The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

SINCE 1932

₹6.00 (₹8 PATNA & RAIPUR, ₹12 SRINAGAR) WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Lynching not an Indian word, bid to defame country, says RSS chief

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 20 PAGES

VIVEK DESHPANDE NAGPUR. OCTOBER 8

UNDERLINING THAT "words like lynching" are "alien to Bharat and belong elsewhere", Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat Tuesday warned of a "conspiracy" and said "efforts are

underway to defame our coun-

BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

ECONOMY NEEDS

REFORM

PAGE 10

DEEP CIVIL SERVICE

BY MANISH SABHARWAL

Classic IAS

ACADEMY

Since 2009

GENERAL STUDIES

CSAT

OPTIONALS

South Delhi | Karol Bagh

www.classiciasacademy.com



Bhagwat, Nadar in Nagpur **on Tuesday.** *Monica Chaturvedi*

try and the entire Hindu society and create fear among the socalled minority communities". In his annual Vijayadashami

address at the Sangh headquarters in Nagpur – it was attended among others by Union Minister CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

HE CAUTIONS GOVT ON TRADE TALKS P7

65 days after lockdown, officials in Valley caution: Don't call this 'normal'

PVAIDYANATHANIYER & ADIL AKHZER NEW DELHI, SRINAGAR, OCT 8

MORE THAN 60 days into the lockdown in the Valley, many officials on the ground, both in the civilian and security establishment, have begun to say that the political imperative, from New Delhi, to sustain an "everythingis-normal" narrative is turning out to be challenging — and could even be counterproductive.

Internet and cellphones are still down, the disruption caused by these touches virtually all aspects of life – from seeking health care to connecting with friends and family; schools and colleges CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ONLY BJP READY FOR BDC POLLS PAGE 8

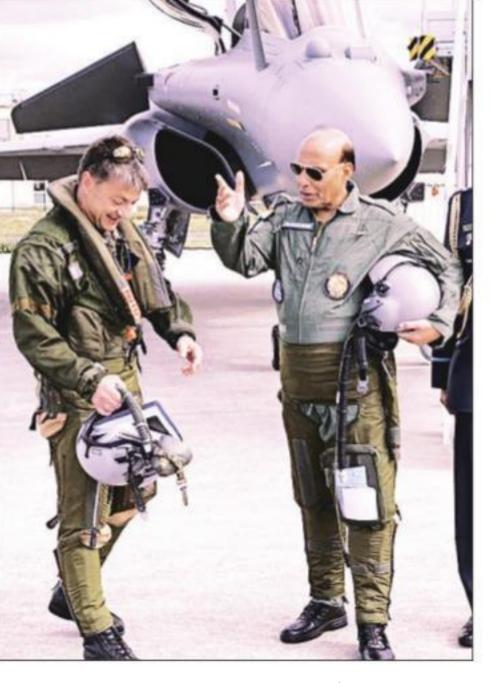
HDIL, PMC bosses were 'horsing' around as well

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN MUMBAI, OCTOBER 8

THE PROMOTER of Housing Development Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL) Rakesh Wadhawan and Waryam Singh, the former chairman of Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank Ltd, were not only colleagues at the real-estate company but had together started a firm that breeds race horses.

Wadhawan Livestock Pvt Ltd was set up in August 2007 by Wadhawan, Singh and Ashok Kumar Gupta, a former independent director of HDIL, to "import, export, breed horses for racing" and has horses worth Rs 64 crore as on March 2018, according to the latest annual report of the company.

Waryam Singh was appointed as chairman of PMC Bank in 2015 for a period of five CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



RAFALE ENTERS IAF

WORLD

KURDS FOR TALKS

PAGE 12

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh readies for a sortie in a Rafale fighter Tuesday at the Dassault Aviation facility in Merignac, southwestern France. ANI REPORT. PAGE 8

INFORMAL SUMMIT

Thaw in chill, Beijing to Delhi: Xi's visit is on

SHUBHAJIT ROY & SOWMIYA ASHOK NEW DELHI, BEIJING, OCT 8

ENDING DAYS of suspense over the fate of the proposed second India-China informal summit, Beijing has officially confirmed to New Delhi about Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India on October 11 and 12. An official announcement will be made by both sides on Wednesday, The Indian Express has learnt.

The official confirmation from China to India has been conveyed through diplomatic channels over the last 24 hours. This comes after a series of strong statements and moves that adversely impacted the bilateral space before the informal summit.



CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi Jinping's visit may be on but Delhi has its diplomatic task cut out —as long as Kashmir and Pakistan are the two key issues at the high table that any guest will have to deal with.

Beijing, too, gave positive signals on Tuesday through its Foreign Ministry spokesperson's statement that China's position on Jammu and Kashmir is "clear and consistent" to assuage Delhi's concerns that the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Asim Umer was killed in Helmand, Afghanistan. ANI

India-born chief of Qaeda arm killed in **US-Afghan raid**

DEEPTIMANTIWARY NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

THE LEADER of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) was killed last month in a joint operation by US and Afghan forces, said Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security (NDS) Tuesday. Maulana Asim Umer known to Indian security agencies as Sanaul Haq from Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh, was appointed the head of AQIS by Al Qaeda chief Ayman Al Zawahiri in 2014

Afghan agencies claimed Umer to be a Pakistani since he was carrying a Pakistani passport, said sources in the Indian establishment. Umer went missing from India in 1995, three years after the Babri demolition, and is suspected to have been in Pakistan since then.

The NDS Tuesday tweeted: "NDS can now confirm the death of Asim omar, leader of #Al-Qaeda in the #Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), in a joint US-Afghan raid on a Taliban compound in Musa Qala district of Helmand province on Sep. 23."

Identifying Umer as "a #Pakistani citizen", the NDS said he "was #killed along with six other AQIS members, most of

Shiv Sena hands Haryana poll ticket to

man who attacked INU's Umar Khalid

MIHIR VASAVDA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

NAVEEN DALAL, one of the two **BRITAIN RULES OUT** men accused of attacking activist **BREXIT DEAL, EU** and former JNU students' union **SLAMS BLAME GAME** leader Umar Khalid last year, is back in a new avatar — as the **TURKEY SAYS READY** Shiv Sena's candidate from FOR SYRIA ATTACK,

Bahadurgarh for the Haryana Assembly polls on October 21. A self-proclaimed gau rakshak, Dalal said he joined the



Sena six months ago because their ideologies on "nationalism and cow protection" matched. "We are fighting the same battle — for nationalism, cow protection and recognition for our CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Naveen Dalal says he joined the Sena six months ago

ह से बहादुरगढ़ हल्के

नसभा उम्मीदवार

युवा सोच होगी

बदलाव का प्रयास होगा

749, 7988560762, 7404474358,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

9310034050 | 011-40536473 Mahindra

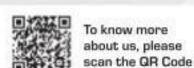


THE BEST TIME TO START A NEW RELATIONSHIP IS NOW.

Celebrate with us, as Mahindra enters its 75th Year. Benefits upto ₹1,00,000*



This festive season, drive home your favorite Mahindra SUV. Offer valid till 25th October 2019



7290055627

SHIVA AUTO

PATPARGANJ:





www.mahindrasyouv.com/mahindra-subscription

Special Offers for Government Employees, SME, Leasing, CSD and CPC. For Bulk / Corporate enquiries write to sabharwal.ankur@mahindra.com & for fleet enquiries write to gaur.ravi@mahindra.com. Credit at sole discretion of bank." Subject to credit approval from the Bank/Finance Company. All other terms & conditions will apply. Offer valid on select models till stocks last. This offer cannot be clubbed with any other offer. Offer mentioned is the maximum benefit available inclusive of insurance, exchange, lovalty, corporate as applicable. Offer will vary depending on the brand and model purchased and may vary from city to city. Contact your nearest Mahindra dealer for exact details. Terms of the offer may be altered/ amended/ withdrawn without prior notice. Accessories shown are not part of standard equipment. For more information please visit; www.mahindraauto/nearestdealership. T & C apply.

SOHNA:

8448488226

NOIDA KONCEPT AUTOMOBILES KONCEPT AUTOMOBILES NOIDA (SEC-2):

EAST DELHI

GREATER NOIDA KONCEPT AUTOMOBILES KONCEPT AUTOMOBILES NOIDA (SEC-63): GREATER NOIDA: 7290055628 7290055629

> WEST DELHI INDRAPRASTHA AUTOMOBILES

JEWAR:

7290055629

DEE EMN

ATUL KATARIA CHOWK:

8929648021

SOUTH-WEST DELHI SRI DURGA

SOHNA ROAD:

7290055621

LOHIA NAGAR: 7290055612

GURGAON

DEE EMM

PATAUDI:

8929648021

GHAZIABAD SHIVA AUTO SHIVA AUTO LONI: 7290055612

KONCEPT AUTOMOBILES

MG ROAD:

7290055620

HAPUR: 7290055614

North Delhi SHIVA AUTO INDRAPRASTHA AUTOMOBILES WAZIRPUR: 7290055619

UNITED AUTOMOBILES

NHPC CHOWK:

9711611390

SYNERGY CARS SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE:

PRIME AUTOMOBILES

YMCA CHOWK:

7290055625

SOUTH DELHI **GENESIS CARS**

PRIME AUTOMOBILES

HODAL:

7290055625

FARIDABAD

KONCEPT AUTOMOBILES LAJPAT NAGAR: 7290055631

PRIME AUTOMOBILES

PALWAL:

7290055625

7290055615 8929172582

SHIVA AUTO

DILSHAD GARDEN:

ess.com

INDRAPRASTHA AUTOMOBILES GOKULPURI: 9953424546

SRI DURGA MOTI NAGAR: 7290055624

PEERAGARHI: 7290055618

DWARKA: 7290055624

7290055630

MATHURA ROAD: 7290055632

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



EXPLAINED: WHAT RSS CHIEF MOHAN BHAGWAT SAID AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR INDIA

Delivering his annual Dussehra speech at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh headquarters in Nagpur, Mohan Bhagwat said Bharat has to stand on its own strong foundation of nature and culture. Bhagwat started by looking back at the 2019 Lok Sabha election results

VIDEO OF THE DAY



'WAS REJECTED IN RAMAYAN AUDITION'

Arun Govil on what he feels about hatred being spread in Ram's name

FULL COVERAGE



RAJNATH RECEIVES FIRST RAFALE JET

The Defence Minister received the Rafale fighter jet in Paris

EXPRESS

How TRAI is planning to regulate OTT services like Whatsapp

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of the 3 Things podcast, we look at why the TRAI wants to regulate OTT services, how it is planning to do that and whether it is even possible

CRPF man's plea: Kin of accused claim he was attacked

AMIL BHATNAGAR HATHRAS, OCTOBER 8

A DAY after the video of a CRPF constable surfaced, appealing to the UP CM to intervene after his family's land in Hathras was allegedly illegally occupied, Hathras police arrested one of the 10 accused. Pramod Kumar, who is posted in Chattisgarh's Sukhma, alleged that his uncles occupied his land in collusion with police. His brother Ramavatar was held for attempt to murder even as the family said that he was the one attacked in an assault on Saturday.

According to the complaint by Pramod's wife Sunita, 10 people attacked his brothers Chittar Singh and Ramavatar on Saturday. Ramavatar and Chittar were badly beaten, she alleged. The accused filed a counter-FIR alleging that Chittar opened fire at them and that Ramavatar beat them up. Shortly after, Ramavatar was arrested.

"Police colluded with our uncle. We don't even have a gun," said Sunita.

Chittar is absconding, police said. "Two FIRs were filed on the assault. The accused are the victim in one case and vice versa in the other. Ramavatar was arrested for the attack on the uncles. On Tuesday, an accused from the side of the uncles was arrested for the attack on Pramod's family. Further investigation is pending," said SHO Satyaprakash.

No BJP leader on stage with Nitish at Dussehra event

Patna: BIP leaders were conspicuous by their absence at a Dussehra ceremony at Gandhi Maidan presided over by JD(U) chief and CM Nitish Kumar, triggering fresh speculation of rift within the NDA in the state.

The Chief Minister, flanked by Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Chaudhary and state Congress president and MLC Madan Mohan Jha, kicked off the ceremony by lighting lamps.

All eyes, however, lingered on the empty seats which were supposed to be occupied by Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi, Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Pataliputra MP Ram Kripal Yadav and state minister Nand Kishore Yadav, among others.

When asked about the BJP leaders' absence, the party's state spokesman Nikhil Anand said the leaders stayed away as they wanted to tell the people of Patna that they are with them in "this hour of adversity", referring to destruction wrought upon the city by heavy rainfall. PTI

FROM PAGE ONE

Valley officials

are shut; hundreds are in detention; and although yesterday the Governor's office withdrew the order restricting tourists, hardly any are visiting the Valley. All parties, barring the BJP, Tuesday announced they will not contest the October 24 Block Development Council (BDC) elections which the state announced late last month. "We used to say that security

forces watch the clock while militants have all the time but now it's the other way around. It seems the Government's strategy is that it has all the time while residents in Jammu and Kashmir can keep a watch on the clock," said an officer. "We aren't sure how effective this tirethem-down approach will be but what we are sure of is that this is not normalcy and all of us need to accept that." "Mudda (issue) and masla

(problem) are two of the most common words you hear in conversations with people here. Have you heard them since August 5," asks a top-ranking police officer, "Just because no one mentions these words, does it mean things are normal?"

The decision to let some National Conference leaders meet Farooq Abdullah, officials said, is a step in the right direction but chances are it will remain a photo-op. Unwilling to be a prop, this is exactly the reason Mehbooba Mufti refused to meet her party colleagues. Even this outreach by the government came with an eye on the BDC elections.

In the BDC polls, panchs and sarpanchs have to cast their vote to elect the Chairman for the BDC to which their wards belong. While the state said the elections will be on "party lines," many panchs say it lacks credibility since 61% panch wards and 45% sarpanch are vacant. Further, since both PDP and NC boycotted panchayat elections last November, election on party lines sounds farcical.

Over a week, The Indian Express spoke with more than a dozen bureaucrats and police officers in Srinagar and in the two South Kashmir districts of Shopian and Pulwama. "Delhi thinks if no major incidents have happened so far, things are normal. This hypothesis is wrong," said a senior bureaucrat who sits in meetings where coordination issues between the civilian administration and the security establishment are resolved.

"That there have been just two civilian casualties is more due to elaborate planning, preparedness of the establishment and close coordination at the ground level between the civilian government, the Army, CRPF, Border Security Force and the I&K Police," said another senior official, who also did not wish to be named.

"National Security Advisor Ajit Doval was in Srinagar for 11 days beginning August 5. Every evening, he held a meeting to discuss the events of the day and actions to be taken over the next 24 hours. The decision-taking horizon was not more than one day," said a senior official.

After Doval left Srinagar on August 16, K Vijay Kumar, Advisor to Governor, chaired these meetings. At present, these meetings happen every alternate day, reviewing events over the previous two days, and deciding on actions for the next 48 hours.

Said a senior police officer, among the key decision-makers in the Valley: "In many places, locals, of their own volition, do not want to open the shops.' According to him, police are

tracking five key indicators to make an assessment of militancy suggests these haven't shown any spikes as they did after the Burhan Wani killing in July 2016: Slogan, Flag, Rumours, Intimidation, Posters.

Unlike in the past, when militancy surged following an incident, there has been a calm this time. "There is a permanence to the change in the status of the state and the people post August 5. Silence, humiliation, resentment, anger and protest in the nature of self-imposed curfews has been the reaction so far. It hasn't manifested in violence. So far," said another key official in the security establishment.

"When a janaza is lifted, you expect people to cry. But nobody is reacting to a decision which permanently changes the character of J&K - bifurcation, abrogation of Article 370 and doing away with the special dispensation under Article 35A. I don't know what this silence means but to call it peaceful or normal is certainly not accurate," a top police offer told *The Indian*

Another bureaucrat points to how the police is already re-calibrating its formulation. "You will hear the Director General of Police saying things are under control. He doesn't say, it is normal anymore," the officer notes.

In fact, the J&K police, and the Army are also speaking about infiltration attempts from across the border. Sources in the district administration in Poonch, Rajouri, Gulmarg, Shopian and Pulwama, say villagers are reporting that they have sighted intruders in small groups.

The government was considering a proposal to allow mobile services for BSNL post-paid connections two weeks ago but has had a rethink. "Even bureaucrats and police officers do not send their children to school. Restoring partial mobile connectivity would have given comfort to parents that they can be in touch with schools and their wards," said an officer, who had made a case for restoring partial mobile connectivity.

Private traffic is picking up, some doctors have opened their clinics, and shops are at best halfopen for a couple of hours. This gives many a semblance of normalcy. "But to say increased car traffic points to normalcy only shows a pedestrian understanding of Kashmir," says another officer. Residents admit they are caught in a double bind. Some shop-owners open up prodded by the government, and some others want to just get on with their lives and earn to support their family. But shops still open only for a few hours in the morning and a couple of hours in the evening even in Srinagar.

"We had planned for three months - till November 5," said a senior Army officer, who did not wish to be quoted. But, on the ground, officers in the security establishment say they fear this narrative of normalcy may be counter-productive. The security establishment has stretched itself — the J&K Police had not

Beijing tells Delhi Xi's visit is on

Chinese had made a departure from their stated position.

In Beijing, days after Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing had said that China would stand by Pakistan on the resolution of the Kashmir dispute and they "are also working for Kashmiris to help them get their fundamental rights and justice", Chinese Foreign ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said Tuesday: "We call on India and Pakistan to engage in dialogue and consultation on all issues including Kashmir issue and consolidate mutual trust."

On Saturday, India had lodged a "strong protest" with China through diplomatic channels over comments made by the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan on Kashmir, and

posed visit by Xi. Chinese Ambassador to

India Sun Weidong, who greeted Indians for Vijaya Dashami on Twitter, said on Tuesday: "May all the obstacles get removed from your path and all your wishes come true!" While he stopped short of

announcing the second India-China informal summit in Mamallapuram, he, through his tweets, flagged two key issues, economic and trade cooperation and people-to-people or cultural ties between the two

"With 2.7 billion combined population, potential is huge for Sino-Indian economic and trade cooperation. 1000 Chinese companies operate in India with \$8 billion cumulative investment and 200,000+local jobs created. Over past 5 years, China's imports from India increased by 15%," Sun, who took charge as the Chinese envoy recently, tweeted.

"P2P (people-to-people) & cultural ties are key to bilateral relations. We achieved a lot in this field, with 1 million mutual visits per year and 2 rounds of High-Level P2P & Cultural Exchanges Mechanism meeting. Let's work for new highlights in culture, education, youth, media and sports exchanges," he wrote.

A day earlier, Sun had said that the two countries should unleash the "positive effect of Wuhan informal summit" as they look ahead. This was the first sign of thaw after the chill in the last few weeks. Incidentally, the announce-

ment for the second informal summit will take place just two days before the summit, unlike in 2018, when the announcement of the informal Wuhan summit between Modi and Xi was announced by then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on April 22, five days before the event on April 27 and 28.

For the record, China on Tuesday refrained from making an official announcement about President Xi Jinping's scheduled visit to India and maintained that India and China have a "tradition" of high-level exchanges and said that two sides were maintaining communication on

number of guards and check-

posts on land borders, and sur-

high level exchanges in the next phase.

This came even as Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan began his visit to Beijing. He is expected to attend the closing ceremony of the Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition on Wednesday. The Indian Express noticed national flags of Pakistan and China on poles leading from the airport late on Monday night.

"China attaches great importance to the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He will meet with President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Li Keqiang and Chairman Li Zhanshu, and have talks and exchange views, and sign cooperation documents," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng said. Further, he said that China and Pakistan are "all weather strategic cooperation partners." "We have good tradition of

close exchange and communication. We have strategic mutual trust and advancing practical cooperation.

cooperation in CPEC is bringing more outcomes to our peoples," Geng said.

years. Before that Singh was on the board of HDIL for 10 years since 2005.

have been arrested by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai police for their involvement in the Rs 4,355.46crore PMC Bank fraud. According to the annual re-

company made about Rs 3.19 crore in three years between financial year 2015 and 2017 from horse racing. While Wadhawan holds a majority stake in the company at 99.2 per cent, Singh held 0.4 per cent stake as on March 31, 2018. The company borrowed about Rs 122 crore through Inter Corporate Deposits (ICDs) and Rs 11 crore from Rakesh Wadhawan as on March 2018. Apart from this, Wadhawan Livestock also bought 1 lakh "unquoted shares" of PMC Bank for Rs 25 lakh.

However, it seems the financial crunch at HDIL, which began in 2013, caught up with Wadhawan Livestock too.

one of the biggest horse owners at the Royal Western India Turf Club (RWITC), has not bought horses since April 2016. Also, Wadhawan Livestock has been booking losses. According to the annual report of 2017-18, the company made a loss of Rs 30.32 crore, marginally up from a loss of Rs 30.22 crore a year ago.

PMC Bank has an exposure of over Rs 6200 crore to HDIL. The real-estate firm is also facing bankruptcy proceedings at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

PMC Bank is under regulatory restrictions after the Reserve Bank of India found out financial irregularities in its functioning, hiding and classification of loans given to HDIL.

tions of the accused allegedly led to bank losses totaling Rs 4,355.46 crore. The ongoing investigation has found that there were nearly 44 accounts at the bank that were password-protected. Sources said that a lot of money has been diverted to these accounts, linked to the Wadhawans and HDIL-linked entities. The police is also prob-

hide its bad loans.

Umar Khalid

freedom fighters," Dalal, 29, told The Indian Express. "BJP and Congress governments don't have anything to do with farmers, martyrs, cows or the poor They are just interested in poli-

Confirming that Dalal is the party's candidate, Vikram Yadav, Shiv Sena's Haryana (south) chief, said: "He has been fighting for issues like cow protection and speaking up against those who raise anti-national slogans. Hence, we have chosen him." In August 2018, Dalal and the

other accused, Darwesh Shahpur, were allegedly involved in a failed attempt to shoot Khalid outside the Constitution Club in New Delhi — Khalid escaped unhurt after the gun jammed. Dalal and Shahpur escaped but were later arrested af ter they released a video in which they said the attack was an "Independence Day gift for the nation".

Dalal is currently out on bail in the case and the matter is pending before a sessions court

Asked about the attack, Dalal said he did not want to talk about it "at the moment". "It isn't only about Umar Khalid. There is a lot more to it. I will speak about it some day," he said.

Shiv Sena's Yadav defended Dalal, saving it was his way of "showing patriotism". "He didn't have a personal issue (with Khalid). He was upset that these people had chanted anti-India slogans in a university in the capital. He was also upset that there was no action taken against them. So from Naveen's perspective, it was a way to show his patriotism," Yadav said.

In his election affidavit, Dalal has stated that there are three criminal cases pending against him, including the Delhi Police Special Cell's FIR in relation to the attack on Khalid.

The two other cases listed are from 2014: an FIR in Bahadurgarh under sections 147/149 of the IPC (rioting), and another with Delhi's Parliament Street police station under multiple sections for marching into the BJP head office with a severed cow's head.

For the election, Dalal's campaign posters promise "change" and bear the prefix "gau rakshak" before his name. Hailing from Mandothi, a village known for its passion for wrestling, Dalal said he too grew up dreaming to win laurels on the mat.

"I took part in mitti dangals as well as mat wrestling, and competed at the state level in the 60kg weight class," he said. In 2010, he said, his career ended prematurely after an injury. According to Dalal, he turned

to his "second-biggest" obsession — the military. "I tried multiple times and even went for trials in Pune and Ahmednagar. I passed physical tests but failed in the written exams. But still, I wanted to do something for the country. So I started cow protection."

AQIS

them Pakistani".

It said these included "Raihan, Omar's courier to Ayman #Al-Zawahiri." NDS claimed they had been embedded inside the Taliban compound in the Taliban stronghold of Musa Qala.

The Indian Express on December 17, 2015, first reported that the AQIS chief was an Indian from UP's Sambhal and detailed his indoctrination in the international Jihadi network.

tioning of Sambhal resident Mohammad Asif and Cuttackbased cleric Abdul Rehman. The duo was arrested in 2014-15 by Delhi and Odisha police.

"sought clarification" on what was seen as a departure from Beijing's stated position on

Jammu and Kashmir. Delhi viewed his comments as a departure from Beijing's position of Kashmir being a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan, and as interference in India's "internal matter" and "not keeping in spirit" with the pro-

granted leave to its men since June 15, and then again cancelled leaves after August 5.

"A big action was taken on August 5. We don't know what the reaction will be, and neither do we have any clue on its timing. We cannot be lulled to believe things are normal," said an officer, reiterating that no big incidents have happened only because of the extreme preventive measures, and a dominating presence of the forces.

Lynching

Nitin Gadkari, Minister of State V K Singh, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and HCL founder Shiv Nadar — Bhagwat said: "The so-called leaders who, in the name of advocating the interests of a specific community, create a clash between two communities of our society, and have made an industry of their pursuit for self-aggrandisement, should not be patronised."

"Nowadays, there are reports that members of a community have been attacked by another community, making them victims of social violence. Such incidents have not been one-

"There are reports of incidents happening from both sides and allegations and counter-allegations. It has also come to light that some incidents have been deliberately fabricated while some others have been published in a distorted manner."

To make the point that "words like lynching" are not Indian, he referred to a story from the Bible in which a mob attacking a woman was questioned by Jesus if there was one among them who hadn't sinned in life.

"However, it must be accepted that these tendencies of violence have somehow or the other crossed the limits of law and order and wreaked havoc by eroding mutual relations in society. Neither this tendency is the tradition of our country nor does it fit in the spirit of the Constitution. Howsoever deep the difference of opinion may be, howsoever provocative an action might have been, we should still remain within the limits of the Constitution, handing over such cases to police and reposing faith in the judicial system of the

He said the Sangh has never supported people involved in incidents Swayamsevaks are working to ensure that such incidents do not

country."

take place. Adequate laws, he said, exist in the country to deal with such incidents. They must be honestly and strictly implemented, and "different sections of the society should strive to increase goodwill, dialogue and cooperation among themselves". Praising the government's

J&K move, Bhagwat said: "Removal of Article 370 was already in the thought of the ruling party. But this time, by skilfully garnering the support of other parties in both Houses, with strong logic and plea in consonance with public sentiment, the work was accomplished, for which members of the ruling party, including the Prime Minister and Home Minister, and other political parties that upheld the public sentiment in Parliament deserve congratulations."

"This effort will come to fruition only when justice denied under the influence of Article 370 is restored, injustices occurred are brought to an end. It will happen when our Kashmiri Pandits who were unjustly driven away are brought back and rehabilitated and allowed to remain secure, fearless, patriotic and Hindu. Many rights of the residents of Kashmir which were denied to them so far will be rebe able to perform their duties towards the country's development," he said.

He also praised the nius and scientific prowess and commitment to realise goals through hard work has increased."

On the security situation in the country, the RSS chief, referring to the "capability of our country, preparedness of our armed forces, security policy of our government and the situation of our expertise in international politics", said "we remain alert and confident" but "the

veillance along the maritime border, especially on islands, have to be increased". Noting that "terrorist violence has declined in the country" and "the number of terrorists surrendering is also on the rise", he said: "Still, for a human being, there is always a fear of a possible crisis from within as well. The agents that cause many a trouble reside in the body. If the body's immunity comes down their impact becomes visible."

On the economy, Bhagwat said: "Slowing down of the world economy has had its impact everywhere. Many countries including Bharat have to suffer the result of the ongoing global trade war between the US and China. The government has taken many initiatives to tide over the situation in the last one-and-half months... We will definitely come out of this cycle of socalled recession." "To strengthen the economy,

the government is compelled to take steps such as allowing Foreign Direct Investment and disinvestment of industries. However, while implementing many government schemes and welfare policies at the lower level, more alacrity and efficiency and avoiding unnecessary stringency can set many matters right." "The RSS believes in

the world, but on our own terms. We must be self-dependent and then integrate with the global economy. That's swadeshi. That's why we will have to move to the industries that will make us economically self-dependent." He called for an education system that will increase selfrespect. "Who will respect those who don't have self-respect," he asked. "The real education system is one that teaches us to ho-

nour our own language, own culture and own tradition, one that promotes excellence. The new education system has come but only structural changes won't do. We have to usher in changes that will lead to realisation about one's own self... We feel the need for a radical transformation from curriculum to teachers' training."

Earlier, in his speech, HCL founder Shiv Nadar emphasised that improving standards of education and increasing literacy are key to nation-building.

stored, and false fears instilled in the minds of brothers of the Valley that there is a threat to their property and jobs due to the nullification of Article 370 swadeshi. But it doesn't mean diwill be removed... having done vorcing the world. Our swadeshi away with those fears, they will also believes in integrating with

Chandrayaan mission: "Bharat has earned kudos from the world for showing the courage to land on the Moon's South Pole, where no nation has ever tried to land... Although the mission did not attain full success as expected, achieving so much in the first attempt itself is a feat not accomplished so far by the entire world... the world's admiration for our country's intellectual ge-

HDIL, PMC

Both Wadhawan and Singh

port of Wadhawan Livestock, the

An ICD is an unsecured borrowing by firms and financial institutions from other corporate

Wadhawan, who used to be

In the FIR, police said the ac-

accounts created by the bank to

Umar was identified by Indian agencies after the quesing as many as 21,049 dummy

Batch 10th Oct. 2019 At 11:00AM to 12:30PM DR. MUKHERJEE NAGAR, DELHI-9 9136335283, 09250291082 Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service Ph.23276901, 23282028 (M): 9212008155, 9212665841.

2) lassifieds

EXPRESS EDUCATION

BHARTI CONCEPT

MATHS

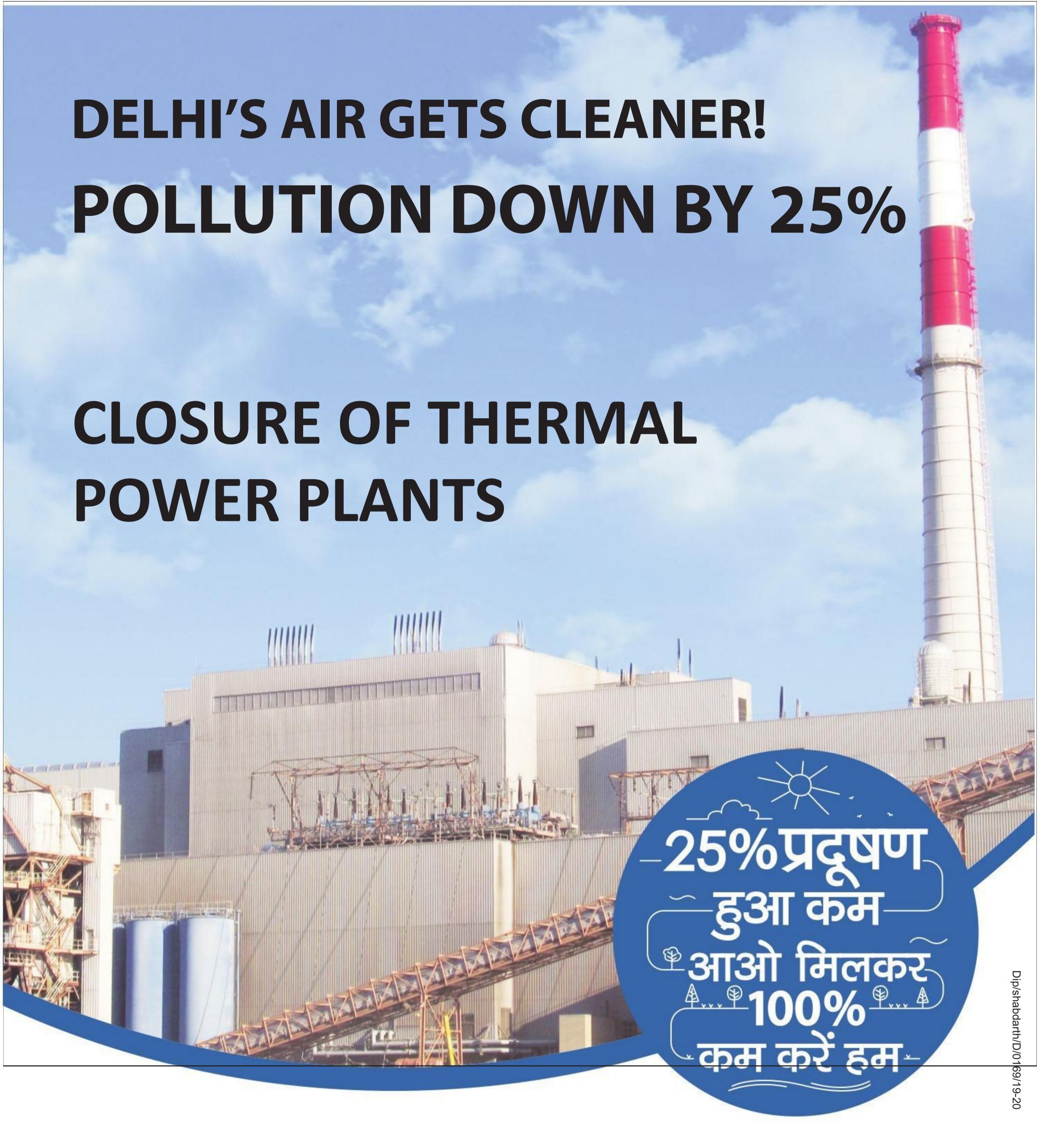
by S.S. Bharti

SSC-T, T₂, Banking, CSAT & PCS

& ALL GOVT. SERVICES

Batch 10th Oct. 2019

Starts | 0 001. 2019 At 11:30AM to 01:00PM



WHAT BROUGHT DOWN POLLUTION?

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

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

Source: Central Pollution Control Board, Government of India



Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,Priyanka Malik,W/O-Ganesh Kapoor, R/O-H-2/11-12, Sector-16, Rohini Delhi-110089, have changed my name from Priyanka Malik to Priyanka Kapoor and after my remaariage, my husband's name will be known as Ganesh Kapoor in future. 040515292-7

I,Priyanka Kapoor,W/O-Ganesh Kapoor, R/O-H-2/11-12, Sector-16,Rohini,Delhi-110089,have changed my minor son name from Neal Malik to Neal Kapoor and his father name will known Ganesh Kapoor 0040515338-1

,Ravinder Bansal,S/O-Shri Surinder Kumar Bansal R/O Flat no-37, Vasundhra Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Ravinder Kumar 0040515292-6 Bansal.

I,Priyanka Kapoor,W/O-Ganesh Kapoor,R/O-H-2/11-12,Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089, have changed my minor daughter name from Reet Malik to Reet Kapoor and her father name will known Ganesh Kapoor in.Future. 0040515338-2

I, Mohammad Ismaeel Dehlavi S/o Allah Diya R/o Flat No.A-1/5 DDA Flats Sarai Khalil Sadar Bazar Delhi-110006 have changed my name to MD ISMAIL for all purposes. 0040515017-1

I, Rakesh Jain S/o Telu Tam Jain, A-3/38, Sector-18. Rohini, Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for all purposes. 0040515338-3

LOST & FOUND

Lost my original Property document GPA **CONDIDERATION AND SALE** DEED LR. No-1687295/2019, from C-33, Ram Gall Basti, Nanak Chand, Kotla, Mubarkpur, Delhi-110003,

finder pls contact above address Bimla Devi D/O Shri Mool Chand. 0040515292-5

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC at large with the fact that Arvind Bhardwaj & Ashutosh Bhardwaj are the jointly owners in possession of the property bearing No.C-186, Sarvodava Enclave, New Delhi (Property) That the original Perpetual Sub Lease Deed dated 05.10.1968 duly registered with the office of Sub Registrar III, Delhi bearing Reg.no. 249 Book-1, Vol. no. 2103 page No. 100 to 106 dated 11 01.1969 executed by DDA and Govt Employees Sarvodaya Co-Operative House Building Society Ltd. in favour of Sh. Sh. Rameshwar Narain Bhardwaj of the aforesaid property has been lost somewhere. An FIR /NCR to that effect has been already lodged to Crime Branch, Delhi Police vide LR No: 1690202/2019 on 06/10/2019. Any person(s) dealing in any way with the said property shall do so at his/her own peril as the same shall be considered legally null and void.

