth of experience as professionals and are terrific individuals," KKR CEO Venky Mysore said. "We are confident that their contribution as part of the think tank and to the KKR academy will be invaluable."

NAGAL ENTERS CAMPINAS SEMIFINAL
CAMPINAS: India's Sumit Nagal sailed into the semifinals of the ATP Challenger Campinas with a hard-fought win over Francisco Cerundolo. Nagal, placed at a career-best 135 right now, knocked out 13th seed Cerundolo 7-6, 7-5 to book his second last-four appearance in two weeks. He had received a bye in the first round and then in the second round his opponent Gastao Elias retired mid way in the first set. In the round of 16, the Indian beat Orlando Luz 7-5, 6-3. The sixth seed Indian will now face Juan Pablo Ficovich in the final.

SAWEETY BOORA IN LAST-16, NEERAJ OUT
ULAN-UDE: Former Silver-medallist Saweety Boora (75kg) advanced to the pre-quarters with a facile win but Neeraj Phogat (57kg) bowed out after a contentious loss on a mixed day for India at the World Women's Boxing Championship on Saturday. Boora, defeated Mongolia's Myagmarjargal Munkhbat 5-0 in the opening round to set up a clash with second-seeded Welshwoman Lauren Price. However, Phogat gave it her all in the clash against China's Qiao Jieru but didn't find favour with the judges who ruled against her in a 2-3 split decision.

UP YODDHA BEAT DABANG DELHI 50-33
GREATER NOIDA: UP Yoddha thrashed a much-changed Dabang Delhi KC 50-33 to enter the play-offs of the Pro Kabaddi League on Saturday. Monu Goyat, with 11 raid points, was the star for the UP side as the Delhi team offered very little resistance. Goyat picked up valuable raid points from the start and the UP side went on to secure their first all-out in the sixth minute to move to a 5-point lead. The story continued to be the same till the half time with Delhi's Meraj Sheykh, the only bright light in what was otherwise a toothless performance from the league's pace-setters. The home side picked up their second all-out of the match two minutes after the restart as Goyat picked up his Super 10.

4X400M RELAY TEAMS, SHIVPAL CRASH OUT
DOHA: The Indian men's and women's 4x400m relay teams produced disappointing performances while javelin thrower Shivpal Singh came a cropper as they crashed out of the World C'ships on Saturday. The women's quartet of Jisna Mathew, M R Poovamma, V K Vismaya and Venkatesan Subha clocked 3 minutes 29.42 seconds to finish sixth in the heat number one and 11th overall. Later, the men's team of Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Anas, K Suresh Jeevan and Noah Nirmla Tom ran 3:03.09 to finish seventh in heat number 2 and 13th overall. The top three in each of the two heats and the next two fastest teams qualify for the finals. Earlier, Shivpal Singh also failed to qualify for the finals of the men's javelin throw event as he finished 24th overall in the qualification round. Shivpal produced a best throw of 78.97m from his three attempts to finish 10th in the Group A qualification round. AGENCIES

Hazard off the mark

AFP ■ MADRID

Eden Hazard ended the wait for his first Real Madrid goal but his team had to resist a spirited second-half comeback from Granada to seal a thrilling 4-2 victory in La Liga on Saturday.

Karim Benzema put Real ahead in the second minute at the Santiago Bernabeu before Hazard opened his account with a delightful lifted finish towards the end of the first half.

Luka Modric's bending long-range effort on the hour looked to have confirmed the win but Granada scored twice in quick succession through Darwin Machis and Domingos Duarte, the first from the penalty spot, to set up a tense last 12 minutes.

James Rodriguez, on as a substitute, ended the rally by scoring his first Madrid goal since May 2017 to wrap up an unexpectedly dramatic contest between the league's top two.

Madrid will stay first heading into the international break even if newly-promoted Granada demonstrated why they have made such a remarkable opening to the season.

"We wanted to keep a clean sheet but sometimes an opponent can put you under pressure," Real coach Zinedine Zidane said. "We didn't surrender, we kept going and we knew any time we could score a fourth."

Madrid had been in control, their fluency and tempo contributing to arguably the best hour of football they have played this season.

Yet a hectic 20-minute period in the second half took some of the gloss off a win that at least gets Zidane's side back on track following their 2-2 draw at home to Club Brugge in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Hazard had become a growing concern after five underwhelming matches, the patience granted to him after his injury in pre-season beginning to run out after his 100-million euro (\$109 million) move from Chelsea.

"We need Eden like that, playing well and scoring," Zidane said. "He was happy at the end of the game in the changing room. We are happy for him and his goal. I hope it is the first of many."



Bayern on top despite defeat

AFP ■ MUNICH

Four days after thrashing Tottenham in Europe, Bayern Munich suffered their first loss of the season on Saturday with a shock 2-1 home defeat by Hoffenheim in the Bundesliga.

Second-half goals by striker Sargis Adamyan sealed a first-ever win at Bayern for Hoffenheim as Niko Kovac's side crashed back down to earth following Tuesday's 7-2 Champions League rout of Spurs.

"This is a huge dream for me," said Armenian international Adamyan, who cost 1.5 million euros (\$1.6 million) from second-division Jahn

Regensburg in May. "The win is very important as we have shown that we can beat anyone in the Bundesliga," he added as Hoffenheim won the first time in five games.

It was Bayern's first home league defeat for almost a year.

Robert Lewandowski equalised with his 11th Bundesliga goal this season, scoring for the seventh straight league game before Adamyan clinched the win with his second late on to stun the Allianz Arena.

"We had two simple losses of possession that led to two goals against us — that must not happen," said Kovac.



Bayern captain Manuel Neuer said the defeat served as "a warning you get nothing for free".

Bayern kept first place in the table only on goal difference ahead of RB Leipzig, Bayer Leverkusen and Freiburg, with the top four teams on 14 points.

NKUNKU RESCUES LEIPZIG

Both Leverkusen and Leipzig pulled level with Bayern after their 1-1 draw as Christopher Nkunku came off the bench to rescue visitors Leipzig.

Following losses to Schalke and Lyon over the past week, Leipzig took out their frustrations by battering the

Leverkusen goal, yet it was the hosts who took the lead.

Kevin Volland's second-half goal, against the run of play, was cancelled out when Nkunku, on for Timo Werner after a fruitless afternoon for the Germany striker, levelled with a superb finish 11 minutes from time.

Freiburg are joint second with Borussia Dortmund, who have drawn their last three league games to drop to seventh.

Mainz climbed out of the relegation places with a 2-1 win at Paderborn thanks to an early Robin Quaison goal and a first-half Daniel Brosinski penalty.



Stefan Posch & Robert Lewandowski challenge for the ball AP

Icardi scores first Ligue 1 goal

AFP ■ PARIS

Mauro Icardi scored his first Ligue 1 goal as Paris Saint-Germain moved five points clear at the top of the table with a 4-0 thrashing of high-flying Angers on Saturday.

The reigning champions had suffered a shock 2-0 loss in their previous home game against Reims, but had no such trouble at the Parc des Princes on this occasion despite their opponents' surprisingly strong start to the season.

PSG head into the international break totally in control of the title race, although Nantes, who leapfrogged Angers into second on goal difference, could cut the gap to two points when they host Nice.

Neymar's late strike rounded off a strong individual display as he continued to repair his relationship with the team's fans after failing in his effort to force through a return to Barcelona.

The hosts took the lead in the 13th minute, though, as Ander Herrera played in Pablo Sarabia,



Pablo Sarabia celebrates his opening goal with his Mauro Icardi and Neymar PSG/Twitter

who cut inside and wrong-footed Ludovic Butelle in the Angers goal to net for the first time since joining PSG from Sevilla in the close-season.

The game was all but ended as a contest eight minutes before the break, as Neymar and Sarabia combined to give Icardi the simplest of tasks to fire into the roof of the net.

Although Spain internation-

al Sarabia scuffed a rebound after his initial shot was cleared off the line just before the hour mark, former Everton midfielder Idrissa Gueye was on hand to tap in his first PSG goal.

Neymar found a way past Butelle in the final minute, rounding the 'keeper and slotting into an empty net to complete a straightforward outing for PSG with his fourth goal of the campaign.

Barty to face Osaka in final

AFP ■ BEIJING

Naomi Osaka said that she had just two hours' sleep before crushing title-holder Caroline Wozniacki to sweep into the China Open final on Saturday.

The 21-year-old Japanese will play world number one Ashleigh Barty of Australia in today's championship match in Beijing — and will hope to have had a bit more rest.

The Australian Open champion said that she was so hyped up after defeating Bianca Andreescu in three thrilling sets on Friday night that she barely slept.

"I went to sleep at 4:00am, I woke up at 6:00am, so solid two hours, I can't really sleep after my matches," said Osaka.

"I just feel like my adrenaline's up more during the tougher matches so it makes it harder to sleep."