Anybody aware of any such persons claiming any right, interest, title based on the said Perpetual Sub Lease Deed, or being found in possession of the same, may please write to/contact Mr. Vishnu Kumar, Advocate, at his office-Chamber No.5, Ground Floor, Rohini court, Delhi and on his Mobile No.+91-9650267092 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the general public a large that my client namely Prem Shankar Mishra S/o Lt. Sh. Ram Extension, N.D. have severed al elations from his son namely Paru Mishra, his wife Renu Mishra and thei children Palak and Parth because o aforesaid client shall not have an elationship with them in any movable or immovable property owned by hir responsible for any act/offence

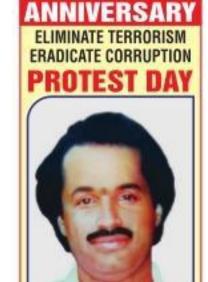
Gaurav Sahdev, Advocate

B-1C/4A, Janakpuri, New Delhi-58

PUBLIC NOTICE about 60 years, S/o Sh. Ram Chandra and Smt Omwati Devi W/o Sh. Nirania Singh R/o A-291, A-Block, H.No. A-22 325. Madhu Vihar, New Delh 10059, have no relations with their sor 1) Mr. Manish Kumar, aged about 2 years and his wife Mrs Jyoti Kumar aged about 27 years from today. Above entioned persons are not under control and supervision of my client, or account of the same, my client disowned and debarred from his/he novable and immovable property. mybody/persons deal with them, he wi do so on his risk and consequences for any purpose, my client will have no onsibility/accountibility for any acts persons. My clients shall not be held esponsible for the same in any manner natsoever for past, present and future. Ankush Gautam, Advocate E.No.D/2411/15

OBITUARY

30th DEATH



LATE D.O.B.: 15.08.1956 DEATH: 9.10.1989 Jayprakash Narsingh Dube and Family

09822404010/09637477417 09822193213/09503737575 Office : Dube Estate, Nalasopara (E) Residence: Jaiom Bhavan, Shivshrishti Complex, Medical College Rd, Achole, Nalasopara (E)

Tal.: Vasai, Dist.: Palghar - 401 209

At Ramlila plastic the

real villain **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

ground,

MINISTRY OF Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary D S Mishra has asked cement manufacturers to use plastic waste along with coal to create clinkers in all 238 factories across the country.

At an event at Ramlila Maidan in Central Delhi's Chandni Chowk Tuesday, Mishra said he made the request at an annual convention of cement manufacturers' association. "To make clinkers, coal is burned at a temperature of 1,500 degrees centigrade. When plastic is burned along with coal, it gets dissolved. As a result, our requirement of coal is reduced," Mishra said.

Clinkers are stony residues derived from burnt coal used to manufacture cement. Mishra said the process of using plastic with coal to make clinkers is being followed across the world, but in India, only 46 plants have the technology to employ this process.

Mishra added that every day, over 2,600 tonnes of plastic is collected across the country and around 94 lakh tonnes of plastic is accumulated annually.

To spread the message of the fight against plastic, a 30-foottall Ravana made out of singleuse plastic waste products was also created and displayed at the Ramlila ground.

Officials said this Ravana was to be sent to a cement factory later, where it will be dissolved and used for creation of clinkers.

At the event, BJP Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Goel said, "This will send a message that plastic spreads pollution, damages the environment. This (is a) Ravana we have to kill."

NOTICE INVITING

e-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No.IX, I&FC Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15.Rohini, New Delhi-11008 invites on behalf of the President of India online percentage rate tender fror approved and eligible contractor registered with Irrigation & Flood Control Departme for the following works:

I. NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/25/2019-20 Nam of work:- Construction of temporary Chha Pooja Ghats in Bheem Singh Market nea Pocket-I, Sec-24, Rohini Estimated Cost Rs. 4,02,481/- Earnest Money: Rs. 8,050/ Period of completion: 15 days, Last date 8 time of submission of tender: upto 03:00 p.m (Tender 09.10.2019. 2019_IFC_181266_1)

2. **NIT No**: EE/CD-IX/NIT/26/2019-20 **Name** of work:- Construction of Temporary Chha Pooja Ghats at behind Sovereign Schoo Sec-24, Rohini. Estimated Cost: Rs 4,86,550/- Earnest Money: Rs. 9,731/ Period of completion: 15 days, Last date 8 time of submission of tender: upto 03:00 p.m 09.10.2019. 2019_IFC_181267_1)

3. NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/27/2019-20 Name of work:- Making temporary arrangemen for Chhat Pooja 2019 at DDA Park nea Khana Shop Vijay Vihar Phase-II, Delh Estimated Cost: Rs. 2,59,619/- Earnes Money: Rs. 5,192/- Period of completion: 15 days, Last date & time of submission of ter der: upto 03:00 p.m on 09.10.2019. (Tende I.D.-2019 IFC 181268 1)

4. NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/28/2019-20 Nam of work:- Construction of temporary Chh Pooja Ghats in front of Prince Public School Ph-II, Budh Vihar Delhi. Estimated Cost: Rs. 4,86,550/ Earnest Money: Rs. 9,731 Period of completion: 15 days, Last date 8 time of submission of tender: upto 03:00 p.m 09.10.2019. (Tender 2019 IFC 181273 1)

5. NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/29/2019-20 Name of work:- Construction of temporary Chha Pooja Ghats of Mahadev Park, Mahade Chowk Avantika, Sec-1, Rohini Delh Estimated Cost: Rs. 2,59,619/- Earnes Money: Rs. 5,192/- Period of completion: 15 days, Last date & time of submission of ter der: upto 03:00 p.m on 09.10.2019. (Tende I.D.-2019_IFC_181276_1) 6. NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/30/2019-20 Nan

of work:- Construction of temporary Chh Pooja Ghats at C-362 Block Avantika Rohir Delhi. Estimated Cost: Rs. 12.02.558 Earnest Money: Rs. 24,051/- Period o completion: 15 days, Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 03:00 p.m or (Tender 2019_IFC_181279_1)

7. NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/31/2019-20 Name of work:- Construction of Temporary Chhat Pooja Ghats at Sector 16 DDA Land Secto 15 16 dividing road near Petrol Pump oppo site Bansal Bhawan Rohini Delhi Estimated Cost: Rs. 18,86,584/- Earnest Money: Rs. 37,732/- Period of completion: 15 days. Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 03:00 pm on 09.10.2019. (Tender I.D.-2019_IFC_181283_1)

8. NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/32/2019-20 Name of work:- Construction of temporary Chhat Pooja Ghats of Mandir Wala park, Shiv Colony Ph-II, Budh Vihar Delhi. Estimated Cost: Rs. 3,13,882/- Earnest Money: Rs. 6,278/- Period of completion: 15 days, Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 03:00 p.m on 09.10.2019. (Tender I.D.-2019_IFC_181297_1)

9. NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/33/2019-20 Name of work:- Construction of Temporary Chha Pooja Ghat at DSIDC site at Badli Industria Area. Delhi-42. Estimated Cost: Rs 6,22,829/- Earnest Money: Rs. 12,457/-Period of completion: 15 days, Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 03:00 p.r 09.10.2019. (Tender 2019_IFC_181303_1)

10. NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/34/2019-2 Name of work:- Construction of Temporal Chhat Pooja Ghat at DDA Site adjacent a Data Ram Society, Sector-18, Rohin Estimated Cost: Rs. 5,99,223/- Earnes Money: Rs. 11,984/- Period of completion 15 days, Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 03:00 pm on 09.10.2019 (Tender I.D.-2019 IFC 181304 1) NIT No: EE/CD-IX/NIT/35/2019-20 Name of work:- Construction of Tempora Chhat Pooja Ghat at DDA Site Opposite Block Sector 15 Rohini Delhi. Estimated

Cost: Rs. 1,91,132/- Earnest Money: Rs

3,823/- Period of completion: 15 days, Las

date & time of submission of tender: upto

03:00 p.m on 09.10.2019. (Tender I.D.-2019_IFC_181312_1) Note.1) The Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in

DIP/Shabdarth/0794/19-20

MONITORING STATIONS ACROSS CAPITAL SHOW TREND

City chokes as Ravana burns, pollutants spike post 7 pm



At a Ramlila event in Dwarka, Tuesday. Tashi Tobgyal

SHIVAM PATEL NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 8

AIR OUALITY in Delhi deteriorated severely after effigies of Ravana started burning Tuesday evening, data from several monitoring stations of the Delhi

(DPCC) showed. Concentration of pollutants in the air at many stations were within the prescribed standards till around 6 pm Tuesday. However, as the effigies started burning, combined with other pollution contributors, the air quality dipped by 10 pm.

Pollution Control Committee

A DPCC official said, "There has been an expected spike in terms of pollutants in the air, which may be because of burning of the effigies."

At Dwarka Sector 8, the level of particulate matter of 10 micrometres (PM 10) was 96 micrograms per cubic metre air as of 6 pm, just below the prescribed standard of 100 µg/m3. By 10 pm, the PM 10 level was nearly 10 times the accepted

limits at $950 \mu g/m3$.

The presence of Carbon Monoxide (CO) also increased from 0.9 at 6 pm to 6.4 at 10 pm, higher than the prescribed standard of 4 milligram per cubic metre air.

In South Delhi's R K Puram, the PM 10 levels were 320 µg/m3 at 10 pm, more than two times the figure recorded earlier in the evening. At India Gate, besides high presence of particulate matter, concentration of nitrogen dioxide was also well above the norms of 80 micrograms per cubic metre air. At 6 pm, the level recorded was 61.3 µg/m3, which increased to 91.9 µg/m3 at 9 pm and dropped to 87.8 µg/m3 an hour later.

Increased exposure to these pollutants can have an impact on health, and studies have linked particulate pollution exposure to various problems, including premature death in people with heart or lung diseases.

A similar trend was noted last year in the capital when the air quality deteriorated after burning of effigies.

POLLUTION SPIKE AT 5 MONITORING STATIONS

DWARKA SECTOR 8

	6 pm	10 pm	
PM 10	96	950	
PM 2.5	25	200	
Carbon Monoxide	0.9	6.4	
Nitrogen dioxide	NA	NA	

MAJOR DHYAN CHAND **NATIONAL STADIUM** (INDIA GATE)

	6 pm	10 pm
PM 10	116	191
PM 2.5	35	67
Carbon Monoxide	0.8	3.3
Nitrogen Dioxide	61.3	87.8

PATPARGANI

	3	
	6 pm	10 pm
PM 10	73	161
PM 2.5	22	95
Carbon Monoxide	0.5	1.3
Nitrogen Dioxide	11.5	22.9

PUNJABI BAGH

	6 pm	10 pm
PM 10	88	177
PM 2.5	19	58*
Carbon Monoxide	1.4	2.3
Nitrogen Dioxide	29.9	66.5
RKPURAM		

	6 pm	10 pm
PM 10	86	320
PM 2.5	NA	NA
Carbon	0.5	5
Monoxide		
Nitrogen	39.1	66.1
Dioxide		
PRESCRIBED	STANDA	RDS

■PM 10: 100 µg/m3 \blacksquare PM 2.5: 60 µg/m3 ■ Carbon Monoxide: 4 mg/m3 ■ Nitrogen Dioxide: 80 µg/m3 ug/m3 - micrograms per cubic metre air mg/m3 - milligram per

*(data available at 9 pm)

cubic metre air)

At idol immersion sites, workers have their hands full so Yamuna stays clean

SUKRITA BARUAH NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

HUNDREDS OF immersions later, the water in four ponds created at Kalindi Kunj for immersion of Durga idols was thick and murky with residue from the idols on Tuesday evening. But the Yamuna was, as a result, a lit-

Kalindi Kunj is one of the venues for over 100 artificial ponds created this puja season, following the government's prohibition of immersion of idols in the Yamuna. The scale of operation at this venue, conducted under the South Delhi Durga Puja committee, was massive, with participants from various agencies working in tandem to ensure it runs smoothly.

There were four artificial ponds of different sizes at the venue to accommodate idols of different sizes. While each was five-feet deep, their length and breadth varied — with the largest



Workers clean the artificial ponds at Kalindi Kunj. Tashi Tobgyal

being 70x60 feet and the smallest being 32x35 feet.

Two cranes organised by the puja committee lifted larger idols from vehicles carrying them and dipped them into the ponds, while smaller idols were lifted in by devotees themselves. As the next batch of devotees arrived, the larger idols were removed by cranes while the smaller ones pulled out by municipal corporation workers and kept close to the ponds.

According to Sannu Seth, one of the 20 workers cleaning the venue, they had been at work since 8 am. Raking up residue at the edge of the ponds, they scooped it into garbage vehicles waiting there.

According to M K Roy of the committee, the clean-up at the venue would begin in full swing

"We have lost count of the number of idols which have been immersed here over the last two days. Today itself, around 35 sets of idols from proper pandals, which we have been associated with over the years, have been immersed. If we count those from less organised parties and from people's homes, the number would cross a hundred just for today. For both days, it would exceed 200," he said.

While many devotees returned satisfied, some felt there was scope for improvement. "The environment is not clean enough for idol immersion... The pond closest to our pandal is in Gol Market but we were asked to come here because that was not deep enough for our idol. I'm not sure how our 13-foot idol can be immersed here either," said Subhash Mandal, whose group had brought its idol from Pandara Road. Till last year, they would immerse it at Geeta Ghat.

Fearing dad would scold her, DU student who bunked class fakes own kidnapping she alleged that she was kid-

SOMYA LAKHANI NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

Sunday.

FEARING THAT her parents would discover that she bunked class, a first-year correspondence student at Delhi University allegedly faked her kidnapping

Late Sunday night, she sent her father a purported video of her hands and legs tied up on WhatsApp, said police. When her father reached Adarsh Nagar police station with the video of the 18-year-old saying "mujhe chhor do," a case was registered, said police.

"A case under IPC section 365 (kidnapping) was registered and the girl's phone was put on technical surveillance. Teams were formed to look for her. On Monday, her parents received a call from a passerby in Old Delhi's Ballimaran that their daughter was crying on the street. She had asked the man to call them," said DCP (North West) Vijayanta Arya.

Arya said that when police started questioning the woman,

napped Sunday evening by fourfive men, who took her to a jungle. "She couldn't point out the location, and said that at night, when the men slept off, she escaped. When she was prodded a bit more, she confessed that she had made up the story," said Arya. Police said that on Sunday, the

woman left her home in Adarsh Nagar to attend classes at a DU college, but went to Purana Qila with her friends instead. "In the afternoon, her father called her and she said she was outside the college. Her father did a video call and asked her to show him the college building. She panicked and hung up. After this, she stopped taking calls from her parents and went to stay the night at her friend's house," said police.

Arya said the woman made her friend make a video of her in distress, with her arms and legs tied. "They sent the video to the girl's father via WhatsApp, after which a kidnapping case was filed. In the morning, she went to Ballimaran and asked someone to call her parents," said Arya.

DPCC wants drones to fly into city's 13 pollution hotspots provide drone services to mon-

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 8

THE DELHI Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) wants to use camera-fitted drones to monitor instances of open burning and stack pollution.

The agency will write to the Ministry of Home Affairs to seek permission to engage drones to monitor the city, especially the 13 pollution hotspots identified so far. At an Environment

Pollution (Prevention and

Control) Authority meeting on

Monday, where tackling pollution in the hotspots was discussed, DPCC secretary Arun Mishra said drones seem to be an effective option to check such cases. Burning of dry leaves, garbage and other bio-waste is

more common during winters and is a primary cause of local air pollution during these months. "We believe drones will be very effective in helping us pinpoint cases and locations. We

will be writing to the MHA for permission," Mishra said. The DPCC had earlier brought on three agencies to

recorded at night. We asked the agencies to approach the MHA for permission but they were denied. Now, we will approach them," said Mishra. EPCA has, meanwhile,

itor dumping of debris on

the Yamuna floodplains, the

Ghazipur garbage dump fire and

to monitor industrial pollution

brought onboard had earlier

conducted surveys for the con-

struction of expressways. We re-

alised that the technology would

be helpful to us. We will also be

looking at night-vision cameras

as most cases of burning are

"The three agencies we had

in Mundka.

sought a time-bound action plan for all 13 hotspots in the city. This has to include short-term actions to handle industrial waste, poor roads, open burning and other polluting actions.

"Each of these areas has its own unique problems. In some areas, pollution from trucks and buses is a major problem, in others, industrial waste being set on fire is the main issue. A separate plan, which is realistic in its deadlines, has to be finalised before October 15," said EPCA member Sunita Narain.

POLLUTION HOTSPOTS Bawana Jahangirpuri **EPCA** has sought a time-bound Wazirpur-Vivek Vihar action plan for all 13 hotspots in the capital Mundka **Anand Vihar RKPuram**

PEDESTRIANISATION PROJECT AT MARKET

No vehicles allowed, Krishna Nagar sports new look

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

PEOPLE EATING snacks sitting on benches, children playing and people moving from one shop to another without having to navigate the spaces between parked motorbikes and cars — the Krishna Nagar market wore a fresh look Tuesday.

The second day of the five-day pedestrianisation project at the East Delhi market, which remains closed on Monday, saw people coming out with families on the festival, and moving around with relative ease and comfort.

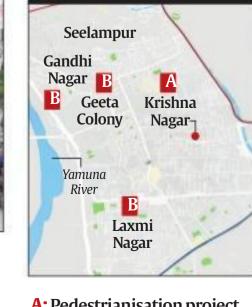
The East Delhi Municipal Corporation has declared the 1.25-km stretch as a pedestrian zone, with vehicles being denied



The East Corporation has declared the 1.25-km stretch as a pedestrian zone

entry. The project is on trial for five days, after which the civic body aims to declare it a pedestrian market permanently from November 15.

Though the stretch looked visibly clean, the adjacent roads, in Blocks A and C, which were supposed to be one-way for traffic, remained choked as traffic was



ALSO ON LIST

A: Pedestrianisation project started for five days

B: Markets where similar projects could be started on pilot basis

allowed from both sides. Market association president

Ashok Taneja said, "There are some hiccups, as traffic entered from both sides on the adjacent roads, but it will be sorted in the coming days." "The response is good from

people coming to our shops; now serious buyers come more," he said. "We have also got the multilevel parking opened for people." The corporation is yet to offi-

cially inaugurate the Krishna Nagar multi-level parking but it has, for now, been opened from 9 am to 9 pm for free, till a vendor is decided through the official procedure to run the project, assistant commissioner Aman Rajput said.

If the project is a success, pedestrianisation projects could

be launched in the Laxmi Nagar. Gandhi Nagar and Geeta Colony markets in the coming months. "The place is especially bet-

Pollution (Prevention and

ter for children and the elderly, as they do not have to fear vehicles," he said. Pedestrianisation of this market is part of the Environment

Control) Authority's directive to the three municipal corporations to come up with pilot parking management plans. In South Delhi, a parking plan is being carried out at Lajpat Nagar, and in North Delhi at Kamla Nagar.

East Delhi RWA president BS Vohra said it is a good initiative, but apprehensions remain that people coming to the market might park their vehicle in resi-

dential areas nearby.

WHY THE HOSTILITY, AAP'S SANJAY SINGH ASKS CENTRE

No clearance to travel, Kejriwal skips mayors' summit at Copenhagen

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

WITH THE Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) not granting the mandatory travel clearance, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday was forced to call off his trip at the last minute to Copenhagen for the C40 World Mayors Summit. Kejriwal was scheduled to fly at 2 pm and address the summit Wednesday

The Delhi government did not issue an official statement but Sanjay Singh, Rajya Sabha MP of the ruling AAP, lashed out at what he called the BJP-led Centre's "hostility".

on Delhi's fight against pollution.

"This is unfortunate and beyond my understanding. Why is (Narendra) Modi's government working with such hostility towards us? He (Kejriwal) wasn't going on a vacation but to hold discussions with mayors of 100 cities of Asia and present a better picture of our country on efforts to abate pollution. We ap-



CM Arvind Kejriwal at a Dussehra event near Red Fort Tuesday. He said Delhiites have slayed dengue and managed to bring pollution levels under control, and urged people to defeat **'Ravana-like forces' in society.** Prem Nath Pandey

plied a month ago but couldn't get clearance," he said.

The MEA refused to com-

ment on the issue beyond what it had said last Friday, but sources in the government pointed out

that the conference is a gathering of mayors.

Responding to questions

Friday, MEA's official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar had said: "It is very simple that if there is an event taking place abroad where a certain individual is invited and you have representation from other countries which is at a very lower level, in that case, we do advise the person concerned that this event is not fit to be attended by a minister or this does not warrant the presence of a minister. So

Kumar had said the "overall objective is to ensure the prestige of the country is not compromised".

this is the process that is involved."

Apart from speaking on pollution, Kejriwal was to address a joint press conference in Copenhagen to launch 'Clean Air Cities Declaration' with the mayors of Paris, Los Angeles, Copenhagen, Portland, Jakarta and Barcelona.

Sources in the Delhi government said the CM's office "waited till the last minute for clearance and checked with the MEA several times" but did not get a response.

Worker dies after falling on iron rods at Lady Hardinge

Victim's family claims not given safety gear, case filed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 8

A 23-YEAR-OLD labourer died after he fell on two iron rods while working at an under-construction unit in Lady Hardinge Hospital Sunday.

Police said the man, Shyam Kumar, was not equipped with safety belts and tools while on the job. He died as iron rods pierced through his abdomen and because of head injuries sustained in the fall.

Hailing from Uttar Pradesh's Auriya, Shyam came to Delhi two months ago to work with his cousin Ravinder (30) and earn for the family.

In his complaint filed at Mandir Marg police station, Ravinder alleged he had been working at Lady Hardinge for a year, and had complained about the lack of safety equipment to the supervising engineer, who threatened the workers and told them to quit if they had problems.

On the day of the incident, Ravinder and Shyam were working near the septic tank at Police said other workers had to cut parts of the wall to remove the iron rods

and later pulled the rods from the victim's abdomen. No arrests have been made so far

Ravinder claimed, "Cement shuttering was being done and Shyam was working near the septic tank. He asked for a belt and ropes as he was working at a height and there was a fear of falling into the tank or on the ground. Also, there were several rods on the wall. The supervising engineer told him the other workers didn't need belts, and Shyam had to work without them. We then requested him for a safety net across the wall to prevent any accident, but he refused. Around 5 pm, When Shyam was cutting extra parts of the rods on the wall, his blade broke. He lost balance and fell on

the wall. Two iron rods pierced

through his stomach, and he fell

on the ground."

Police said other workers had to cut parts of the wall to remove the iron rods and later pulled the rods from the victim's abdomen No arrests have been made so far. "We received a call around

5.15 pm about the incident. The man was immediately taken to the hospital for treatment, but died later that night due to his injuries. We have recorded his cousin's statement, who was also at the site and have registered a case against the company. We are verifying all claims made by the workers and are further investigating the matter," Eish Singhal, DCP (New Delhi), said.

Police said a company called Deepak Builders has been named in the FIR. When The Indian Express contacted the firm, a person picked up and said he was not aware of the incident

Ravinder said, "We were looking for other jobs to earn more money. We lived in a room inside a quarter near the site, where other labourers lived temporarily. Shyam sent Rs 4,000 every month to his family. He was planning to take leave during Diwali and visit his parents."

BRIEFLY

Murder of gold firm manager: Cousin among 2 arrested

Noida: A cousin of the Ghaziabad-based manager of Muthoot Finance Limited is among two persons held for allegedly killing him four months ago, Noida Police said Tuesday. The killing resulted from a failed conspiracy to rob the company's gold from its vault in its Ghaziabad branch. police said. **PTI**

Eco-friendly Dussehra at IIT-Delhi

New Delhi: On the occasion of Dussehra on Tuesday, IIT-Delhi tried to remain as eco-friendly as possible by distributing nasal filters to nearly 2,000 people who came to watch the burning of the effigies, as well as reducing the number of crackers fit into the effigy. The filters were designed to reduce PM 10 particles by 100%, and PM 2.5 particles by 95%, said Prateek Sharma of Nasofilters, an IIT-incubated start-up.

Teen found hanging

New Delhi: A 16-year-old boy allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a branch in South East Delhi's Jasola Tuesday. Police said the boy sustained an injury on his left foot on Monday night and fought with his parents about it. He left home on Tuesday on the pretext of going to the hospital and was later found hanging, said police.

Woman's phone stolen from car

New Delhi: A woman iournalist's phone was stolen from her car in West Delhi's Inderpuri Tuesday morning. The woman said she had parked her car outside PUSA campus and had gone for a walk in a park nearby. When she returned, she saw that the side window of the car was broken and her phone missing. Police said the woman filed an e-FIR and a case of theft was registered against unknown persons.

Man shot at

New Delhi: A 28-year-old man was allegedly shot at by four men outside his shop in Outer North Delhi's Bhalswa Dairy Monday. **ENS**

Kerala, Delhi police spin net Woman and daughter killed in for gangster facing 70 cases

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & SHAJU PHILIP NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

SATYAPRAKASH ALIAS Satte (41) was last on the Delhi Police radar after he killed his rival Sonu Chikhna and declared his intention to kill a sub-inspector, who had arrested him in 2009 after a shootout at Green Park. A gangster suspected to be

involved in around 70 criminal cases, including murder, extortion and dacoity, Satyaprakash was arrested last week from Shahdara by the Kerala Police, who had the assistance of Delhi Police.

Hailing from Uttar Pradesh's Badaun, Satyaprakash got out on bail in January and started operating a gambling racket in several areas of Shahdara.

His name also surfaced when he and his gang members allegedly committed seven robberies at Kollam, Kerala, within four hours on September 28. During investigation, police found that two bike-borne persons wearing helmets had threatened victims at gunpoint and forced them to hand over gold ornaments.

"Before robbing people, the gang stole a two-wheeler from the premises of a railway station. They then removed the number plate. Although it was initially believed the gang used a pistol to threaten people, police later found that they only carried a battery-operated drilling machine. Using CCTV footage, police found that the robbers got into a Scorpio registered in Satyaprakash's name," a senior officer said.

On October 4, Kerala Police



Satyaprakash was arrested last week from Shahdara

reached Shahdara and, with help from Delhi Police, laid a trap in a workshop from where Satyaprakash was arrested and the Scorpio recovered.

"We have arrested him under the Arms Act after we recovered an illegal weapon from his possession. Kerala Police later applied for his transit remand and took him into their custody," said DCP (Shahdara) Amit Sharma.

Satyaprakash's criminal dossier, accessed by The Indian Express, shows that he entered the world of crime when he was a juvenile and started pickpocketing. His father, who suffers from leprosy, ran a grocery store in Nand Nagri and lived at the leprosy colony at Tahirpur village. He dropped out of school in class II.

"In 1998, he was arrested for the first time from IPE state area on charges of robbery and was sent to Tihar Jail. After coming out, he formed his gang and committed several robberies in Delhi and Ghaziabad," an officer

Till date, 70 cases of murder, robbery, dacoity and attempt to murder have been registered against him at police stations in

Delhi-NCR.

"He became more active after his rival gangster Dinesh Giri was killed by Noida Police in an encounter in 2006. He started taking protection money after Giri's death from petty criminals, giving them shelter in return. His gang also started targeting cash vans and banks," an officer said.

Satyaprakash's gang had more than 25 members, mostly from Western UP. Most are hardened criminals who carry sophisticated weapons, including foreign-made pistols.

"On January 19, 2009, he and his associates were stopped by the South district police in Green Park when they were coming from Rajasthan. A shootout ensued in broad daylight and he, along with three of his associates, were injured. Three police personnel also sustained injuries. He was in jail and become close friends with notorious criminal Sunil Rathi, who killed Munna Bajrangi in Baghpat Jail last year. He was in jail for around seven years and came on bail in May 2015," the officer said, adding that he then allegedly executed a series of robberies followed by the murder of a friendturned-foe Sonu Chikna in Nand Nagri in 2015.

Police said Satyaprakash married twice and both his wives stay with him at Nand Nagri. His second wife was arrested with him for allegedly killing Sonu and she was allegedly operating his gang after

coming out on bail. "After coming out of jail this vear, two businessmen had gifted two Scorpio cars to Satyaprakash. He also owns several properties in UP," the officer added.

cylinder blast as children watched

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

A 62-YEAR-OLD woman and her 38-year-old daughter died and a man sustained severe injuries after a fire broke out following a cylinder blast inside a house in North East Delhi's Karawal Nagar Tuesday. Police said the 38-yearold woman's two teenaged boys, who were outside, watched the house get engulfed in fire.

The victims were rushed to GTB Hospital, where the women, Rambiri and her daughter Hemlata, were declared dead on arrival by doctors. The man, Rajesh (42), is undergoing treatment. Police said he was at the house to fix the gas cylinder and was known to Hemlata, as the two worked at a garment factory.

While fire officials claimed the blast took place when the victims were trying to refill two small gas



The incident took place at Karawal Nagar. Amit Mehra

cylinders from a big one, DCP (North East) Ved Prakash Surya said the man was fixing the cylinder and a leakage led to the blast.

"When gas is being transferred from one cylinder to another, usually there is leakage as no proper instruments are used nor any precautions taken," said

Delhi Fire Chief Atul Garg.

He said that after the cooling operation began, firefighters realised that two small cylinders burst, while the big cylinder was intact. "It could have been worse had the big one burst too," said Garg.

Two fire tenders were dis-

patched when a fire call was made around 10.45 am. "We were told that three people were inside the house... there was a lot of smoke and firefighters managed to get the man out. He was rushed to a hospital. There was a possibility that more blasts could happen as we didn't know how many cylinders were inside. There was a lot of smoke as well which made rescue challenging," said Garg.

The fire chief said the blaze was contained by noon, after which firefighters went inside and found the women's charred bodies.

Neighbours said Hemlata's mother was too old to work, and her two sons are in school. Her husband passed away a few years ago and Hemlata had been the sole breadwinner. Mahesh, a neighbour, said, "The women were doing puja at home and had lit a diya... minutes after that, the blast took place."

Executive Director

Date

Principal Secretary

HC notice to Delhi, Centre on Assembly election plea

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has sought the Centre's and Delhi government's response on a plea seeking directions to the authorities to rotate the reserved and general seats for next year's assembly polls.

Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva issued notice to the Centre's ministry concerned, Delhi government, Election Commission of India and the Delimitation Commission on the plea.

The plea also alleged that authorities have "reserved assembly seats in Delhi... in arbitrary, irrational... manner, which is neither in consonance with the Act nor in consonance with provisions of the Constitution of India".

The plea was filed by Sanjay Gupta and Sandeep Bumrea, who claim to be political activists.

Advocate Barun Kumar Sinha, appearing for the petitioners, contended that his clients are members of Sultanpuri Majra (reserved for SC candidates) and Ballimaran (a General Category seat) assembly constituencies and are "aspiring to contest assembly polls... in 2020, from the assembly seats in which they are voters respectively". **ENS**

GCSC/Admin/Recruitment/2019/01 Gujarat Council of Science City Science City Road, Ahmedabad-380 060 Tel: 079-29703122 Website: www.scity.gujarat.gov.in,

Email:scityahmedabadad@gmail.com Advertisement for the various posts

The Gujarat Council of Science City is a registered society, working under the aegis of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Gujarat. With reference to our earlier advertisement for following posts, the last date for submission of duly filled applications on above address is further extended upto 7"November, 2019 at 18:00 hours through RPAD/Speed post

r. No	Name Of the Post	No. Of Post
1	General Manager-Administration	01
2	General Manager- Phase-I	01
3	General Manager - Phase-II	02
4	Sr. Curator	02

at the website of GCSC (www.scity.gujarat.gov.in). The applications received after due date will not be considered under any circumstances. GCSC reserves the right to cancel the recruitment for all/any of the post without giving any

Science City-Connecting Community with Science **Government of NCT of Delhi** Department for the Welfare of SC/ST/OBC/MIN.



e-mail:- dscstschscheme.delhi@gov.in, Website: www.scstwelfare.delhigovt.nic.in Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-Cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes for 2019-20 Applications are invited from the students belonging to six minority communities notified by the

Government of India for availing Scholarships under three Scholarship Schemes, sponsored by Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, viz. Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-Cum Means based Scholarship Schemes for 2019-20. Timeline activities as under:

Last date for submission of Online applications for Pre-Matric Upto 15th October, 2019 Scholarship Scheme (Fresh and Renewal) Last date for submission of Online applications for Post-Matric and Upto 31st October, 2019 Merit-Cum-Means Scholarship Scheme (Fresh and Renewal)

Activities

Date: 09/10/2019

Eligibility

DIP/Shabdarth/0786/19-20

The applicant should belong to any one form the notified Minority communities' viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains. The applicant should be pursuing studies in India in Government or Private

Universities/Institutes/Colleges/ Schools. The course being pursued should be of Minimum one The applicant should have secured 50% marks in the last annual Board/Class examination.

Income certificate issued by competent authorities of GNCT of Delhi, valid at the time of submission of application.

INSTRUCTIONS

For Applicants Applicants are advised to apply online against any one of the scholarship schemes on the Website of National Scholarship Portal at- www.scholarships.gov.in (a link to the site is also available at (www. minorityaffairs.gov.in) or Mobile App- National Scholarships (NSP).

Detailed 'Instructions for filling in online application and 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are

available on the National Scholarship Portal homepage. Applicant is advised to give only that bank account details which remains in active mode or

compliant as per bank's instructions so that payment of scholarship does not fail. For Universities/Institutes/Colleges/Schools All Universities/Institutes/Colleges/Schools, where a minority student is studying, should get

themselves registered on National Scholarship Portal (NSP). For detailed information, visit the website of Ministry of Minority affairs i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in Samadhaan Helpline (Toll Free) - 1800-11-2001 (Timing 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday to Friday, Except Holidays)

DOCTORS KEEPING CLOSE WATCH

77 women picked so far for study on air pollution's effects on foetus

ASTHA SAXENA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

A YEAR after the Guru Tegh Bahadur (GTB) Hospital started a study on pregnant women to find the impact of air pollution on the foetus, a total of 77 women have been enrolled in the progamme so far.

Funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology's department of biotechnology (DBT) and Medical Research Centre in the United Kingdom, the study aims to include 600 pregnant women. It will be completed by 2023.

"The process of selection is tedious. Mostly, we are visiting pregnant women who are in the first trimester so that we can follow up on them throughout their pregnancy. After the delivery, we follow their children for 18 months. Women willing to be a part of the study have to sign a consent form," said Dr Kiran Guleria, principal investi-



Similar projects being tried abroad as well

IN APRIL, a study conducted by scientists at the University of Aberdeen in the UK revealed how exposure to air pollution is affecting babies' growth during pregnancy. Scientists at the University of Aberdeen reviewed over a decade's worth of research from around the world to establish the extent to which the mother's exposure to air pollution, diet, alcohol and chemicals affect foetal growth.

gator of the study from GTB Hospital.

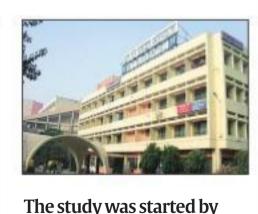
Out of the 77 enrolled women, 50 have delivered babies. Doctors are tracking their growth for 18 months.

Feotal growth is tracked through certain parameters while IIT-Delhi is monitoring the exposure of air pollution, GTB Hospital is tracking the foetal growth by performing ultrasounds, taking samples, etc.

Personal sensors are given to pregnant women, and a team of doctors visits their homes once in three months to assess the level of air pollution. "We have deployed some ex-

tra parameters like foetal biometry to get an idea about foetal growth. Foetal biometry is the measurement taken during a standard ultrasound," said Dr Guleria.

"We are also trying to see



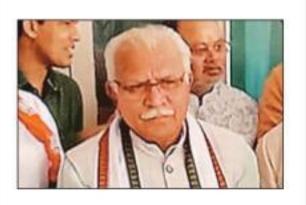
Guru Tegh Bahadur (GTB) Hospital last year

whether air pollution is affecting the growth of the brain. At the moment, a lot of data from abroad is coming up in which scientists are able to link air pollution with foetal growth," added Dr Guleria.

The research is a part of the study titled "DAPHNE" (Delhi Air Pollution Health And Effects), where the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is also doing a project related to the effect of pollution on children with respiratory problems.

Uddhav pitches for

I Declare



MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR

BJP, Karnal

₹1.27 cr **TOTAL ASSETS**

IMMOVABLE

MOVABLE

₹94 lakh

₹33 lakh

CASH ₹15,000

Bank deposits/FDRs ₹93.85 lakh

CRIMINAL CASES NIL

ASSETS IN LAST AFFIDAVIT FILED FOR 2014 ASSEMBLY POLLS: ₹61.29 LAKH (MOVABLE ASSETS: ₹8.29 LAKH) (IMMOVABLE ASSETS: ₹53 LAKH)

BALLOTIN

Haryana: Liquor, cash, drugs worth over Rs 9 cr seized

Chandigarh: Over Rs 2.68 crore unaccounted cash has been seized from different places in Haryana after the model code of conduct came into force in view of the October 21 Assembly polls. Besides, illicit liquor and drugs worth over Rs 7 crore have also been seized during the period after the polls were announced on September 21. "Liquor, cash and drugs amounting to Rs 9,67,05,130 has been seized by the police and Excise Department in Haryana," an official statement said here on Tuesday. Fake currency notes having a face value of Rs 49,62,000 have also been seized by the police. A total 1.45.483 litres of liquor has been seized by the excise and police departments, costing about Rs 3 crore. Until Monday, the police department had seized about Rs 2.68 crore unaccounted cash. Besides, drugs and other intoxicants worth Rs 3.63 crore have been seized by the flying squad and the static surveillance teams. As many as 1,17,867 licensed arms have been deposited by the people in their nearest police stations. Apart from this, the police have also seized 173 unlicensed weapons. Over 430 police check posts have been set up at various places in the state. The statement said that the police have seized 92,787 bottles of country-made liquor, 56,516 bottles of Indian-made Foreign Liquor, 4,004 bottles of beer, 656.57 kg hemp, 134.89 kg poppy husk, 1.36 kg heroin, 9.280 kg opium and 2.16 kg smack. PTI

2 INLD ex-MPs join Cong in Haryana

Chandigarh: In a jolt to the Indian National Lok Dal days before the October 21 Haryana Assembly polls, two former MPs of the party joined the Congress on Tuesday. Charanjeet Singh Rori and Sushil Kumar Indora joined the Congress in Sirsa in the presence of the opposition party's Haryana unit chief Kumari Selja, a party release said. While Rori was the INLD MP from Sirsa during 2014-19, Indora represented the constituency twice between 1998-2004. The development comes days after former Harvana Congress chief Ashok Tanwar, who had contested unsuccessfully from Sirsa in 2009 and 2014 Assembly polls, quit the party. Speaking on the occasion, Rori said the Congress is the only viable alternative in Haryana. He said he hopes that the party will wrest power from the BJP, which has failed to deliver on various fronts. After a vertical split in the INLD last year owing to a feud in the Chautala clan, the party has been virtually decimated. Most of its leaders and legislators have switched to other parties including BJP, Congress and Jannayak Janta Party.

ECI to visit Haryana today

Chandigarh: The Election Commission of India will visit poll-bound Haryana on Wednesday to take stock of the preparedness of the state's administrative and security machineries for the assembly elections on October 21. During the two-day visit, Chief Election Commissioner along with Election Commissioners Ashok Lavasa and Sushil Chandra will be holding a series of meetings with various stake-holders, including the state's chief electoral officer, police and representatives of various political parties, an official statement said.

PTI

PLAYS OBC CARD AT BEED RALLY

Shah: BJP working to protect Ram temple in Ayodhya rights of backward classes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAL OCTOBER 8

UNION HOME minister and BIP leader Amit Shah on Tuesday said the Narendra Modi-led government was working to safeguard the rights of the deprived and backward classes by granting constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes. He also lauded the Modi government for "integrating" Jammu and Kashmir with India by abrogating Article 370, and urged party workers to take the Centre's decision to the people through door-to-door campaigns.

"In Maharashtra, the (Chief Minister) Devendra Fadnavis government constituted a separate Other Backward Classes (OBCs) cell to expedite the welfare schemes for the oppressed and tribal communities. At the Centre, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government ensured constitutional status to the OBC commission," Shah said.

Shah was addressing a public rally in Beed district's Sawaragaon village — the birth place of Sant Bhagwan Baba, who is revered by the Vanjari community which dominates at least 17 neighbouring Assembly constituencies.

"The previous governments in last 70 years could do nothing for the OBCs. It is Modi who formed the OBC commission to address their issues through the constitutional framework. Today, the Modi government is working for deprived and backward classes in the country," Shah said in a veiled attack on the Congress.

Referring to the abrogation of provisions under Article 370, he said, "The Modi-led government, which came to power with a thumping majority, revoked Article 370 in just three months of winning the elections (held earlier this year). Now, people should



Home Minister Amit Shah with BIP's Parli candidate Pankaja Munde and other leaders at a rally in Maharashtra's Beed district, on Tuesday. PTI

ask the Opposition why they were unable to revoke Article 370."

While stressing that he was in Swaragaon to pay tribute to Sant Bhagwan Baba, Shah focussed on emotive political issues to consolidate public support for Pankaja Munde, a state minister and the party's candidate from Parli Assembly constituency in Beed district, ahead of the October 21 Assembly elections.

Pankaja is pitted against her cousin Dhananjay Munde, NCP's opposition leader in the state legislative council. The power tussle between the estranged cousins has its roots in the 2009 election when senior BJP

leader and former Union minister Gopinath Munde fielded his daughter Pankaja, instead of Dhananjay, from the Parli seat. A miffed Dhananjay had later joined the NCP.

BJP poll managers said Bhagwan Baba is highly revered by the Vanjari community. "By addressing a rally at Sawargaon, the BJP is likely to earn the goodwill of the entire community, which can impact the 17 Vanjari-dominated neighbouring Assembly seats across Beed, Ahmednagar, Nashik, Washim, Yavatmal and Satara districts."

- WITH PTI INPUTS

Cong kicks off Haryana campaign with unity call, focus on 'big picture'

VARINDER BHATIA CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 8

KICKING OFF the Congress's poll campaign from Sirsa, the party's new state unit chief Kumari Selja called for the need to rise above local issues and look at the big picture.

Downplaying the factionalism in the state Congress, Selja said in Dabwali, "Issues take place in every family. We need to rise above all this and look at the big picture, at what kind of politics is taking place at the national and regional level. In the Lok Sabha polls a few months ago, we were not successful. The issues were different. But now people say the time has come to change this jumle-wali sarkar. The time has come to understand."

Campaigning for Congress candidate Amit Sihag, she said, "We have seen the worst of times and the best times. It was all possible due to you. Today again there is a big challenge ahead of us. Politics has changed a lot these days."

Before Selja spoke, the other speakers stressed that the "Congress was united" and supporters should join hands to ensure its victory in maximum seats. In fact, it was this theme that seemed to set the tone for the Congress campaign amid the infighting in the state unit and absence of district-level organisational cadres.

Kiran Choudhry, Congress MLA from Tosham in Bhiwani, also struck an emotional chord with the people of her constituency. Campaigning on Tuesday, she appealed for votes while telling people that the "destiny of people of Tosham and family of Chaudhary Bansi Lal are connected". Kiran is former

Chief Minister Bansi Lal's daughter-in-law. While the ruling BJP seems to be riding on its back-to-back clean sweeps over the last year, including mayoral polls and Lok Sabha polls, the Congress and INLD are focusing on convincing their respective tradi-



Kumari Selja at a rally in support of Congress candidate Amit Sihag in Sirsa, **on Tuesday.** Twitter

tional vote banks to remain united. The INLD's factionalism led to a vertical split and formation of the JJP, while infighting and lack of organisational cadres are affecting Congress's campaigns.

In the 2014 Assembly polls, allegations of corruption and change of land use scandals against the then CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda dominated the campaign in Haryana, whereas this time it is the BJP's nationalism agenda versus the Opposition's accusations of "false promises".

"They(BJP)brought in Balakot in Lok Sabha polls. Now they are bringing something else so that naive people of our state forget core issues and again get swayed by their fake promises," Selja said, referring to BIP leaders' campaign focusing on J&K. "What has the common man got to do with Article 370? They talk about Kashmir, why don't they talk about our poor, our farmers, security of our women, our youth?"

Taking a dig at Chief Minister Manohar

Defections further setback for Opposition

APART FROM the internal power tussles within the Congress and INLD, several defections were witnessed by both the Opposition parties in the last four months. The BJP accommodated a large chunk of such defectors. The ruling party has nominated at least 15 turncoats, including 11 from INLD, three from Congress and one from SAD.

Lal Khattar, she said "people are fed up with Manohar's dreams" and the time has come to change this "jumle-wali sarkar".

Selja promised that the Congress will waive loans of farmers and the poor, on the lines of Rajasthan. "When we form the government, we will give a deadline for fulfilling each of our promises," she said.

On the focus on national issues, BJP general secretary and party affairs in-charge of Haryana Dr Anil Jain said, "The Opposition cannot claim to be winning even a single seat in Haryana. National issues are also issues of common man. It is because of BIP's people-friendly policies, both at the national and state level, and clean image of our leaders... that BJP will surely achieve its target of 75-plus seats in Haryana."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 8

AHEAD OF the Assembly polls, Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday made a strong pitch for the Ram temple in Ayodhya and reiterated the demand for bringing a special law to build the temple in case the verdict goes against it.

Addressing party workers at the annual Sena Dussehra rally here, Uddhav announced that if voted to power, his party would provide "full meals" for Rs 10 and health check-up for Re 1. "We will start providing full meals for Rs

10, health check-up for Re 1, free bus services for rural students and reduce electricity bills for all residential households for up to 300 units," he said. He also promised to better alliance partner BJP's outreach to farmers during 2014-19 with a "complete" farm loan waiver.

Uddhav said that Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray's dream of removing Article 370 has been fulfilled. "We will also fulfil another of Balasaheb's dreams, of construction of the Ram temple. Now, our demand is to remove illegal Bangladeshi immigrants and bring a common civil code in the country," he said, reiterating the demand to bring a special law

to build the Ram temple if the court judgment goes against it.

In his 35-minute speech, Uddhav did not mention the Aarey tree cutting issue. He justified his party's alliance with the BJP, saying that there was no point in forging an alliance after the polls if there is a fractured mandate. "So, I thought it better to forge an alliance before the polls."

Facing rebellion in many seats by rejected ticket aspirants who are contesting as independents, or party workers refusing to campaign for the BJP, the Sena leader asked everyone in the party to work for the alliance.

Uddhav also slammed the Congress and NCP over their poll promise of providing 80 per cent jobs to local youths. "They remembered it only after they became unemployed," he said. Taking a dig at Congress leader Sushil

Kumar Shinde's remarks on Congress-NCP merger, the Sena chief said, "First decide who will be your leader. Whether it will be Sharad Pawar or Sonia Gandhi, because of whom Pawar left the Congress. Otherwise it will lead to fighting again."

Sena leader Subhash Desai and MP Sanjay Raut, who also spoke at the rally, said the party would win more than 100 seats in Assembly polls.



Uddhav Thackeray at a Shiv Sena rally in Mumbai on Tuesday. Prashant Nadkar

No value of votes cast by those who can't say 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai': BJP candidate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 8

BJP'S ADAMPUR candidate and TikTok star Sonali Phogat on Tuesday said that "there is no value of votes cast by those who can't say Bharat Mata Ki Jai".

Phogat, who is contesting against former Chief Minister Bhajan Lal's son Kuldeep Bishnoi (Congress) in Adampur where the Bhajan family has never lost any Assembly election in the last 52 years, had on Monday lashed out at a group of youths in Balasmand village of the constituency when they did not respond to the slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

In Balasmand village on Monday, Phogat repeatedly asked the youths to raise the slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' if they are "citizens of free India". "You should be ashamed. It's shameful that there are citizens like you who can't say 'Jai' for their country due to petty politics. There is no value of the votes of those who can't say 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'," Phogat said.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday. Phogat said, "My blood begins to boil when somebody doesn't say 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'... They were some college students in the age group of 20-22. The Opposition had incited them to stand there. They did not respond while the villagers chanted the slogan of Bharat Mata Ki Jai... I am associated with a



BJP Adampur candidate Sonali Phogat, in Hisar on Tuesday. Express

party which is working for the development of country," she said.

Phogat said the youths were protesting over the demand for construction of a college. "They asked me to lay the foundation stone (for construction of the college) immediately. I told them that the matter was pending in court," she said.

Harvana Congress spokesperson Ved Prakash Vidrohi said, "Everybody chants 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'. In fact, the BJP government has not done development works which can be communicated to voters during the poll campaign. So they try to raise sensitive issues during the polls for votes."

'We want active participation of every community, class'

BHUPENDER YADAV, BIP general secretary and election in-charge of Maharashtra, speaks to **LIZ MATHEW** about the alliance with Shiv Sena and the BIP's prospects in the forthcoming Assembly election.

This election the BJP has literally ended the Shiv Sena's dominance in the alliance, declaring it would contest 164 seats. What gives you the confidence that this alliance will work on the ground?

The alliance between BJP and Shiv Sena was done with mutual agreement and mutual respect. In Maharashtra, the BJP-Sena combine has four smaller parties with it. Sena is fighting in 124 seats, the BJP in 150, and smaller allies are fighting on BJP symbol in the remaining seats. The alliance is working strongly on the ground... the campaign is also together... We have been working together for long.

What will happen to Sena's demand for the post of CM or deputy CM, etc?

As of now, there is no such demand. The election is being fought under the leadership of Devendra Fadnavis. There is no confusion

at all. Every party has the right to talk about its expansion plans.

How does the BJP view Aditya Thackeray's entry into electoral politics?

Any individual, young or old, has the freedom to enter electoral politics... And every party has the right to field its own leadership.

After the seat-sharing formula and distribution of tickets, both BIP and Sena seem to be left with rebels. How are you planning to resolve this?

We have already made the important leaders discuss the issue. There could be some issues with two to four constituencies. We will be dealing with it soon. Already, there has been amicable resolve in one or two issues.

Do you think the BJP, which seems to be sure of its victory, will have to deal with complacency among its leaders ahead of voting?

There has been a lot of work on the ground by the local leadership. BJP has in the



'Our social justice theory is not pitching one against the other, it's taking everyone along'

last year worked a lot for its expansion programme, there has been good work at the village level, booth level, and activities because of programmes like membership campaign. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, every worker is working on Modi's vision. I do not think there is any complacency.

The Opposition says the BJP is using issues like Article 370 and the PM's successful trip to the US to divert attention from real issues that affect people like joblessness, agrarian crisis and floods. Comment?

In India, the real issues are absence of transparency, distribution of state resources, absence of fight against poverty, failure to recognise rights for women, etc. These fundamental issues were ignored by the Opposition. We worked on aspects ranging from economic inclusion to empowering women and reaching basic facilities to the ground level... They have not done it, but are pointing fingers at us.

Some political analysts say this Maharashtra election will be different as the BIP has broken the power structure. How far will the new environment and collapse of Maratha leaders' dominance in state politics help BJP?

I think their perception is wrong. BJP believes in participatory politics. We have leaders from every community — our state president is Maratha and our CM is a Brahmin... What we want is active participation of every



BHUPENDER YADAV BJP GEN SECY, POLL IN-CHARGE OF MAHARASHTRA

Do you consider the possibility of other caste groups being upset over the government's move to provide reservation to Marathas? We have given reservation

community and class of soci-

etv. We are not those breaking

forces, we keep everyone to-

gether... Our social justice the-

ory is not pitching one against

the other, it's taking everyone

along.

in its fullest form to those who

are entitled. We worked keeping everyone's participation in mind. The state government has seen that state resources are distributed to everyone. We are working to build a strong India keeping everyone together. The Opposition tried to make this issue (reservation) about vote bank politics but... We worked to fulfil everyone's aspiration. It was never vote bank politics. **FULL INTERVIEW ON**

www.indianexpress.com

GOVT & POLITICS



New Element

WHILE THE sound of a conch shell is considered auspicious on some religious occasions, it is usually not heard at government events. However, on Monday, when Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat flagged off a team of officials for a rafting and kayaking expedition along the Ganga, the conference hall at National Media Centre echoed with the sound of conch shells. Much to the surprise of the media as well as officials present there, conch shells were blown at the beginning and end of the press conference.

ROYAL REQUEST

DR PANKAJ Chaturvedi, a cancer surgeon at Tata Memorial Hospital, has written a letter to Queen Elizabeth (copied to PM Boris Johnson) asking for the UK public health system to withdraw the use of e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation tool, which is used by manufacturers of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) to promote their product. "The main argument of the ENDS aka Tobacco lobby was that 'Public Health England has said that E cigarette is 95% safer than cigarette'. Even Royal College of Physicians has been extensively quoted as supportive of ENDS. Such things are unimaginable from the land of Dorothy Hodgkin, Isaac Newton, Alexander Fleming, Rosalind Franklin etc," Dr Chaturvedi wrote, arguing that e-cigarettes are not responsible for the decline in smoking rates in the UK.

Inclusion Issues

THE RECONSTITUTION of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee on Monday led to much heartburn and resentment. The unhappiness was not over the appointment of Ajay Kumar Lallu as PCC president, but over the inclusion of many leaders who had joined the Congress recently. While Rakesh Sachan, a former Samajwadi Party MP who joined the Congress in March, was made a general secretary, Dhirendra Singh Dhiru who joined from the BJP was made a secretary. Raj Kishore Singh, who was a minister in the SP government, has been made a member of the working group on strategy and planning. Brahmswaroop Sagar, who joined the Congress from the BSP, too was made a secretary. Unlike in the past, when the Congress used to announce jumbo PCCs, this time the number of officebearers is less than 75, hence many have not made the cut.

NMML director's term ends, top post vacant

DIVYA A NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

DAYS AFTER expiry of the three-

year term of the Director of Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML), Shakti Sinha, the organisation remains headless as neither has the term been extended nor any new appointment made. Sinha, who completed his

term on October 4, is not going to office. "I don't want to read too much into it. At times, the extensions to such posts have taken two-three weeks to come by," he told The Indian Express, admitting that he hasn't gone to office after last Friday "in the absence of any official communication".

Sources in the Ministry of Culture, under which the NMML operates as an autonomous body, said, "As of now, the Ministry hasn't been asked to recommend another name for the post." But they remained clueless on the future course of action as the appointment for the top job is directly monitored by the PMO.

Since the post hasn't been advertised so far, it is being widely believed that either Sinha's term

will be extended by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), or the Ministry of Culture will directly supervise the organisation, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet project — the Rs 270-crore Museum of Prime Ministers — is taking final shape these days.

Government recently made a key appointment to oversee the Museum of Prime Ministers with former culture secretary Raghavendra Singh becoming CEO of Development of Museums and Cultural Spaces for three years, under Culture Ministry.

The Museum of Prime Ministers project, which was supposed to be complete by October 2020, is running behind schedule and is now expected to open only in early 2021. While the structure is being built at the Teen Murti Estate, it is being said the delay is owing to the content. "The content to be displayed inside...is still being finalised," a source said.

Recently, eight firms were shortlisted to plan the interior, including UK's Museum & Expo International, Mumbai firm Abha Narain Lambah and Hyderabad's Visual Quest.

Amid trade negotiations, RSS chief cautions Govt: Don't yield too much **RAVISHTIWARI** NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

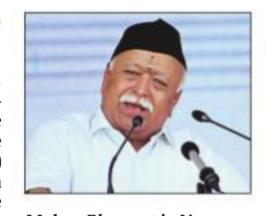
AMID INDIA'S ongoing negotiations on trade with the US and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat Tuesday cautioned the Centre against yielding too much in negotiations.

During his annual Vijayadashami address at Nagpur, Bhagwat invoked Dattopant Thengadi to advocate Swadeshi, and suggested that the country "create and expand trade relations with the world on the basis of our strength and terms".

RSS chief's remarks on economic slowdown and trade agreements are significant given that his views may trigger a section of Sangh Parivar to raise its pitch against government's proposals on FDI, disinvestment and trade deals in the coming days. Incidentally, Bhagwat's re-

marks during his annual Vijayadashami address last year on the Ram Temple saw the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) mounting pressure on the government by organising nation-wide rallies demanding legislation to build the Ram Temple ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

The government eventually moved the Supreme Court requesting it to lift the status quo on non-disputed land around the disputed site and hand over sur-



Mohan Bhagwat in Nagpur on Tuesday. Monica Chaturvedi

plus to the original owners.

And in his annual address Tuesday, economy and trade were the new issues Bhagwat chose to dwell on. He expressed hope that "we will definitely come out of this cycle of so-called recession" in the wake of steps taken by the government.

"To strengthen the economy, government is compelled to take steps such as allowing Foreign Direct Investment and disinvestment of industries. However, while implementing many government schemes and welfare policies at the lower level, more alacrity and efficiency and avoiding unnecessary stringency can set many matters right," he said. His reference to avoid "unnec-

essary stringency" appeared to draw attention to the impact of stringent norms in banking, cash transactions and GST in adversely impacting business sentiments across the country.

Though acknowledging that the government is "compelled to EXPLAINE

Possible leverage for affiliates

THE RSS chief's remarks are guiding lights for its affiliate organisations. Last year's, Mohan Bhagwat's remarks on the Ram temple had got the VHP to mount pressure on the government, which struggled to wriggle out of it. Bhagwat's remarks advocating Swadeshi and suggestions of not yielding in trade agreements comes at a time when the government is reeling under an economic slowdown and there is demand for big bang reforms. His remarks could be used by RSS affiliates as leverage to push their viewpoints with the BJP government.

take steps such as allowing Foreign Direct Investment and disinvestment of industries" amid the prevailing economic situation, the RSS chief suggested the Swadeshi route for long-term benefits even if it meant taking a "circuitous route". "Forgetting the Swadeshi con-

sciousness, while seeking answers to the pressures of the situation, will also lead to loss... Considering our economic scenario, even if we have to choose any circuitous route, we must overcome the compulsions once and for all by setting a destination and direction based on our own strength," he said invoking the late Dattopant Thengadi, the driving force behind the RSS's labour and farmers affiliates.

However, it was Bhagwat's remarks on trade that appeared to draw a red line for the Centre which is engaged in negotiations for a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement, and an issue which has agitated RSS-affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) and a section of domestic industry wary of China's presence in RCEP.

RSS chief suggested that the need to think of trade relations in Indian terms without letting immediate concerns cloud our choices. "To minimise the impact of other immediate crises and ups and downs of the world economy on our financial system, we need to go to the basics and ponder. We have to formulate our own economic vision keeping in mind our requirements, profile and condition of our people and our resources and potential to realise

our national aspirations," he said. "We have to take steps to formulate our own economic vision, policy and system that instil in us capacity to create more and more employment with least consumption of energy that is beneficial for the environment, make us self-reliant in every respect, and create and expand trade relations with the world on the basis of our

His suggestions are seen in the backdrop of ongoing trade negotiations. "This has been the stated position always. However, it is significant that Sarsanghchalak ji has reiterated at this time, when officials negotiating RCEP are pushing India into an unequal and disastrous treaty, caving in to the demands of China and other countries, detrimental to the interests of Indian economy in general and manufacturing, dairy and agriculture in particular, in the name of free trade. This needs to be stopped," SJM convenor Ashwani Mahajan told The Indian Express.

strength and terms."

The RCEP is a free trade agreement being negotiated between the 10 ASEAN countries along with its trade partners - India. Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan and South Korea. The negotiations are being pushed by the ASEAN countries.

A section of Indian industry is wary about the RCEP agreement. The SJM, on its part, voiced concerns over the RCEP and its impact on domestic enterprises in manufacturing and agriculture and dairy sectors.



Anand Sharma

Cong calls Bhagwat's lynching remark insensitive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

THE CONGRESS on Tuesday hit out at RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat for saying that lynching is a "western construct" and it should not be used in the Indian context to defame the country.

Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma said Bhagwat's remarks were insensitive and asked him to clarify whether he endorse or condemn killing of innocent men, women and children by mobs.

"Shocked at Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat's insensitive comment. The issue is not Europe or India, English or Hindi. The killing of innocent, hapless people by agitated mobs is unacceptable to humanity. Languages don't matter," Sharma said.

"I demand that you clarify in India's national interests and global perception, whether you endorse or condemn such killing of innocent men, women and children by mobs. Please come clean on this in India's national interest," he added.

Cong couldn't analyse poll defeat because Rahul walked away: Khurshid

MANOJCG NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

in the party.

ASTHE Congress struggles to find its feet even five months after its defeat in the Lok Sabha elections, senior party leader Salman Khurshid on Tuesday said it is high time the party "analyse the reasons" for its defeat to understand the message of the verdict. He said the party could not carry out the analysis because Rahul Gandhi "walked away", leaving a vacuum

Khurshid, a former External Affairs Minister, said he was not happy with the temporary arrangement put in place by the party by appointing Sonia Gandhi as the interim president. "I am not happy with that. Whoever is our leader, I want him or her to stay. I want them to stay," he told The Indian Express.

He said he is sharing his "agony" so that it gets registered somewhere.

On the Congress's prospects in the Haryana and Maharashtra Assembly elections, he hoped the party is battle ready. "We got a new leadership in Haryana and elsewhere, I hope we are ready," he said. On divisions in the party in the two states, he said, "Those problems are there for everyone to see. But we just have to handle them. What I am saying is let's handle it. Time is short.'

Asked about his comments

made to Associated Press news agency that the party is yet to analyse the Lok Sabha election defeat as Rahul Gandhi had walked away, he said: "You have to have a leadership in place to do it. But unfortunately and sadly we lost our leader. Our problem is that he walked away but we still remain committed to him... This is a unique thing. Two defeats and the leader still remains the leader. People still owe allegiance to him. But unfortunately since he is not there we haven't been able to do the analysis.'

"It is sad that we lost our leader. I wish we had him. We all wanted him to stay. That is a big thing. The entire party wanted him to stay. But we don't have him. So what to do? I can't call people and say let's do an analysis. It has to be done by the leader.. I hope after the elections we will be able to address it," he said.

"The sooner we do it (the analysis) the better. Because that is how we will get the message. We had a fantastic manifesto, but we were not able to carry the people.

Dussehra Festivities Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former PM Manmohan Singh during Dussehra celebrations in New **Delhi on Tuesday.** Anil Sharma

Take forward spirit of Navratra, empower women, says Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP Delhi unit chief Manoj Tiwari at the Dwarka Shri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

Ramlila Society in New Delhi on Tuesday. Tashi Tobgyal

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged people to work towards furthering the empowerment of women and ensuring their dignity by taking forward the spirit of Navratra.

The PM was speaking at a Dussehra event organised by Dwarka Sri Ramleela Society, where effigies of Ravan, Kumbhakarna and Meghanad were burnt, signifying the triumph of good over evil.

Modi said that as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary, people should take up the mission of not wasting food, conserving energy and water and avoiding single-use plastic.

He said that in a country where goddesses are worshipped

during Navratra, people should take the spirit forward by working towards furthering the empowerment of women and protecting their dignity.

Greeting people on the occasion, Modi said that India is a land of festivals. "Festivals are the life of our country. This Diwali we should felicitate our daughters who have achieved something or who have inspired others," he said.

The PM said that Air Force Day is also being celebrated today and the country is phenomenally proud of the IAF.

Modi applied 'tilak' on the forehead of those playing the roles of Ram, Sita and Lakshman on stage. MP Parvesh Sahib Singh, who also attended the event, later said the stage was built on the lines of the proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya. "It was resembling the design of the temple

that has been proposed to be built in Ayodhya and the tomb looked similar to Akshardham," he said.

The 107-foot effigies of Ravan, Kumbhakarna and Meghanad were prepared with green crackers, said chairman of Dwarka Sri Ramleela Society Rajesh Gehlot.

Meanwhile, during another Dussehra event at Ramleela Maidan, Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Goel disposed of a Ravan effigy made of single-use plastic. Goel said the effigy was made by Ramleela Committee in association with a Cement Manufacturing Association that will dispose of such plastics and use them in road construction.

The plastic effigy can be reduced to waste by pressing a button, Goel said. The aim to promote the use of plastic as a new in the cement industry, which will reduce the cost of fuel by 20%.

ing in Delhi on October 8. ings in Court.

Advocates refused to com-

Ayodhya: Mosque side turns down mediation feeler

SEEMA CHISHTI NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

DAYS AFTER Ramlalla Virajman, one of the three main parties to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit, told the Supreme Court that they would not participate in the mediation process, the side arguing for the mosque has also turned down an invitation by the Supreme

Court-appointed mediators. After C S Vaidyanathan, the advocate for Ramlalla Virajman, told the court on September 30 that they "were not participating" in the mediation, the mediators wrote a letter on October 2

veyed to the mediators that they were "busy" with the proceed-

The Indian Express has learnt that the Mosque side has also asked mediators to clarify "who" had initiated these meetings. They also sought clarification on whether there was a counterproposal to a concrete proposal put forward by the Mosque side in March this year, which was a plan for coexistence of a mosque

The side representing the

ment on the matter and none of the mediators could be reached. The mediation team, led by Former Chief Iustice of the

Madras High Court F M I Kalifullah, Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and senior advocate Sriram Panchu, received a lease of life when two of the parties Zufar Farooqi, Chairman of the Sunni Waqf Board and Dharam Das, of the Nirvani Akhara, wrote to the mediators asking for a resumption of the process and the mediators, in turn, wrote to the five-judge Constitution bench hearing the

matter. On September 18, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi allowed the mediation process to resume simultaneously along with the arguments. He also asked for all arguments before the apex court to be concluded by October 18.

The mediation had been initially suggested by the Supreme Court on March 8. On May 7, the mediators submitted a report saying that they were making "progress". The deadline set for mediation was August 15, but on July 11, the Supreme Court asked the Kalifulla-led team to wind up and conclude the discussions by July 29, wherein the mediation was deemed to have "failed".

However, as reported by *The Indian Express*, the mediation did have its moments when some breakthrough seemed possible, particularly when the Mosque side advanced a proposal early on.

Governor clears ordinance, hits back at Cong MP

INDIRECT ELECTIONS FOR MAYOR, PRESIDENT OF CIVIC BODIES IN MADHYA PRADESH

MILIND GHATWAI BHOPAL, OCTOBER 8

MADHYA PRADESH Governor Lalji Tandon Tuesday cleared an ordinance to hold indirect elections for the posts of mayor and president of smaller municipal bodies, ending speculation and a war of words between the Opposition BJP and Congress.

Several senior leaders of both parties, including Chief Minister Kamal Nath and former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, had over

Governor to argue for and against the ordinance, which seeks to restore practice of councillors, and not people, electing the mayor or the president. BJP has accused Congress of

the last few days called on

being wary of defeat in direct elections, saying the system is prone to horse-trading when councillors choose mayor or president and the government uses its authority to influence the outcome. All mayors in the 16 municipal corporations in the state are from BJP. Of the two ordinances sent to

him, Governor had earlier cleared The MP Local Authorities (Electoral Offences) Amendment Ordinance that seeks to punish candidates with jail term up to six months and fine of up to Rs 25,000 for furnishing false information in their nominations, but had not given his immediate nod to the ordinance that seeks to

amend the municipalities Act. A tweet on Sunday by Congress Rajya Sabha MP and legal expert Vivek Tankha, who sought to remind Tandon of his 'Rajya Dharma', angered the octogenarian who took oath as Governor on July 29. The tweet also forced the CM to call on the Governor on Monday and explain his and the Congress's position while describing Tankha's comment as "personal views". Tankha had tweeted, "He

should listen to the Opposition but withholding consent will set a wrong tradition." On Tuesday, the Raj Bhavan is-

sued a statement without naming Tankha. "Commenting on the discretion of people holding constitutional posts amounts to violation of constitutional limits. Putting direct or indirect pressure on the Governor violates constitutional limits. This act is harmful to democratic traditions," it read. The note quoted CM as having told Governor that government

had nothing to do with public comments by people who tried to pressure him. "Those comments are personal. It's necessary in a democracy to respect limits," the CM said without naming Tankha. Tankha said he welcomed the

Governor's decision.

to Ejaz Magbool, one of the advocates-on-record arguing for the Mosque, asking for a meet-But the Mosque side con-

and a temple at the site.

temple did not agree to discuss the plan and did not make an offer of its own either, which led to the mediation process being deemed "failed".

So let's do something," he added.

EXPRESS NETWORK

J&K: Cong, NC, PDP unlikely to contest BDC polls

ARUN SHARMA

JAMMU. OCTOBER 8

BARRING THE BIP, all the main political parties in Jammu and Kashmir have decided not to contest the first ever Block **Development Council elections** being held in the state on October 24.

The Congress had last Friday said it would participate in the elections despite its strong reservations about the conduciveness of the political and security environment in view of restrictions in the Valley. The party has now reversed its decision.

The NC, PDP and CPI(M) had already expressed reservations over participating in BDC polls.

The Congress's decision to stay away from the polls was taken by the high command after a review of the situation during a meeting in Delhi, sources said. The state Congress is likely to make an announcement on Wednesday.

When contacted, party spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said there was "rethinking" in view of the continued detention of senior leaders and workers in the Valley.

The U-turn by the Congress came a day before the last date for filing of nomination by candidates. "We will issue a corrigendum asking the Election Commission to treat as independents all those having filed nomination papers as Congress candidates," said a senior party leader.

About participating in the polls, NC provincial president Devender Rana said, "How can we?" Rana had last week led a 15-member delegation from Jammu to meet party leaders Farooq and Omar Abdullah, who are under detention in Srinagar.

BASHAARAT MASOOD

IN THE first encounter between

militants and security forces in

south Kashmir since the abroga-

tion of J&K's special status on

August 5, two local militants of

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were killed

on Tuesday. This was the fourth

gunfight in two months since the

communication blackout has hampered anti-militancy opera-

On Tuesday, a joint team of

I&K Police and Army cordoned

off Kawani village of Awantipora

after specific inputs about the

presence of militants. As the joint

team zeroed in on the target area,

the militants opened fire trigger-

ing a gun battle that lasted for

tants. A civilian was also injured,"

slain militants as Ufaid Faroog

Lone (21) alias Abu Muslim and

Abass Ahmad Bhat of LeT. While

Lone. a resident of Awantipora,

had joined militant ranks in July

"We have killed two mili-

Police have identified the

tions in the Valley.

several hours.

a police officer said.

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 8

First south Kashmir

two militants killed

encounter since Aug 5,

Cloud over genuineness of exercise

> A BOYCOTT of the BDC elections will put a question mark on the genuineness of holding the exercise on party lines. It would also rake up the issue of the scenario on the ground in the wake of detention of mainstream politicians in the Valley. Non-participation of Opposition parties in the electoral process is bound to increase alienation among people in Kashmir.

"No decision can be taken in the absence of leadership," he said.

He added, "For any political activity or process to start, the political environment has to be conducive for such participation. In the present scenario, the said political activity due to a lockdown and communication breakdown is not possible."

Sources in the PDP, too, said there has been no discussion on poll participation. "It was impossible to discuss BDC elections as the party leadership has been inaccessible due to restrictions and lockdown," said PDP's former legislator Firdous Tak.

CPI(M) leader Sham Kesar expressed surprise over the decision to hold BDC elections on party basis when most mainstream political leaders and workers are under detention.

The election schedule for BDCs was announced by State Chief Electoral Officer Shailendra Kumar last month. Polling hours would be from 9 am to 1 pm and results would be announced the same day, he had said.

last year and was classified as cat-

egory 'C' militant, Abass, a resi-

dent of Kawani village of

Awantipora, was a recent recruit.

Police have identified the injured

have been four encounters be-

tween militants and security

forces in Kashmir – one in south

Kashmir (Tuesday), two in north

Kashmir and one an ongoing gunfight in the upper reaches of

central Kashmir's Ganderbal.

The total number of militants

killed in the operations since

August 5 is six, the lowest in a

two-month period since the

in central Kashmir's Ganderbal

district is going on for the last 12

days. On September 27, Army

killed a militant during the oper-

ation in the mountainous terrain

of Gangabal while another mili-

tant was killed three days later.

On Monday, Army airdropped

paratroopers in the area. The

slain militants are believed to be

part of a group which is believed

to have recently infiltrated into

the Valley from Gurez sector.

An anti-militancy operation

2016 unrest.

In the last two months, there

civilian as Sabzar Bhat.

On IAF Day, Rajnath inducts first Rafale into Indian fleet

ADITI KHANNA MERIGNAC (FRANCE) OCTOBER 8

THE RAFALE multi-role fighter jets will boost India's air dominance exponentially, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Tuesday as he formally took delivery of the first of the 36 longawaited French-made aircraft acquired by the Indian Air Force at a ceremony.

Singh attended the handover ceremony along with his French counterpart Florence Parly at aircraft-maker Dassault Aviation's facility in Merignac, southwestern France.

The Minister performed a Shastra Puja on the new aircraft as he emblazoned it with an 'Om' tilak and laid flowers and a coconut, just before he was to take off in it for a sortie in the newly acquired two-seater jet.

Singh, who changed into combat flight gear for the sortie, said the aircraft will enhance IAF's combat capability massively — intended only for selfdefence. "We do not purchase arms and other defence equipments to threaten any country but to increase our capabilities and strengthen our defences.' 68-year-old Singh said.