"It's definitely been a bit crazy time-wise," she added, having returned to the court to face Wozniacki less than 24 hours after defeating Andreescu.

But if the two-time Grand Slam champion was exhausted, it did not show in a 6-4, 6-2 victory in 84 minutes against the Dane.

The Japanese insisted that she was the underdog against Barty.

They have played each other three times before with the 23-year-old Australian winning twice.

Barty said that she has "never been happier" on and off the court after she saved match point against Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands in their semi-final.

The French Open champion committed 52 unforced errors but still just about emerged victorious in a nail-biting 6-3,

3-6, 7-6 (9/7) triumph.

Djokovic enters Japan decider

AFP ■ TOKYO

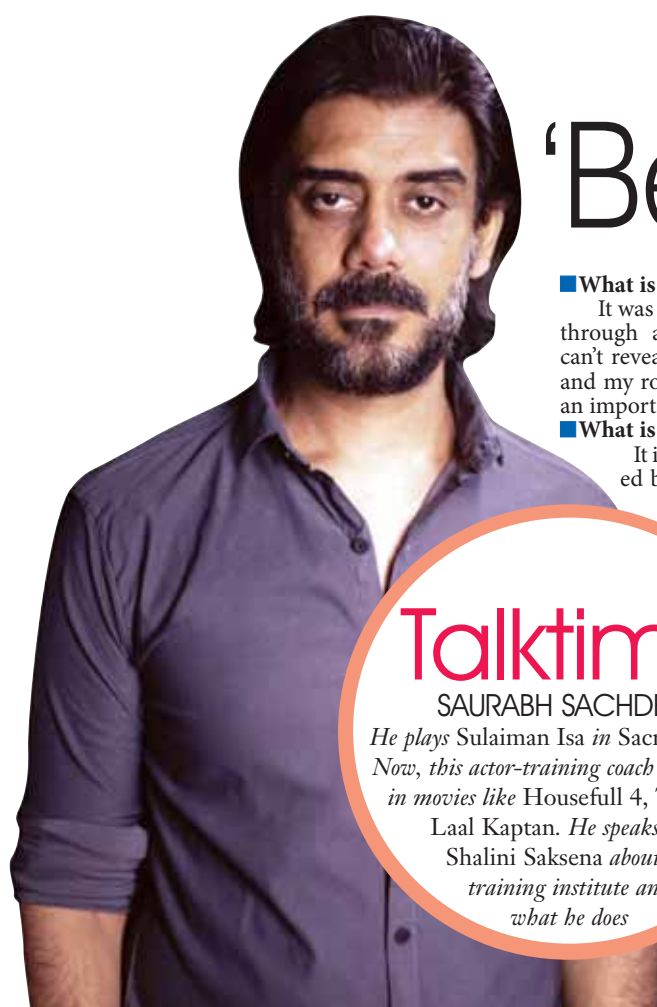
World number one Novak Djokovic on Saturday cruised into the Japan Open final, thrashing David Goffin 6-3, 6-4.

In the final, Djokovic will face qualifier John Millman, who squeezed past Reilly Opelka 6-3, 7-6 (7/4).

The Serbian star dominated his semi-final, starting strong by winning the first three games, picking up an early break while fending off fierce attempts by the Belgian to fight back.

Djokovic again picked up an early break in the second set, and survived all the four break points through the match.

"I think we both served extremely well and precise, not too much chance for returns," he said. "Even though it was a two-set win, the quality of tennis was quite high."



'Being a star-maker is a coincidence'

■What is your role in Laal Kaptaan?

It was a character that came to me through auditions. Unfortunately, I can't reveal too much about this film and my role. All I can say is that it is an important role.

■What is Taish about?

It is a family drama. It is directed by Bejoy Nambiar and I got this project due to *Manmarziyaan*. The way my character has been written has come out well.

Talktime

SAURABH SACHDEVA
He plays Sulaiman Isa in Sacred Games. Now, this actor-training coach will be seen in movies like Housefull 4, Taish and Laal Kaptaan. He speaks with Shalini Saxena about his training institute and what he does

■You will be seen in Housefull 4. What is the reason for the popularity of the series?

Obviously the comedy. People want to be entertained. The storyline is relatable and one can watch these movies

with the family.

■How do you time manage?

I am working with people with whom I have had a long association. They are just as passionate about teaching, acting and theatre. I don't believe in flying solo. I delegate a lot of work and believe in team work. If you work with people, you can grow more. If you go solo you go fast but I want to go far. This, also frees a lot of my time to do other things.

■What made you say yes to Sacred Games?

I came out of my den. I had been working with Barry sir for the last 15 years. I had also started my acting school. But then Mukesh Chhabra asked me to audition for this and I got selected. I have had a long association with Anurag Kashyap, the director. To begin with was offered another role. In the end, a lot of this role was cut. The makers were struggling which character to give me. And this is how I got Isa's character. The role worked for me.

■What makes this series so popular? What do you like the best?

The story and the way it has been directed. Then there is freedom for the

I DON'T BELIEVE IN FLYING SOLO. I DELEGATE A LOT OF WORK AND BELIEVE IN TEAM WORK. IF YOU WORK WITH PEOPLE, YOU CAN GROW MORE. IF YOU GO SOLO YOU GO FAST BUT I WANT TO GO FAR. ALSO, THIS FREES A LOT OF MY TIME TO DO OTHER THINGS

actor — to show his potential; the writers who can write a long script without the fear of the same being cut like in a movie; for the director to create his vision and the audience who have the freedom to feel what unfolds. The level of maturity the makers have entrusted the viewers is another thing. I too am doing my thing here. Anurag has given me all the freedom that I need.

■You are a star-maker. How did you get this tag?

No, never. I was just lucky to have worked with Barry John for so long. During this period a number of kids from the industry came like Varun Dhawan and Arjun Kapoor. Also, a few new people entered the industry like Richa Chadha, Sushant Singh and Harshvardhan Rane. I was taking the class with them since I was a senior faculty. Now, I attach my name with them and vice-versa. It is just a coincidence.

■You have been teaching for 15 years how prepared are the students of today?

More than the students, it is the parents who do their homework. They are the ones who push their way. When I had started off, my parents were

not ready. The same was the case with other students in my class. Back then, their was not enough potential, there was not enough work.

Today, the medium has become big, there is more money and work opportunities. The casting directors in the industry have given respectability to this profession. Even the level of craftsmanship has improved as there is access to better cinema and one can differentiate between good and bad cinema.

■Has your teaching methodology changed?

Definitely. I have taken a leaf out of what I was doing at Barry John's institute. I am now added more education methods into the teaching at Acting Truth. We also do more physical and voice work. We have introduced a class on how to relax the body as well.

■What do you to relax?

When I am in class, I am very relaxed. I love Nature and like to read as well whatever takes my fancy. I usually reach out to read new stuff. It gives me an understanding of what is happening around me and this makes me more creative.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with the starcast of *Patte Khul Gaye*, a play that exposes the middle class and the beliefs that exist

There was a time when Delhiites looked forward to watching the plays that were staged since there were limited options for entertainment. Then there was a lull. That has changed in the last five-six years and the theatre scene is once again changing and growing albeit with a difference. People today are looking for entertainment options. This means that those in the theatre business are bringing on stage some great work with established actors that are pulling in a crowd like never before.

It is therefore not surprising that in the last six months that Capital has seen five plays being staged with the latest to join the list *Patte Khul Gaye* — directed by Rakesh Bedi and presented by Felicity Theatre.

The actor who shot to fame as Raja in *Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi* that aired on DD back in the mid-80s and written plays like *Jab We Separated* and *Mera Woh Matlab Nahi Tha* tells you that the play is about the hypocrisy that exists in the middle class.

"It is about a family (Dr Manoj Rai played by Anant Mahadevan, his wife, Manju played by Roopali Ganguly and their two children). The play opens with a scene where Manju is busy cooking for a party. She is annoyed that nobody is lending her a hand as everyone in her family is busy on their mobiles. Even the guests who have been invited are shown talking on their mobiles. Then there is an invited guest. What unfolds when all these people turn up, sets the tone of the play," Bedi says.

He tells you that the title is apt once the interval is over and everyone is exposed like the husband who suddenly sees a totally new side of his wife, a side that he never knew she had.

"Very comically each person stands exposed hence the name. The play also showcases the conflict between the upper and the middle class that comes with satire. However, I love comedy and despite the fact that the play tackles a serious issue, I have a humorous take on it. I don't write anything that isn't funny. A message without humour doesn't sit well with people," Bedi says.

He denies that the play is an adaptation though he took an idea from an English play. "One needs a thought and that is what I have done. The characters have been woven by me. It is not an adaptation," he emphasises.

He tells you that it took him only a couple of months to write it since he was very clear where he wanted the play to go. "Usually, it takes me a couple of years to write a play. With this one, I had a lot of clarity," Bedi says who also plays a poet here.

But he tells you that there was no conflict between the director and actor in him. This is because he had defined his characters to the minutest detail. "Each dialogue, turn and move was written down in detail. It takes around 40 days to direct a play, this one took 12 days," Bedi says.

His choice of cast depended on many factors. "Mahadevan has a no-non-

MAHADEVAN HAS A NO-NONSENSE FACE AND IS A STRAIGHT FORWARD ACTOR. THOUGH I HAD NEVER WORKED WITH GANGULY, I HAD SEEN HER WORK. KISHWER HAS THE PHYSIQUE THAT I WAS LOOKING FOR — RAKESH BEDI

sense face and is a straight forward actor. Though I had never worked with Ganguly, I had seen her work. Kishwer has the physique that I was looking for. I wanted someone who is tall, a good figure and can carry the role of a rich man's wife to a T," Bedi tells you.

He opines that that theatre has undergone a sea change, especially in Delhi.

"If someone in Mumbai wants to see a play, he has to buy the ticket. Even if my family wants to see a play directed by me, it can't be a free ticket. Someone has to buy it. While there was a time when Delhiites were looking for a free ticket, this has changed. This is good for the-



Anant Mahadevan, who plays Dr Manoj Rai; Rakesh Bedi who plays Akela; below; Kishwer Merchant who plays Shireen



atre," Bedi says and laments the fact that if one can spend over ₹1,000 on a film why not theatre.

The actor has also penned another two-actor play which will probably star Neena Gupta. "As far as Bollywood is concerned, Bedi has just finished shooting for *Sab Kushal Mangal* and is all set to head for Lucknow to shoot for *Indu Ki Jawani*," Bedi says.

Merchant who plays Shireen tells you that it was tough to play this role. "In real life, I am a tomboy. To play a character that is rich and classy took me a little time. It was great to work with Rakesh (Bedi). I love him as an actor; I love him even more as a co-actor. He is such a selfless actor. He is always giving. He will help you out with everything. As a director, he is wonderful. The way he explained the play, he has done a fabulous job," Merchant says.

She loves the Delhi crowd. "I have been here for *Wrong Number*, *Selfie*, *Hello Zindagi* and now *Patte Khul Gaye*. I have had repeat audiences for all the plays. It feels so good as an actor when you get this instant feedback," Merchant says.

She tells you that she took to the theatre because she used to have stage fright and wanted to get rid of it.

"The whole point of doing theatre — to get applause, people laughing at your one-liners and instant response gives me such a high. I love performing in front of a live audience," Merchant says.

Mahadevan tells you that he plays a cosmetic surgeon in the play. "The man is in a situation where everyone wants to play a game where they want to find out what is there on their

'Sunny sir ran a very tight ship'



SAHHER BAMBBA who debuted with *Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas* speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA on how she got this project, working with Karan Deol and the experience on the first day of shoot

■What was your first day on the sets like?

It was great. On day one, I was like a lost puppy but I was not nervous. However, when I realised what it takes to give a shot, the nervousness crept in. Sunny (Deol) sir is a hard task master. The Manila bit was super taxing as we had to trek every single day in sub-zero temperatures. But overall, it was a great fun and learning experience.

■How did this project come to you?

When I first came to Mumbai, I didn't know what to do, I was trying my luck here and there by auditioning. Then a casting director told me about an audition that was happening and I could try. I did a few rounds. In the last round Sunny sir was there himself. I was given a monologue from the script which I had to perform on. The whole process took a month-and-a-half. In February 2017 that was finalised.

■Was it easy to work with the fact that Karan Deol was also making his debut?

I would like to believe so. Karan and I were a team and were there for each other. We understood what the other person was going through. We did our workshops together, work out and go for walks.

■What was the atmosphere like on and off the sets?

There was not even an F of fun. It was a very disciplined set. We had to get everything right, time was crucial, we couldn't afford to waste time due to the weather conditions.

■How nervous were you doing rappelling and crossing the river?

Extremely nervous. Before we would do the scene it had to be rehearsed and the stunt master would show us how to do it. There was one time, when due to the strong current, he was almost swept away. Water was extremely cold. There were sub-zero conditions also windy and cloudy conditions as well.

■Was acting on the cards?

Yes, even though I was not from the industry. I just had this belief that I would make acting my career. There was never a Plan B for me. I came to Mumbai with the sole purpose of pursuing my acting.

■Tell us about yourself?

I belong to a very conservative Punjabi family from Simla. I did my schooling from there. I loved dancing and learnt Kathak but the city didn't have many professional schools there. I went to a boarding school for my Class XI and XII. I was even more protected as the atmosphere was very disciplined but I learnt how to time manage. Then I came to Mumbai for my college and it was very liberating. But I didn't get college accommodation so had to put up at a hostel. I didn't have any family here. That was my struggle. Then the Fresh Face shoot happened.

■How was it to work with Sunny Deol? Was it like the angry man that we are used to seeing in the movies?

No, not at all. Even at the audition, he made me feel comfortable. The good apes was that before we started shooting, the entire team was in Manila for three months for workshops. There was a certain comfort level. He was a father figure and I never hesitated in going up to him with any problem that I had.

■It has been just over two weeks since the movie released. Is the result on the expected lines?

I don't look at the project as a hit or a flop. I spent over two years with the team, they have become like my family. What is more important is the experience I gained. But when you work so hard you do want the film to work. However, the memories and the people that I met far outweigh the result of the film.

■What next?

At present, I am taking in everything and not given thought on what to do next. I am definitely looking for scripts but nothing concrete yet.

WEEKLY NATTER

DEEPIKA MAKES TIME FOR FANS

Deepika Padukone is one actress who is known to have a troop of loyal followers who not only follow the actress's work but genuinely admire her for her simplicity and generosity. Recently, a few fans of the actress dropped by on her sets to surprise her and the kindhearted lady that she is, Deepika not only warmly welcomed them but actually took some time off to spend with them.

The young girls who came to meet her had carried a journal that they had specially made for the actress. The actress read the journal with them and thanked them for all the love they shower on her. Making their experience all the more special the actress made sure to personally bid them goodbye.

On the work front, the actress will be next seen in Meghna Gulzar's *Chhapaak*, a film based on the life of acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal. She will also feature in Kabir Khan's *83* where Deepika will be essaying the role of Kapil Dev's wife Romi Dev in the film.

The year 2020 will be special as both her upcoming films are releasing in the same year and interestingly, both the characters Laxmi Agarwal and Romi Dev are real-life characters with the essence-rich background behind them, making it a year of promising portrayals by the actress and this creative time of exploration is surely getting us all more excited.



AISHWARYA'S GLAM LOOK

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan owned the runway at the Le Défilé show at Paris Fashion Week as she walked in her pleated cape dress by Giambattista Valli.

She wore the L'Oréal Paris Infallible Pro-Matte Foundation keeping the base light. Her accentuated eye makeup created with the L'Oréal Paris Berry Much Love Eyeshadow Palette and the Voluminous Lash Paradise Mascara, stole the show. Aishwarya looked ethereal in her coral lip look achieved with the Rouge Signature Matte Liquid Lipstick Shade 130 that spelled glam. She sported the floral ensemble with utmost elegance and owned the runway like a queen with her exceptional confidence.

Also the brand ambassadors Camila Cabello and Amber Heard made their first-ever appearances at Le Défilé L'Oréal Paris. In a celebration of motherhood, Eva Longoria walked the runway carrying her baby son, Santiago, in the grand finale. Proving beauty has no age, Helen Mirren and Andie McDowell made their return to the Paris runway while the lineup also saw star turns from Marie Bochet, Liya Kebede, Aja Naomi King, Doutzen Kroes, Soo Joo Park, Luma Grothe and Duckie Thot.



AMOL BAGS MOST PROMISING ACTOR AWARD

Amol Parashar has been seeing rising fame and recognition with the youth since his advent in web series. One of the most followed and loved actors in the digital space, Amol is best known for his performance as Chitvan Sharma in *TVF Tripling*.

Recently, Amol was awarded the Best Actor (Comedy) trophy for his performance in Season 2 of *Tripling*. The honour was conferred to him by News18.com's iReel Awards, which honours the best in the world of web shows. Only a week later, the star has bagged another award. Amol has been awarded the Iconic Achiever award for Most Promising Actor Of The Year by WBR group which awards achievers in various fields of life.

Talking about the achievement, the actor says: "I would like to thank the WBR group for awarding me with the Iconic Achiever-Most Promising Actor Of The Year award. The digital space is an exciting medium and I am glad that all the hard work and honesty that I have put into my work as an actor is being recognised. This is highly encouraging and gives me confidence and inspiration to keep moving forward and achieve more heights."