"I had never imagined that I

would be flown at supersonic speed; a very comfortable and smooth flight during which I was able to observe the many capabilities of the jet, its air-to-air and



Rajnath Singh with the IAF's first Rafale fighter after the delivery ceremony in Merignac, France, Tuesday. Reuters

air-to-ground combat capabilities," he said, describing his sortie as "memorable" and a "oncein-a-lifetime experience".

On September 19, Singh flew in the Tejas fighter aircraft from the HAL airport in Bengaluru, becoming the first defence minister to fly in the indigenouslybuilt light combat aircraft.

"Our Air Force is the fourthlargest in the world and I believe that the Rafale Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft will make us even stronger and will give a boost to India's air dominance exponentially to ensure peace and security in the region," Singh said, addressing the gathering in

"I have been told that the French word Rafale means 'andhi' (storm) in Hindi or gust of wind. I am sure that the aircraft will live up to its name," he

The RB001 Rafale, denoting the initials of Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Bhadauria who played a key role in striking the deal for the jets in his previous role as IAF deputy chief, was unveiled with the Indian Tricolour as its back-

"Today marks a new milestone in the Indo-French strategic partnership and indeed a new high in the bilateral defence cooperation. Such achievements encourage us to do more and that will be on my agenda when I meet Minister Parly today," Singh said, in reference to the annual Indo-French Defence Dialogue scheduled for late Tuesday evening.

THE RAFALE JOURNEY

2007: IAF issues tender for 126 Medium Multi-**Role Combat Aircraft**

2012: Indian

government selects **Dassault Aviation's** Rafale. Negotiations begin with manufacturer but are stuck

APRIL 2015: PM

Narendra Modi announces on a trip to France that India will buy 36 Rafale jets in 'fly-away' condition from France. Then **Defence Minister** Manohar Parrikar says previous deal for 126 jets is dead. India and France start negotiating terms for a new deal

JAN 2016: The two countries sign a MoU for 36 Rafale jets. Negotiations continue

SEPT 2016: India and France sign deal for 36 aircraft

OCT 8, 2019: India inducts first Rafale jet

SEPTEMBER 2022: All 36 Rafale jets to be ferried to India

SHIVAKUMAR MONEY LAUNDERING PROBE

Co-op bank chief may appear before ED today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, OCTOBER 8

AS PART of its investigations into financial transactions of Karnataka Congress leader and former minister DK Shivakumar. who was arrested on September 3 for alleged money laundering, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned the president of the Karnataka State Apex Co-operative Bank K N Rajanna. The ED summons for

Rajanna, a former Congress MLA, is linked to nearly Rs 200 crore loans given by co-operative banks in Karnataka in the 2015-17 period to a sugar firm run by a close associate of Shivakumar. In 2017, soon after demoneti-

the Income-Tax sation, Department had red-flagged loans worth over Rs 500 crore given from co-operative banks to sugar firms run by Congress leaders Lakshmi Hebbalkar and Ramesh Jharkholi as possible money laundering transactions.

Both were at the time associates of Shivakumar but Jharkiholi subsequently fell out with Shivakumar over control of the Belagavi district in Karnataka and is now associated with the BJP after being disqualified as a Congress MLA in July.

Hebbalkar, who is currently a Congress MLA, was recently

sedition: 180

questioned by the ED over her financial dealings with Shivakumar and the ED summons to Rajanna is seen as a follow-up in the probe of Shivakumar and associates.

Rajanna has acknowledged receiving the ED summons and stated that he will appear before the agency on October 9. "The ED may want to know how the loans were availed," he said.

Filings with the Registrar of Companies show that Soubhagya Laxmi Sugars Ltd, a sugar mill started in 2008 by Jharkhiholi, got loans to the tune of Rs 318 crore from the Karnataka State Apex Co-operative Bank-led consortium after the Congress government came to power in 2013 when Jharkiholi was briefly the

minister for small scale industries. Filings for Harsha Sugars Ltd. started in 2014 by Hebbalkar, shows that the sugar mill received a Rs 215 crore loan in 2015 from almost the same group of banks.

The I-T Department in an official statement issued in January 2017 said that investigations had so far "confirmed that huge unexplained cash deposits have been made in the bank accounts of family members and associates and in benami names in primary cooperative societies which were transferred to business entities carrying out sugar manufacturing".

Can it be called Javadekar: Can't blame Modi govt, personalities question FIR over letter to PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI, OCTOBER 8

OVER 180 members of the cultural community, including actor Naseeruddin Shah, cinematographer Anand Pradhan, historian Romila Thapar and activist Harsh Mander among others, condemned the FIR lodged against 49 celebrities for an open letter they wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Last week, an FIR was filed in Bihar's Muzaffarpur against personalities, including directors Aparna Sen, Adoor Gopalakrishnan and writer-columnist Ramchandra Guha for alleged sedition over a letter they wrote to the PM in July, voicing concern over growing incidents of mob lynching.

In new letter issued on Monday, October 7, the eminent personalities questioned how writing an open letter to the Prime Minister could be called "an act of sedition".

"An FIR has been lodged against 49 of our colleagues in the cultural community, simply because they performed their duty as respected members of civil society. They wrote an open letter to the Prime Minister, expressing concern about mob lynching in our country... Can this be called an act of sedition? Or is harassment by misusing the courts a ploy to silence citizens' voices?" it read.

The signatories said they will continue to speak up against silencing of "people's voices".

jaro with Sahu, said that training

was a focussed and arduous

BJP for case against eminent personalities **PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

HITTING BACK at critics for blaming the Modi government for the registration of a sedition case against 49 intellectuals and artists, the BJP on Tuesday said it was an "absolute falsehood" spread by vested interests and asserted that the development had nothing to with either the party

Putting up a strong defence of the government, senior BJP leader and Union I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar noted that the FIR was filed after a Bihar court's order on a petition. The government has not filed the FIR, he added.

or its dispensation at the Centre.

"This has nothing to do with the BIP and the government. This is a canard which is always spread to defame the Modi government... This is an absolute falsehood spread by vested interests and tukde-tukde gang,'

he said

The FIR was lodged in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district against 49 intellectuals, including Aparna Sen, Adoor Gopalakrishnan and Ramchandra Guha, for alleged sedition after they wrote an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi against growing incidents of lynching.

The case was registered after a chief judicial magistrate passed an order on a petition filed by a lawyer alleging that the writers had tarnished the image of the country.

87TH AIR FORCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Balakot airtrikes were major shift in govt's handling of terror: IAF chief

KRISHN KAUSHIK

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

AIR CHIEF Marshal R K S Bhadauria on Tuesday said that the Balakot airstrikes were a "major shift" in the government's way of handling terrorist attacks, adding that the Pulwama terror attack was a stark reminder of the threat to defence installations.

In a written note in a booklet as part of the 87th Air Force Day celebrations, Bhadauria said that the "strategic relevance of this (Balakot strike) is the resolve of the political leadership to punish the perpetrators of terrorism and the capability of the IAF to execute a strike inside Pakistan". This, he wrote, "has been a major shift in the government's way of handling terrorist attacks".

He said the present security environment in India's neighbourhood is a serious cause of concern, and the Pulwama terror strike is a stark reminder of the persistent threat to defence installations. "We must always be ever ready to respond to any contingency," Bhadauria, who took over as the Indian Air Force chief last week, noted.

Delivering a speech at the Hindon Air Base in Ghaziabad, Bhadauria acknowledged "the contributions of all personnel of commands, stations and units who silently and professionally contributed to the success of the air strikes on the terrorist camps



IAF chief RKS Bhadauria with former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar at Hindon Air Base, Army chief Bipin Rawat and Navy chief Karambir Singh were also present. Prem Nath Pandey

at Balakot earlier this year".

He awarded citations to the 51 Squadron, the 9 Squadron and 601 signal unit of the Indian Air Force for their roles in the air strikes. "It is extremely important that we are always vigilant and alert to the existing sub-conventional threat. In the year gone by, the IAF has demonstrated its resolve and capability in punishing the perpetrators of terrorism and we need to be ever prepared to meet any contingency that challenges the defence of our country," Bhadauria said.

He reaffirmed the Air Force's commitment to "work with dedication to enhance the 'jointness' amongst the services".

Speaking about the modernization of the IAF, the Air Force chief said that it was on the path of "rapid modernisation through acquisition of crucial technologies and critical capabilities such as the Rafale fighter aircraft, S-400 Surface-to-Air Missile, precision weapons, advanced electronics and early warning systems to name a few," just hours before Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inducted the first Rafale jet in France.

tance of developing defence equipment within the country, He said, "To achieve true strategic autonomy, we need to focus on indigenous design and man-

But he stressed on the impor-

ufacturing" and said that the IAF "is fully committed towards indigenous development of high technology hardware in consonance with 'Make in India'.'

After Bhadauria's speech, the star of the dogfight between the Indian and Pakistani Air Forces on February 27, Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who was awarded the Vir Chakra for downing a Pakistani fighter jet, led a MiG-21 Bison formation at the Air Force Day flypast.

Another hero of the dogfight that made a brief appearance was one of the Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jets that Pakistan had claimed it had shot down during the dogfight.

SET UP WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TEAM, HE ALSO FOUGHT FOR HIS RIGHT TO DRIVE

Double amputee who scaled Kilimanjaro raises bar, eyes Everest next

DIPANKAR GHOSE RAIPUR, OCTOBER 8

IT IS a day he does not like reliving. Not just because of the pain, but because he has left it so far behind. He was a 21-year-old civil engineer, on his way back home to Balod from Bilaspur on a train. As the train set off, he slipped and fell, right into the gap that train and metro announcements make public warnings about. In 24 days, he lost both his legs. Five-and-ahalf vears later. Chitrasen Sahu has set up the state wheelchair basketball team, fought for his right to drive, and on September 23, became India's first double amputee to climb Mount

thetic legs, and an iron will.

On June 4, 2014, Sahu boarded a train from Bilaspur, where he had just passed out of the Government College, and was heading home to Balod. He was thinking of the upcoming examinations for the defence services that he had been preparing for, and was standing near the door. "The handle was slippery that day...The train had just started and I fell...One leg got immediately. amputated Twenty-four days later, my second leg too got amputated, due to medical negligence," he said.

His family and friends never let his morale fall, and that was tonic for his mental health, "They never let me feel that something bad has happened. If you can't say some-

thing positive, don't say something negative either," he said. An employee with the

Chhattisgarh Housing Board now, Sahu attended a camp set up by the Wheelchair Basketball Federation of India in 2017 in Rajnandgaon. "They did selections and left the team from that point. There were lots of financial issues. The first time we went to play on a national stage, we did so with a lot of difficulties. Then that group helped me connect with others, and I got involved in rehabilitation. In the second year, I set up the women's team and then I took them to national events...People who can't get out of their homes

after such an accident, often get

inspired by sports...There are



Kilimanjaro in Sept 2018.

many parents who do not have strong financial backgrounds. It is important to convey to them that they will have support. So when we train for basketball, we also focus a great deal on career counselling," he said. But even as Sahu began helping others like him to find ways

to negotiate life with pride, there were roadblocks in his own. Like when he had to fight in court for his right to drive. "In November 2017, I purchased a car. I had all the documents. The RTO denied me a registration and license out of fear. They said we will not look at any central government circular and just refused. We tried to talk to the government but nothing happened. I put in a petition to the Chhattisgarh High Court in April 2018, and the judgment came out on July 3, 2019." The judgment, reviewed by *The*

Indian Express, directs the authorities to inspect the vehicle of the petitioner, and if the modifications are found to be within the rules, to be declared an "invalid carriage" as Sahu had applied for, to enable him to drive.

who goes by the moniker "mountain man" in the state, was holding a press conference after a successful climb of Mount Everest. It was a press conference Sahu had attended, and it was then he asked the question. "I approached Rahul Gupta and asked him if a double amputee can climb mountains. We slowly started training. Small mountains and climbs first. The full training took close to a yearand-a-half," Sahu said. Gupta, who climbed Kiliman-

process, culminating in a weeklong trek in Himachal Pradesh at 14,000 feet above sea level. "The good thing about him is that he is a slow mountaineer. However In May of 2018, Rahul Gupta, slow you are, the acclimatisation process is that much easier. But it is dangerous too," Gupta said.

At 11 am on September 23, Sahu took the last final steps to Mt Kilimanjaro. "Since then, so many people have messaged me saying that I have an amputation on one leg, and I want to do something like this. If anyone has been positively affected, what I had set out to do has been accomplished," Sahu said.

As he returned to India with Gupta, Sahu already knew the answer to the question of what next. He wants to scale Mount Everest. But that is a project that will not just need his mental and physical fortitude, but also financial assistance. "I need new equipment for it," he said. But financial help is not the

only thing he seeks. Sahu also wants people around him, especially from India, to understand personal space of those that are amputees. "If you want to offer help, do so with consent. Those stares you get from people are the most upsetting. At the Indian airport going to Tanzania, people would without any warning come up and ask what happened... Sometimes it's important to understand that you don't want to go back to that dark place," he said.

Kilimanjaro. All on his two pros-

#ExpressExplained

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

TELLING NUMBERS

Regional parties own Rs 1,320 cr; SP richest, JD(U) assets multiply

TOP 12 ASSET-HOLDERS, 2017-18(IN ₹CR) 2016-17 2017-18

Source: Association for Democratic Reforms A NEW report by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) has analysed the assets and liabilities declared by regional parties in 2016-17 and 2017-18. The number of regional

parties who declared their holdings has increased from 39 in 2016-17 (Rs 1,267.81 crore declared) to 41 in 2017-18 (Rs 1,320.06 crore). Their liabilities in the two years were Rs 40.33 crore (39 parties) and Rs 61.61 crore (41 parties).

The Samajwadi Party holds Rs 583.29 crore, which is 46 per cent of regional parties under six major the assets declared by all 41 parties in 2017-18. The regional giants of Tamil Nadu account for another 15 per cent each, with the DMK holding Rs 191.64 crore and the AIADMK holding Rs 189.54 crore. The TDP is the only other party that has declared more than Rs

100 crore. Besides these four, eight more parties have declared more than Rs 10 crore, with the AAP at 13th place with a little over Rs 6 crore.

The JD(U)'s assets have increased almost threefold from Rs 3.46 crore to Rs 13.78 crore. The assets of two other parties in the top 12 have doubled from Rs 14.49 crore to Rs 29.04 crore for the TRS, and from Rs 7.61 crore to Rs 15.44 crore for the JD(S).

These assets were declared by the heads: fixed assets, loans & advances, FDR/ deposits, TDS, investments and other assets. FDR/fixed deposits comprised two-thirds of their total assets in both years — Rs 809.52 crore (63.85%) in 2016-17 and Rs 859.89 crore (65.14%) in 2017-18.

THIS WORD MEANS

BUNAD

Norway's traditional costume; comes in many forms



Amb. Hans Jacob Frydenlund, wearing a bunad, presents his **credentials to President Kovind last month.** Rashtrapati Bhavan

WHEN NORWEGIAN Ambassador Hans Jacob Frydenlund went to Rashtrapati Bhavan to present his credentials to President Ram Nath Kovind recently, he was wearing his country's traditional folk costume. Called a "bunad", it is not a single kind of costume but an umbrella term with several regional variations. A bunad often includes an apron, a headdress, and a scarf or shawl, and is embroidered and embellished with buckles, ornaments,

jewellery and at times, blades. Bunads are expensive and typically worn on festive occasions. The University of Oslo estimates that one in two Norwegians owns a bunad, which is about 2.5 million bunads.

There are 400 different variations that come in different styles for men and women. In 2012, Norway's Ministry of Culture appointed the Bunad and National Costume Council to promote the use of bunads and other national costumes.



GENERAL STUDIES, CSAT & OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

CLASSROOM COURSE
 TEST SERIES

POSTAL COURSE

9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110 060 Ph.: 011-41007400, 41007500; e-mail: vajiramandravi79@gmail.com Visit us at www.vajiramandravi.com

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

How plan for clean air works

Stricter measures under Graded Response Action Plan in Delhi-NCR from October 15. How has the plan worked in Delhi so far, what is being extended to NCR towns, and where do other states figure in it?

MALLICA JOSHI

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

STARTING OCTOBER 15, some stricter measures to fight air pollution will come into force in Delhi's neighbourhood, as part of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The action plan has already been in effect for two years in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR). What is new in the recent an Nouncement is that measures aimed at stopping the use of diesel generator sets will, from next week, extend beyond Delhi to the NCR, where many areas see regular power cuts.

The measures that are coming into force will be incremental. As pollution rises, and it is expected to as winter approaches, more measures will come into play depending on the air quality.

All these measures are part of GRAP, which was formulated in 2016 and notified in 2017. Experts working in the field of air pollution have credited this list of measures with causing the dip in Delhi's air pollution over the past few years.

What is GRAP?

Approved by the Supreme Court in 2016, the plan was formulated after several meetings that the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) held with state government representatives and experts. The result was a plan that institutionalised measures to be taken when air quality deteriorates.

GRAP works only as an emergency measure. As such, the plan does not include action by various state governments to be taken throughout the year to tackle industrial, vehicular and combustion emissions. When the air quality shifts from poor to very poor, the measures listed under both sections have to be followed since the plan is incremental in nature.

If air quality reaches the severe+ stage, GRAP talks about shutting down schools and implementing the odd-even road-space rationing scheme.

GRAP has been successful in doing two things that had not been done before — creating a step-by-step plan for the entire Delhi-NCR region and getting on board several agencies: all pollution control boards, industrial area authorities, municipal corporations, regional officials of the India Meteorological Department, and others. The plan requires action and coordination among 13 different agencies in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan (NCR ar-

GRADE BY GRADE



SEVERE+ OR EMERGENCY

(PM 2.5 over 300 µg/cubic metre or PM10 over $500 \,\mu\text{g/cu}$. m. for 48 + hours)

- Stop entry of trucks into Delhi
- (except essential commodities) ■ Stop construction work
- Introduce odd/even scheme for
- private vehicles and minimise exemptions
- Task Force to decide any additional steps including shutting of schools

SEVERE

(PM 2.5 over 250 μg/cu. m. or PM10 over 430 μg/cu. m.)

- Close brick kilns, hot mix plants, stone crushers
- Maximise power generation from natural gas to reduce generation from
- Encourage public transport, with differential rates
- More frequent mechanised cleaning of road and sprinkling of water

eas). At the head of the table is the EPCA,

mandated by the Supreme Court. GRAP was notified in 2017 by the Centre and draws its authority from this notification. Before the imposition of any measures, EPCA holds a meeting with representatives

VERY POOR

(PM2.5 121-250 µg/cu. m. or PM10 351-430 μg/cu. m.)

- Stop use of diesel generator sets ■ Enhance parking fee by 3-4 times
- Increase bus and Metro services
- Apartment owners to discourage burning fires in winter by providing electric heaters during winter
- Advisories to people with respiratory and cardiac conditions to restrict outdoor movement

MODERATE TO POOR

(PM2.5 61-120 μg/cu. m. or PM10 101-350 µg/cu. m.)

- Heavy fines for garbage burning
- Close/enforce pollution control regulations in brick kilns and industries
- Mechanised sweeping on roads with heavy traffic and water sprinkling
- Strictly enforce ban on firecrackers

from all NCR states, and a call is taken on which actions has to be made applicable in which town.

Last year, the ban on using diesel generator sets was implemented only in Delhi. This year, it is being extended to a few NCR towns.

Rural areas are, however, being left out of this stringent measure because of unreliable power supply.

Has GRAP helped?

The biggest success of GRAP has been in fixing accountability and deadlines. For each action to be taken under a particular air quality category, executing agencies are clearly marked. In a territory like Delhi, where a multiplicity of authorities has been a longstanding impediment to effective governance, this step made a crucial difference. Also, coordination among as many as 13 agencies from four states is simplified to a degree because of the clear demarcation of responsibilities.

Three major policy decisions that can be credited to EPCA and GRAP are the closure of the thermal power plant at Badarpur bringing BS-VI fuel to Delhi before the deadline set initially, and the ban on Pet coke as a fuel in Delhi NCR.

The EPCA, headed by retired IAS officer Bhure Lal and including members from the Centre for Science and Environment, was constituted in 1998 by the Supreme Court. The initial mandate of the body was to ensure the shift of Delhi's bus and auto fleet to CNG — a mammoth task that was among the most crucial ones in cleaning Delhi's air in the late 2000s.

The body continues to monitor pollution and assists the Supreme Court in several pollution-related matters.

What measures have been taken in other states?

One criticism of the EPCA as well as GRAP has been the focus on Delhi. While other states have managed to delay several measures, citing lack of resources, Delhi has always been the first one to have stringent measures enforced. In a recent meeting that discussed the ban on diesel generator sets, the point about Delhi doing all the heavy lifting was also raised.

In 2014, when a study by the World Health Organization found that Delhi was the most polluted city in the world, panic spread in the Centre and the state government. The release of a study on sources of air pollution the following year also gave experts, NGOs and scientists a handle on why Delhi was so polluted.

All of these things, state government officials say, have made Delhi the obvious pi-

For GRAP as well as EPCA, the next challenge is to extend the measures to other states effectively.

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

What does 'no dengue deaths' really mean?

ABANTIKA GHOSH

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

ON MONDAY, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted the "stunning results" of his government's campaign to get people to invest 10 minutes every week to stop dengue mosquitoes from breeding: "The number of cases in Delhi so far is just 356, compared to 650 by this time last year", he posted; "most importantly, we have not lost a single life yet".

To put this success in perspective, it is important to note three things.

This is a low dengue year

The data sheet on the "Dengue/DHF Situation in India" uploaded by the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare contains numbers up to only May 26 of this year — well before the onset of the dengue season. Until then, the country had seen only five dengue deaths —

three in Kerala, two in Maharashtra. More recent data — albeit of dengue

cases, not deaths — were furnished to Rajya Sabha by the Ministry in July. Until the end of June, only 8,058 cases of dengue had been reported countrywide — less than 8% of the 1,01,192 cases reported by NVBDCP for the entire year in 2018. Four deaths from dengue were reported in Delhi last year, according to the NVBDCP data.

The data given to Parliament show that until June, the largest number of dengue cases this year were reported in Karnataka (1,933), followed by Tamil Nadu (1100), and Maharashtra (969). Twenty two out of 34 states and Union Territories that reported data had fewer cases than in Delhi (91). West Bengal has stopped reporting cases to the Centre.

Dengue comes in cycles

Most experts agree that dengue comes in cycles — which means, it is only after every few years that a significant spike is seen in the incidence of the disease. The NVBDCP data by 4,431, 9,271, and 7,136 cases in 2016, 2017, and 2018 respectively. Factors such as the amount of rainfall in a particular monsoon, levels of public awareness, and the efficiency of the state's response also play a role.

show 15,867 cases in Delhi in 2015, followed

Dr P K Sen, a former director of the NVB-DCP, said: "Dengue is cyclical, every 3-4 years there is a spurt. During the last few years, IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities have been stepped up across the country, and measures have been taken early. People are more aware about the dangers of accumulated water; the breeding of Aedes mosquito (which is the carrier of dengue) has gone down greatly in the last three years. Environmental factors such as El Niño (which has an impact on the monsoon) also influence the virulence of the outbreak."

Confirmation is not critical A dengue death is not classified as one un-

less the serological tests that isolate and identify the virus returns positive. Dengue is a notifiable disease, but a case is required to be notified only when the confirmatory test has been done in the lab. Importantly, however, the confirmation of dengue infection is not key to its treatment, which can proceed and even conclude without that test being done

"A suspected dengue case can be treated without any compromise in the quality of care even without confirming the suspicion. It is a viral fever, so doctors have to essentially watch out for dehydration, provide symptomatic relief, and keep a sharp eye on the platelet count so that the fever does not progress to the haemorrhagic variety," said a senior doctor at a Delhi government hospital, who did not want to be named.

"All of this", the doctor said, "can be done without the serological test, and this is routine in government hospitals where resources are limited. It also keeps the official 'dengue numbers' low. In theory, therefore, it is possible to have zero dengue deaths even when people have actually succumbed to the disease."

What we know about the universe: the science behind Physics Nobel Prize

KABIR FIRAQUE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

THIS YEAR'S Nobel Prize for Physics, announced on Tuesday, recognises research that helps us understand our place in the

Canadian-American cosmologist James Peebles, 84, won one-half of the Prize for his theoretical work helping us understand how the universe evolved after the Big Bang. The other half went to Swiss astronomers Michel Mayor, 77, and Didier Queloz, 53, for their discovery of an exoplanet that challenged preconceived ideas about planets.

How the universe evolved

Modern cosmology assumes that the universe formed as a result of the Big Bang. In decades of work since the 1960s, Peebles

to interpret what happened after. His work is focused largely on Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation, which is electromagnetic radiation left over from the early universe once it had cooled sufficiently following the

NOBEL IN

PHYSICS

used theoretical physics and calculations

Today, CMB can be observed with detectors. When it was observed for the first time in 1964

by radio astronomers Arnold Penzias and Robert Wilson who would go non to be awarded the 1978 Physics Nobel — they were initially puzzled. They learnt later that Peebles had predicted such radiation.

Peebles and colleagues have correlated the temperature of this radiation with the amount of matter created in the Big Bang,

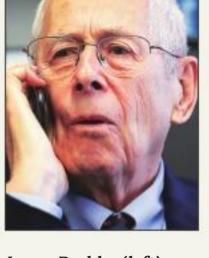
ing how this matter would later form the galaxies and galaxy clusters. From their work derives our knowledge of how mysterious the universe is – just 5% known matter and the rest unknown, as

which was a key step towards understand-

dark matter (26%) and dark energy (69%). **Exoplanets**

The hunt for extraterrestrial life, if any exists, depends on finding habitable planets, mainly outside our Solar System. Today, exoplanets are being discovered very frequently - over 4.000 are

known — which is remarkable progress from three decades ago, when not even one exoplanet was known. The first confirmed discoveries came in 1992, but these were







graph, ELODIE, built by Mayor and collaborators and installed at the Haute-Provence Observatory in France, they predicted the planet by observing the "Doppler effect" when the star wobbles as an effect of a planet's gravity on its observed light.

It is a gas giant comparable to Jupiter, yet it very hot, unlike icy cold Jupiter; 51 Pegagsus b is even closer to its star than Mercury is to our Sun. Until then, gas giants were presumed to be cold, formed a great distance from their stars. Today, it is accepted that these hot gas giants represent what Jupiter would look like if it were suddenly transported closer to the Sun. The discovery of the planet "started a revolution in astronomy", as described in the official Nobel Prize website. "Strange new worlds are still being discovered... forcing scientists to revise their theories of the physical processes behind the origins of planets," it said.

James Peebles (left) won one-half; Michel Mayor, Didier Queloz shared half.

orbiting not a star but the remains of one. The planet discovered by Mayor and Queloz in 1995 is 50 light years away, orbiting the star 51 Pegasus that is similar to our

Sun. Called 51 Pegasus b, the exoplanet is not habitable either, but it challenged our understanding of planets and laid the foundation for future discoveries. Using a spectro-

WORDLY WISE

THERE IS NO FLAG LARGE ENOUGH TO COVER THE SHAME OF KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE.

— HOWARD ZINN

The Indian EXPRESS

S FOUNDED BY S RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

RSS REPLAY

Last year, Sarsanghchalak signalled flexibility. His Dusshera speech is disquieting for how it looks inward, what it overlooks

HE BJP WON a second term with a larger mandate, its government is putting in motion its core ideological projects, Article 370 has been abrogated — and yet. A summary of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's Dussehra speech this year would have to begin with the "parantu (but)" he inserts into his address after acknowledging, and owning, the Modi-BJP's triumph. "Parantu is sukhad vatavaran mein alsa kar hum apni sajagta va apni tatparta ko bhula dein... aisa samay nahin hai", this is not the time to be lulled into complacence, he says. The rest of the speech is mostly a bristling statement of the dangers and spectres that ostensibly afflict and confront Hindutva and the "Hindu Rashtra", as the RSS and its chief have always defined, and continue to define, the nation. "Hamaare saamne kuch sankat hain jinka upaay hamein karna hai", we are faced with dangers we must resolve. These, in Bhagwat's telling, are visible but also hidden, more internal than external — "kuch sankat saamne dikhayee dete hain, kuch kuch baad mein saamne aate hain". They are born of India's diversities, which, he says, are manipulated to widen cleavages and fault lines. They come from attempts to defame Hindus, as in the case of lynchings, which, he says, are communal problems that are not one-sided, "dono taraf se aarop-pratyarop chalte hain" (there are allegations and counter-allegations).

In a speech that paints a state of siege, from family to nation, Bhagwat's description of lynchings stands out for its stark denial of a brutal reality. That these incidents of violence, most often in the name of the cow, have seen the targeting of poor and vulnerable Muslims, is documented in the videos shot and publicised by the perpetrators themselves. That such mob violence and vigilantism is emboldened by a mix of religious passion and cold calculation of impunity, a majoritarian triumphalism, is there to see. For Bhagwat to suggest otherwise may be predictable, but it is still chilling.

The RSS chief's inward-looking tone on the economy is disquieting. Even as he acknowledges the economic slowdown, albeit by attributing it to global currents, and while defending the Modi government's efforts to find a way out of it, he returns to the RSS's pet themes of "swadeshi", "swavalamban" and "swanirbharta" (self-reliance). In times when the BJP government is faced with the challenge of reviving the economy by resuscitating trade and investment, Bhagwat's articulation is a worrying reminder of the pressures an insular RSS vision can bring to bear on a government it calls its own. Bhagwat takes this theme forward — "swa bhasha (indigenous language)", "swa bhoosha (indigenous attire)", "swa sanskriti (indigenous culture)". These formulations — purveying spectres, imposing sameness — are, of course, ill fitting in a diverse democracy. They are also a retreat from what seemed to be the RSS chief's own breakthrough moment a year ago. During a chintan shivir in September 2018, Bhagwat had suggested that the RSS may be rethinking its certitudes and prejudices — most notably, by urging that Golwalkar's anti-Muslim formulations be seen in the context of their time. This harking back puts a question mark on that step forward.

TROUBLE WITH CREDIT

Collapse in credit flow to commercial sector is worrying. Time to ensure a quick and orderly resolution of stressed NBFCs

HE MONETARY POLICY Report of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) paints a worrying picture of credit flows in the economy. Between April and mid-September this year, the flow of funds to the commercial sector collapsed to Rs 90,995 crore, down from Rs 7.36 lakh crore over the same period last year. Non-food bank credit has declined, as have flows from NBFCs. Foreign flows, though, have picked up during this period. While, typically, credit flows in the first half of the year tend to be subdued and pick up in the second half, the decline this time around compared to the previous year is staggering.

The sharp decline appears to be due to a combination of two factors — a collapse in demand and risk aversion. An over-leveraged corporate sector is in the midst of a much needed deleveraging exercise. And in the current environment of subdued demand and low capacity utilisation rates, there is little incentive to launch fresh investments. On the other hand, banks appear to be reluctant to cut rates to boost lending. Instead, they are parking more funds in government securities and with the RBI. As the RBI report notes, banks have increased their SLR portfolios (statutory liquidity ratio), holding excess SLR of 6.9 per cent at the end of August 2019, as compared to 6.3 per cent at the end of March 2019, indicating a reluctance to lend. The shift in the liquidity stance from deficit to surplus mode has also not helped boost credit flow to the larger economy. It is also plausible that, in the face of growing economic uncertainty, banks have tightened credit norms, reducing those eligible for credit. Further, the crisis in the NBFC segment has only deepened. With bank credit and the commercial paper market remaining shut for NBFCs, credit flow from NBFCs to the larger economy has suffered, the fallout of which is visible in the decline in household debt fueled consumption.

A slowdown in economic activity will only exacerbate the situation, as stress on the repayment capacity of borrowers will increase the rise of default, making lenders even more cautious. Breaking out of this vicious cycle may be a long drawn out process. But the first step towards rebuilding trust, and addressing the stress in the financial sector in order to get credit flowing, should be to ensure a quick and orderly resolution of stressed NBFCs.

JUST TAKE THE METRO

Expensive 'innovations', like tracks for self-driving cars, are being touted as an ecological solution. It's not a new idea

N ANTHROPOLOGICAL CIRCLES, especially in the study of tribes, an object is considered a fetish if it is thought to be imbued with magical powers, often because it is inhabited by a spirit. Between the contemporary obsession with technology, and the near-divine worship of start-up culture, it may be time to shift the focus of that definition. The latest tech "innovation" to make news is placing on roads copper coils to make it easier to charge electric vehicles. More importantly, such dedicated roads could remove much of the uncertainty and danger around self-driving or driver-less vehicles — Elaine Herzberg became the first person to be killed by a self-driving car in 2018.

If a dedicated lane or road to provide safe, eco-friendly transport which spares commuters the trials and tribulations of driving through urban mazes seems like a familiar idea, that's because it is. Wooden rails were used as early as 1515 and the carts that plied on them have never been accused of an over-sized carbon footprint. Closer home, and closer to our times, Kolkata still sports proudly the most nostalgic form of public transport — the tram. Paris, too, has them, albeit slicker, faster versions. Sadly, trains and trams still require drivers. But for would-be commuters, what does it matter how they get there, as long as they don't have to do the driving themselves?

as long as they don't have to do the driving themselves?

The tram-track idea for electric, self-driving cars has come from a start-up. By employing new-sounding, if not novel, jargon — "eco-friendly", "futuristic", etc — the company has figured out what second-had car salesman have long known: Slap a coat of paint on it, and sell the shine. As for the substance of the proposal, track-based transport is an excellent idea for urban conglomerations that can no longer support the luxury of fuel-guzzling, space hoarding private vehicles. Fortunately, someone already thought of the metro.

Uncaging India

The steel frame has become a cage. A \$10-trillion economy needs deep civil service reform



IN SEPTEMBER 1984, JRD Tata responded to retired bureaucrat P N Haksar's letter taunting him that businessmen were not doing enough for India's development with "I began my 55-year-old career as an angry young man because I couldn't stomach foreign domination... I end it as angry old man... because it breaks my heart to see the continuing miserable fate of the vast majority of our people, for much of which I blame years of ill-conceived economic policies of our government. Instead of releasing energies and enterprises, the system of licences and controls imposed on the private sector, combined with confiscatory personal taxation, not only discouraged and penalised honest free enterprise but encouraged, and brought success and wealth, to a new breed of bribers, tax evaders, and black marketeers". Reforms over 35 years since J R D's letter — delicencing, deregulation, Aadhaar, UPI, inflation targeting, Bankruptcy, GST, lower corporate taxes, etc. — are India's strong foundations for a \$5-trillion economy. But reaching a \$10-trillion economy and a per capita income close to what China has today needs a new human capital regime for India's 20 million civil servants.

Let's imagine India's \$10-trillion economy. Eighty per cent of our labour force works outside farms (the only way to help farmers is to have less of them). We have 200 cities with more than a million people (today we have 52). Our cities meet the Marchetti constant (people have 30-minute work commutes). Our government borrows at less than 4 per cent. Our Aadhaar-linked land markets equalise rental yields and mortgage borrowing rates. PSU banks are governed by an independent holding company with no access to taxes. Our credit to GDP ratio rises to 100 per cent (from today's 50 per cent) because our financial institutions know how to lend and recover money. Government school enrollment stops declining because learning outcomes improve (if anything should be free with quality, it should be schools). We have attracted China factory refugees that are going to Vietnam and Malaysia today. The global capital glut of negative interest rates chasing growth underwrites our investment needs. Fiscal discipline delivers low inflation. Fifty per cent of our college-going-age kids go to a

This horrible hostility to private enterprises comes from toxic civil service thought-worlds like prohibited till permitted, know-it-all rather than learnit-all, too small for big things but too big for small things, poor and jerky law drafting, contempt for execution complexity, immaculate conception over continuous improvement, stereotyping the private sector as big companies rather than MSMEs, only using punishment to enforce policy rather than design driven by domain specialisation, and not viewing wealth creators as

national assets.

diverse higher education system (today 25 per cent are in a homogenous system). Policy encourages formal hiring (today's labour laws are like marriage without divorce). Our reformed social security system covers 60 per cent of workers (today's cover only 20 per cent because the Provident Fund and ESI provide poor value for money).

Prosperity needs productive firms and

workers. But India's capital is handicapped without labour and labour is handicapped without capital because of our regulatory cholesterol universe for employers of 57,000 compliances, 3,100 filings and 4,000 changes a year (details verifiable at www.teamleasecompliance.com and Rulezbook App). This horrible hostility to private enterprises comes from toxic civil service thought-worlds like prohibited till permitted, know-it-all rather than learn-it-all, too small for big things but too big for small things, poor and jerky law drafting, contempt for execution complexity, immaculate conception over continuous improvement, stereotyping the private sector as big companies rather than MSMEs, only using punishment to enforce policy rather than design driven by domain specialisation, and not viewing wealth creators as national assets. Listed PSUs have destroyed \$150 billion in value over the last decade, consistent with the Gujarati saying "Jahan raja vyapaari, wahan praja bhikhari" (where the king is a businessperson, the population is a beggar). Cutting this regulatory cholesterol needs a climate change for civil servants.