When I am wrong, I will learn the lesson and move on to face other challenges. For me, that's what creating your own life is. Doing your best work while being your best self
— Jennifer Lopez



FROM THE INSIDE

Life of Chandra Shekhar

A well-researched biography that brings out the ideals, values and vision of Chandra Shekhar

2



Durga and the energy within

The concept of Durga, with all the attributes assigned to the said imagery, carries great meaning for us

4

Announcements on the need to move away from plastic are important steps forward but, as can be seen by the complexities of the material and the types of stakeholders involved, it needs to be one step of many. There must be clear goals and objectives for India that are monitored and evaluated moving forward



THE UNIVERSAL NATURE OF PLASTIC REDUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Time and again, the policy makers have expressed the need to move away from plastic, especially single use plastic (a variety of this ubiquitous material designed to be used only once, such as plastic bags at a supermarket, plastic cutlery from a delivery company, straws at a cafe etc.). Again, from time to time, by implementing the announcements the policy makers have been attempting to transition India away from a method of consumption and production that affects all areas of society, from the most impoverished individuals to the largest companies. As we move along the path to sustainability, there is a need to understand the complexities that drive the plastic economy.



TIM DE RIDDER

THE WASTE PICKERS

It has been estimated that there are 1.5 to 4 million waste pickers in India, who pick up, clean, sort and segregate recyclable waste and sell it further up the value chain. These manual workers evaluate the products that they collect around the streets of towns and cities throughout India. Their understanding of value in the case of plastic and other recyclable material is pivotal to the current levels of waste, this is to say that without them the country could be in a much worse state.

COMPLEXITIES OF PLASTIC

The waste pickers' expertise in sorting and segregation is seen profoundly when detailing the varieties of plastic. In brief, the main categories are: Polyethylene Terephthalate, High-Density Polyethylene and Polyvinyl Chloride, which are often recyclable but that depends on the facilities available; the Low Density Polyethylene, that are even more dependent on the quality and resources of the recycling centres; and unrecyclable plastics, such as Polypropylene, Polystyrene or Styrofoam and Miscellaneous Plastics (polycarbonate, polylactide, acrylic, acrylonitrile butadiene, styrene, fiberglass, and nylon) that exist in this array of polymers.

For a material that has become an intrinsic part of the day to day functionality of almost every person on the globe in a tremendously simple way, it is

inherently complicated in terms of the type and recyclability. Waste pickers assist in managing this within India, but just like a single announcement about the need to reduce plastic use, they must be one part of the whole in order to improve current levels and move the country toward a more environmentally conscious, sustainable position. Any changes that policy makers implement to the current system must include individuals at the lowest socio-economic levels. Not only because it is the humane thing to do, but also because their skills and knowledge are an asset that an improved system requires.

SYSTEMS THINKING

In order for nationwide policies to be successful, there must be an understanding of how current systems function and what alternatives hold value for the country. The current system is, predominantly, a linear economy, which "traditionally follows the 'take-make-dispose' step-by-step plan. This means that raw materials are collected, then transformed into products that are used until they are finally discarded as waste. A sustainable version of the system is one that values the items and stakeholders within it, not as waste but as a resource. The suggested system to replace a linear system is a circular one because "sustainability is sought in increasing the eco-effectiveness of the system. This means that not only the ecological impact is minimised, but the ecological, economic and social impact is even positive". A large part of this is valuing all stakeholders and processes involved.

POTENTIAL ROADMAPS

In addressing the issues of plastic waste, there are numerous examples worldwide that can be assessed to see if it can provide examples moving forward. France, for instance, has had a plastic ban since 2016, within the law there are clauses that specify that "the replacements of these items will need to be made from biologically sourced materials that can be composted". On a larger scale that parallels India's population, "China made it illegal for stores (small or big vendors) to give out plastic bags (in 2008) and allowed them to keep any profit they made for themselves. End result, after two years of the law implementation, usage of plastic bags dropped by a whopping 50 per cent". Both are designed for their own

situation, just as India must design their own to transition away from plastic and just as large Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) companies can use templates made by smaller companies but design it for their scale and reach.

GIANTS WHO USE PLASTIC

The FMCG sector is the "4th largest sector in the Indian economy with household and personal care accounting for 50 per cent of FMCG sales in India". The increase in popularity has notably been "led by a combination of increasing incomes and higher aspirational levels (with an) increased demand for branded products". In addition, research has found that the unorganised FMCG market share is also falling, replaced with organised sector growth due to brand consciousness, in part promoted by growth in retail chains promoting a less diversified range of brands.

SMALL SCALE MOVES AWAY FROM PLASTIC

There are businesses and individuals in India who are making products that do not follow the trend of large FMCG producers. In Bangalore, for example, Bare Necessities Zero Waste India uses "the best ingredients that are zero waste and ethically sourced". They also "believe that if an ingredient is too hard to pronounce or if it sounds like it belongs in a chemistry lab, it can't be good for you to put in or on your body". Amazingly, which shows a true trend away from methods from big FMCG companies, they state openly that their "products are designed not to last", but not in the way of single use items from FMCG companies. Instead, they note that "since all our products are hand-made fresh, have no chemical preservatives, and come in small quantities, they won't last years on end", which means that they do not contain chemicals that would be detrimental to your body or waterways. The small, women run business, also employ and upskill women from lower socio-economic classes in Indian society. They help to hand make items fresh to order, using natural ingredients from India, of special note is their love of coconut oil and other natural oils that are sourced from South India.

BENEFITS OF A TRANSITION WITH CLEAR TIMELINES

An immediate shift for large companies to the methods employed by small organisations is difficult. However



by placing clear timelines in, with set goals and objectives as well as simplifying processes and materials, they have the opportunity to help transition the country towards a more sustainable future at a tremendous scale.

IT'S NOT JUST SINGLE USE PLASTIC

Without a systems approach to addressing the issue of plastic reliance in the country that is so intrinsically ingrained in modern day life, and produces in excess of \$1.3 billion economic impact (according to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, an estimate of impact on marine plastics to tourism, fishing and shipping industries in the region) annually, change is unlikely to occur. A transition away from single use plastics is a positive step, yet the problem is far more complex. It relates to all the varieties of plastic spoken about above and how the material is used.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, "Approximately 70 per cent of plastic packaging products are converted into plastic waste in a short span". Research has also highlighted that within India, the composition of waste has changed significantly in the last couple of decades because of consumer habits and demands for ease, efficiency and simplicity that plastics can offer. This is provided the consumer is not looking at the environmental impact that the product has after use. In addition the United Nations has noted that "about 47 per cent of the plastic waste generated globally, came from multi-layered packaging waste. Nearly half came from Asia", thus waste pickers managing waste, and, policy makers announcing new initiatives must work with all other stakeholders within the system in designing new methods of operation and promoting innovation in packaging and manufacturing among other areas.

CONSCIOUS CONSUMERISM

Truly this is a universal issue. It affects waste pickers as much as it will impact FMCG companies and all the consumers in India. Announcements about reducing plastic are important but no more than individual choice, with the first important choice being to take responsibility for one's actions. Consumers changing their habits can

CONSUMERS CAN ENSURE THAT AWARENESS AND EDUCATION, THAT STARTS FROM LARGE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS BY POLICY MAKERS, REACHES THE HEARTS AND EARS AND POCKETS OF OTHER CONSUMERS WITHIN INDIA, BY ACTIVELY INVOLVING THEMSELVES IN A TRANSITION. THERE ARE BLUEPRINTS OUT THERE FOR CONSUMERS TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE A ZERO WASTE LIFE. CONSUMER CHOICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



- Use a bamboo toothbrush instead of plastic.
- Use sustainable straws such as steel, bamboo and leaf
- Use a menstrual cup instead of single use items
- Use beeswax wraps instead of cling film or aluminum foil
- Use reusable bags instead of single use plastic bags

help to move the current system from a linear methodology to a circular one. It can provide a voice for those in lower socio-economic groups in society and can encourage large businesses to transition from the use of plastic and other harmful materials.

Consumers can ensure that awareness and education, that starts from large public announcements by policy makers, reaches the hearts and ears and pockets of other consumers within India by actively involving themselves in a transition. There are blueprints out there for consumers to know and understand what it means to live a zero waste life. Consumer choice can make a difference and lead a transition away from the use of this ubiquitous material. Importantly though, this needs all stakeholders to be involved and knowledgeable.

TRANSITION AWAY FROM PLASTIC

Announcements on the need to move away from plastic are important steps forward but as can be seen by the complexities of the material and the types of stakeholders involved, it needs to be one step of many. There must be clear goals and objectives for India that are monitored and evaluated moving forward. All stakeholders must be involved to keep each other accountable and responsible to these ambitions that will require clear timelines and a transparent process in order for a permanent transition to more sustainable practices to occur.

The writer is a Sustainability Consultant and Education Officer



BEFORE ARGENTINIAN AUTHOR JORGE LUIS BORGES WAS CELEBRATED FOR HIS FICTION, HE EARNED A LIVING BY WRITING ADVERTISEMENTS FOR YOGURT!