A new human capital regime starts with two projects each in six areas of structure, staffing, training, performance management, compensation, and culture. Structure Project 1 involves rationalisation: We don't need hundreds of PSUs and departments in 55 central ministries (Japan has nine, the US has 14, UK has 21). Structure Project 2 involves reverting the cylinder to a pyramid on the way to becoming an Eiffel Tower (250+ people in Delhi with Secretary rank).

Staffing Project 1 eliminates the sanctioned and actual strength gap because this is possible only with good people being overworked, non-urgent work neglected, or squatting on unnecessary posts. Staffing Project 2 creates cognitive diversity and competition

with 20 per cent lateral entry. Training Project 1 involves restructuring how courses are chosen (demand rather than supply driven), how course nominations choose people, how courses are evaluated, and how course results integrate with performance management. Training Project 2 involves making learning continuous rather than episodic.

Performance Management Project 1 involves a forced curve for appraisals of outstanding (20 per cent), good (60 per cent) and poor (20 per cent) because 98 per cent of people can't be outstanding. Performance Management Project 2 involves replicating army thresholds where people retire at 50 if not shortlisted for promotion. Compensation Project 1 involves moving to a cost-to-government number by monetising benefits. Compensation Project 2 involves freezing salaries at the bottom (we pay too much) and raising them at the top (we pay too little).

The two culture projects are the most difficult — tone from the top around corruption and differentiation. Too many civil service leaders overlook graft among subordinates or don't question the processes that breed corruption. And leaders punish good performers by writing performance appraisals that don't differentiate between gaddha (donkey) and ghoda (horse), giving top jobs by seniority, and allowing automatic promotions that create a pool of "promotable but not postable". Differentiation needs a fear of falling and hope of rising.

term pain for long-term gain because of overdue medicine. This climate change for employers — ability and strategy only becomes valuable with competition and bankruptcy — needs replication for civil servants. Cutting edge economics views development as a game of scrabble where vowels provided by

The current economic slowdown is short-

game of scrabble where vowels provided by the government enable the private sector to make more words and longer words. The current civil service fails to provide enough vowels; the steel frame has become a cage. For too long, the brain of the Indian state was not connected to its backbone. Since that has now changed, it's time to connect the backbone to its hands and legs.

The writer is with Teamlease Services

A Triangular Affair

Delhi will have to accept China's role in Bangladesh while shaping its ties with Dhaka

C Uday Bhaskar

PREPARATIONS ARE afoot for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to receive Chinese President Xi Jinping at an informal summit (October 11-12) in Mamallapuram. While a formal announcement is still awaited (at the time of writing this article) and uncertainty lingers, a tweet by the Chinese ambassador to India highlighting the need to "further unleash the positive effect of Wuhan" is seen as a signal that the Modi-Xi meeting is on.

The first informal summit between the two leaders was held at Wuhan in April 2018, necessitated by the earlier military stand-off between the Asian giants at Doklam. Prudence at the highest political level enabled the two nations to arrive at a modusvivendi in Wuhan, though the long-festering territorial dispute and an unresolved 4,000 km-plus Line of Actual Control are tenaciously alive.

The just-concluded visit (October 6) to India by Bangladesh's prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, provides an instructive cue as to how the strategic ties between India and China have evolved and future lessons to be drawn from this bilateral relationship. The Bangladesh-India-China triangle is often obscured by the high visibility accorded to Pakistan in the uneasy relationship between the two Asian giants.

India enabled the birth of Bangladesh in December 1971 when it militarily assisted the erstwhile East Pakistan to acquire freedom from its oppressive western wing and this is still venerated as the Liberation War. At the time, the Pakistani army unleashed a India's abiding regional strategic objective ought to be one which ensures that Bangladesh does not morph into a Pakistan, either by way of being compelled into choosing Beijing over Delhi; or nurturing radical Islamic ideologies domestically. It is to the credit of both Dhaka and Delhi that despite some missteps, the bi-lateral is currently described as the 'best ever' and a template for India's ties with its other neighbours.

massive genocide of its own citizens of Bangla ethnicity. More than 10 million persecuted citizens of East Pakistan fled to India and, as per official, post-liberation estimates in Dhaka — three million people were killed over a two-year period by the Pakistan army.

In the run up to the 1971 Bangladesh war, the US and China, which had begun their own rapprochement, supported Pakistan, and were opposed to Indian assistance to the East Pakistan political leadership — symbolised by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Yet, with tacit support from Moscow, India achieved what may be described as a spectacular military victory — it liberated Dhaka and handed over power to Mujibur Rahman.

It may be conjectured that this emphatic Indian military victory of 1971 led to a strategic reappraisal in Beijing about its democratic neighbour, whom it had militarily humiliated in October 1962. It is my argument that the seeds of the strategic-security anxiety in China about India were sown at that time. For a communist country that implicitly believed that power flowed from the barrel of the gun, an emphatic military victory that resulted in the division of a state (Pakistan) and the creation of a new nation (Bangladesh), could not be treated as one more regional upheaval. The victorious power (India) had to be fettered.

Beijing's response was to invest in Pakistan and, in the intervening decades, a deep and opaque Sino-Pak strategic and security relationship was nurtured. This in turn emboldened Rawalpindi, the HQ of the

Pakistan army, to embark upon a proxy war against India (with terrorism as a tool) that began in 1990 and has continued to-date.

Hence, India's abiding regional strategic objective ought to be one which ensures that Bangladesh does not morph into a Pakistan, either by way of being compelled into choosing Beijing over Delhi; or nurturing radical Islamic ideologies domestically.

It is to the credit of the leadership in both Dhaka and Delhi that despite some missteps and hesitation, the bilateral is currently described as the "best ever" and a template for India's ties with its other neighbours. Dhaka also has robust ties with Beijing and this triangular relationship, if managed with integrity and perspicacity, can unleash the positive potential latent to the Bay of Bengal littoral.

Currently, Bangladesh is an active partner of the Xi Jinping-led BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) that Delhi has steadfastly not signed up to. In the security sector, Bangladesh is also a major recipient of Chinese military inventory, including submarines.

India will have to accept this as part of the evolving regional strategic calculus enabled by China's economic-trade-fiscal clout and shape its own ties with Dhaka in such a manner that a truly win-win-win option can emerge.

The maritime domain, and the Bay of Bengal in particular, with Dhaka as the coxswain, ought to be envisioned at Mamallapuram.

The writer is director, Society for Policy Studies, New Delhi

JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN IS DEAD But comes in deep sleep after fi-hour emergency dialysis Final secretal tree body Hiber to observe 13-day secretary

OCTOBER 9, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

JP PASSES AWAY
JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN, WHO inspired
the people before and after independence
and relit the lamp of democracy, died in
deep sleep around 5.45 am. The death came
barely a week after the celebration of his
78th birthday, on Vijayadashami day.

In a signed front-page editorial, Express editor, S Mulgaonkar wrote: "In the death of Jayaprakash Narayan there departs a man who wielded on several aspects of life In India a moral Influence second only to that of Mahatma Gandhi. JP was by any reckoning one of the three greatest Indians of this century. But he himself would have taken more pride in being recognised simply as a good

man. He was caught up from his early youth in the struggle for independence and other political causes. Throughout all this and beyond it what set him apart was his deep concern for the human condition. It has been

said that he shrank from political power.

The real explanation was that for JP politics could never provide the entire answer to his quest for the freedom and dignity of the human spirit, a quest which for him embraced not only the cause of Indian independence but the struggle against imperialism and authoritarianism everywhere. It was during this phase that JP was attracted to Marxism. He was soon disenchanted with the practitioners of Marxism. JP was never again to be

a slave to political dogma and though he took the lead in launching the Congress Socialist Party he had already lost his appetite for sectarian politics... (In the 1970s) JP's ideas of total revolution were beginning to engulf other parts of the country. This brought JP in direct confrontation with Mrs Gandhi's government at the Centre... The climax was a mammoth rally in Delhi's Ram Lila grounds addressed by JP on the evening oi June 25, 1975. Within a few hours JP was arrested with many other opposition leaders...

JP died a sad, unfulfilled man. Nobody deserved such a fate less. For nobody ever brought so much high-mindedness and sincerity to the purposes for which he lived.

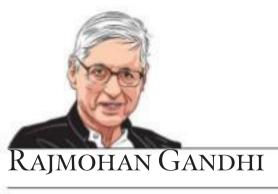
epaper<mark>.india</mark>nexpress.com

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019

THE IDEAS PAGE

Mahatma for the last man

The fearless dissenter and village worker who had a plan to make the countryside hum with life — that is the Gandhi India needs, more than ever



THERE ARE AT least three reasons why I need Gandhi today.

One emerges from this true tale. In February 1908, right after a satyagraha that Gandhi had organised in South Africa's Transvaal region, there was a bid to kill him in the region's biggest city, Johannesburg. A man called Mir Alam and his associates were angry with Gandhi's settlement with Transvaal's white government, which for the time being had ended the satyagraha.

Thirty-eight at the time, Gandhi was walking on a street in the heart of the city when a club swung from behind his back hit him on his face. Mumbling "He Raam," he fell and fainted.

Joseph Doke, a white Baptist minister who had walked with him, took Gandhi to his home, where a recovering Gandhi, unable to speak because of stitches on the cheek and mouth, wrote out a request: Would Doke's little daughter sing *Lead Kindly Light* to him?

John Henry Newman's 1833 verse, which Olive Doke sang softly at the door, began with these lines: Lead, kindly Light, amid th' encircling

gloom,/ Lead Thou me on;/ The night is dark, and I am far from home,/ Lead Thou me on;/ Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see/ The distant scene; one step enough for me.

Scenes like this from Gandhi's life fortify me in moments of concern or disappointment. Taking a single next step, be it simple or tiny, pleasant or painstaking, raises my

Secondly, I enjoy Gandhi the dissenter. As a lad, Mohan dissented from his mother when she asked him not to touch Uka, the Dalit youngster who came to clean the family home in Rajkot. He dissented again when asked by the mother to avoid Sheikh Mehtab, the wayward athlete in his school. When his caste forbade him from going to London, Mohandas said he would go anyway.

As a law student in London, where he joined the Vegetarian Society, 20-year-old Mohandas unsuccessfully backed the society's controversial dissenter, Thomas Allinson, when its head Alfred Hills, a prominent industrialist, wished to oust the doctor for advocating artificial birth control.

A dozen years later, when Gandhi was in Johannesburg, his readiness to dissent captured a young white associate called Symonds, who teasingly told Gandhi that "he would withdraw his support" if Gandhi was "ever found in a majority".

In August 1942, when the Congress voted overwhelmingly (in Mumbai) in favour of his "Quit India" call, Gandhi praised the dissenters: "I congratulate the thirteen friends who voted against the resolution." His August 1942 remarks also contained these lines: "I have read a good deal about the French revolution. Pandit Jawaharlal has told me all about the Russian revolution. But I hold that though theirs was a fight for the people, it was not a fight for real democracy... My democracy means every man is his own master."

Gandhi thought India's independence would mean little unless it also meant the independence of every Indian. This came across in February 1946, when a mutiny by Indian ratings in ships of the Royal Indian

Navy created considerable excitement. Although no Indian officer joined the mutiny, thousands of workers in Mumbai struck work in sympathy. When he heard

that mutiny supporters were forcing people



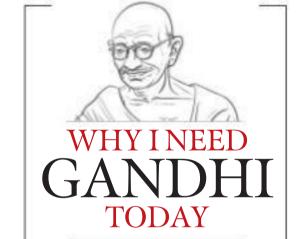
C R Sasikumar

to shout "Jai Hind", Gandhi intervened. If "a single person is compelled to shout 'Jai Hind', or any popular slogan," he declared, "a nail is driven into the coffin of Swaraj in terms of the dumb millions of India". In 1934, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German

dissenter, had written to Gandhi of his wish to travel to India to meet him. Gandhi replied immediately with a welcome, warning, however, that he might be in prison when the German arrived. Unable, in the end, to travel to India, Bonhoeffer was executed in Nazi Germany in April 1945.

There's a third reason why we need Gandhi: His commonsense grasp that if India's vast numbers are to find even minimal comfort, our countryside has to hum with life. The countryside Gandhi envisions in 1937 is sustainable, ultra-modern, egalitarian:

"An ideal Indian village will be so constructed as to lend itself to perfect sanitation. It will have cottages with sufficient light and ventilation built of a material obtainable within a radius of five miles of it. The cottages will have courtyards enabling householders to plant vegetables for domestic use and to house their cattle. village lanes and streets will be free of all avoidable dust. It will have wells. accessible to all. It will have houses of worship for all, also a common meeting place, a village common for grazing its cattle, a co-operative dairy, primary



AN EXPRESS IDEAS SERIES

When he heard that mutiny supporters were forcing people to shout 'Jai Hind', Gandhi intervened. If 'a single person is compelled to shout 'Jai Hind', or any popular slogan,' he declared, 'a nail is driven into the coffin of Swaraj in terms of the dumb millions of India'.

and secondary schools in which industrial education will be central, and it will have (a) Panchayat for settling disputes. It will produce its own grains, vegetables and fruits, and its own khadi."

Presented in 1946, Gandhi's picture of "a holistic village worker" is also refreshing:

"(He) must know everybody living in the village and render them such service as he can. He will so win over the villagers that they will seek and follow his advice.

Supposing I go and settle down in a village with a ghani (an oil-press), I won't be an ordinary ghanchi earning 15-20 rupees a month. I will be a Mahatma ghanchi! I have used the word in fun. What I mean. is that as a ghanchi I will become a model for the villagers to follow.

I will be a ghanchi who knows the Gita and the Quran. I will be learned enough to teach their children. The villagers will come to me and ask me: 'Please make arrangements for our children's education.' I will tell them: 'I can find you a teacher but you will have to bear the expenses.' And they will be prepared to do so most willingly."

Who wouldn't want such a person in their village?

 $The \, writer \, is \, research \, professor \, at \, Centre \, for \,$ South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

"No forcible solution will be accepted by the Kashmiris, and New Delhi, as well as the world powers, must realise that only through a democratic political

Learning from

Bhavkhedi

Absence of remorse in the collective response to

the murder of two children is a disturbing sign of

indifference to the violence against Dalits

Krishna Kumar

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

process can the issue be resolved."

THE RECENT KILLING of two Schedule Caste children in Bhavkhedi village in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh brings into focus a larger social reality. A formal inquiry into this incident is likely to proceed along two lines. They are both relevant from a legal perspective and are sure to affect the judicial outcome of the murder case. One line of inquiry is the local history of relations between the scheduled caste families and the higher placed "other backward classes". Reports show that the person who fatally hit the children on their heads belongs to the latter social category. The other line of inquiry will interpret the spate of anger he felt when he saw the two children defecating by the roadside. The prosecution and the defence will look at the anger that the sight of open defecation occasioned in the mind of the accused. Contrasting arguments will enable the case to proceed in a customary manner. We can be sure, however, that the judicial verdict on the crime committed will not cover the deeper ground this incident reveals.

It is a tempting thought that the incident is specific to this particular area of MP. An equally reasonable temptation is to think that the old problem such incidents reflect is now confined to rural areas. Several commentators have taken the second line, but the first is not altogether unpopular. The fact that both lines are reasonable strengthens our endurance for the horrible death of the two children. The basic elements of the story — village, poverty, caste division and dominance — do indeed assure us that we need not feel unwarrantably disturbed or alarmed. As readers, we have gone through several similar reports of terrible cruelty against victims of caste or religious prejudice.

In addition to these familiar social triggers of violent anger, the Bhavkhedi story offers a third basis to comprehend the incident. It refers to the national drive against open defecation. Bhavkhedi has attained the status of an "no open defecation" village. Status tags of this kind are not new. Murderous rage at the sight of two children indulging in an officially eradicated practice is.

Remorse and guilt are important emotional resources available to a society or a nation for recovery after going through a trauma. In the case of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes, public recognition of their trauma is rarely granted. A visit by political leaders is all that happens in a few cases that gain prominence and visibility. Society delegates to its leaders the responsibility to convey remorse. Visits by social activists and journalists sometimes play this role, demonstrating society's formal concern. Expression of collective guilt or *glani* for atrocities on the Scheduled Castes is rare, both at the local and national levels. Society just does not stop its normal activities to find

time, howsoever short, to worry about the absence of any such guilt. The Bhavkhedi incident is no exception. We will just move on, as they say we must, after any outrage.

Both children were studying at the local government school. Correspondents who visited the school have reported that caste discrimination is a routine matter. The teacher in charge is reported to have said that Dalit and OBC children don't sit together or eat their mid-day meal together. A child from the latter category talked about the behaviour he has learnt at home with regard to the presence of Dalits in his class. If he happens to touch them, he said, he is supposed to wash his hands. News reporters have also talked about the display of caste-wise data on the school wall. This practice is not new, and the bureaucracy that governs the school system considers it necessary. If you ask a state-level official he will tell you that caste-wise and genderwise display of numbers enrolled and present ensures transparency. The matter is regarded exclusively from the point of view of governance, not in terms of the impact it might make on children.

Similar practices are followed for the monthly distribution of scholarships. The day the scholarship money comes, the teacher calls aloud the names of the Scheduled Caste children, asking them to get up and collect their money. No one thinks this can be done more discretely. Caste is treated as something routine and real, not worth hiding for the sake of higher ideals. Routinised recognition of caste and religion is at the heart of school governance. It helps to conceal prejudice and hatred. In any case, no one has time to encourage empathy in our schools. Local or national happenings that may cause pain are simply ignored. A school runs like an office; reflection on what is happening around it is not among its jobs. Studying the prescribed syllabus and preparing for the exam are.

It is hard not to think of Gandhi in the context of Bhavkhedi incident. It occurred barely a week before Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary. But irony means something only when it is felt. Gandhi is a global icon of non-violence, and his birthday is recognised by the UN as Ahimsa Day. But, of course, it is a date like any other. Last year, a murder that was internationally recognised for its brazen horror occurred on October 2. Even the UN chose to ignore this coincidence perhaps because the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi immediately became a political matter.

As the 150th year of Gandhi's birth progressed, numerous collective killings took place in our country, indicating that the value that Gandhi held dear was not doing well. Nor is his constructive programme for alleviating the suffering of the castes involved in sanitation. Death in a sewer while it was being cleaned has become a familiar episode in our cities. That such deaths fail to evoke even a temporary public outrage indicates a culturally entrenched contempt. The truth of Bhavkhedi is that there is more hatred around than we realise.

The writer, professor of education at University of Delhi, was director of NCERT from 2004 to 2010

VIEW FROM THE RIGHT

Anti-Gandhi Congress THE RSS'S MOUTHPIECE, Organiser, has criticised Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi for appropriating the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and attacking the RSS for allegedly destroying "(Mahatma) Gandhi's idea of India". In an editorial published in its latest issue, it has said that the (Nehru) Gandhis have used the Mahatma's legacy to further dynastic politics and corruption and it is for precisely these reasons that Gandhi wanted to dissolve the Congress after Independence.

The editorial has also attacked the Congress for the imposition of western concepts on India and called the Nehruvian idea of India as "fictitious". "The imposition of Western concepts of Socialism and Communism with centralised State power is the biggest Nehruvian legacy that we are trying to come out from. Instead of working for Swaraj and awakening the society for the same, strengthening the British systems of bureaucratic mechanism and false conception of 'nation in the making' are at the edifice of this fictitious Idea of India. Hinduphobia and anathema to civilisational

epaper indianexpress.com

values are the practices that are nurtured in the name of secularism," the editorial claims.

It also accuses the Congress of being hand-in-glove with the communists. "The communists who put Lenin and Stalin above Gandhiji or any other Bharatiya hero, who considered Mao even above Nehru have been the ideological torchbearers of the Congress Sonia Gandhi is batting for. Piggybacking with the communists, standing with the breaking-Bharat forces and speaking for the corrupt dynastic practices are definitely not the ingredients of the Gandhian legacy," the editorial asserts.

It suggests that the Congress rise above party politics and let the RSS take the lead on Gandhi's ideas.

"If RSS is showing the right path for this let it be; do not kill Gandhi again just because you desist RSS. As a revenge perhaps, Congress should claim legacy of Dr Hedgewar, the founder of RSS, who himself was the Congress member," the editorial said.

ILLIBERAL LEFT

AGAINST THE BACKDROP of Union minister Babul Supriyo being allegedly roughed up in Kolkata's Jadavpur University and MoS PMO Jitendra Singh facing protests in JNU over Kashmir, *Organiser*'s latest cover story is titled 'Liberally Fascist'.

Talking about the opposition faced by Singh in JNU while speaking on Kashmir, the article accuses the Left of "intellectual fascism". "A protest to register point of view is natural in democracy, but what is being preached and practised by Communists not just in INU but wherever they are dominating is nothing but continuation of the communist tradition, intellectual fascism," the article says.

The article claims that the Left is not ready to hear the other point of view. "AISA and other students' oganisations once again have shown their mindset where they do not want to listen to any viewpoint they do not agree with... If they are so serious about rights, democracy and free speech, why they do not stand for the rights of Jammu and Ladakh people and many communities of Kashmir Valley who were discriminated through Article 370, is the natural question being asked on the campus. In the process, communist organisations reminded (sic) the recent incident at Jadavpur where they had a violent scuffle against another Union Minister Babul Supriyo and exposed themselves," the article claims.

On the Jadavpur incident, another article sees the Left aggression as a response to the rise of the ABVP: "Having seen an upsurge of ABVP, the Left students' wings have become restless; they are fighting their existential wars in the campuses. Their patrons who are teachers are more worried. Their forte is under threat. That is why they are using the violent method in sheer rage of losing the battte. For the left intellectuals campuses were their shops. ... The compromises were being made between the Congress and Left parties. The Congress was given the parliament to tun the political show and the Left handles the universities."

No Modi Media

WITH TV MEDIA being regularly criticised for its over-the-top pro-government reporting, allegedly under pressure from the powers that be, the latest issue of *Panchjanya*, the Hindi mouthpiece of the RSS, has defended the government. In an article titled 'Silent Public Interest Media', the magazine has alleged that the almost "laughable" reporting by the TV channels on the Narendra Modi government is more a result of the PM's popularity among the masses than any pressure from the government. It has argued that the media was, in fact, not criticising other governments for their misdeeds enough.

Pointing to TV programmes titled "World Cup Dilayenge Modi" and "Chand Par Modi Modi" shown by certain Hindi TV news channels, the article said, "When viewers criticised such laughable content, the editors began spreading the lie that they were under pressure from the government. In fact, such unrealistic and laughable programming causes more damage to the government than doing it any good. Narendra Modi was popular even when media used to criticise him day and night."

The article said that TV channels are doing this because adding Modi to any programme garners higher TRPs.

Compiled by Deeptiman Tiwary

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONG DECLINE

ering' (IE, October 8). It is the season of political turncoats changing their colours, so it is unsurprising to see leaders leaving the Congress and joining other parties. What is really unfortunate is that the Congress, which lost badly in the last Lok Sabha elections, has not learnt its lessons. It is tragic that even when Rahul Gandhi has paved way for his mother to lead the grand old party, there seems to be no change in the way the party functions. If Sonia Gandhi is also unable to stop this downslide, then its going to be a huge disadvantage to our democracy.

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The with-

Bal Govind, Noida

TAKE A JOKE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Joker, the Incel' (IE, October 08). A film can't be criticised for portrayal of a violent character. Cinema of any genre represents art. It is the hard work of thousands of people who devote their time, working day and night, for its success. In the end, it depends upon the viewers and how they interpret it. Viewers should always try to understand the crux of the movie rather than pay attention to the possible aftermath.

Aayush Sapra, Ujjain

LAW AND DISORDER THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Two

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian **Express offers the Letter of** the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com

or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should

mention their postal address and phone number. THE WINNER RECEIVES

SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

wrongs' (IE, Oct 8). There has been an onslaught on the freedom of expression and personal liberty by the current government. It has resorted to a parochial interpretation of the law and, often, conveniently equates dissent to sedition, as it has done with university students. The arbitrariness of the law requires a relook. In the wise words of Justice D Y Chandrachud: "Dissent is like a safety valve of democracy."

Yogesh Singh, New Delhi



MEANWHILE Russia Honours US Astronaut

Russia has decorated NASA astronaut Nick Hague with one of its highest honours, the Order of Courage, a Kremlin decree said on Tuesday. Hague, along with Russian cosmonaut Aleksey Ovchinin, had a close brush with death when their Soyuz rocket failed minutes after blast-off from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in October last year.

TOPOFTHE WORLD



UN Secretary General

UNITED NATIONS UN may run out of money by end of the month,

says Guterres United Nations: The United Nations is running a deficit of \$230 million, Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said, and may run out of money by the end of October. In a letter intended for the 37,000 employees at the UN secretariat, Guterres said on Monday that unspecified "additional stop-gap measures" would have to be taken to ensure salaries and entitlements are paid. "Member States have paid only 70 per cent of the total amount needed for our regular budget operations in 2019... We run the risk of depleting our backup

AFGHANISTAN

wrote in the letter.

Bomb goes off in classroom, wounds 19

liquidity reserves by the

end of the month," he

Kabul: An Afghan official said a bomb has gone off inside a classroom in eastern Ghazni province, wounding at least 19 university students. Arif Noori, spokesman for the provincial governor, said 12 of the wounded are female students of Ghazni University, located on the outskirts of the provincial capital, the city of Ghazni. Noori added that two of the wounded are in critical condition. No one immediately claimed responsibility Tuesday's attack.

THAILAND

More dead wild elephants found at waterfall; toll 11

Bangkok: Wildlife officials in Thailand say they have discovered the carcasses of five more wild elephants downstream from a waterfall where the bodies of six other elephants were found last weekend. National Parks spokesman Sompote Maneerat says the carcasses were discovered by a drone being used to investigate how the first six elephants plunged to their deaths at the Haew Narok waterfall in Khao Yai National Park in northeastern Thailand. Park officials say the first group of elephants evidently died when trying to reach a dead calf.

Britain says Brexit deal essentially impossible, EU slams blame game

German Chancellor made unacceptable demands in phone call with UK PM: Downing Street official

GUY FAULCONBRIDGE, ELIZABETH PIPER & MARINE STRAUSS

LONDON, BRUSSELS, OCTOBER 8

THE EUROPEAN Union accused Britain of playing a "stupid blame game" over Brexit on Tuesday after a Downing Street source said a deal was essentially impossible because German Chancellor Angela Merkel had made unacceptable demands.

With just 23 days before the United Kingdom is due to leave the bloc, the future of Brexit remains deeply uncertain and both London and Brussels are positioning themselves to avoid blame for a delay or a disorderly no-deal Brexit.

In a sign that Johnson's lastditch proposals to bridge the impasse have failed, a Downing Street source said Merkel and Johnson spoke on Tuesday morning and she made clear that a deal was "overwhelmingly unlikely".

The Downing Street source said that if Merkel's position on Northern Ireland remaining in the EU's customs union was the bloc's position, then a deal was impossible.

"If this represents a new established position then it means a deal is essentially impossible not



Merkel made clear to Johnson that a deal was 'overwhelmingly unlikely', a Downing Street official said. Reuters

just now but ever," the Downing Street source said. A spokesman for the German chancellor confirmed the call had taken place but declined to comment further. The EU was scathing.

"Boris Johnson, what's at stake is not winning some stupid blame game," European Council President Donald Tusk said on Twitter. "At stake is the future of Europe and the UK as well as the security and interests of our peo-

ple. You don't want a deal, you

don't want an extension, you

don't want to revoke, quo vadis?"

both London and European capitals are preparing for an acrimonious and potentially chaotic wants to be held responsible. A disorderly Brexit could rip apart the United Kingdom, hurt

ture of the European Union which was built on the World War Two ruins of Europe.

global growth and shape the fu-

Such abrupt remarks indicate the Brexit blame game has begun in earnest, and that now Brexit for which neither side

Merkel said that for a deal, Northern Ireland would have to

Boris Johnson, what's at stake is not winning some stupid blame game. At stake is the future of Europe and the UK as well as the security and interests of our people."

- DONALD TUSK **EUROPEAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

stay in the EU's customs union and full alignment with the EU forever, the Downing Street source said.

The leader of the small Northern Irish party that supports Johnson's government accused the EU and Ireland of trying to trap the British territory in a permanent customs union.

The opposition said Johnson was trying to apportion blame for the failure of the negotiating process.

"This is yet another cynical attempt by Number 10 to sabotage the negotiations," said Keir

(香港) BANK OF CHINA

Starmer, Brexit spokesman for the Labour Party, adding that the British Parliament needed to unite to stop him.

"Boris Johnson will never take responsibility for his own failure to put forward a credible deal. His strategy from day one has been for a no-deal Brexit."

A separate Downing Street source told *Reuters* that unless the European Union compromises and does a Brexit deal shortly, then the United Kingdom will leave without a deal.

"If the EU doesn't do a deal shortly, then we leave without a deal," the source said. "We are leaving the European Union." Johnson has consistently

said the United Kingdom will leave the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a deal, though a law passed by parliament demands he write a letter to the EU asking for a delay if he cannot strike an exit deal by Oct. 19. He has said he would abide by the law but Britain would leave the EU by the end of the month, without explaining that contradiction.

The *Spectator* magazine quoted a source in Downing Street as saying Britain would take an aggressive stance towards the EU if Brexit talks break down, possibly even by withholding security cooperation. **REUTERS**

IMPEACHMENT PROBE



Trump with Gordon Sondland, the US ambassador to the European Union, in Brussels last year. Sondland has become enmeshed in the burgeoning scandal into how the President sought to push the Ukrainians to investigate political rivals. AP

Trump orders top diplomat not to speak to House investigators

MICHAELS SCHMIDT & NICHOLAS FANDOS WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 8

THE TRUMP administration directed a top US diplomat involved in its pressure campaign on Ukraine not to appear Tuesday morning for a scheduled deposition with House Democrats conducting an impeachment inquiry, according to two people briefed on the matter.

The decision to block Gordon Sondland, the US ambassador to the European Union, from speaking with investigators is certain to provoke an immediate conflict with potentially profound consequences for the White House and President Donald Trump.

But in making the decision Tuesday, hours before he was scheduled to sit for a deposition in the basement of the Capitol, the Trump administration appears to be making the calculation that it is better off risking the House's ire than letting Sondland show up and set a precedent for cooperation with an inquiry they have strenuously argued is illegitimate.

Sondland has become enmeshed in the burgeoning scandal into how the President sought to push the Ukrainians to investigate his political rivals. Although Ukraine is not in the union, Trump instructed Sondland — a wealthy hotelier

Dems eye another charge: obstruction

WITH AMBASSADOR Gordon

Sondland ordered not to appear before a scheduled deposition with House investigators, Democrats are eyeing multiple plans of action. They are first likely to subpoena the diplomat, but Sondland will be forced to not comply with it due to the State Department order. He can then be held in contempt of the House, but Democrats are more likely to use the instance as evidence of obstruction of justice by the Trump administration, which they see as an impeachable offence. Sondland's lawyer has made it clear that his client was eager to testify, but was "disappointed" he was ordered not to do so.

and campaign contributor — to take a lead in relations between the Trump administration and the country. Democrats consider him a key witness to what transpired between the two countries. NYT

Senate panel chairman says to probe Giuliani allegations

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 8

THE REPUBLICAN chairman of the US Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday opened the door to a Senate investigation into unproven allegations regarding Ukraine raised by President Donald Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, inviting the attorney to testify.

"It is time for the Senate to inquire about corruption and other improprieties involving Ukraine," Senator Lindsey Graham said in a series of tweets, mentioning specifically the firing of Ukraine's former prosecutor Viktor Shokin.

Giuliani and his allegations are central to the Democratic impeachment inquiry in the House of Representatives, which followed a July 25 phone call in which President Donald Trump pressed Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate 2020 Democratic presidential candidate

Senator Lindsey Graham is a Trump ally and heads the **Senate Judiciary Committee**

the chance to question Giuliani under oath about his role in pressing Ukraine to investigate the Bidens.

The House Intelligence Committee had subpoenaed Giuliani to provide documents on Sept 30. He and others have made claims that when Joe Biden was vice president, he had a prosecutor fired to halt an investigation into a Ukrainian gas company that Hunter Biden was involved in between 2014 and 2018.

U.S. BEGINS TO PULL BACK TROOPS

Turkey says ready for Syria offensive, Kurds signal Damascus talks Trump invites Erdogan to White House

DAREN BUTLER ISTANBUL, OCTOBER 8

THE TURKISH military carried out strikes targeting the Syrian-Iraqi border overnight to prevent Kurdish forces using the route to reinforce northeast Syria, as Ankara prepares to launch an offensive there, two Turkish officials told Reuters on Tuesday.

Turkey says it has finalised preparations for a military push into northeast Syria, after the United States began pulling back troops from the Turkey-Syria frontier area in a move widely criticised in Washington as a betrayal of America's allies.

The US move will leave Kurdish-led forces long allied to Washington vulnerable to attack by the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK), which brands them terrorists because of their links to Kurdish militants who have waged a long insurgency in Turkey.

Giving details of the overnight strike, a security official said one of the main goals was to cut off the transit route between Iraq and Svria "before the operation in Syria".

"In this way, the group's transit to Syria and support lines, including ammunition, are shut off," the official said

US President Donald Trump meanwhile denied the Kurds had been abandoned by the US pullback, praising Turkey as a trade



A woman holds a portrait of a Kurdish fighter who was killed while fighting IS militants, during a protest in **Qamishli, Syria.** AP

partner and NATO ally in a softening of his tone hours after threatening Ankara's economy if it acted "off limits" in Syria. "So many people conveniently forget that Turkey is a big trading partner of the United States... They have been good to deal with," he tweeted.

Trump has also invited Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the White House. A White House spokesperson said Erdogan would visit the US on November 13.

Signalling a further potential shift in the region's power balance, the Kurdish-led forces said they might start talks with Damascus and Russia to fill a security vacuum in the event of a full US withdrawal

from the Turkish border area. US forces evacuated two observation posts at Tel Abyad and Ras al Ain on Monday. **REUTERS**



prevent damages during protests in Hong Kong. Reuters

HONG KONG, OCTOBER 8

HONG KONG'S embattled leader Carrie Lam on Tuesday did not rule out asking Beijing for help, as the Asian financial hub struggles to deal with months of often violent anti-government protests that are damaging its economy.

Lam said Beijing wanted Hong Kong to solve its own problems, but under its mini-constitution, known as the Basic Law, Hong Kong could ask Beijing for help.

"If the situation becomes so bad, then no options could be ruled out, if we want Hong Kong



A worker cleans graffiti from a Bank of China branch that had been previously boarded up to

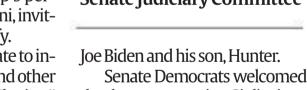
Carrie Lam said Beijing wanted Hong Kong to solve its own problems. Reuters

to at least have another chance," Lam said at weekly news conference after a long weekend of violence crippled the city.

in making sure we can use our own instruments ... to try and restore calm and order in Hong Kong," she said, adding there were no plans to expand emergency laws introduced on Friday. "But I would appeal (to)

everyone in society to join hands to achieve this objective."

The protests, which show no sign of abating, pose the biggest popular challenge to Chinese President Xi Jinping since he came to power in 2012 and are Hong Kong's thorniest political crisis since Britain returned it to China in 1997. **REUTERS**



'WE WELCOME THE CHINESE CENSORS INTO OUR HOMES AND INTO OUR HEARTS,' SHOW'S CREATORS SAY IN MOCK RESPONSE

South Park is pulled in China after episode mocking govt censors

DANIEL VICTOR

HONG KONG, OCTOBER 8

SOUTH PARK, the long-running Comedy Central cartoon whose mockery has spared few touchy topics, was erased from major platforms in China after an episode last week taunted Chinese censors and the farreaching effect they often have on American entertainment.

The government's censors, who routinely quash news and commentary deemed undesirable by the ruling Communist Party, wiped out video clips and discussions of the show, which premiered in 1997 and has lasted 23 seasons. Once known mostly

for the raunchy humour coming from the mouths of its elementary-school-age main characters, the show has in recent seasons focused on political and cultural satire, without abandoning its boundary-pushing ways.

Last week's episode, called "Band in China", appeared to cross a new line for the Chinese authorities. On Baidu Tieba, a popular discussion platform, searches for South Park on Tuesday returned the following message: "According to the relevant law and regulation, this section is temporarily not open."