This biography is a well-researched and well-written account, bringing out the ideas, ideals, principles, values and vision of Chandra Shekhar in a very lucid and eloquent manner, writes RUP NARAYAN DAS

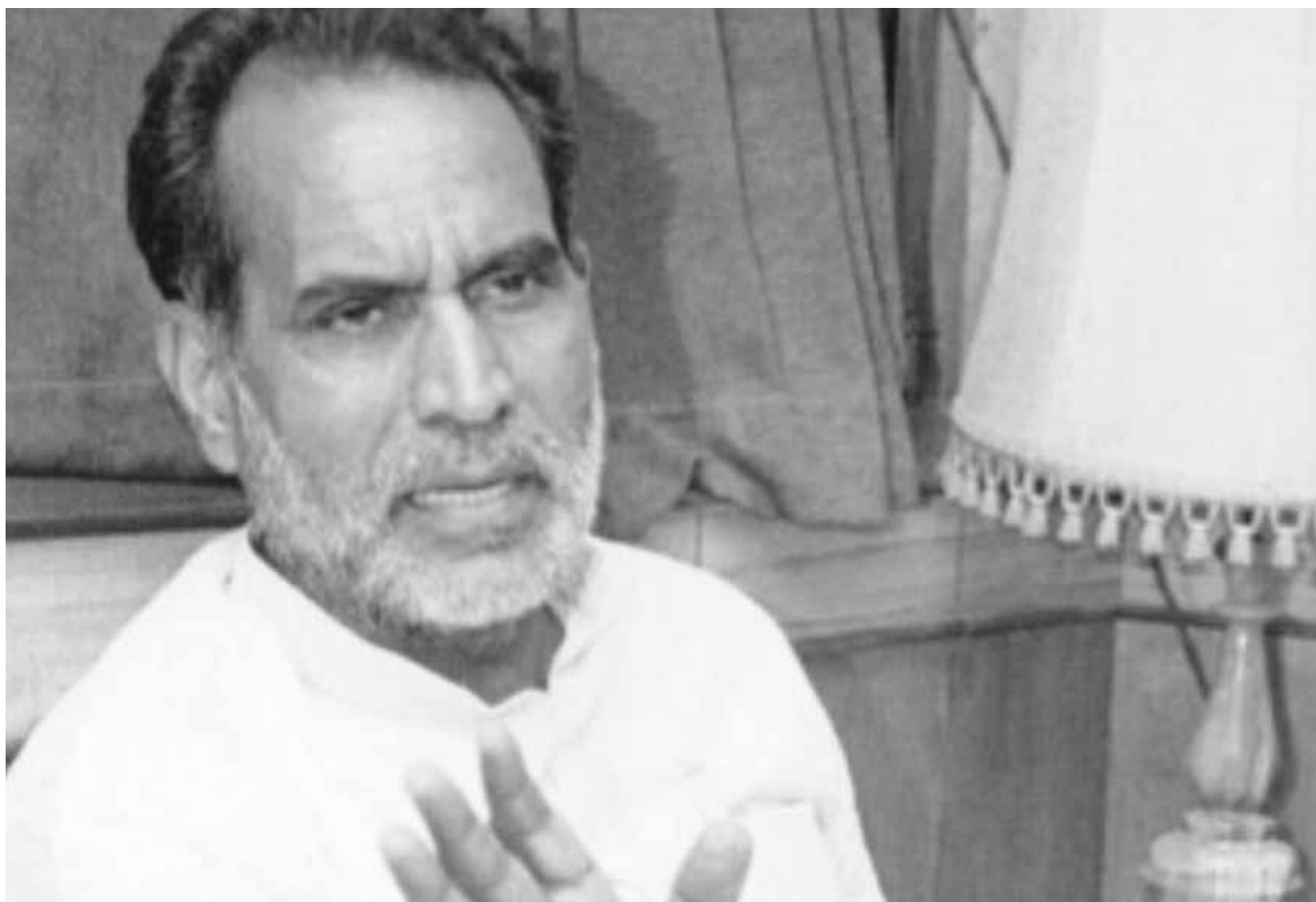
The life and times of Chandra Shekhar

At a time when there is a discernable churning in Indian polity and society, the biography of Chandra Shekhar written by Harivansh and Ravi Dutt Bajpai reflects its transformational and aspirational aspects. The post-Independent politics of India has been predominantly dominated by elitism and this predominance is largely reflected in the political narrative woven and written by the ruling class, marginalising the contributions of political leaders like Chandra Shekhar and few other such stalwarts. The book under review chronicles not only the life and times of the indomitable Chandra Shekhar, hailed as 'young Turk'; but also sheds light on the contemporary politics of more recent time which is witnessing a churning breaking the shibboleth of vested interests perpetuated from generation to generation. This churning is characterised by the emergence and crystallisation of non-Congress regime and ideology having a distinctive identity and political flavour.

Chandra Shekhar occupied the exalted position of the Prime Minister of the country for a brief period of time at a very critical juncture of India's history. He, however, embraced the challenge with great fortitude and political sagacity and ingenuity. It was not so much the thirst for power and position as for the larger interest of the country, which is although understood by the political class and the intelligentsia, but not appreciated and applauded.

Reconstructing the tumultuous political circumstances in which Chandra Shekhar became the Prime Minister of the country, the author(s) writes, Chandra Shekhar became the leader of the splinter group with the support of fifty-two members of Parliament from Janata Dal. The BJP had already withdrawn support from V.P. Singh's government, leaving Singh with no option but to seek a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha. V.P. Singh lost the vote of confidence on November 7, 1990 and the Congress party decided to support Chandra Shekhar's bid for the position of the prime minister. He was sworn in on November 10, 1990.

While the political condition of the country was very volatile, added and abated by the aftermath of the demolition of Babri Masjid and turbulence in Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab, the economic condition was precarious almost on the threshold of a major crisis. In March 1991, the prospect of a default on sovereign repayments was alarming. It



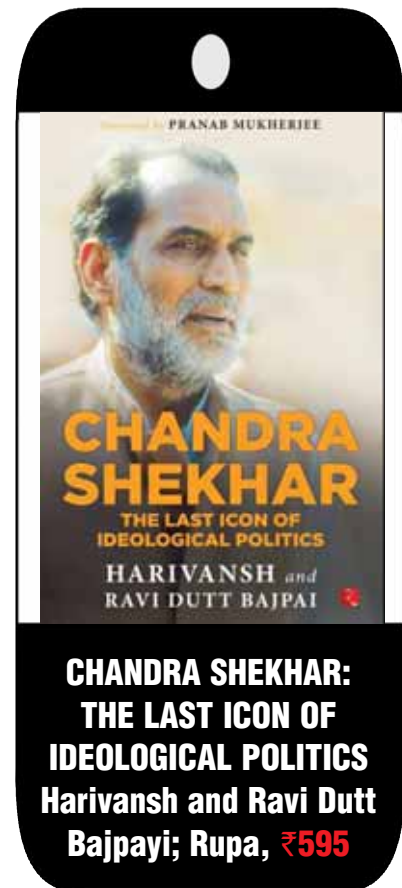
was feared that reneging on repayment of loans would lead India to loss of credibility and financial insolvency internationally. It was in this backdrop that cabinet secretary Naresh Chandra briefed Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar about the option of using gold as collateral to raise foreign exchange. The Prime Minister had some reservation to take such a drastic action. Chandra Shekhar mulled over the proposal in the context that he was heading a care taker government and that election had already been announced. Finally, however, he agreed to the proposal. It was indeed a bold and courageous decision fraught with unforeseen consequences. The author quotes the then chief economic adviser

Deepak Nayar that Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar decided to 'ship 20 tonnes of gold, confiscated from smugglers to raise \$200 million from the Union Bank of Switzerland through a sale-with-a-repurchase option'. Applauding the bold and courageous decision of the Prime Minister, the author writes Chandra Shekhar relied on his rustic wisdom to rationalise the pledging of gold to recover the land, then earn from the land to retrieve the gold back. The bureaucrats involved in the physical shipment of the gold remembered how terrified they were until the precious consignment safely reached London. The economic crisis was not of his making, rather the crisis

was bequeathed to him by inept handling of the economy by the previous regimes. Yet another major decision that Chandra Shekhar took during the Gulf war was to permit the US air force to refuel on Indian soil. In hindsight, it can safely be said that he was the harbinger of strategic shift of India's foreign policy which led to strategic partnership between the two countries in later years.

At a time when the nature of Indian polity and political parties have undergone a transformation under the impact of technology and huge resources, the author recounts how Chandra Shekhar built his political party brick by brick and was rooted to the ground and connected with the electorate. He was not a

leader who was parachuted from above, rather he grew from the grassroots and internalised the suffering and the toil of the common people. The author writes that his own suffering and suffering of his own family like the death of his mother due to the lack of medical assistance inspired him to struggle for the creation of a social order that would set people free from miseries and his vision of an equitable society was not gleaned from books or imbibed from political philosophies but was attained through his lived experiences. Could one imagine that as the joint secretary of the Socialist Party he washed the utensils at the party office in Lucknow after waking up early in the morning. Similarly, the author



CHANDRA SHEKHAR: THE LAST ICON OF IDEOLOGICAL POLITICS
Harivansh and Ravi Dutt Bajpai; Rupa, ₹595

mentions how he once had to sit on the floor of the train, between two toilets, while on a journey to Delhi. Such was the simplicity of a mass leader who subsequently became the Prime Minister of the country. He was a leader of deep political conviction, and pragmatic and open mind, receptive to new ideas and alternative perspectives without compromising his core values of nationalism and commitment to public service.

The first author, who is currently the deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha and a distinguished editor, had a long association with Chandra Shekhar and had the privilege of knowing him personally and very intimately. Earlier he had written extensively on Chandra Shekhar in Hindi. The present book synthesises and updates his earlier writings. The book is well-researched and well-written bringing out the ideas, ideals, principles, values and vision of Chandra Shekhar in a very lucid and eloquent manner.

The reviewer is a senior fellow of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) affiliated to Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi

NEW ARRIVALS

A KEEPER
Graham Norton
Hachette, ₹499

When Elizabeth Keane returns to Ireland after her mother's death, she's focused only on saying goodbye to that dark and dismal part of her life. Her childhood home is packed solid with useless junk, her mother's presence already fading. But within this mess, she discovers a small stash of letters—and ultimately, the truth. Forty years earlier, a young woman stumbles from a remote stone house, the night quiet except for the constant wind that encircles her as she hurries deeper into the darkness away from the cliffs and the sea. She has no sense of where she is going, only that she must keep on.

DALAL'S STREET
Anurag Tripathi
Niyogi Books, ₹350

A group of young Indian business school graduates are attracted to jobs in a high paying trading company. This batch of hardworking, intelligent and ambitious friends is focused on success in the fast paced, hyper competitive world of stockbroking where greed, use of cunning and wealth are the stepping stones to survival and success. The survivors are the winners...

THE INDIAN SOLDIER
Sushant Saini
Leadstart, ₹249

Arjun dedicates his life to the country and carries out life-threatening missions. But one deadly terrorist attack forces Arjun to question all that he has learned and loved. Disillusioned by the actions of his fellow countrymen, Arjun decides to leave his homeland. Before he can say goodbye, an airplane carrying over 200 passengers is hijacked. And he is the only one who can save them. But can an embittered Arjun bring himself to risk his own and team's life?

I recall a sunny day in December, 1944. The writer, then a spirited boy in his teens, opted to follow a dusty track on a bicycle. It was from Wardha to Sevagram and helped one avoid a ride in a bullock cart, the only public transport available then.

I moved in hurry to be back in time to catch the night train. I was filled with rare enthusiasm to see the revolutionary saint who occupied the centre stage in India's struggle for Independence. His heartbeat epitomised the rise and fall of nation's pulse.

Indeed, it was Mahatma's magic spell that Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Frontier Gandhi) became a follower of non-violence. Also, amazingly under the Pathan leadership, the fierce tribals, whose credo was 'Blood for Blood', abjured violence and red shirts bore batons and lathi charge of British India Police without any retaliation. Gandhi was a tower of strength for the unarmed teeming millions of his country. He stood against the barbarism let loose in Jallianwala Bagh.

With all these thoughts in my head, at midday I reached Sevagram. Crossing a lone telephone box post and a series of huts, I reached a mud-covered platform with two raised walls. Here, Pyarelalji with his team of assistant secretaries were at work. My request for an audience was regrettably turned down by him because Mahatma Gandhi was observing 'maun vrat' on that day. My second request to have Darshan of the Mahatma Ji was unheard, unanswered. Soon, an understanding Mr Sinha, who was the Assistant Private Secretary, made me sit beside him on the mat at the mud platform and whispered in my ear "Approach Rajaji (C Rajagopalachari)". Rajaji emerged from Mahatma Gandhi's hut. As I advanced towards him, I found he had

Remembering Mahatma

MADAN LALL MANCHANDA'S book gives us a glimpse of the past, a rare insight into the times gone by. It's his take on some great people and events in the history. Such as, Gandhi... Excerpt:



already stretched out his hand. The moment our hands met, he asked, "Who are you?" Apologising for my lapse, I introduced myself, "Sir, I am a student touring the princely states. I have just come back from Hyderabad. Quickly, I prayed for Mahatma Gandhi's darshan. Rajaji consented. My request having been accepted, I said, "I want to tell him..." But Rajaji promptly said, "No telling please". My encounter with the forceful personality of Rajaji left me a bit shook up. Hardly did I then realise that I was face to face with the would-be first Governor General of Free India.

Granting my first request, he said, "Go through the side door leading to an enclosed open space. On your left, there will be another open door and you will find Mahatma Gandhi sitting there. Have his darshan and come back through the



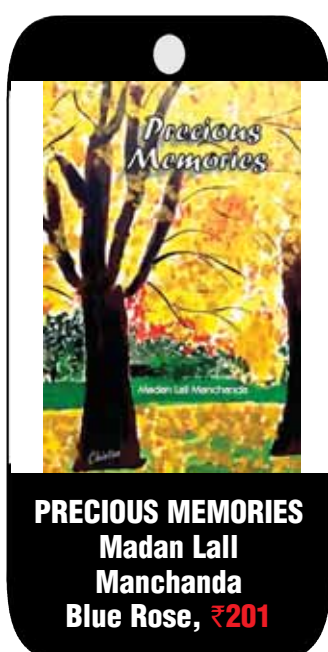
Sevagram Ashram, Wardha

same side door". A fleeting moment gave me glimpse of Gandhi Ji, sitting on the floor mat in a hut with mud walls barely two feet high and a hay roof top. His face was resplendent as a radiant sun. I stood respectfully with folded hands. He responded with folded hands and a smile on his gracious face. Not content, I moved ahead a few paces, and soon retraced my steps and offered a respectful namaskar for the sec-

ond time. Likewise, he responded the second time. The kind gesture of the noble soul gave me immense joy. My mission was achieved.

On my way back, I was thinking of Bapu's favourite song:
Vaishnava Jana To, Tene Kahiye Je, Peed Paraayi Jaane Re
(A good soul is one that feels the pain of others)

This vibrated in many countries. Gandhi Ji and Rabindranath Tagore despite differences had great regard for each other. He called Gandhi Mahatma and Gandhi regarded him Gurudev. In a letter to Rabindranath Tagore, Gandhi, a great music lover, suggested to give both Hindustani as well as Western music and Bengali music due place in Shantiniketan. Both Mahatma Gandhi and Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore were



PRECIOUS MEMORIES
Madan Lall Manchanda
Blue Rose, ₹201

greatly influenced by Leo Tolstoy, a celebrated Russian writer whose novel *War and Peace* is still widely read. To earn a meal, Tolstoy worked in his farm for eight hours every day. Likewise, Mahatma Gandhi engaged in physical activity and did his own chores. Once, a representative of The Washington Post came to interview him. Gandhi Ji made him wait as his goat was thirsty and that was "more important" Self-help was to be practised by all inmates of the Ashram. One has to manage one's own waste, big or small.

Precious Memories, written by Madan Lall Manchanda is published by Blue Rose Publishers

Show of strength at 70: China's global message

China is celebrating its 70th year of the Communist revolution this week. On October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong, the first President, better known as "Chairman Mao", proclaimed the birth of the People's Republic of China. Since then, and particularly after the death of Mao, China has taken the road to world stage, brick by brick. And, equally and forcefully, its only ruling Communist Party has established its mark as the "heart and soul" of the Chinese people.

The celebration showcased China's long march to global superpower status with a military parade involving more than 15,000 troops and weapons, including new hypersonic drones and intercontinental ballistic missiles. But against this backdrop, what is more discernible is the strong word of warning from China's eternal President Xi Jinping: "No force can shake the status of this great nation".

It reminds the international community of China's global aspirations and its ability to counter the Western hegemony. Undoubtedly, China has grown at an extraordinary pace since its independence unlike any other developing nation. But it must be noted that it's considered one of the most authoritative states of the world. Its severe curb on civil liberties, political freedom, and, particularly, the flow of information epitomises the modern Chinese leadership's extreme caution about any impending danger from any quarter. For them, a modern liberal state is a threat to the state, especially the Communist Party's survival. But despite its hard-earned success, the party and its successive leadership have to encounter the predominant West, Japan and India.

China's carefully choreographed show of strength and unity at 70 is largely dampened by violent protests in Hong Kong. Ceaseless efforts of the demonstrators for nearly three months show no sign of retreat. Hong-Kongers' demand for the resignation of Carrie Lam has now intensified for full autonomy from Beijing. Clamour for freedom is growing louder every passing day.