Searches for the show were also fruitless on Youku, a video hosting service, which similarly cited "the relevant law and regulation". On Weibo, the country's most popular social network, posts mentioning the show could not be found.

The censorship occurred as the NBA was unintentionally demonstrating how protecting business interests in China can chill speech back in the United States. The basketball league has scrambled to contain a backlash in China since Daryl Morey, the general manager of the Houston Rockets, tweeted support last week for the Hong Kong protests, which are reviled by the Chinese government.

Though the league has supported political expression by its players, it was less supportive of Morey, prompting accusations



South Park, which has lasted 23 seasons, has in recent years focused on political and cultural satire.

that it valued its business in China more than free speech. Whereas the NBA has struggled to respond to the geopolitical fracas, the creators of South Park appeared to relish the fight. The

show's creators, Trey Parker and Matt Stone, put out a fake apology on Monday, poking fun at the NBA while insulting Xi Jinping, China's President.

"Like the NBA, we welcome the Chinese censors into our homes and into our hearts," the tongue-in-cheek statement read. "We too love money more than freedom and democracy. Xi doesn't look just like Winnie the Pooh at all."

That last part makes more sense in the context of the episode, which had two plot lines related to China. Spoilers ahead.

In one, the character Randy Marsh flies to China hoping to expand his marijuana business there, only to be arrested at the

meets Winnie the Pooh, who, the show explains, was banned after Chinese social media users pointed out his resemblance to Xi. Meanwhile in Colorado, the

airport. In a work camp, he

South Park children form a band, and a manager wants to make a biopic about them — but insists that their life story be told in a way that will be acceptable to Chinese censors, so they don't lose access to the market. He instructs the boys to cut references to the Dalai Lama (seen by the Chinese government as a separatist), organ transplants (China has been accused of har-

vesting prisoners' organs) and

homosexuality (nothing is

wrong with that subject "unless you want to make money in China," he says). Eventually, the boys tire of

the ordeal. "I want to be proud of who we are, guys, and anyone who would betray their ideals just to make money in China isn't worth a lick of spit," says one of them, Stan.

The NBA is hardly the first international business to make concessions to China's political sensitivities as it seeks access to its lucrative market, or to forcefully apologise after running afoul of them. Movie studios, especially, have worked to ensure that their scripts aren't at odds with state censors, lest they lose billions in potential business. **NYT**

13 ECONOMY









\$58.27

SENSEX: 37,531.98 ▼ 141.33 NIFTY: 11,126.40 ▼ 48.35 NIKKEI: 21,587.78 ▲ 212.53 HANG SENG: 25,893.40 ▲ 72.37 FTSE: 7,177.37 ▼ 20.51 DAX: 11,970.35 ▼ 127.08

PARLIAMENTARY PANEL HAD FLAGGED ITS TRIAL APPROVALS AS 'OUTRAGEOUS' Conduct post-marketing surveillance on abdominal painkiller: CDSCO to states

PRABHA RAGHAVAN NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

INDIA'S TOP drug regulator has asked companies manufacturing an abdominal painkiller combination, which it approved nearly a decade ago, to submit post-marketing data to prove its safety and effectiveness for a specific indication in the Indian population.

The move comes nearly seven years after a Parliamentary committee flagged the drug's clinical trial approvals as "outrageous" case of a potential nexus between pharmaceutical companies and experts important to the regulator's approval process. It further follows a decision by the manufacturer that first received the approval to surrender its licence for the product. Its approval is also a topic of contention in an ongoing case at the Delhi High Court by public health activist and Ranbaxy whistleblower Dinesh Thakur.

The medication, a fixed dose combination (FDC) of aceclofen-

BRIEFLY

Boeing gets first

737 MAX order

Bengaluru: Boeing Co se-

cured the first new order in

months for one of its

grounded 737 MAX planes

in September, the company

said on Tuesday, as it

reported total deliveries for

the first nine months of

2019 that were just half of

those a year ago. Aviation

regulators grounded the

737 MAX worldwide, fol-

lowing a second fatal crash

in March that killed all 157

people on board an

Ethiopian Airlines plane.

EU pledges to

regulate digital

Brussels: The European Union's finance commis-

sioner pledged on Tuesday to propose new rules to reg-

ulate virtual currencies, in a

reaction to Facebook's plans

to introduce Libra, which the EU considers a risk to fi-

nancial stability. **REUTERS**

New Delhi: Tata Motors has

not produced a single unit of

Nano in the first nine

months of 2019 and sold one

unit in February. The firm

has been maintaining that

no decision has been made

yet on the Nano's future. **PTI**

Shubh Loans

gets NBFC

licence

No Tata Nano

production in

2019 sofar

currencies

since crash

EXPLAINED Move to ensure safety of drug for Indian populace

THE MOVE may help ensure that this combination is a safe and effective painkiller for the Indian population, considering that serious questions were raised earlier about its approval process.

The Parliamentary panel on approval noted "... an official of the CDSCO advised the manufacturer ... to not only select experts but also get their opinions and deliver them to the office of the DCGI. No wonder that many experts gave letters of recommendation in identical language apparently drafted by the interested drug manufacturer."

cac and drotaverine, was initially approved by the Central Drugs **Standard Control Organisation** (CDSCO) on September 15, 2008, stated a letter to all state drug controllers last month, which *The Indian Express* has reviewed.

However, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health in

The amount of coking coal

cargo state-run ports had

corresponding period of

The percentage by which

shipment of thermal or

reaching 44.87 million

Dependency of power

generation on dry fuel,

energy programme

The mark which the

coal import is likely to

cross in 2019-20

making thermal coal the

mainstay of the country's

country's overall thermal

steam coal declined,

25.41 MT

handled in the

13.20%

tonne

70%

200 MT

the previous fiscal

2012 flagged the drug for "short-

comings" in its approval process. According to the panel, the FDC "did not have permission for sale in any of the major developed countries" and no "special or specific relevance to the medical needs of India".

Following this, the govern-

Coal shipments handled by India's 12 major state-run

ports during April-September rose by 15.25 per cent to

29.29 million tonne (MT), according to the Indian

Ports Association

COKING COAL SHIPMENTS

RISE 15% TO 29 MT AT 12

STATE-RUN PORTS IN APR-SEP'

ment referred the combination to a new drug or subject expert committee (NDAC/SEC) "for examination and review."

"Based on the recommendations of the Subject Expert Committee.it was decided that the FDC of Aceclofenac 100 mg + Drotaverine Hydrochloride 80 mg tablet shall be indicated for treatment of 'colicky pain due to smooth muscle spasm' for its continued marketing," stated Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) VG Somani in his September 19 letter. However, its manufacturers were directed to conduct trials, and SEC asked the company that first received the licence for the product "to revise the indication and submit the clinical trial protocol for conducting the study."

"However, after a series of communications, M/s Themis Medicare finally surrendered the product licence," stated the DCGI.

Yet, the proposal was "again redeliberated" in the reproductive and urology SEC's meeting, he added. "After detailed deliberation,

the committee recommended that the firm(s) may be directed to conduct Active Post Marketing Surveillance in minimum 200 patients and the study should include patients of primary dysmenorrhea, biliary colic and ureteric colic. The study should be completed within one year and results...should be placed before the committee for further review," he stated. Somani directed states to conduct this surveillance "for the treatment of colicky pain due to

The Parliamentary panel that scrutinised the combination's approval had taken issue with the fact that its trials were conducted "only in Maharashtra". Among the cases it listed "to prove the apparent nexus that exists between drug manufacturers and many experts whose opinion matters so much in the decision making process at the CDSCO", the committee said that "nothing can be more outrageous" than the clinical trial approval granted for this FDC.

smooth muscle spasm".

660 MT

The 2019-20 target that Coal India likely to miss by 55-75 MT

80%

The country's domestic coal requirement which Coal India accounts for

1.48%

Slight upswing in cargo handling at 12 major ports; 348.4 MT in April-Sept this fiscal against 343.3 MT in the year-ago period

60%

The amount of country's cargo handled by 12 ports, which include **Deendayal** (erstwhile Kandla), Mumbai, JNPT, and Mormugao

INTERVIEW WITH LORD MAYOR OF CITY OF LONDON

'London is not immune from Brexit, but largely prepared for various outcomes'

₹71.02

EVEN AS the United Kingdom heads towards an imminent no-deal Brexit, the City of London has witnessed an increase in jobs and growth in capital since the referendum on the UK leaving the European Union. In an interview with PRANAV MUKUL and ANIL SASI, Lord Mayor of the City of London PETER ESTLIN told The *Indian Express* that Brexit provides the UK with an opportunity to start a global dialogue by itself on how financial technology companies are regulated across the world. Edited excerpts:

How much of a concern is it that you are headed into a pretty much no-deal Brexit? Is there a concern raised by corporates in the UK and also by Indian companies there? So, in terms of all my trav-

els, if we look at the UK first and then look at some of the local international partners, I mean, fundamentally, the City (of London) is not immune from Brexit, but is largely prepared for various outcomes.

So I'm very optimistic that we're going to carry on seeing the growth rate that we've seen in the last three years. Since the referendum, we've actually seen an increase in job flow, we've seen an increase in capital, which may seem perverse, but actually people are almost more attracted to ensuring that they've got a foothold in what is the world's greatest financial market.

So as I travel around the world, and you know, India is no different, actually, and businesses are keen to continue looking at that trading focus, and they like the fact that we're really trying to reach out and to do deals around the world.

So I'm pretty optimistic. I believe that actually, you know, we're well positioned. That's not to say that, you know, things couldn't go wrong, but I think we're going to we're pretty well positioned.



exploring the issues around data localisation. We've been doing the same through GDPR. And we've been as a government, the **UK** government imposed a Digital Services Tax"

PETER ESTLIN LORD MAYOR OF LONDON

The EU competition regulator has hauled up technology companies and has been more consumer centric. Does Brexit provide the UK with an opportunity to give a free hand to innovation in tech?

Well, I think they are different issues. India, like the UK, is a very much incubator innovation centre. We're seeing huge levels of that innovation. What that innovation is doing — whether it's in health and life sciences or financial technology and energy — is doing two things.

One, it's creating economic growth. Second, it's also pushing the boundaries of business. And so how we look at data going forward, how we look at intellectual property, how we look at international taxation, these are issues that we need to dialogue on to say, how is that framework going to work in the 21st century?

And so one of the benefits to the UK of leaving the EU is it UK and India.

can actually get on and have those negotiations.

And we have a great network in the financial services space called G-fin. And so I'm keen to ensure that we get the Indian regulators as part of G-Fin, which is the global network of financial regulators that are really keen to develop this next wave of regulation, not adding layers on that, what do we take out, but what do we reflect on that needs to promote the digital economy.

One concern, especially from the Indian side, is that Brexit could lead to requirement of fresh regulatory clearances to do business in the EU and go through the entire process of that. Do you think that's a genuine concern and is there a solution for that?

It depends on what services one is providing. But yes, If there is some sort of a hard border, as it will be between the UK and Europe, then there will be a need for the larger institutions, if they are selling services into the EU and are based in the UK to have a footprint there And we've seen a number of businesses do that and have a few people on the ground in the EU.

But equally, you know, I think that what we are seeing here is just the sheer scale of innovation is looking at the way business is changing and how businesses are getting done. We don't have regulation in place today to deal with that.

India itself is exploring the issues around data localisation. We've been doing the same through GDPR. And we've been as a government, the UK government, imposed a Digital Services Tax. Discussions around these areas need to take place and certainly that's part and parcel of my objective during this visit ... through a dialogue with the regulators and how we can continue that conversation to benefit both the

No festive cheer for Maruti as output slashed for eighth straight month

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

MARUTI SUZUKI India cut its production by 17.48 per cent in September, making it the eighth straight month when the country's largest carmaker lowered its output, in line with the slowdown in the automobile sector. A series of growth-promoting measures taken by the government have failed to lift car sales growth even in the festive season.

The company produced a total of 1,32,199 units in September, as against 1,60,219 units in the year-ago month, Maruti Suzuki India said in a filing with the NSE. Last month, passenger vehicles' production stood at 1,30,264 units, as against 1,57,659 units in September 2018 — a decline of 17.37 per cent, the company said.

New Delhi: Fintech start-up Shubh Loans on Tuesday Maruti's production of mini said it has received a licence and compact segment cars, infrom the Reserve Bank of cluding the Alto, the S-Presso, the India to set up a non-bank-New WagonR, the Celerio, the ing financial company. PTI Ignis, the Swift, the Baleno and the Dzire, stood at 98,337 units, as

The company produced a total of 1,32,199 units in September as against 1,60,219 units in the year-ago month

against 1,15,576 units last September, down 14.91 per cent. Similarly, production of utility vehicles such as the Gypsy, the Vitara the Brezza, the Ertiga, the XL-6 and the S-Cross declined 17.05 per cent to 18,435 units, compared to 22,226 units a year ago.

Mid-sized sedan Ciaz saw its production reduced to 2,350 units in September from 4,739 units in the same month last year. Light commercial vehicle Super Carry's production was also trimmed to 1,935 units last month, from 2,560 units in September 2018, the filing said. In August, the automaker cut its production by 33.99 per

cent at 1,11,370 units. All the major automobile makers, including Maruti.

Hyundai, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, Toyota and Honda, have reported double-digit decline in domestic passenger vehicle sales in September, as the onset of the festive season failed to

lift the slump in the auto industry. During the month, Bajaj Auto witnessed a 35 per cent drop in domestic sale of motorcycles at 1.77 lakh units. Ashok Leyland announced the sale of 4,035 units of medium and heavy commercial vehicles in September, which is a 69 per cent decline over its sale of

13,056 units in September 2018. With GDP growth rate falling to 5 per cent for the first quarter ended June 2019 and wage growth not keeping pace with expectations, economists and market experts say that people are generally looking to reduce their expenditures and the sentiment has turned negative. The government last month announced drastic cuts in corporate tax rates, a step that will aid profitability of companies and encourage them to reinvest profits.

Nissan names Uchida next CEO, Gupta COO

MAKISHIRAKI & KEVIN BUCKLAND TOKYO, OCTOBER 8

NISSAN MOTOR Conamed Senior Vice President Makoto Uchida as its next chief executive on Tuesday, picking a relative outsider who joined the automaker mid-career and is known for his rigorous work ethic and relentless focus on cost control.

In picking Uchida, the board of Japan's second-largest automaker selected an executive who was not seen as a top contender in recent weeks.

He will be joined by Mitsubishi Motors executive Ashwani Gupta, who was named as chief operating officer. Former China chief Jun Seki, who was widely seen as one of the top contenders for the CEO job, will be vice COO, the company said.

The three will take the helm of a company that has been shaken by turmoil following the downfall of former Chairman Carlos Ghosn last year and the departure of for-



Nissan Motor's newly appointed CEO Makoto

mer CEO Hiroto Saikawwa

utives, a source said.

Ghosn is awaiting trial in

Uchida. Reuters File Photo

"Strong leadership is required," Yasushi Kimura, Nissan's chairman, told a news conference. "Group leadership, where they all support each other, will be more transparent." Directors at Nissan, including those from top shareholder Renault SA, voted unanimously in favour of the two exec-

Tokyo on financial misconduct charges that he denies. **REUTERS**

warns of 'synchronised slowdown' in global growth

New IMF chief Georgieva

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 8

NEW INTERNATIONAL Monetary Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva issued a stark warning about the state of the global growth on Tuesday, saying trade conflicts had thrown it into a "synchronised slowdown" and must be resolved.

In her inaugural speech after taking over the global crisis lender on October 1, Georgieva unveiled new IMF research showing that the cumulative effect of trade conflicts could mean a \$700 billion reduction in global GDP output by 2020, or around 0.8 per cent.

The research takes into account U.S. President Donald Trump's announced and planned tariff increases on remaining Chinese imports, or around \$300 billion worth of goods. Much of the GDP losses will come from a decline of business confidence and negative market reactions.

"In 2019, we expect slower

growth in nearly 90 per cent of the world. The global economy is now in a synchronised slowdown. This means that growth this year will fall to its lowest rate since the beginning of the decade," Georgieva said.

The Bulgarian economist, a former European Union official who previously held the number two iob at the World Bank Group said that trade had "come to a near standstill."

She warned that fractures in trade could lead to changes that last a generation, including "broken supply chains, siloed trade sectors, a 'digital Berlin Wall' that forces countries to choose between technology systems."

In calling for countries to work together to revise global trade rules to make them sustainable, she referenced frequent complaints about China's trade practices, without specifically naming the country.

DECISION AIMED AT 'PUNISHING BEIJING FOR ITS TREATMENT OF MUSLIM MINORITIES'; HIKVISION TO BE AMONG TARGETED FIRMS

US expands blacklist to include China's top AI startups ahead of trade talks

DAVIDSHEPARDSON& JOSHHORWITZ WASHINGTON/SHANGHAI, OCTOBER 8

THE US government widened its trade blacklist to include some of China's top artificial intelligence startups, punishing Beijing for its treatment of Muslim minorities and ratcheting up tensions ahead of high-level trade talks in

Washington this week. The decision, which drew a sharp rebuke from Beijing, targets 20 Chinese public security bureaus and eight companies in-

cluding video surveillance firm Hikvision, as well as leaders in facial recognition technology SenseTime Group Ltd and Megvii Technology Ltd.

The action bars the firms from buying components from US companies without US government approval - a potentially crippling move for some of them. It follows the same blueprint used by Washington in its attempt to limit the influence of Huawei Technologies Co Ltd for what it

says are national security reasons. US officials said the action was not tied to this week's resumption of trade talks with China, but it signals no let-up in US President Donald Trump's hard-line stance as the world's two biggest economies seek to end their 15month trade war.

The Commerce Department said in a filing the "entities have been implicated in human rights violations and abuses in the implementation of China's campaign of repression, mass arbitrary detention, high-technology surveillance against Uighurs, Kazakhs, and other members of Muslim minor-

ity groups." and will not tolerate the brutal "The US government and Department of Commerce cannot suppression of ethnic minorities

Beijing urges US to remove sanctions on Chinese firms Monday expanded its trade Hong Kong: China strongly

urges the United States to remove sanctions on Chinese firms and will take any necessary measures to firmly protect its own interests, China's Commerce Ministry said in a statement late on Tuesday.

The US government on

blacklist to include some of China's top artificial intelligence startups, saying it was in reaction to Beijing's treatment of Muslim minorities.

The move ratcheted up tensions ahead of high-level trade talks in Washington this week. **REUTERS**

within China," said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross.

China said the United States should stop interfering in its affairs. It will continue to take firm and resolute measures to protect its sovereign security, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular media briefing with-

Hikvision, with a market value of about \$42 billion, calls itself the world's largest maker of video surveillance gear. SenseTime, valued at around \$4.5 billion in a May 2018 fundraising, is one of the world's most valuable AI unicorns while Megvii, backed by e-commerce giant Alibaba, is valued at around \$4 billion and is preparing

out elaborating.

an IPO to raise at least \$500 million in Hong Kong.

The other firms on the list are speech recognition firm iFlytek Co. surveillance equipment maker Zhejiang Dahua Technology, data recovery firm Xiamen Meiya Pico Information Co, facial recognition firm Yitu Technology and Yixin Science and Technology Co.

A US Hikvision spokesman said the company "strongly opposes" the decision and noted that in January it retained a human rights expert and former US ambassador to advise the company on human rights compliance.

"Punishing Hikvision, despite

partners and negatively impact the US economy," the company added. Hikvision also said that it was assessing the potential impact of the blacklisting and was working on contingency plans. John Honovich, founder of

these engagements, will deter

global companies from commu-

nicating with the US government,

hurt Hikvision's US businesses

IPVM, said Hikvision and Dahua both use Intel Corp, Nvidia Corp. Ambarella Inc, Western Digital and Seagate Technology as suppliers and that the impact on the Chinese companies would be "devastating". **REUTERS**

epaper indianex ess.com

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



BOEING V AIRBUS

Plane clash

America is preparing to hit \$7.5bn-worth of European imports with tariffs



In a sector like aircraft manufacturing, where subsidies are ubiquitous, it has always been clear that America and the EU needed to agree to mutual disarmament. Instead, they have talked past each other, each complaining at various points that the other was unwilling to negotiate. Reuters

MOST MUSEUM exhibits are beautiful—or at least old. But an exhibition in 2015 at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) included 60 cardboard boxes of documents. The point was to give a sense of the scale of two of the body's longest and largest legal disputes, over American and European subsidies for aircraft manufacturers. Now the fight is moving out of the paperwork phase. That means tariffs are coming.

On October 2nd the WTO published its decision to allow the Trump administration to put tariffs on \$7.5bn-worth of imports from the European Union. That is intended to match the harm done to Boeing, an American manufacturer, by the EU's subsidies for Airbus, Boeing's European rival. It is the largest retaliation the WTO has ever approved. Senior officials at the United States Trade Representative (USTR) called the victory "historic".

The dispute has been long and bitter. In October 2004 America complained to the trade body about loans offered by EU governments to Airbus on easy terms. The following June the EU filed a complaint about the harm to Airbus from subsidies to Boeing, in the form of tax breaks and generous contracts with the Department of Defence. Since then there has been enough legal back-and-forth to bore the most ardent plane-spotter. The WTO ruled against both subsidisers. Each made some adjustments supposed to resolve the other's complaints—but neither was satisfied. The latest judgment comes as the EU's claim of compliance is still being assessed. In around eight months, the WTO is likely to authorise the EU to put tariffs on American imports, completing the tit for tat.

In a narrow sense, this is the multilateral rules-based trading system working as

intended. Both parties went through the proper channels to receive an official judgment. Neither took matters into its own hands. The tariffs America is about to impose on Europe are not unilateral bullying, but an enforcement mechanism of last resort. They would probably have been applied by any president, even one less tariff-happy than Donald Trump.

In a broader sense, it shows how vulnerable those multilateral rules are to timewasters. In a sector like aircraft manufac-

turing, where subsidies are ubiquitous, it has always been clear that America and the EU needed to agree to mutual disarmament. Instead, they have talked past each other, each complaining at various points that the other was unwilling to negotiate. Most recently it has been the EU that has submitted proposals to America, only to be rebuffed. Meanwhile, the boxes have been piling up and the lawyers raking in fees.

olling up and the lawyers raking in fees.

The Trump administration wasted no

time in starting the formalities at the WTO

On October 2, the WTO published its decision to allow the Trump administration to put tariffs on \$7.5bn-worth of imports from the European Union. That is intended to match the harm done to Boeing, an American manufacturer, by the EU's subsidies for Airbus, Boeing's European rival

that will allow it to apply the tariffs. That means the EU can expect tariffs on October 18th. As well as tariffs of 10% on large aircraft and 25% on agricultural and industrial goods, the list the USTR published on October 2nd included Italian Parmesan, Scotch whisky and German waffles. Even if a product is not on the list it may still be hit, as items could be shuffled in and out.

as items could be shuffled in and out.

For all the fuss the dispute will generate among connoisseurs of European cheese, the biggest impact will be on aircraft, of which America imported \$5.1bnworth in 2018, mostly from France and Germany (the USTR has said that only a portion will be hit). It could have been worse—the Americans could have applied a tariff of up to 100%—but even one of 10% will bite. American airlines fear that tariffs will raise the price of Airbus aircraft, and that Boeing will lack the capacity to expand supply.

Perhaps the WTO will find that the EU has removed its subsidies, and the Americans will stand down. Or in eight months' time, when the WTO authorises the EU to place retaliatory tariffs on American imports as part of the Boeing dispute, the two sides might finally negotiate away their differences. By then Mr Trump's appetite for tariffs may have been sated, and he might abandon separate threats to put tariffs on European cars and car parts. But it is also possible that trade disputes between the two sides become fiercer. America is blocking the appointment of judges to the WTO's court of appeals. If either side makes a move that the other judges an infraction, and a complaint to the WTO cannot be heard for lack of judges, that could be the end of playing by the rules.

©The Economist Newspaper Limited 2019

SPACE TRAVEL

Move fast and build things

SpaceX's Starship is a new kind of rocket, in every sense

ITLOOKED for all the world like something that might have graced the cover of a 1950s comic book. On September 28th, on a warm Texas evening, Elon Musk, the boss of SpaceX, a rocketry firm, unveiled his company's newest machine, Starship Mk1. It stands 50 metres tall and is made from shiny plates of stainless steel. Despite its name, it is not in fact an interstellar spacecraft. But it is a prototype of an interplanetary one. Mr Musk hopes, one day, to use its successors to ferry passengers to the Moon or to Mars—or perhaps even, according to one piece of SpaceX concept art, all the way to Saturn.

In the 17 years since its founding, SpaceX's cheap, reusable machines have revolutionised the rocket business. The firm's ultra-low prices have seen it grab a dominant share of the commercial satellite-launching market. Along with Boeing, an American aerospace giant, SpaceX is responsible for ferrying supplies to the International Space Station. It may soon fly astronauts there as well. But all of this commercial success is merely a necessary first step in Mr Musk's bigger plan, which is to make humanity into a "multiplanetary species" by establishing colonies elsewhere in the solar system.

That is where the Starship comes in. The prototype on display in Texas is only one half of an enormous rocket stack designed with planetary colonisation in mind. When paired with

mess.com

In the 17 years since its founding, SpaceX's cheap, reusable machines have revolutionised the rocket business. The firm's ultra-low prices have seen it grab a dominant share of the commercial satellite-launching market.

a Falcon Super Heavy booster, which is also being developed, the result should be capable of lifting around 150 tonnes into orbit. That would make it the most powerful rocket ever built, squeaking ahead of the Saturn V, which propelled astronauts to the Moon in the 1960s and 1970s. And unlike the Saturn, whose three stages were abandoned to the sea or to space as their fuel was used up, the Starship and its booster will be reusable, which should keep costs down.

It is a bold plan. Mr Musk's shorter-term plans are bold too. Besides designing a new spaceship and booster, SpaceX's engineers are busy working on a new, more efficient engine to power them. Called Raptor, it is designed to

burn super-cold methane rather than the kerosene that fuels the company's current Merlin engines. The Starship will sport six Raptor engines. But each Super Heavy booster will need somewhere between 24 and 37. The result will be a plumber's nightmare.

Mr Musk has said, perhaps optimistically, that a Starship prototype might be ready for a test flight all the way to orbit (albeit without its booster stage) within six months. That would be of a piece with its frenetic development schedule. The rocket-building industry is used to generous government contracts that are about job creation as much as rocket creation. SpaceX has brought a different sensibility, closer to the rapid-fire development practices of the software industry.

The Starship prototype, for instance, was welded together in a matter of months. It was built out in the open, rather than in a carefully controlled factory environment. The firm has two teams competing against each other to produce the best design. Ideas are tested quickly, taken forward if they work, and scrapped if they do not. The Starship was originally to be made of a carbon-fibre composite. But the company soon abandoned that idea, destroying its production tools. Steel, noted Mr Musk, has a higher melting point than carbon fibre, making re-entry easier. It is also an order of magnitude cheaper.

To see the contrast, look at the Space



Elon Musk has said that a Starship prototype might be ready for a test flight all the way to orbit within six months. Reuters

Launch System (SLS), another super-heavy rocket designed to ferry astronauts to the Moon and Mars, but which is being built by NASA, America's space agency. The SLS has had around \$14bn of taxpayers' money since it was authorised in 2011—and that understates the true cost, since the SLS incorporates technology from old, abandoned rocket projects. It is due to make its first flight in 2020, though NASA has hinted that date may slip. Mr Musk claims

that less than 5% of SpaceX's resources are dedicated to Starship. Yet it stands a good chance of beating the SLS into orbit.

©The Economist Newspaper Limited 2019



ONE MAN SHOW

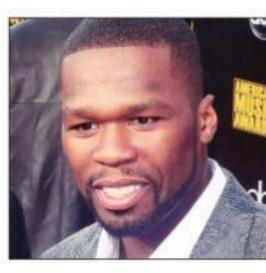
The New York Public Library is opening an exhibition centred around the reclusive author, JD Salinger (pictured), October 18 onwards. Among the 200 items on display is the original typescript of his 1951 classic *The* Catcher In The Rye and some family photographs.

SNAP SHOTS



A Life in Pictures

POPSTAR RIHANNA'S rollercoaster journey beginning from her childhood spent in Barbados to present day is the subject of her upcoming "visual" autobiographical book titled After Her Name. The book of 500 pages, to be published by Phaidon, will include 1,000 photographs that have not been printed previously, covering her world tours, intimate moments with friends and family and iconic fashion statements made by the singer. Keith Fox, Phaidon's CEO, said, "Rihanna is such an important and ground-breaking artist, style icon, and entrepreneur and we are looking forward to sharing her life with a larger audience." The book will hit the stands on October 24.



Legal Angle

AMERICAN RAPPER 50 Cent is bringing a docu-series on the legal troubles faced by renowned celebrities, featuring Snoop Dogg, Tekashi 6ix9ine and himself. A Moment in Time will document the downfall of the now imprisoned rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine, who is accused of conspiracy, narcotics trafficking and firearm offences among many other charges, and the murder trial that Dogg had to come face to face with at the peak of his career in the '90s. The production company G-Unit Film & Television of rap mogul 50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, will produce the project. The series will debut in early 2020. A statement on the show read: "Each season will showcase historical moments in hip-hop culture and revolve around a different music icon, sports hero, infamous drug organisation."



Tough Love

ACTOR Adil Hussain will play the lead role in Bauddhayan Mukherji's Marichihapi, which zooms into the events of January 1979 when refugees on Marichjhapi island – perched in the Sundarbans delta between India and Bangladesh — found themselves surrounded by police boats. Written by Abhinandan Banerjee and Mukherji, the film unveils the relationships that sprout against the backdrop of refugees being shot at, the burning of huts and fisheries and incidents of rapes. To be shot in the Sundarbans, the film is one among the new projects that were introduced at the Busan International Film Festival's Asian Project Market this week.



Becoming Again

FORMER US First Lady Michelle Obama's memoir *Becoming* from 2018 will now have company. Penguin Random House imprint Viking is publishing Becoming: A Guided Journal for Discovering Your Voice on November 19, which will include an introduction by Michelle, accompanied by 150 questions to enable readers to think back to their own journeys and family history, their challenges, hopes and vision for the future. It hopes to encourage readers to draw from their own personal journeys of becoming.



(Clockwise from above) Sonam Kapoor in an Anamika Khanna creation: a design from her previous collection; the designer

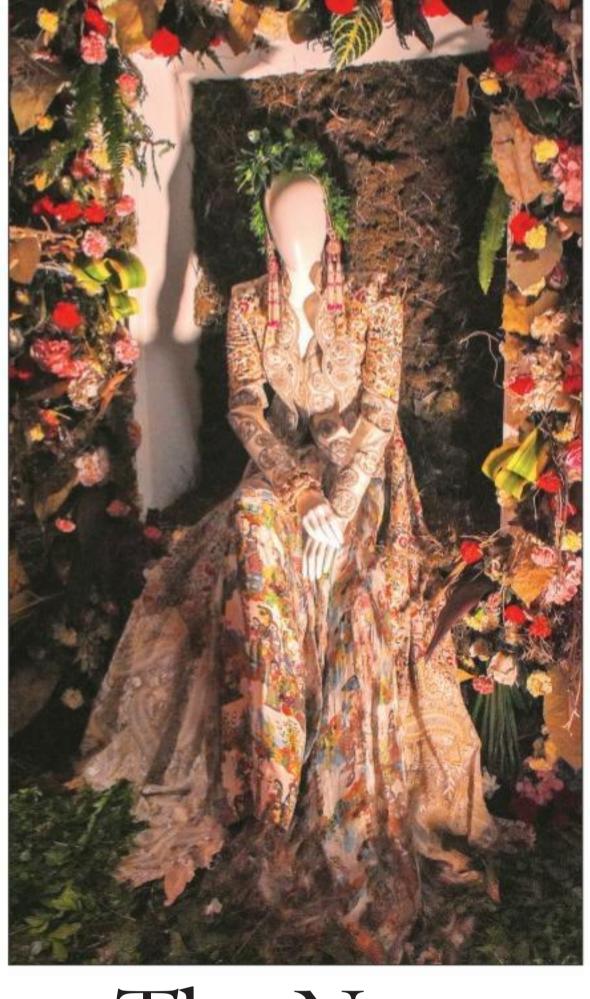
EKTAA MALIK

I HAVE become a lot more braver, experimental and fluid. And well, it's been more than 20 years in the industry," says designer Anamika Khanna, over the phone from Kolkata, when we finally catch her. Khanna has had a busy week, with Pujo celebrations and whole of the city being shut, and she having to design back-to-back collections. Khanna is showcasing at the finale of the Lotus Make-Up India Fashion Week Spring Summer 2020, presented by the Fashion Design Council of India. Khanna shall be presenting on the theme of #MyFashionMyTribe, where she will be joined by Manish Arora, Wendell Rodericks and Rajesh Pratap Singh for the grand finale,

which takes place on October 12. The Kolkata-based designer was quite taken with the theme. "Don't we carry people with us? And they leave their mark on us and our style. We all curate our own looks, and we are identified by that — it could be western. Indian or a mix. We invoke our own tribe with that. And today, we all carry bits and pieces of the people who surround us, our family, a favourite colleague, they all form our tribe. This forms a big organisation in our head, and they form an umbrella of sorts," says Khanna.

"I wanted to extend the organisation the said tribe — and bring the world into it, and create a melting pot of sorts. In a single garment, I have used the craftsmanship from Gujarat and other Indian regions and presented it in a very contemporary silhouette and cut. The collection is extremely eclectic and experimental. And

there are no underlying rules," she adds. Khanna promises this is something that we haven't seen before from her label. "I was feeling a lot more freer, and expressive. In a way I feel I have created new fabrics, by the sheer layers of embroidery. And of course there is silk, tulle and organza in



The New Global Desi

Designer Anamika Khanna on invoking global silhouettes for her fashion week collection, and the need to invest in timeless, classic pieces



the work," she remarks.

A global silhouette with a very local Indian aesthetic is something of a calling card for Khanna. Over the years, she has successfully blended Indian artisanal handiwork with western silhouettes and drapes. A flowy embellished cape, paired with a jumpsuit, a long jacket, where sleeves touch the floor, worn with a lehenga. A bolero-cut jacket with a long train, worn with a saree. There is a distinct boho-nomadic vibe to Khanna's work.

I knew that ethnic Indian fashion may not be something that people all over the world would wear. A lehenga-choli or a Banarasi saree might not be feasible for working women in New York. But our textiles, weaves and craft is much appreciated. We need to make it relevant to a global world

ANAMIKA KHANNA, DESIGNER

"That was my starting point. I knew that ethnic Indian fashion may not be something that people all over the world would wear. A lehenga-choli or a Banarasi saree might not be feasible for working women in New York or Japan. But our textiles, weaves and crafts are much appreciated. So why should we limit ourselves, we need to make it relevant to a global world. And we in India ourselves don't wear a lehenga to work. A salwar-kameez works better, right? I have always wanted

ON THE RAMP

The Lotus Make-Up India Fashion Week Spring Summer 2020 kicks off today, at Delhi's Major Dhyan Chand Stadium. Here are the highlights:



- Ikai By Ragini Ahuja (pictured) is the opening show of the fashion week. October 9, 3 pm
- HUEMN, the designer label run by Pranav Mishra and Shyma Shetty, known for their strong socio-political themes. October 9, 9.30 pm
- Mumbai-based Falguni and Shane Peacock being Bollywood's favourites, you never know which A-lister will be the showstopper. Oct 10, 9.30pm
- Young Guns, a show that gives new and younger labels such as Bareek, Countrymade, Notebook and Sameer Madan a platform. October 12, 3 pm
- Designer Stockroom, where you can get designer wear at bargain prices. October 13, 11am-7 pm

to take these beautiful crafts to the world," she adds.

Khanna was one of the first Indian designers to have an international label. Ana mika, and a subsequent show at the Paris Fashion Week in 2007. Since then she has become a global name. Her global recall value went through the roof when Bollywood actor Sonam Kapoor wore her work at the Cannes red carpet. And Khanna has since become Kapoor's goto designer. Kapoor wore Khanna again at Cannes, this time in a red and yellow swim suit. Even at her own wedding reception, Kapoor chose Khanna, who designed a white and beige lehenga, which gave out a distinct chevron print look.