Looking at global insecurity and violent warfare around, what Xi should have longed for is "Heping jueqi" i.e. peaceful rise, (later known as peaceful development i.e. heping fazhan). Further, he should



Soldiers from China's People's Liberation Army march in formation during a parade to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of Communist China in Beijing on October 1, 2019. Trucks carrying weapons, including a nuclear-armed missile designed to evade US defenses, rumbled through Beijing as the Communist Party celebrated its 70th anniversary in power with a parade that showcased China's ambition as a rising global force. AP

surely be guided by the prophetic words of great Chinese war strategist, philosopher and writer Sun Tzu, who rightly said, "A leader leads by example, not by force."

Simmering disputes in Taiwan and over South China Sea demand a conciliatory approach rather than showcase of the sheer military strength. Besides, the reported suppression of basic rights in Xinjiang and in Hong Kong could have been dealt by the Communist leadership in a peaceful manner. These instances will spark more violence in Hong Kong. It's not simply the failure of Carrie Lam's leadership; it also indicates indecisiveness on the part of the Communist leadership in Beijing.

All of them (both Beijing and Hong Kong's mainland proxies) have moved much before the coming of the historic year of 2047. A few of us

are aware about or talk about the Article 5 of the Basic Law. This Article clearly promises that Hong Kong's existing since 1997 way of life will remain unchanged for the coming 50 years. It says, "The socialist system and policies shall not be practiced in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the previous capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years." But at the current rate of erosion and imposition of the Communist system, nothing is left to speculate about what will happen after 2047.

At the moment, for Xi and the future generation of leaders, it is better to acknowledge the problems first and try to fix them through massive political and economic reforms. Anyone closely monitoring the crumbling liberal order will agree that it's time for China to rise to the occasion and offer to the

world a new system wherein development continues with a huge free market economy, but without any political reform. Many Western pundits predicted that with the arrival of globalisation, the Chinese system would be giving way for a democratic set-up. But belying all these predictions, China has moved as it was, only by opening the door for a liberal economic order.

However at 70, what global political observers say about China is that in 2017 itself Xi had positioned himself as "globalisation's most vocal champion" in his speech to the world leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Since then, the global leadership void created by US President Trump's leadership is only growing stronger around the world. By January 2018, the party's top newspaper called on China to seize this

"historic opportunity" to reshape the world order. It says, "The world has never focused on China so much and needed China so much as it does now". However, during the last year's Davos Summit, *Xinhua* put it bluntly, "The world should choose from Xi's 'Shared Future Vision' and Trump's 'America First' policy — two opposite outlooks for the state of the world."

With this, what we can foresee is that China will tread, whatever happens, to make the world realise that there is an alternative to the Western political system. Indeed, it's time now to see a new kind of political and social engineering wherein nations will have options in their platter to choose either a Western or an Asian political system.

However, chartering a new world order could be a Herculean task for China. As

other emerging powers such as India, Brazil, Argentina, Japan, South Africa, etc. are equally claiming their space in the world stage, Chinese leadership will have to accept the reality of a multi-polar world.

But then, what Xi proclaims is entirely a new world. He himself declared a "New Era" that sees China as a top global power. He says, "It will be an era that sees China moving closer to centre stage and making greater contributions to mankind." How "Socialism with Chinese characteristics" under Xi will steer the world in the 21st century would be worth watching. Many in China feel what the Communist Party is projecting to the world is an incomplete narrative of progress. How Chinese society has been affected by various global and global actors in the last seven decades could be witnessed

across the country. It's not well for all the Chinese people; and its political leadership has not been able to respond to all sections of society. Chinese socialist Guo Yuhua says, "For several generations, people have received a history that has been falsified, faked, glorified and whitewashed."

On the face of such critics, Xi needs to reach out to its populace more than reaching out to the world. It's important and critical to provide a sense of equality to all sections of society. His big and bold "China Dream" would need to be more realistic so as to offer China much stronger and free atmosphere at home than the world knows now. His world of ideas should have less of Mao and more of Deng or else a fine balance of both the legends.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

While President Xi Jinping has promised 'New Era' that sees China as a top global power, many in China feel what the Communist Party is projecting to the world is an incomplete narrative of the progress



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Women must have full right to terminate pregnancy

The all-too-familiar headline in the news these days is that of women or young girls seeking permission from courts to terminate unwanted pregnancies. Each time I see these headlines, I think of the unnecessary trauma they have to go through for a decision that should be theirs only. I am also reminded of the case of the 10-year-old, a case that shocked the world. The Supreme Court had denied her an abortion after she was sexually assaulted by two of her uncles. She then went on to give birth, while being convinced that she had a stone removed from her stomach.

This tragic case, however, is one of many pleas for abortion after the legal limit of 20 weeks which have come before the High Courts and the Supreme Court in recent years. Many of these cases are in my own home State — Maharashtra. Women usually approach the courts if their pregnancy is a result of rape or in cases where foetal abnormalities have been detected. In each of the cases highlighted in the media, the court appoints a medical board to provide an opinion on the feasibility or safety of an abortion. Based on the opinions of these medical boards, judgments have been



delivered. In some cases, women have been granted relief. In others, they have been denied an abortion and have had to carry unwanted pregnancies to term.

Compounding an already traumatic experience, many

women and young girls have faced public scrutiny with cases being reported in the media, borne legal expenses and been subjected to medical examinations by unfamiliar doctors.

Why is the 20-week gestation limit proving to be a chal-

lenge? In cases of foetal abnormalities, we must be cognizant of the advancing technology. Today, doctors can detect many more abnormalities after 20 weeks and the law must keep up with changing technology. At the same time, we must also

recognise the trauma of rape survivors, especially young girls, who often do not realise that they are pregnant. Additionally, sexual assault and rape still carry a lot of shame and stigma in our country. For survivors, 20 weeks time some-

times is not enough to come forward and make the decision to terminate the pregnancy.

The need to reassess the gestation limit of 20 weeks in the MTP Act, amongst other limitations that are proving to be barriers for women accessing abortion services, was acknowledged and addressed in amendments to the law proposed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2014. In cases of foetal abnormalities, the amendments would allow a termination at any point during the pregnancy. In cases of rapes, the amendments proposed to increase the gestation limit by four weeks — raising it to 24 weeks. Other amendments included making abortion available on request up to 12 weeks — thus making abortion the right of a woman — and doing away with the requirement of a second doctor's opinion for second trimester pregnancies.

These amendments however, have been pending for over five years now, with little indication as to when they will be considered in Parliament and subsequently implemented — amendments that will make a significant impact on how women access safe abortion services and empower them to make decisions about their

health and lives.

India is striving for women's empowerment and gender equality. Sexual and reproductive decision-making and autonomy, including regarding abortion, is a critical aspect of this and is fundamental to a woman being able to actively participate in social, economic and political life. The Supreme Court, in a landmark judgment on right to privacy in 2017, recognised a woman's fundamental right over her body and stated that the decision to continue a pregnancy or abort it falls in the realm of privacy. Is it not time that our law reflects this, and our courts enforce it?

I appeal to the Government and my fellow colleagues to prioritise the amendments to the MTP Act and urgently implement them to expand access to safe abortion in India. Until we do so, many women will continue to be compelled to go to court and we will continue to see headlines highlighting these cases. Until we empower the women in our country, we will not truly achieve reproductive justice or gender equality in India.

(The writer is a Rajya Sabha member from Maharashtra)

Are we making our courts play doctors by delaying amendments to the MTP Act?



VANDANA CHAVAN



TAROT HELPS US LOOK WITHIN OURSELVES TO UNDERSTAND OUR EMOTIONS, THE REASONING BEHIND OUR WORDS AND CONDUCT, AND THE SOURCE OF OUR CONFLICTS
— BENEPELL WEN