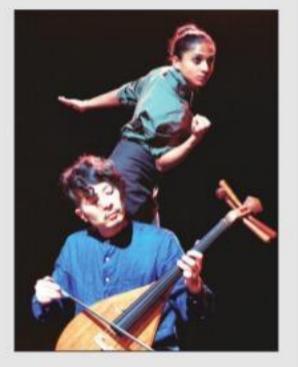
"It was all hand-embroidered with zardozi. I used to cringe when someone said it's a print. But then, I was like if they think it's a print, we have done it well," says Khanna.

On her bonding with Kapoor, Khanna says, "We were one of the first people for whom she walked the ramp. We have evolved together. She knows the ins and outs of fashion more than any stylist. She is clear with what she wants, and yet she carries off anything with panache. When she says, 'I am thinking long, thinking red,' I know what she wants. Then I am like, 'I am thinking trousers.' She gets me. We work well together. But she has the attitude and the flair and she is very inspiring."

In today's times when there is a lot of talk about sustainability and the need to be more eco-friendly — especially where fast fashion and high-street brands are concerned — Khanna is optimistic, that at least conversations around the subject have started. "I am glad dialogues on sustainability have started. It might not be imperative that I literally use sustainable fabric, but if I give you something of such fine quality in my clothes that you can repeat it for the next 10 years, that's equally sustainable. We need to invest in timeless, classic pieces, which will last," she says.

Remains of the Day

A sound and movement concert takes audiences on a meditative journey



During the concert in Mumbai

PARTH KHATAU

PATRONS LINING up for the premiere of sound and music concert, interestingly titled *Do you want me to stay for* anything in particular?, had to do something that choreographer Sujay Saple feels is "the need of the hour". They had to deposit their phones before entering the auditorium. This, Saple said, would go on to elevate the experience for the next 60 minutes.

Saple says, "I wanted to make sure the audience has full attention on the show for its entire duration." The experience, he adds, is something most people will relate to. "Audiences can expect a poetic and meditative experience. It is intense, emotional and sometimes haunting, but will take everyone on their individual journeys. The show speaks about loss and absence, and I think most of us have experienced that. It does get quite emotional too," he says.

The show is a choreographed sonic experience involving just one musician and one performer, with a limited number of spectators placed in intimate proximity to the artistes and to each other. Its title, Saple says, is open to interpretation. "The question on most people's mind after a loss is about what is left behind? And that is from where the title comes in," he adds.

The work is a collaboration between Saple and Japanese sound artist and musician, Mitsuaki Matsumoto, who, along with Mallika Singh, performs throughout the show. Sharing his experience of performing in India, Matsumoto says, "It's nice to come to India to do something different. Usually, I only play and do concerts, my own thing. For me, it's an extension (of my own practice) to work with choreographers and theatre artistes." Matsumoto plays a self-modified string instrument, entirely fashioned and designed by him using remnants and dismembered parts of other musical instruments mainly the Japanese Biwa and the cello.

Saple says that "it has been two parallel tracks for him in life", with his interest in music as well as sound. "My earlier show, Lullaby Strange, was also playing with sound and vibrations, and the audience had to lie down to experience it. I love creating these peaceful experiences where audiences can go out feeling rejuvenated," he adds.



Stills from Nooreh (left) and Hellaro

India in a Nutshell

Nooreh, the story of a girl from an Indo-Pak border village in Kashmir, and Gujarati feature film Hellaro to open the Indian Panorama at IFFI, Goa

ALAKA SAHANI

AS THE International Film Festival of India. Goa, gets ready to celebrate its 50th year, the short film it selects to open its non-feature section under Indian Panorama is a grim reminder of the reality of Jammu &

Kashmir. Directed by Ashish Pandey, *Nooreh* is about its titular eight-year-old protagonist who lives in a Kashmiri village on the India-Pakistan border. One night, Nooreh discovers that the frequent gunbattles that rage near her home start when she falls asleep and stop once she's awake. "The primary reason why I thought of the

the future we are creating for the next generation. There is so much violence across the world. The sight of an armyman holding a gun might not seem peculiar to a child in Mumbai, but this is very normal in Jammu & Kashmir," says Pandey, adding that he was "pleasantly surprised" when the announcement was made. Pandey, a Mumbai-based independent

movie was that I was a bit concerned about

filmmaker, says if one goes to any nook and corner of Jammu & Kashmir, one would come across army men on duty. "The deployment of army personnel is higher in border villages. However, their relationship with local people is not as strained as in those areas compared to other parts of Kashmir. A child going to school crosses

checkposts and chats with security personnel. This is very disturbing yet interesting. Though in the classroom these children might recite a poem about a heavenly place full of love, the reality is a stark contrast to that," says Pandey, whose 22-minute short film touches upon this aspect.

Pandey says he felt the need to show this "irony" through *Nooreh*, his third short film. "My endeavour was to show what future the child wishes vis-a-vis what the reality is. I try to do that through the story of Nooreh," he adds.

The film was shot in Chuntiwari and Izmarg villages, which are more like clusters of houses, in the Gurez valley. In the film, the characters speak in the local Shina language, apart from Kashmiri and Urdu.

During its making, the crew got a lot of support from the local volunteers. That made its filming much easier. Every time the crew requested them for help, the locals would say, "Ho jayega. Aur bataayie (It will be done. Tell us what else you need)."

Last July, Pandey screened Nooreh at a local school. "The children loved the film. It was very interesting for them to see their world on the screen," he recalled. The army personnel also took a copy of the movie from him. They wanted to show it during the sadbhavana (goodwill) meets they have with the villagers.

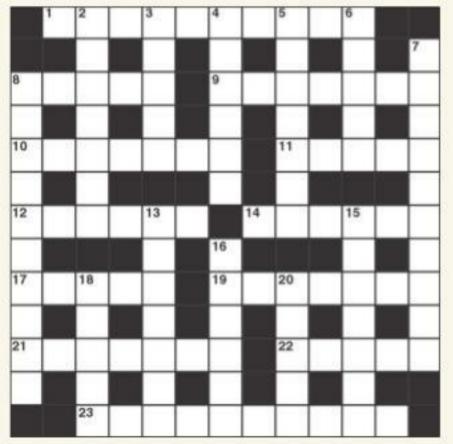
"Sadly, a day after the screening, these border villages witnessed heavy shelling, after a gap of nearly two decades. We had to leave the area at 9 pm and reached Srinagar at 1.30 am," says Pandey, recalling his last visit to the area, adding, "It's as if the film became their reality."

The 50th edition of IFFI, to be held from November 20 to November 28, will showcase over 200 films from 76 countries. There are 26 feature films and 15 non-feature films selected for the Indian Panorama section Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar announced in New Delhi that feature film Hellaro (Gujarati), directed by Abhishek Shah, will open Feature Film of Indian Panorama 2019.

Hellaro, which talks about self-expression of women, will release in theatres on November 8, and has also bagged the National Award for Best Film. The features section will screen Gully Boy, Uri, Badhaai Ho, Jallikattu, Anandi Gopal and Uyare, among others.

16 CALENDAR

CROSSWORD 3932



DOWN

2 Tell the likely outcome of a

4 Tears out the last letter; it's

only a substitute (6)

against humanity (7)

7 Tear things to pieces - and put

them in order again (10)

13 Presumably one gets a light

15 Somehow grudged not being

16 Lively turn I've put on (6)

20 Splendid old coin (5)

fully conscious of events (7)

18 The aim of many a pilgrimage (5)

6 Pop's executors? (5)

8 A positive result (10)

tan from it (7)

3 A bun before this social

closely fought election? (7)

occasion would be plenty (5)

ACROSS

- 1 Noted tranquilliser (6,4)
- 8 Quietly get the cane out, of hickory(5)
- 9 Is stout perhaps, so doesn't dance(4,3)
- 10 There's no let-up for the rich
- 11 First sign of the Greeks (5)
- 12 Fancy us to be stupid (6)
- 17 Norma is about to describe
- 19 Guide one's behaviour (7)
- (7)
- 22 Start to live on alcohol (5)
- 23 Catches and understands

JUMBLED WORDS

Living in a sucks - Adrienne E. Gusoff (6)

the answer for the given quip.

o. NIT/2019-20/20370-79

CNPAU

FRSCU

5 To argue like this is a crime

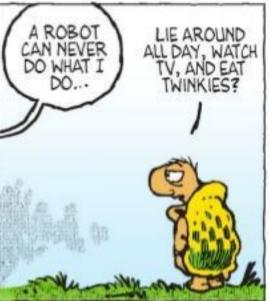
- 14 Old sailor goes backwards, gaining publicity (6)
- capital(5)
- 21 Classical admission of guilt

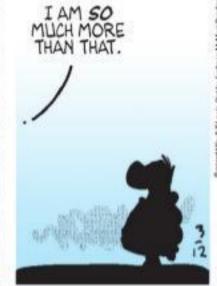
what's said (10)

Solutions Crossword 3931: Across: 1 Strips, 4 Gambit, 9 Petunia, 10 Auric, 11 Indri, 12 Antique, 13 Cliffhanger, 18 Earnest, 20 Rival, 22 Op art, 23 Shunted, 24 Lascar, 25 Teller. Down: 1 Sophia, 2 Rated, 3 Pontiff, 5 Avast, 6 Baroque, 7 Ticker,

8 Parachutist, 14 Lariats, 15 Nurture, 16 Recoil, 17 Glider, 19 Extra, 21 Vital.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis







CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson







MARVIN by Tom Armstrong





Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get

SUDOKU

Difficulty Level 4s Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

	1			3	6	
7		8	9			
8	3	5				
	9					2
	6	7		8	5	
3					1	
				1	2	3
			5	4		7
	5	3			8	

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3993

7 3 6 8 9 9 1 8 2 4 8 7 4 5 1 3 2 6 9

DAY TODAY

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Personal plans matter most, so don't let authority, society or other

external pressures distort your judgment. Give a high priority to domestic plans and be aware of a tendency to stick your head in the sand at work. You can ignore intimate problems, but you can't make them go away.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) It's a useful day to travel, make contact and extend discussions which

may have got off to a faltering start. Good communication is of the essence, and anyone attending interviews or other important meetings has a right to be confident.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) For the next month or so you will be a

walking social contradiction, apparently tremendously open and upfront but, in reality, keeping all your most important and intense feelings deeply hidden. However, consider this: if you want to communicate with loved ones you might have to be a little more direct.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) It's time to take

control and insist that other people see things your way. This doesn't mean that you should ignore their interests, but it's about time you had a fair and unbiased hearing. Perhaps you should spend a little longer preparing your case. **LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**

Daydream to your heart's content, and don't let other people make you feel strange for wanting to spend time by yourself. At work, it's very much who you know rather than what you know that carries you through. There's nothing wrong in exploiting personal contacts is there?

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Your social stars become stronger. which means that even at work it is personal relationships which count for the most. Look at the long-term, making every effort to broaden your horizons. Besides, there's a surprise just around the corner.

It's time to be more forthright about your ambitions, including professional aspirations. Also, bear in mind that you can no longer shrug off partners' desires, for there appear to be deeper issues at stake than you once thought. Not that it's a bad thing, mind you.

BY PETER VIDAL

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You may check out the legal situation, putting the emphasis on your own rights, but not forgetting your responsibilities. Don't let other people make the running when it comes to setting standards, for their view of what should and shouldn't be done is less rigorous than yours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

This is an adventurous moment, and you should know now that you can't be held back by social taboos which have lost their meaning. Your competitive instincts must be released if you are to come out on top. However, it's not so much a matter of finishing first, as of doing the best job.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) Partnership affairs

are central to your life today, so you really should attempt to reach a compromise. Partners and colleagues may be muddled, or they may be unable to express themselves clearly, but that doesn't diminish the relevance of their message.

There's so much planetary activity in

AQUARIUS (Jan 21- Feb 19)

the lower reaches of your chart that maximum change must be expected at home. It could be about another twelve weeks before you're clear about what your part must be. People could be coming and going, but what you really need is security.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) You should

rummage around in the recesses of your character, searching out those qualities which are businesslike, organised and efficient. Then you'll be able to divert extravagant stars into the cause of boosting your income. And I can think of no more worthwhile exercise.

indianexpress.com

नेम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए केंद्र/ राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों द्वारा पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनला निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-

Answer: Living in a vacuum sucks - Adrienne E. Gusoff

SOLUTION: UNCAP, SCURF, MERGER, VOYAGE

EEGRRM

AEGOYV

Construction of Laboratory Block-1 at Govt. Engineering College, Bharatpu (Excluding cost of Coment) UBN No.:-RRC1920WSOB00407 संबंधित समस्त विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईंट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसा ttp://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।

Public Work Department Government of NCT Delhi **NOTICE INVITING (e-Tendering)**

The Executive Engineer (E)-I, PWD (CCTV Wi-Fi and Street Lights, Division-13th Floor, MSO building, New-Delhi-110002 (Ph. No. 011-23319475). email ID eeelcctvpwddelhi@gmail.com invites on behalf of President of India online item rate tender in Two Bid System (Eligibility cum Technical Bid and Price Bid) from the reputed firms having work experience in the field of Providing Wi-Fi. for the following work:- Providing free Wi-Fi to the citizen of

NIT No. 06/Pr.CE(P)/PM(CCTV)/PWD/2019-20,

Estimated Cost: Rs. 80,66,79,600/-

EMD: Rs. 90,66,796/-

Delhi (Bus Stops & parks etc.).

Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting 14/10/ 2019 at 11:30 AM, in the O/o Pr. CE(P), PWD, 9th floor, MSO Building, New Delhi-02. Last Time and date o submission of bid 17/10/2019 upto 3.00 PM. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website

https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in Tender ID 2019_PWD_181684_1.



Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board

(Govt. of NCT of Delhi) 9, Institutional Area, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 Tel:- 28524421, 28524045 **NOTICE of E- TENDER**

The item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the

following works:					
S. N.	Name of Works	Estimated Cost/ Earnest money (In Rupees)	Last date & Time for Receipt of Tender through e- procurement	Tender ID No.	
1	Comprehensive AMC & Operation of all type electrical fixtures, pump sets, High masts, i/c whole network of electrical panels and feeder pillars at NGM Najafgarh.	12,45,331/- Rs. 24,910/-	· ·	2019_DAMB_ 176633_3	
2	Rewiring of first floor (Secretary office) and S & F of L.E.D Light Fixtures and wall, Ceiling & Exhaust fan	7,38,925/- Rs. 14,780/-	15.10.2019 up to 13.00 hours	2019_DAMB_ 181295_1	

The Terms-conditions and other details of the tender may please be seen on the website https://govtprocurement delhi.gov.in

Executive Engineer(E) DIP/Shabdarth/0789/19-20

WESTERN RAILWAY SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF TELECOM MATERIAL

No. W/118/NIT/e-tender/2019-20/S&T/13/WA Dated 04.10.2019 Notice inviting E-Tender The Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), Western Railway, Bhavnagar Para invites etenders on behalf of the President of India for the following work: (1) Tender No. 24/2019 Name of work Supply Installation and commissioning of Telecom material in connection with following sanctioned works. (I) Bhavnagar Division : Block providing by Axle counter with UFSBI (21 Block section) (II) Provision of Ring Earthing for Telecom equipments in Bhavnagar Terminus-Dhola Jn. and Palitana-Sihor section (10 locations). (Estimated Cost ₹ 1,20,01,099/- The bidders have to apply on line through link i.e. www.ireps.gov.in only for further detail. Please visit website www.ireps.gov.in Last date for online apply 1/11/2019 up to 15.00 hrs. 103

Like us on: f facebook.com/WesternRly

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (ID No.: 2019 AAI 32544 1)



Item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering portal by AGM Engg. (Civil) CHQ-NER, Airports Authority of India, Operational offices, Rangpuri, New Delhi-110037 on behalf of Chairman, AAI from the eligible contractors for the work of "Extension of Apron & Construction of New Link Taxiway at Civil Enclave, Silchar" for

an estimated cost ₹16.36 Crore with a period of completion 18 (Eighteen) months including 03 (three) months considered for rains. Last date and time of submission of bid document is 04.11.2019 up to 1800 hrs. For detailed information log on to CPP Portal: https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/aap or www.aai.aero. Further clarification/corrigendum, if any, will be notified through CPP N-58/2019-20



DAMB

NLC India Limited

SD, Egmore Complex of Food Corporation of India, Chetpet, Chennal - 600 031 Corp. Office: Block-1, Neyveli-607 801, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu. CIN No.: L93090TN1956GOI003507, Website: www.nlcindia.com

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING BRIEF NOTICE INVITING BID

Sealed Bid in English (One original and seven identical copies) are invited by NLC India Limited (NLCIL), Neyveli on behalf of NLC Tamilnadu Power Limited (NTPL) for "ADDITIONAL DESALINATION PACKAGE INCLUSIVE OF TWO STEEL TANKS AND OUTFALL HDPE PIPING FOR FLUE GAS DESULPHURISATION (FGD) PLANT OF NTPL 2 x 500 MW COAL BASED THERMAL POWER PLANT" LOCATED AT TUTICORIN, TAMIL NADU, INDIA. Bids are invited in two part system on International Competitive Bidding Basis, followed by Reverse bidding (Details of Reverse bidding is available in the Tender document) as per the details given below:

Tender No: CO / CONTS / 0025H / NTPL (2x500) / DSAL / 2019, Date: 04-10-2019.

B.G. Amount: ₹86,00,000/- (or) USD 1,21,280 (or) EURO 1,11,435 Cost of Tender Documents :₹20,000/-(or) USD 285 (or) EURO 260 Tender Document Sale Period: 11-10-2019 to 02-12-2019

Last Date & Time of Receipt of Bid: 03-12-2019 Up to 14.30 Hrs. (IST)

Date & Time of Opening of Bid (Part-I): 03-12-2019 at 15.00 Hrs. (IST) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: On 23-10-2019 at 11.00 Hrs. (IST) at Corporate Contracts Division, Corporate Office, NLC India Limited, Neyveli. For further details such as Qualifying Requirements and other details of tender etc., please visit our website: www.nlcindia.com or Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) of Government of India website www.eprocure.gov.in or contact the Executive Director / Contracts & Purchase, Corporate Office, NLC India Ltd., Neyveli-607801,

Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, India. Telephone No.: 04142-252210

& 251620 Fax No. 04142-252026, 252645 / 252646.

email id : gmconts_co@nlcindia.in / cgmconts_co@nlcindia.in /

gmconts@gmail.com FOR FURTHER DETAILS / CORRIGENDUM VISIT: www.nlcindia.com "Integrity – A way of Life"

The Indian Express.

For the Indian Intelligent.

before taking a side.

I look at every side

Inform your opinion with insightful perspectives.

♦ The Indian **EXPRESS**

-JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

at first & second floor of

APMC Office at F & V

Market, Keshopur

"We don't ask for the kind of wickets that we get. For us to be the No. 1 team in the world, any conditions that come your way, you have to accept it as home conditions."

BHARAT ARUN, BOWLING COACH

Ice baths, fresh shirts kept Shami going during his hot streak on Day 5



Mohammed Shami's 5 for 35 in the second innings broke the back of the South **African batting line-up.** PTI

SRIRAM VEERA OCTOBER 8

"One isn't enough, you have to take five" (Ek kaafi nahi hai, paanch chahiye!) was the call from Ravi Shastri and Bharat Arun when Mohammad Shami rushed in to the dressing room at the end of his first spell on the final day, after he had removed Temba Bavuma with a skimming skidder. "Haan, ley lenge," (Yes, will do) said Shami in his nonchalant drawl.

Everything was ready in the change room. The bucket of ice bath, fresh T-shirt, already soaked in ice water and dried up on a chair (he went through at least four-to-five changes through the day). There is perhaps nothing more important than the ice-bath dunk in terms of recovery in the change rooms across the world, the Indian team certainly swears by it.

The theory is simple: Too much lactic acid build-up leads to muscle fatigue and the chilly ice bath makes the blood vessels to tighten which helps in draining the lactic acid out of tired muscles. It helps the muscles in making an immediate recovery.

The temperature in the bath is carefully monitored by the physio and it depends on

The temperature in the bath is carefully monitored by the physio and it depends on the heat on that day. In Vizag, on the final day, Shami's ice baths ranged from 8 to 15 degrees to suit to the time of the day when he took it. He had one ice bath after the first spell and then another later in the day.

the heat on that day. In Vizag, on the final day, Shami's ice baths ranged from 8 to 15 degrees to suit to the time of the day when he took it. He had one ice bath after the first spell and then another later in the day. The players get 10 minutes of dressing-room rest time in a match day these days. Legally allowed, barring any injuries and such. And so, a great deal of planning goes into using those 600 seconds as wisely as possible.

As soon as Shami came in, he was dunked into the bath, fresh clothes are kept ready, socks changes if any are done and he is back to the field. Since it's Shami who rushes only

when he is in the mood, when he senses something is on offer on the pitch, and sprints in his run-up, there is always a quick shout of encouragement and reminders about his talent and what he needs to do on field during these change-overs. "Haan, ley lenge" is one such laconic response that broke South Africa's back.

Madan Lal, the former India pacer, was on Shastri's mind on that last day. Not that Shami's bowling reminded him of Madan, but the skidding deliveries had him thinking of December 1981 Test against England when Madan and Kapil Dev took five wickets apiece in the fourth innings to win the game. Something, in the way the balls were skidding at Vizag, had Shastri talking about Madan in the dressing room. Of his five wickets, Madan had two lbws and two bowled as the deliveries skidded through a touch low.

Madan Lal doesn't himself remember that day all that clearly. "I would say Shami's effort in Vizag was really great. The Bombay pitch that time did help spinners but the way the pitch was up-down, we knew we seamers were in a real chance. Shami's effort at Vizag was really special I would say," Madan says. That game did run a similar script in terms of Indian bowling. Like Ashwin, Dilip Doshi took a five-for in the first innings before the seamers took total control in the sec ond innings.

These days, as Shami has shared it in the past, he and his fellow seamers get to decide the extent of spells. "The captain lets them (seamers) do what they want. He gives freedom to choose whether they want a short spell or a long spell. Bowlers are aware how they could be lot more effective and convey it to the captain," Arun said on Tuesday.

Arun also talked about the lines they chose at the Vizag Test on the last day. "Even though the wicket was abrasive, the ball didn't reverse that much as it normally happens on Indian wickets. You then adjust your line and length when the ball is not reversing. The particular wicket tended to keep a bit low, and we realized that it has to be more stump line and not outside the off-stump. Shami got four out of his five wickets bowled, so the line changes, how quickly a bowler is aware of what is happening gives the chance of success," Arun said.

38 years after Madan's heroics, more of the same happened; the spinner in the first innings and the pacer doing the damage in the fourth. Except for the ice bath, of course. Back then, the players would probably have had ice only in their drinks on match evenings.

report of cricketer choking her

Bristol: Star all-rounder Ben Stokes' wife Clare on Tuesday rubbished reports that the England cricketer tried to "choke" her during a party, terming it as "non-sense". According to 'The *Independent'*, Guido Fawkes website had published photographs where Stokes had his hand on his wife's face during the Professional Cricketers' Association Awards Fiftieth Anniversary party. The photos soon triggered allegations of physical altercation, forcing Clare to clear the air. "Unbelievable what nonsense these people will make up!," Stokes' wife Clare wrote on her Twitter handle. "Me and Ben messing about squishing up each other's faces cos that's how we show affection and some pap tries to twist it in to a crazy story! And all before we then have a romantic McDonalds 20 mins later!" Stokes, who was England's World Cup hero, re-tweeted Clare's post with a kissing face emoji. The photographs were taken during the Awards function held at the Camden Roundhouse on October 2. Clare later posted a smiling photo of the couple at the event, where Stokes was conferred with the PCA Player of the Year award, and another where she appeared to be

Warner, Smith in T20 squad

squishing her husband's face. PTI

Sydney: Australia on Tuesday named Steve Smith and David Warner in their Twenty20 squad for home series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan as selectors firm up plans for next year's World Cup on home soil. Australia host Sri Lanka in three T20 internationals starting in Adelaide on Oct. 27 before facing top-ranked Pakistan in three matches next month. Smith is set to play his first T20 international since 2016 and will look to continue the fine form he has shown since his return from a one-year ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

T20 SQUAD: Aaron Finch (captain), Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins, Glenn Maxwell, Ben McDermott, Kane Richardson, Steve Smith, Billy Stanlake, Mitchell Starc, Ashton Turner, Andrew Tye, David Warner, Adam Zampa. (Reporting by Shrivathsa Sridhar in Bengaluru; Editing by Peter Rutherford). PTI

Stokes, wife rubbish From Maharaj to commoner

Left-arm spinner needs to tweak his approach to succeed in India; South Africa hiring a local spin coach would help

SANDIPG

PUNE, OCTOBER 8

AFTER A wicketless day during South Africa's tour of Sri Lanka last year, then Protea spin bowling coach Claude Henderson woke up to a midnight thud on his door. He opened, groggy-eyed, only to see Keshav Maharaj bowling to the team video analyst in the hotel corridor. One of his deliveries had slipped out of the fingers and banged his door.

South Africa's figurehead spinner, some reckon he's the best to have emerged from the country since reintegration, had endured a torrid wicketless day on what was a typical turner and he couldn't sleep. Seeing the coach, he posed him an existential query which several, even more famous spin-bowling predecessors have wondered: "Why can't I get wickets in conditions that I'm supposed to get wickets?"

After all, before his first exposure to Asian conditions, he had wreaked havoc, among the least spinner-friendly climes, Dunedin and Wellington, and had left Australia and England with his reputation enhanced, a four-for at Lord's, a three-for at Perth, three apiece in two innings in Nottingham. But here, in the subcontinent, he was, cutting a forlorn, flaccid figure.

The coach had no answers, he merely told him to catch some sleep and shut the door, though inwardly he felt quite chuffed at his ward's alacrity. Later, he told in a press conference: "That was the night I saw a fire raging him in." That fire raged on and consumed 16 wickets in his next three outings, including a best of 9/129, the best by any South African. Typically, he played down the record and offered a disclaimer: "I think I'm still a beginner, and have to perform consistently here to say that I have cracked the code (of bowling in Asia). Maybe, India next year."

Those words seemed prophetic, as he endured a difficult Test in Vizag, where he resembled a worn-out imitation of the resurgent spinner he was in Sri Lanka, especially in the first innings.

As much as the hideous figures of 5 wickets for 318 runs, bleeding 5.86 runs in the second innings, on the fourth day, where the spinners are expected at least to stem the run-flow, the benevolence of his bowling is what would rankle him. Though there were sporadic instances of that raging fire within him blazing, like the Rohit Sharma dismissal in the first innings, one of the few instances he combined flight, drift and bite off the surface, he was more often bland and unimaginative, as if being the lead spinner was an immovable burden.

So much so that his mind seemed as cluttered as his action. He seemed like just lum-



Maharaj had taken 9 for 129 in a Test in Colombo last year but in Visakhapatnam his plans came undone. AP

bering in and bowling—he wasn't getting any body into his action, which naturally hampered the pivot that's fundamental to a finger spinner's action. This meant he was hardily purchasing any turn, he is not a massive turner, but here he wasn't getting any whatsoever. His arms weren't coming through freely either—the action thus seemed hindered at the point of release. He wasn't getting drift either.

While bowling faster on a slow turning surface could be beneficial if he can also make the ball turn, as had Nathan Lyon when he toured here last time, here he was merely looking to push the ball in, relying on just his fingers. Relying, primarily, on over-spin.

Battle-hardened spinners would say just one facet of spin-bowling can't guarantee foolproof success. Overspin, for instance, could be highly beneficial on bouncier surfaces, like the one in Mumbai in 2012 when

Monty Panesar and Graeme Swann tied a famed batting firm in knots. But those are exceptions than a thumb rule.

It's an instinct rather—looking for overspin induced extra bounce. Even Lyon in his first tour to India in 2013 erred, but in his latest trip, he was a much rounded-bowler.

He developed the ability to bowl faster – more than half of his deliveries in that series were above 88km/h, where less than a quarter used to be – but, critically, he did not lose loop or dip when he sped up, which made him difficult to nullify.

Different plans vital

They, like Maharaj, can't be entirely faulted either, for its the way they have practised their craft throughout their life, a fundamental disparity between how spin is traditionally served up in Asia and outside.

What reaps rewards there doesn't here, and vice versa. So what worked for the South African spinner on bouncier decks in Australia, England and New Zealand didn't in Vizag. He admitted as much: "It's probably one of the toughest surfaces I've bowled on in terms of it being a lot slower and not biting as much. You got slow turn but the ball didn't really kick off the wicket."

It's an identical crisis when Asian seamers travel abroad—they expect a better harvest, before they stumble on one challenge after the other. Likewise, in South Africa and Australia, finger spinners are taught the virtues of overspin, whereas in India they look to primarily undercut the ball because these are the methods that are most successful in their respective conditions.

Though there have been fine purveyors of overspin like Anil Kumble and Harbhajan

For much of his career he was not the primary bowler of his team, more of a stock bowler to tidy an end up while the pacemen did the bulk of the striking duties. And suddenly, you switch roles and responsibilities and end up bowling twice as many overs in insanely hot climes.

Singh, it was not overspin alone that brought them wickets, but a confluence of several niceties. Ravichandran Ashwin too can be bracketed alongside them in his consummate mastery of spin-bowling nuances and improvisations of pace and release points, awareness of lengths and speeds on a particular surface. For even among turners, there are all sorts—some are crusty, some others flaky, some offer bounce and turn, some are low and slow, some others have variable bounce, some others don't bounce at all. Heck, the surfaces change colour in a matter of days, sometimes sessions. Each one calls for different skill-sets, thus filtering out onedimensional spinners.

In Vizag, Maharaj was one—and then sud-

denly he finds himself as the focal point of his side's attack. For much of his career he was not the primary bowler of his team, more of a stock bowler to tidy an end up while the pacemen did the bulk of the striking duties. And suddenly, you switch roles and responsibilities and end up bowling twice as many overs in insanely hot climes. The 77 overs he bowled in Vizag is the second most he has in a Test—the most he has was in Colombo wherein he expended 81.1 overs, close to an entire day's play. It can leave the fingers battered, the mind wracked and the body drained. India's spinners, on the other hand, are used to such shifts from the time they burst into the scene. So the biggest challenge for him will be to pose a threat to the Indian batsmen within the framework

of his gifts and limitations. It's in times like these that South Africa would have rued the absence of a spin consultant from the subcontinent, like most other teams in the world. England and West Indies have benefitted from Saqlain Mushtaq and Mushtag Ahmed, Sridharan Sriram, more of a batting all-rounder in his playing days, has improved Australia's spin stock. Maharaj doesn't have wise counsel to lean on. He might just hit the hotel corridors in unseemly hours, though keeping that inner fire raging on.

ALMOST FAMOUS

Selfies, chief guest invitations, ads ... the busy life of this Kohli lookalike

DEVENDRA PANDEY PUNE. OCTOBER 8

WHAT IF you look like the Indian captain Virat Kohli? If luck shines, you can be the star attraction at political rallies, be the promotional face of new business ventures and even be the chief guest at local cricket tour-

naments. Saurabh Gade, as a junior engineer with ICB, a multinational company that manufactures earth movers, is a Kohli lookalike. His life changed earlier this year when a local MLA spotted him and roped him for a rally. Very recently, a local manufacturer that does job-work for a clothing brand that Kohli promotes wanted to showcase one of their prod-

ucts. They chose Gade for a photo shoot. It all started last May, when a candidate aspiring to be Ramalinga Gram Panchayat's sarpanch in Maharashtra's Shirur district

promised his voters that Kohli would be campaigning for him. Hoardings went up, the word spread about the May 25 rally that would have the Indian captain. Selfie and autograph hunters poured in. Of course, the real Kohli, didn't turn up but Gade was there, with his impeccable Virat-like beard and spectacles.

He gives the back story. "My friend in college used to say that I look like Kohli. One of my friends had taken a photo which was seen by one of the MLAs in Shirur. He called me and asked me to go to the sarpanch rally as he knew the candidate." After the rally, more hoarding came up, these had the candidate with the real Kohli. "I sent the MLA's team pictures but the quality wasn't up to the mark. So the MLA photoshoped Kohli's picture," Gade told The Indian Express.

The 26-year-old didn't realise that his brief appearance at a political rally would usher in fame. So much so that back in his

village Yelawadi Dehu, situated 25 kilometres from Pune, he is called 'Dehu's Virat'. A son of army man and a teacher mother, and whose elder brother is pursuing medicine in Russia, Gade is enjoying his new-found fame.

Fans write to him, asking for autographs and photographs. Advertisement offers land up and he is always in demand as a guest at family functions and of course, in cricket tournaments. In Pune, a bakery signed him up and now use his face to sell cakes. With assembly elections round the corner, various political parties have been again calling him to campaign.

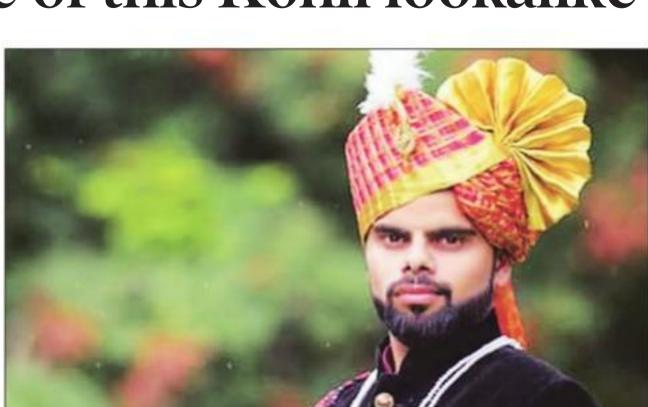
As luck would have it, Gade hasn't yet met Kohli. Last year, he came close when India played West Indies in Pune. He was waiting for his hero not too far from the place the team bus was parked. MS Dhoni spotted him and told him that Virat was about to board the bus.

"By the time I reached, the bus had

moved. I am still eagerly waiting for the day

I meet Virat." Though he couldn't meet Kohli that day, he had his share of fame. On the match day, cricket fans kept taking selfies with him in the stands. Such was the commotion that the police had to intervene and come to his rescue. "There were lots of people gathered around me and police came and said it could be law and order issue. They told me to go sit in the enclosure in the stands specifically reserved for physically disabled so that I can be a bit free. Two constables and an inspector too were there for my security. Later a top police officer called me over and asked for my picture!" Gade says.

On Tuesday, Gade walked in to the cricket stadium in Pune in hope but was once again left disappointed as Kohli had opted out of the optional training session. Gade says he will try again in the coming days. The doppelganger awaits his big moment.



Saurabh Gade, a junior engineer with a multi-national company, was roped in by a sarpanch during an election rally. Express

Misbah searches for answers as Pakistan face 3-0 whitewash

ASSOCIATED PRESS LAHORE, OCTOBER 8

TOP-RANKED Pakistan is facing a rare 3-0 whitewash in a Twenty20 bilateral series when it takes on an inexperienced Sri Lanka side in the third and final match on Wednesday. Sri Lanka's key players opted out of the series due to security concerns, but the visitors haven't missed them as they registered two emphatic victories in Lahore, with Pakistan choosing to experiment rather than fielding tried-and-tested players.

Recalled Umar Akmal and Ahmed Shehzad failed in both matches, with Akmal getting golden ducks and Shehzad scores of 4 and 13 before he was clean bowled both times. "If they weren't able to perform what can be done?" questioned a frustrated-looking head coach and chief selector, Misbahul-Haq, after his team lost on Monday. "Obviously I am answerable, but to build up a team, you need to do some experiments to get your answers. When you play someone in international cricket, with a couple of games you understand the utility of a player. We need to show some patience."

The recall of Akmal and Shehzad was not well received by sections of home supporters or former Pakistan cricketers. "Pakistan T20 season has begun on a sour note under new team management. It had to. If you select recycled known mishits what else do you expect. Absolutely horrendous selection. I ask: Why fix it if it's not broken," tweeted former captain Ramiz Raja after Pakistan lost the first match last Saturday.

And Ramiz was equally disparaging after Pakistan lost the second match by 35 runs. "Alarmingly poor were Pakistan - again!," he posted on Twitter.

But Misbah said he had to try out Akmal and Shehzad against Sri Lanka, especially after both batsmen scored heavily over the last year in domestic cricket. "Both these players have performed well wherever they've played in the last year," he said. "Ahmed's performance in PSL was remarkable enough for a chance, while Umar, whichever format he played, was among the good ones. It is unfortunate that in our circuit, there is no other batsman in T20s who had performed better than them. Players who have performed in domestic cricket surely deserve a chance, and that's why we offered them."

Pakistan's experienced top-order batting lineup struggled in both matches against spin and seam. It was in sharp contrast to Sri Lanka's inexperienced batsmen - Danushka Gunathilaka and Bhanuka Rajapaksa - who smashed half centuries which lifted Sri Lanka's totals to 165 and 182, respectively.