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

Your health will be very good. You will feel exceptionally well and upbeat about your future. You need to consider ways on how to maintain your good health. You will enjoy peace, joy, and prosperity around this time and be filled with positive energy. Those who have recovered from a serious ailment must follow the routine consultation. On the career front, you need to keep a close eye out for any cheating. Make sure you are doing things the right way. Then you'll have nothing to worry about, even if someone is out to get you. In the matters of heart, you are not very vocal about your feelings. If you love someone, express it. Your introvert and individual personality will not help you get closer to someone you love. Trust your instincts.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You need time and a quiet environment to connect with your soul and the energies around. Health, vitality and inner vibrancy will fill you with positive energy and inspiration. Creative ideas will occupy your mind. Career-wise, you may be required to bring about some changes. Some of you who are not satisfied with your current job, would find yourself looking out. Switching to a new role is likely. The good news is that the job you land will be better than the previous one. Transfer to a desired place may require you to travel. On the personal front, you may come across an analytical mind. Ensure you do not engage in silly debates. Don't ignore your loved ones. Take some time out and show your concern. Let the heart speak louder than the mind.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you need to let go of the past and any wrongs that you perceive were done to you. Especially if you are dealing with chronic medical issues. Letting go will help you feel better. Think positively. You may find yourself exploring ideas and spiritual directions that you never thought would appeal to you. Career-wise, you may be inspired to start a new creative project, take up an art class, or even dance. You see potential in allowing your creativity to flow. Those looking for a job, a suitable job offer matching with your profile may come your way. Those who are in a committed relationship, stick to handling situations the traditional way. If you're suspicious of your partner for some reason, make a point to talk it out, even if you find doing so difficult.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you are likely to enjoy happiness, good health and worldly pleasures. You tend to be enthusiastic. You must carefully weigh and consider what others ask you. You might find yourself thinking about a long holiday. You may travel abroad or just remain at home to have a break in order to rejuvenate yourself. Connecting to Yoga, meditation, cosmic healing, learning new interests is on the cards. Professionally, things are going very well. Don't take your initial success for granted. Enjoy the success and have fun. Business is also going well at this time. On the relationship front, you need to analyse whether you are being realistic with regards to love. Don't spend too much time in self-pity or wishing your life away. Put your anger in check.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This is a great time to consider what you are doing to increase your health and vitality. Plan your routine. Attend to your spiritual side in solitude and reach out to others. On the career front, good news is on the cards. You will reap the benefits of the choices that you make. An opportunity may surprise you. Your company might send you on a foreign assignment. This is a good time for those in the export and import business. You have the potential to crack the most difficult competitive exam and face the interview with confidence. In love, those who are committed may find their workload or that of their partner to be interfering with the relationship. Make time and space for the relationship regardless of your jobs, otherwise, things will suffer.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You are a quiet and keen observer this week. Your perception about life will change, seeing the positivity around. You feel healthier than ever. Avoid any obsession/passion this week. On the career front, you will want your time and space and may spend some time in isolation. Those who are feeling exhausted and tired, now is the time to take a break. Perhaps the trauma of losing your job, financial and health worries, stress and conflict with your colleagues are overpowering you. This is not the time to make decisions, particularly when you are at your most vulnerable. On the love front, beginning of love, happiness and compassion is on the cards. The start of a new relationship, be it a friendship or a romance will bring a smile to your face.

Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Those of you thinking of self-improvement, this is the time to do so. Plan something creative to get yourself busy and avoid stress. Take adequate rest and a good diet to stay healthy. Tensions from the recent past would ease. Listen to your body and work accordingly. The spiritual journey would prove healing. Career-wise, this is a good time to start planning long term. Work methodically. You are likely to get an intriguing business opportunity this week. The investments you made are likely to bring in returns with interest. On the love front, you will face confusion. Think calmly and carefully about what your deal-breakers are in a relationship. Be honest with yourself first, and then with your beloved.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You can resolve all your health problems with your wisdom. With your experience and maturity, you can be in control of your life. Instead of being innovative, adapt to the existing set of beliefs and systems. A new theory or fashionable trends will not work for you this week. On the career front, a foreign assignment is on the cards. There's a very good chance that you are working far too hard for recognition and money. This is the time to remind yourself of your real value. In terms of your relationship, messages of love and affection will come your way. You feel pampered and seek to rejuvenate yourself. Those who are single, a new suitor with whom you have a lot in common, and who is also very adventurous, may enter your life. There is a lot to look forward to.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You should not run away from the reality it does not suit your personality. If you are dealing with a health problem, you need to look for another health care practitioner. Plan a vacation in nature to rejuvenate yourself. Avoid stress. On the career front, share your responsibilities as you may be overstressed. Share your thoughts with your friends. Looking at the past will help you set the stage for the next phase. You have reviewed your past experiences and have learned from them. All the pieces of the puzzle of your life are finally coming together. On the personal front, true love, balanced partnership, commitment, and all of the good things that most of us hope for in love and relationship would be available to you.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Your physical strength is beyond comparison this week. Some of you may embark on an overseas trip or get an opportunity to work, study, or live overseas for an extended period of time. Wherever you go, you will encounter new experiences and welcoming hosts who will embrace you and invite you into their world. Overall, this is a good week. On the career front, you will gain success. An enhanced status, promotion or designation is on the cards. Your abundant energy and self-confidence will give you a boost to move ahead. On personal grounds, you may meet a romantic person. A good news, particularly in the matters of the heart, is headed your way. Be open to exploring your feelings.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

An rise in your health and vitality is foreseen this week. Those who are dealing with a serious illness, may find a healer. Think positively and expect the best. It's important to share your spiritual understandings with others. Your life will deepen immeasurably if you reach out. Career-wise, learn to delegate responsibilities, especially when overloaded with work. You may face a dilemma at your workplace which demands action or decision. Analyse all available information before making a decision. On the love front, you are likely to question whether you and your long-term partner should stay together. Some of you may choose to go your separate ways. Singles, this is a time when commitment may be coming your way very shortly.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Bring positive changes in your lifestyle, and make efforts to improve your health. You need supervised exercise and nutritional care. Outdoor games, swimming, gym will draw your attention. On the professional front, you will receive admiration from superiors and colleagues. The work environment will be friendly and this would increase your efficiency. You will be able to win the support of your seniors. Promotion/hike in salary is on the cards. You will benefit by improving your knowledge and skills. On the personal level, you are strong, courageous and will establish yourself as a confident person. At home, your domineering attitude could irritate others, and you may find yourself alone. This is the time to tame your tongue and bring compassion and concern for the loved ones.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday

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ASTROTURF

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Durga guides us how to use energy

At the outset, let me greet the valued readers on the solemn occasion of *Shardeya Navaratra*, dedicated to Mother Goddess Durga, the epitome of *Shakti*. While I was scripting this piece, an admirer of this column landed up, who confronted me with vexing questions that deserves an answer. "Sir, is there any scope for some form God in existence in the higher realms, who may selectively respond to our individualistic prayer and grant us boons? With a scientific bent of mind, how could you endorse such a mythical concept?" Well, myths have been in circulation all through the run of civilisation across the globe, serving great purpose in human life. Especially in Indian tradition, our ancient seers beautifully used the language of mythical symbolism to impart lessons vital to our qualitative existence. For, imageries find an immediate appeal overriding all barriers of lingua franca and intellectual levels. Some mythical imageries help bring down even subtle realities of life operative at unseen level within the scope of human comprehension. Many others throw light on 'conduct rules of life' as would ensure a smooth run of life, individually and collectively.

Remember, life is just not mechanical, bound by pre-mandated design parameters. In fact, human dynamism is quite complex, covering emotions, mind and psyche, and even physiological wellbeing. All these aspects of life remain subject to lot of unpredictable twists and turns, often turning our lives chaotic. What makes life even more complicated is that we remain an inseparable part of a large living order, in which every being is born unique, carrying varying desire and mind trends. That makes the world a natural breeding ground for conflict of interest. As a result, we have no choice than to go about in life with an assorted group of people — some may prove congenial and many more may stand in way of our desired destination. Amidst all these, how to go about in life with ease and comfort, is the challenge before all of us. Out of many mythical deities in Indian circulation, the concept of Durga, with all the attributes assigned to the said imagery, carries great meaning for us. It is not important whether there exists a form God as such in the higher realms to bless us. But, if by focusing attention on Durga's imagery, we could gather up all our internal resources to put in our whole



towards the desired destination, success becomes more probable. Reflecting on the attributes identified with Mother Goddess during the process, if we could imbibe them, life may turn rewarding and fulfilling. Hence, the relevance of this festivity to have become a part of our annual calendar. Bear in mind; energy streams sourced to nature hold the key to our existence and all its functionalities. But energy is a double-edged weapon as the probability of its use and misuse remains equal, according as individualistic minds are inherently oriented. A look into the imagery of Mother Goddess will reveal that if offers lesson in how to productively use energy. As the mythical story runs, when all Gods, including Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva pooled in their *teja (shakti)*, huge fire broke, out of which emerged Durga. The message loud and clear is that collectively all odds could be overcome. That makes it incumbent upon us for remaining conscious about our collective obligation together with our aspirational urges. Remember, *Shakti* is purposely identified with a motherly form. For, a mother selflessly pools in all her resources and then takes all the pain to produce and nurse a child, meaning a productive

application. She is mounted on a tiger. Intelligently, a tiger approaches its prey, which when within reach, it invokes all her energy and pounce upon it. But it won't go for the next kill till it doesn't become hungry again. So, the killing is need based, not greed born. Demons appearing in different modes symbolise all mental vagaries that Durga slays with her numerous weapons provided by different Gods. Evidently, one would need to be on full mental alert to identify the right weapon for the right occasion. Lotus flower around her signifies a sense of detachment. It though grows in the mud underneath a waterbody, neither earth matter nor water can stick to its leaves. Ordinarily, going through the usual mills of life, often one forgets the basics, as if they would have outgrown their limits. But fundamentals never change. We, therefore, need to be reminded at regular periodic interval which is why such festivities occupy such an important place in our life. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counselor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025 Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com Website: www.bharatastro.com