And legspinner Wanindu Hasaranga dominated Pakistan's brittle batting lineup when he claimed three wickets in four balls with perfect googlies, including the dismissals of Akmal and Shehzad. Pakistan won 25 Twenty20s and lost only four in 2017 and 2018. It has lost five out of six T20s this year.

No. 1 batsman Babar Azam had been providing solid starts with Fakhar Zaman in the top order, but Babar's failure in both matches against Sri Lanka has exposed Pakistan's deficiencies. "Yes, we are the No. 1 team in the world, but mostly our strength has been standing on Babar Azam scoring runs and with him not scoring in two games, we are exposed badly," Misbah said. "We need to find six or more match-winners. We need to have more dependable batsmen. We need powerhouses in the top and middle. And in bowling, we need to take wickets up front and in the death overs, and we need to have good finishers."

Yes, we are the No. 1 team in the world, but mostly our strength has been standing on Babar Azam scoring runs and with him not scoring in two games, we are exposed badly."

MISBAH-UL-HAQ PAKISTAN COACH

Fight to be voice of cricketers

Azad, Gaekwad in contention to be players' representative in apex council; ICA elections on Friday

NIHAL KOSHIE & SANDEEP DWIVEDI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8

IT'S EARLY in the day, a busy-looking pundit in dhoti and kurta, has just about gracefully disembarked from his bike at the Kirti Azad's Sainik Farm home in posh South Delhi. In a couple of hours, the cricketer-turned-politician has to be by the fireside for *navratri's navmi havan*. Before that there's work to be done — constitution to re-read, documents to go through, calls to be made and, of course, an interview to be given.

He has help, though. A small army of retinues are at his beck and call as he sits on his sprawling front lawn. Within minutes of him making a demand in *Maithili*; the boys get him his tea, glasses, papers, or whatever he wishes. A close friend from his playing days, Rakesh Handa, too has arrived.

Still in his golfing gear from his early morning at the course, he is carrying photocopied papers and takes calls on Azad's behalf. He also constantly reads out loud many of the several hundred Whatsapp messages he receives on the tens of groups he administers.

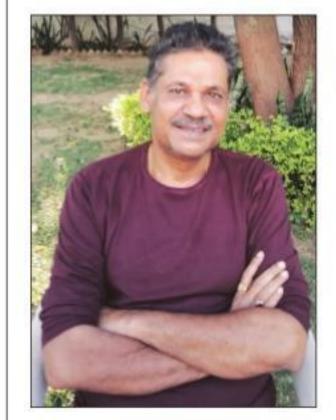
The three-term MP and ex-MLA, Azad, 60, having lost the last Lok Sabha polls earlier this year — post his BJP to Congress switch — is back in election mode. He is fighting this Friday's Indian Cricketers Association (ICA) elections, where he aspires to be the players' representative at the first of its kind all-powerful Justice RM Lodha recommended BCCI apex body.

This is a water-shed moment in Indian cricket. Never-ever have players got a designated chair on Indian cricket's high table. Historically, the players never got a whiff of what happened in the ivory tower that only the administrators had access to. Now, though, in post-Lodha reforms era, two players — one male and female — will get a say in every decision that BCCI takes. That too by merely being former cricketers, not cricket administrators.

Azad is keen that the more than 1200 registered ICA voters — all retired male cricketers who have played 10 first class games (5 for women) or 1 international are eligible — send him to the nine-member apex body that comprises the BCCI president, vice president, secretary, joint secretary, treasurer, two cricketers, CAG representative, one member from a state unit.

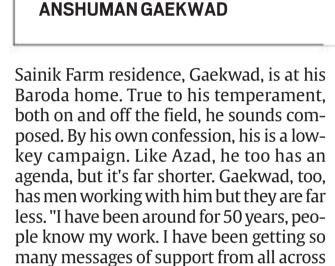
Among those who have thrown the hat in the ring is former India opener, one-time national selector, coach Anshuman Gaekwad. Former India pacer Dodda Ganesh and Saurashtra's Rakesh Dhruve, the one-time u-19 World Cup winner, too are in contention, but most voters feel it's virtually Anshuman vs Azad.

Miles away from the war room at Azad's



We will look into the wear and tear of players, scheduling of matches and workload of players... I have been given to understand that the women first-class cricketers don't have any pension and the international cricketers in the women's section get less pension that Ranji Trophy players."

I would earnestly take up issues with BCCI for betterment of cricketers at all levels such as mediclaim/insurance, pension to all cricketers, one-time benefit to all remaining cricketers, pension to continue to wives in case of deceased first-class cricketer as done in case of international cricketer"



As can be expected, it's the apex body representation that has attracted the most famous of the cricketers in the fray for the ICA elections. The two other important positions - ICA president and IPL governing council representative - will not see an election since former internationals Ashok Malhotra and Surinder Khanna were unopposed.

India since I entered the fray," he says.

With others like Ashu Dani (Delhi) and Siddharth Sahib Singh (Delhi) for secretary, Kishore Kumar Sharma (UP) for treasurer, Ms Rajesh Nayyar Walia (Delhi) for member representative also competing; the ICA executive is expected to be North heavy. It has come as a major surprise that not many retired players from other zones haven't tried to be part of ICA's first executive body.

Azad's unofficial campaign manager Handa, a former Punjab first-class cricketer, claims credit for this. Calling himself as the first-mover, he said how almost a year back, since the time he used to attend the Supreme Court hearing of the IPL spot-fixing case, he formed a Whatsapp group. "Former cricketers from across the country would be keen to get updates about the court hearing. With Lodha promising power to the players, there was keen interest among the players' fraternity. That's when I created a whatsapp group called 'Lodha committee reforms'. Now, I am using these contacts again," he says.

It remains to be seen if Handa's net-

working can swing the votes for Azad. The zone-wise break up of votes shows the candidates from North will need major support from South and West to win. As compared to the 178 voters from North, South (324) and West (320) have bigger share of the pie.

Both Azad and Gaekwad have put in place an agenda, or poll promises, to impress the retired cricketers. Azad promises pension for those who have played even a single first-class match and medical coverage for cricketers and their families.

"I am a cricketer at heart and a politician by choice. I have never been against the cricket administration but I was only against maladministration. It is very important that cricketers need a strong voice in the Apex Council of the BCCI. Through the cricketers' body we will look into the wear and tear of players, scheduling of matches and workload of players. Majority of state associations don't have an insurance policy for its players. I have been given to understand that the women first-class cricketers don't have any pension and the international cricketers in the women's section get less pension that Ranji Trophy players," Azad says.

As for Gaekwad, he is banking on his stint as CAC member, national selector and coach to present himself as someone who can be trusted to be the players' voice in the BCCI. "Time has come to make use of this wonderful opportunity through ICA to sort out many pending issues which can not be avoided any more by any one. I would earnestly take up issues with BCCI for betterment of cricketers at all levels such as mediclaim/insurance, pension to all cricketers, one-time benefit to all remaining cricketers, pension to continue to wives in case of deceased first-class cricketers as done in case of international cricketers, existing pension to be increased, more money share to domestic cricketers, all qualified coaches from NCA to be employed, create more job opportunities for retired cricketers and many more," Gaekwad said.

While the both Azad and Gaekwad don't seem to be in mood to concede an inch to the other, there is a lack of bitterness towards each other. They concede that they would have liked consensus for the election to the ICA board or representative nomination to BCCI. Both also speak about working together regardless the result of the election since, finally, the cricketers have a voice in the BCCI.

After two failed attempts to form a players association – Bishan Singh Bedi and Sunil Gavaskar tried it in 1976, followed by a rather lame attempt in 2001 – the Lodha reforms have ensured that the cricketers' solidarity is all set to be institutionalised. As for the Azad vs Gaekwad contest, it's a throw back to the 80s and it's North vs West rivalry, when Indian cricket took a giant leap despite the divided dressing room.

Puducherry rout Sikkim in Vijay Hazare Trophy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 8

PUDUCHERRY ONCE again put up a dominating show to rout Sikkim by 10 wickets to maintain their slender lead atop the Plate Group standings in the Vijay Hazare Trophy domestic one-day cricket cricket tournament here on Tuesday.

Medium pacer Ashith Rajiv returned

arm spinner Sagar Udeshi bowled a tidy 3/7 as Sikkim folded for 112 in 36.3 overs after they opted to bat at the Tanush Academy Ground.

Puducherry cantered to a win without breaking a sweat with openers Paras Dogra

with career-best figures of 6/37, while left-

and Arun Karthik chasing down the target in 11.4 overs to hand them their fourth victory to be on top of the standings with 20 points from six matches. Dogra was at his aggressive best, slamming 10 fours and two sixes en route to his 41-ball 70 not out, while Arun Karthik

played a perfect foil with 29-ball 41 not out

(5x4, 2x6).

In another match at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, hosts Uttarakhand defeated Nagaland by seven wickets to occupy the second place, two points behind Puducherry in Plate Group from where one team will make it to the

quarterfinals.
Stuart Binny waged a lone battle for Nagaland with a 108-ball 107 (7x4, 7x6) as wickets kept falling around him as they were bundled out for 174 in 44.5 overs after electing to bat.

Avneesh Sudha top-scored for Uttarakhand with a 71-ball 77 (5x4, 3x6) while number three Tanmay Srivastava remained unbeaten on 97-ball 54 (2x4) in a 122-run partnership to win the match in 36.2 overs.

BRIEF SCORES (PLATE DIVISION) At Tanush Academy Ground: Sikkim

112 from 36.3 overs (Ashith Rajiv 6/37, Sagar Udeshi 3/7); Puducherry 116 for no loss from 11.4 overs (Paras Dogra 70 not out, Arun Karthik 41 not out). Puducherry won by 10 wickets.

Points: Puducherry 4, Sikkim 0.

At Abhimanyu Cricket Academy: Meghalaya: 316/5 from 50 overs (Raj Biswa 134, Puneet Bisht 103; Arbar Kazi 3/33); Mizoram 139 from 38 overs (KB Pawan 52; Swarajeet Das 3/17, Akash Chowdhury 2/39, Sanjay Yadav 2/26, Aditya Singhania 2/22).

Points: Meghalaya 4, Mizoram 0. **At Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket**

Stadium: Nagaland 174 from 44.5 overs (Stuart Binny 107; Dhanraj Sharma 2/34, Pradeep Chamoli 2/32, Rahil Shah 2/13, Ashish Chaudhary 2/33, Dikshanshu Negi 2/35); Uttarakhand 176/3 from 36.2 overs (Avneesh Sudha 77, Tanmay Srivastava 54 not out). Uttarakhand won by 7 wickets.

Points: Uttarakhand 4 Nagaland 0

Points: Uttarakhand 4, Nagaland 0.

Schweinsteiger announces retirement, could join Germany set-up



Bastian Schweinsteiger was playing club football in the USA.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE DORTMUND, OCTOBER 8

BASTIAN SCHWEINSTEIGER is welcome to join the Germany coaching staff, national team coach Joachim Loew said just hours before the veteran midfielder announced his retirement on Tuesday. "The time has now come and I will be finishing my active career at the end of the season," Schweinsteiger wrote on Twitter. "Saying goodbye as an active player makes me feel a little nostalgic, but I am also looking forward to the exciting challenges that await me."

The 35-year-old former Bayern Munich and Manchester United midfielder has effectively hung up his boots as his current team Chicago Fire team failed to make the MLS play-offs. Shortly before Tuesday's announcement on social media by Schweinsteiger, Loew said the midfielder

could join his staff. "We will always have a place for him," said Loew in Dortmund where Germany are preparing to host Argentina in a friendly on Wednesday. "I don't know what his plans are," he said, adding "any player who has ever played in the national team, and has the goal of being a coach, is always welcome here to get a taste of what it's like."

of what it's like."
Schweinsteiger's former national teammate Miroslav Klose was briefly part of Loew's coaching staff, as a forwards coach, until last year's World Cup. Schweinsteiger retired from the national team in 2016 after making 121 appearances. Loew heaped praise on Schweinsteiger, who helped inspire a 1-0 extra-time victory over Argentina in the 2014 World Cup final despite a cut under the circle transpired of the circle transpired or spire a cut under the circle transpired or spired or spired

der his right eye.

"Everyone has a picture of him in their heads: blood-stained in the Maracana (in the 2014 World Cup final), he got up again

and again and gave everything. He is one of the greatest players in German history," enthused Loew. "You could always feel his will to win. He was a great player and a great personality."

Germany to take on Argentina

Germany are set to hand out several debuts with Loew missing a host of first-choice names for Wednesday's friendly against an Argentina without Lionel Messi. Like the Germans, Argentina must do without some big names in Dortmund, where only two thirds of tickets have been sold for the friendly.

The match is a repeat of the 2014 World Cup final, but Argentina's Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo is set to be the only survivor. Angel Di Maria and Sergio Aguero have been left out of the Argentina squad while playmaker and captain Messi is suspended. The 32-year-old superstar is serving a three-month ban after accusing

governing body CONMEBOL of "corruption" at the Copa America, where his team finished third.

The German camp has been forced into a reshuffle with 13 players dropping out for illness or injury. "It will be difficult to expect great things when it comes to the line-up, but you can expect seriousness and commitment," assured Loew. Loew admitted wanting to use the Argentina match to test out combinations with an eye on Euro 2020, "but we won't be able to do that now". Key midfielders Toni Kroos of Real Madrid and Manchester City's Ilkay Gundogan are both injured, while a knee knock means there is a question mark over Dortmund captain Marco Reus.

As a result, Loew has called up defender Robin Koch from Freiburg and midfielder Sebastian Rudy, who played a key role in Hoffenhiem's shock win at Bayern on Saturday.

[SPORTS BAR]



Saina's Denmark visa under process

Saina Nehwal on Tuesday said her visa application was being processed and she is hoping to get the same in time for her participation in next week's Denmark Open tournament. The Olympic bronze-medallist had tweeted on Monday that she was facing visa issues for her participation in the BWF Super 750 tournament. She had sought help of External Affairs Ministry to sort out the matter. "Got the visa application processed today in Hyderabad. Thanks@sanjg2k1(Home Ministry official)for making the impossible happen & @VFSGlobal for going the extra mile along with @DenmarkinIndia even on a holiday! Hope to get the visa in time for flight on Friday," Saina tweeted on Tuesday. The Denmark Open will be played at Odense from October 15 to 20.

India to host 3x3 baskeball Oly qualifiers

India will host the Tokyo Olympic Games 3x3 basketball qualifying tournament in March next year, the world governing body of the sport, FIBA has announced. The venue of the tournament, which will feature 40 teams (20 each for men and women), will be announced later. The event will be held under the aegis of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) and will be organised by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA). Six spots (three each for men and women) for 2020 Olympics will be up for grabs at the FIBA 3x3 Olympic Qualifying Tournament. The discipline will make its Olympic debut in Tokyo next year where eight-team tournaments will be held for men and women.

National team to play friendly vs NorthEast

Indian national football team head coach Igor Stimac on Tuesday said that he will try out as many players as possible in the friendly match against Indian Super League side NorthEast United FC in Guwahati on Wednesday. Stimach said the match will be a good preparation for India's FIFA World Cup second round qualifier against Bangladesh to be played in Kolkata on October 15. "This game will serve us very well to prepare for the Bangladesh match," Stimac said.



 ${\bf Smriti\,Mandhana\,suffered\,a\,fracture\,in\,her\,right\,toe.}\,{\it File}$

Mandhana ruled out of South Africa ODI series

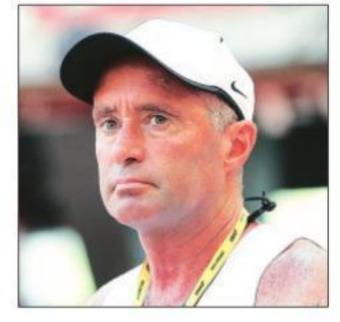
The Indian women's team was on Tuesday dealt with a major blow as opener Smriti Mandhana was ruled out of the three-match ODI series against South Africa beginning in Vadodara on Wednesday due to an injury. The 23-year-old suffered a fracture in her right toe after being struck by a ball during a net session on Sunday forcing her out of the series. Seam bowling all-rounder Pooja Vastrakar has been drafted in as her replacement. Head coach WV Raman said a call on Mandhana's return will be taken based on the assessment of the physios at the NCA. "It is a mild fracture. It's difficult to fix the timeline as she still needs to get an MRI done. There is some swelling and it has to die down for the MRI to be taken. An assessment can be made only after that," Raman said at the pre-match a press conference. India won the recently concluded Twenty20 International series 3-1 against South Africa in Surat.

Bopanna-Shapovalov enter Round of 16

India's Rohan Bopanna and his partner Denis Shapovalov entered the pre-quarter-finals of the Shanghai Masters doubles event with a straight-set win over Russian pair of Karen Khachanov and Andrey Rublev in Shanghai on Tuesday. The Indo-Canadian pair notched up a 6-1, 6-4 win over Khachanov and Rublev in the opening round. The duo will now face the winner of the match between the pair of Borna Coric of Crotia and Runhao Hua of China and Polish-Brazilian combination of Lukasz Kubot and Marcelo Melo.

India continue good run at Jr World C'ship

Tasnim Mir and mixed doubles pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto led India's charge on the second day of the individual event at the BWF World Junior Championships in Kazan on Tuesday. Mixed doubles duo of Satish Kumar K and Ramya Venkatesh also entered the next round. Continuing their good run from the mixed team event, Tanisha and Ishaan opened their individual campaign on a winning note, beating Italian duo Enrico Baroni and Chiara Passeri 21-12, 21-10 to reach the second round. In the girls singles, Tasnim secured a comfortable 21-4 21-8 win over Finland's Tuuli Vasikkaniemi.



Salazar fallout: UK athletics director resigns

UK Athletics performance director Neil Black is to stand down, the governing body said after he said he would review his position following the doping ban handed down to Olympic champion Mo Farah's former coach Alberto Salazar. Salazar's four-year suspension last week followed an investigation by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) into the activities of his Nike-backed Oregon Project training group in Portland. Black was in charge when UK Athletics appointed Salazar as a consultant to its endurance programme in 2013 He had previously described Salazar as a "genius". In 2015, when USADA began investigating potential doping violations, Salazar was coaching Farah, whom he helped become a four-time Olympic champion distance runner.

rewrites history at Worlds

REUTERS OCTOBER 8

THE UNITED States women cruised to their fifth consecutive team title at the gymnastics world championships in Stuttgart on Tuesday, with Simone Biles becoming the event's most decorated woman.

The Americans hardly made a mistake in the finals, with Biles helping them to a score of 172.330 -- 5.801 points more than secondplaced Russia.

Italy (164.796) took third spot for its first world team medal since 1950, while China slipped off the podium for the first time since 2003. Biles secured her 21st world medal, overtaking Russia's Svetlana Khorkina for the women's record. Only Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus has won more world medals with 23, which Biles could surpass by the end of the individual events this week.

"I guess it's kind of crazy," said Biles, who collected a record-extending 15th gold medal at the worlds.

"I feel like I haven't gotten the chance to process it yet.

"But I think we'll do some celebrating tonight, for all of it. For the team, for the medal count, for the fifth year in a row."

Biles is likely to break records almost every time she is in action this week but the 22-yearold conceded she still feels the pressure of delivering results on the world stage.

"Sometimes, I wish I would quit because the other day we walked out there, and I was like, 'I literally hate this feeling. I don't know why I keep forcing myself to do it," she told the Olympic Channel.

"But you know, we love the thrill of it. It reminds me to never give up because, one day, I won't have the opportunity to get that feeling."

'BILES II'

The Americans wasted no time on their path to glory, with Grace McCallum, Jade Carey and Biles landing three solid vaults in a row to give them an early lead.

Sunisa Lee faltered on the beam, just as she did in Saturday's qualifying round, but Biles continued to showcase clinical execution to post the highest scores on three out of four apparatus. By the time Biles approached the floor exercises, she needed only a 9.533 to clinch gold. She wrapped up the contest in style with a triple-twisting double back flip -- now known as the Biles II -- to finish with 15.333.

It was a much cleaner effort from Biles, who stepped out of bounds to earn a 0.2 penalty in qualifying.

"It was a little bit nerve wracking, but it was kinda fun," Biles added. "I stayed in bounds. So I think that was the highlight of Italy huffed and puffed into the finals by

grabbing the eighth and final qualifying spot but going into the final rotation they were in second place, trailing the U.S. by 2.434.

Reigning Youth Olympic Games champion Giorgio Villa led the team and posted consistent scores across all apparatus to ensure they took third spot, finishing 0.566 clear of fourth-placed China.

Biles is likely to break records almost every time she is in action this week but the 22year-old conceded she still feels the pressure of delivering results on the world stage.

Peerless Biles China state TV drops NBA exhibition games over tweet

REUTERS

BEIJING/TOKYO, OCTOBER 8

CHINESE STATE television said on Tuesday it would not air NBA exhibition games played in the country this week, heaping pressure on the U.S. basketball league after a tweet by a Houston Rockets executive backing protests in Hong Kong. Rockets general manager Daryl Morey apologised on Monday for any hurt caused by

But China's government, fans and the team's partners were not mollified, resulting in loss of sponsors and broadcasts in the world's second-largest economy and an important National Basketball Association (NBA) market. However, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver spoke up for freedom of speech saying it was not up to the NBA to regulate what players, employees and team owners said, nor to adjudicate differences between people around the

BACKLASH OVER A TWEET

Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey apologised on Monday for a deleted tweet, supporting pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. But he's sparked off a debate and escalated tensions between NBA and China.

STATE MACHINERY

A pre-season game between the Nets and the Los Angeles Lakers is set for Thursday in Shanghai, with a rematch scheduled for Saturday in Shenzhen. Organisers abruptly cancelled a media event without explanation.

SPONSORS BACK OUT

Chinese smartphone maker Vivo, a key sponsor for the exhibition games in China is suspending all ties with the NBA, underscoring the strength of the

backlash in the country.

"I understand there are consequences... We are not apologizing for Daryl exercising his freedom of expression. I regret that so many people (in China) are upset, including millions and millions of our fans."

ADAM SILVER

NBA COMMISSIONER

world. CCTV state television said it strongly opposed Silver's support of Morey.

Any comments that challenged a country's sovereignty and social stability were "not within the scope of freedom of speech", CCTV said, adding it was reviewing its relationship with the NBA. Months of anti-government protests in Chinese-ruled Hong Kong have angered Beijing, which has accused Western governments of stirring up anti-China sentiment. China rejects outside intervention in Hong Kong as interference. The NBA had earlier issued a statement saying it regretted Morey's remarks, drawing criticism from U.S. lawmakers.

But Silver, in Japan for an exhibition game, defended Morey's right to express his opinions. "It is inevitable that people around the world – including from America and China – will have different viewpoints over different issues," Silver said in a statement. "It is not the role of the NBA to adjudicate those differences."

Silver later told a news conference in Japan,

where he is attending an exhibition game, that the NBA was not apologising for Morey "expressing his freedom of expression".

"I regret, having communicated directly with many friends in China, that so many people are upset, including millions and millions of our fans," Silver said. The league has worked for years to cultivate the Chinese market and regularly plays exhibition games there. Its top stars, including Rockets guard James Harden, frequently visit to meet fans and take part in promotions with sponsors. "As a league we are not willing to compromise those values," Silver said, referring to freedom of expression.

"I'm sympathetic to our interests here and to our partners who are upset. I don't think it's inconsistent on one hand to be sympathetic to them and at the same time stand by our principles." Silver said the league also supported Brooklyn Nets owner and Alibaba Group cofounder Joseph Tsai, who issued a lengthy statement criticising Morey's tweet.

Mary keeps distance, and calm

Veteran boxer changes tactics, counter-attacks to get the better of much younger Thai opponent at Worlds

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE OCTOBER 8

MARY KOM'S opponent, Jutamas Jitpong, was three when the Indian competed at the first-ever women's World Championships in 2001. And for a while on Wednesday the Thai boxer, 16 years her junior, was making Mary feel every one of her 37 years.

In the first bout of her tenth Worlds appearance, Mary was dealing with a heavyhanded opponent looking to swarm her. But while close to two decades competing means the snap of her punches and shuffle of the feet has slowed down, Mary also has the experience of having been in almost every situation plausible in the ring. On Wednesday, facing a game boxer in a dirty fight, Mary adapted and landed cleanly to secure a unanimous 5-0 win to enter the 51kg quarterfinal in Ulan-Ude, Russia.

Jitpong's strategy was on point. While the majority of opponents treat Mary with utmost reverence and caution, the Thai boxer took the fight to the Indian. Fight being the operative word. Coached by Sydney Olympics gold medallist and champion kickboxer Wijan Ponlid, and his Cuban teacher Juan Fontanils, Jitpong also has a 5-2 professional record with two knockout wins. She swung hard and heavy, controlling the ring and often backing Mary into the corner.

Jitpong had already flipped the script once at these championships, defeating Nimani Azize in the first round to spoil what would have been a chance for Mary to avenger her 2016 Worlds loss to the German.

Somewhere in the first round, Mary was rocked by a punch to the back of the head. In the break, she tried to explain the same to her corner, when foreign coach Raffaele Bergamasco told her to stay calm and "keep distance, counter-attack."

Mary did just that in the second and third rounds, scoring from the distance and waiting for the Thai to over commit. Jitpong heavy punches, slow to begin with, only grew slower as Mary evaded and landed cleanly. A valuable aspect of the aforementioned experience is Mary's know-how of dealing with bigger opponents. All of Mary's six gold medals at Worlds have come in the 48kg or lighter categories, and in the Olympic category of 51kg, she'll almost always be outsized.

Mary is short, but combined with her southpaw stance, she tries to turn it into an advantage. And with Jitpong on attack mode, all Mary had to do was parry the wayward 1, slip the 2 and launch a counter right over the



Mary Kom (right) lands a punch during her World Championships pre-quarterfinal match against Jutamas Jitpong. PTI

Mary is short, but combined with her southpaw stance, she tries to turn it into an advantage. And with Jitpong on attack mode, all Mary had to do was parry the wayward 1, slip the 2 and launch a counter right over the top.

top."Her opponent was very young, but very strong. But Mary's win was clear," Bergamasco told The Indian Express. "I am very happy because Mary listened to the corner. We told her, 'you work the counterattack, when she attacks, go back and counter. Don't engage'. Overall it's a good result."

With shots missing and her tank running out, Jitpong eased out on the aggression and started hugging Mary with the enthusiasm of a long lost friend. The Thai boxer held Mary, and attacked the body in the clinch.

Both boxers then would look to attack on the break. It devolved into a gritty (read dirty) affair, but the stretches of inaction played into the Indian's hands whose crisper punches got her the nod.

Next up for Mary is Olympic bronzemedallist Ingrit Valencia. The 31-year-old reigning PanAm champion has beaten Euro Games bronze-medallist Gabriela Dimitrova at the tournament, and is a natural flyweight. Its set to be another uphill challenge, and a win on Thursday will confirm a medal for

Mary Kom, but not a spot in next year's Olympic qualifiers; the boxing federation has stated that a berth is reserved only for a finalist at this competition.

Stern tests for Jamuna, Lovlina

PTI adds: Former Worlds silver-medallist Saweety Boora (75kg) lost her pre-quarterfinal bout in a split decision. Boora was up against second-seeded Welshwoman Lauren Price, a European Games gold-medallist who took bronze at the last edition in Delhi. Price is also the reigning Commonwealth Games champion besides, being a three-time bronze-medallist at the European Championships.

In the pre-quarterfinals on Wednesday, Jamuna Boro (54kg) will take on Algerian Ouidad Sfouh while last edition's bronzemedallist Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) will take on Oumayma Bel Ahbib.

Murray to make Slam return in Australia

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE MELBOURNE, OCTOBER 8

ANDY MURRAY will make his Grand Slam return at the Australian Open in January, a year after career-saving hip surgery, tournament organisers announced Tuesday.

The British three-time major winner has been slowly working his way back to fitness and is now ranked 289th, up from 503rd just a week ago. Murray, 32, won his opening match at the Shanghai Masters on Monday, beating Argentine qualifier Juan Ignacio Londero in three sets, following a quarter-final appearance in Beijing last week.

With his confidence seemingly growing by the day, Australian Open organisers said the former world number one had committed to extending his comeback into the majors in January.

"Confirmed: Andy Murray will return to compete at the #AusOpen in 2020," they tweeted. The official Australian Open website said Murray "will return to the main draw with a protected ranking of number two and restored physical powers".

He has made the final five times at Melbourne Park, losing four times to Novak Djokovic and once to Roger Federer. However, arguably his most heartbreaking moment at the season-opening Grand Slam came not on the court but at an emotional press conference before this year's tournament.

Murray broke down in tears describing how the pain in his right hip, which had been operated on six months earlier, had become unbearable. "I can play with limitations. But having the limitations and the pain is not allowing me to enjoy competing or training, he said, later revealing that even walking his dog had become a gruelling ordeal.

Tributes flowed for the well-liked Scot with Billie Jean King called him "a champion on and off court".

Players also farewelled him in an emotional video screened on centre court after he lost an epic five-setter to Roberto Bautista Agut, with most believing his Grand Slam career was over. "It's very sad that you have to take that position, but sometimes life is not perfect," Rafael Nadal said.

"I just want to say thanks for the things that you gave to our sport." But the match against Bautista Agut rekindled Murray's competitive spark and he opted to fight on and undergo hip resurfacing surgery.

South Africa All Boks: Different colours, four languages, one goal

Springboks coach Rassie Erasmus is credited with nearing South Africa's 'transformatio' targets - that is to achieve racial balance in the side, proportional to the country's coloured population. While Tuesday's 66-7 victory over Canada paved the way for the Boks to enter the quarterfinals, the World Cup encounter was also significant for the number of coloured players who were pivotal to the victory. The Boks have come a long way since Nelson Mandela struck a chord of reconciliation after years of SA's apartheid segregation, and the solitary Chester Williams shattered the white monopoly in 1995. Some, though, are not convinced still.

Kolisi Inspires A year-and-a-half since Siyamthanda Kolisi - better known as Siya - was made the Springboks' first black captain, the question had begun to disappear, before it popped up at the World Cup: What's it like to be South Africa's first black captain? Writing for Stuff.co.nz, Gerald Imray, quotes him as saying, "That's tough. I'm just very happy that I'm captain. Being the first black captain is not something that comes to mind. I'm just really happy I'm Springbok captain. It's a huge privilege as it is, and for anybody who comes from my community, or any community, I just want to represent all of them. Because at the end of the day, I'm representing the whole of South Africa," Kolisi's multiracial family will soon join him - his wife is white. He has spoken in a video, Imray writes, of growing up poor as a boy, his abiding memory being he was always hungry. They never had enough to eat. He was inspired by rugby and the dream of being a Springbok.

ess.com

Persisting tensions

Imray puts it down to Boks' complicated place over the last 128 years with rugby and politics sharing equal mindspace even as they won two World Cup titles. "During apartheid, the all-white Springboks were one of the regime's most treasured assets. Proof, when they won, that apartheid was a success. When the apartheid-era Springboks lost, black South Africans cheered," Imray writes. "Incredibly, the 28-year-old Kolisi, born into tough poverty in a black township created by apartheid, wears the same Springbok emblem on his shirt, and wears it with pride."

Of the 31 players named in South Africa's Rugby World Cup squad, 12 were non-white and Rassie said his Springboks are a celebration of "so many different cultures, players, languages." At least four languages got spoken among the Springboks. This is also the first squad with players born after apartheid ended - both Sbu Nkosi, the dreadlocked black wing, and 'Bigfoot' RG Snyman, the towering white Afrikaans forward.



South Africans line up for the national anthem ahead of a game. Reuters

Imray though insists racial tensions are still a reality. Lock Eben Etzebeth, who is white, is accused of assaulting and racially abusing a black man back in South Africa before the World Cup. He denied the allegations but a civil court case is going ahead against him even though no criminal charges were filed. The amount of scrutiny on the team dynamic is evident from another incident. "Makazole Mapimpi, a black player, was walking toward a huddle of white players celebrating South Africa's win. He then turned and walked away. The white players were accused of rejecting Mapimpi. It was completely misread. The players celebrating were a group

of reserves and the huddle was for reserve players. Mapimpi was in the starting lineup and joined the starters in celebrating. A team quirk in how the Springboks sometimes celebrate. Mapimpi spoke out publicly to explain there was no racism," Imray wrote. Erasmus had to clear the air. "I will spend a minuteand-a-half on this because it does bother me a little bit that some people would see some negative in that. I can give you my word I would not, as a head coach, allow anything like that [racism] in the team, and there is nothing like that in the team. I can guarantee you that this team is such a nice, close-knit, and there will never be something like that."

Rassie's success

Earlier this year, AFP noted that Erasmus was not just emerging as an astute coach of South Africa, "but also shaming many of his predecessors by rapidly transforming the racial balance of the team". Playing England in a dead-rubber third Test at Newlands, a record-equalling seven black players took the field, quoted by Sport24, adding that integration of black players into the national rugby team had been "tortoise-like at times", even after the collapse of apartheid. "The belief of many South Africa coaches was that you pick two black wingers and maybe one black forward and that equals racial trans-

formation." The African National Congress (ANC)-led government had insisted that 50 percent of the 2019 World Cup side must be black to more fairly reflect the population. Ninetytwo percent of South Africans are black and former Springbok flank Erasmus was quick to accept that demographic reality."I am of the opinion that we must stop talking around racial transformation. We must talk about it," AFP quoted Erasmus."The target is 45 percent this year, measured over the 14-Test season, and if I do not reach the mark I have failed to reach one of my key performance indicators. If I do not make the 45 percent target, I will be in trouble. We must see it like that. It is what it is and we must work around that." The Boks had fielded seven black starters in 2018 against France, with Kolisi going onto become captain. Warrick Gelant and fly-half Elton Jantjies have been stars on Tuesday.

Unprecedented World Cup

Rassie Erasmus's 31-strong squad for the Japan-hosted event confirmed that the Boks would have a dozen players of colour in the squad, amounting to almost 39 percent. Erasmus has much more aggressively than any predecessor, managed to get players of colour to the forefront of his plans – as opposed to the controversial earlier trend of too many players in that category effectively becoming perceived as "tackle-bag holders" at major tournaments and game-time being desperately limited for some of them, Sport24 said. Besides Siya Kolisi, front row of Tendai Mtawarira, Bongi Mbonambi and Trevor Nyakane have had stints as have Cheslin Kolbe, S'bu Nkosi, Lukhanyo Am and Damian de Allende who began against the All Blacks. Kolbe and Makazole Mapimpi have been in good form. "The Bok squad at the last World Cup, where Heyneke Meyer guided them to bronze-medal status, featured nine black players in the again 31-strong total squad (29.03 percent) but the bigger difference was that fewer of them were regular front-liners: only Bryan Habana (now retired), JP Pietersen, De Allende and Mtawarira started the critical semi-narrowly lost 20-18 to the All Blacks. For earlier RWC 2011, under Peter de Villiers's tutelage, the Bok squad had eight players of colour in a squad of 30 (26.6 percent). When the Boks won the title for a second time in 2007, only Pietersen and Habana (as starters) featured in the match-day 22, and in the first trophy success of 1995, just Chester Williams on the left wing broke the overwhelmingly white monopoly," Sport24 wrote.

Vol LXXXVII No. 284 Regd.No. DL-21046/03-05

R.N.I. No.506/57. Printed and Published by R.C. Malhotra on behalf of The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9 & 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editorial office: The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9 & 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: 0120-6651500. Advertising office: The Indian Express (P) Limited, B1/B, Sector - 10, Noida - 201301. Phone: 0120-6651291. Chairman of the Board: Viveck Goenka, Chief Editor: Raj Kamal Jha, Editor: Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor (Delhi): Rakesh Sinha ** **Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. Copyright: The Indian Express®





INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE

HE ENORMOUS challenge in South Asia, is to serve the interests of one-fifth of humanity or the interests of over 20% of the 7.7 billion people in our world today. Of these, the country which mandated me to serve her interests, my homeland Uganda, accounts for only half a percentage point. The megacity of New Delhi, where I am resident, with its 29.5 million people is indicative of the large numbers of humanity to be found in this part of South Asia. Given these large numbers of people and their various interests and aspirations, I always feel highly privileged to serve in this part of the world. My service thus far has been marked by great support and encouragement across all the capitals: from New Delhi to Singapore to Kathmandu. I have had the honour to present my credentials in all the six splendid capitals: New Delhi, my home base, Dacca, Male, Kathmandu, Singapore and Colombo.

From my interaction with all key officials in these cities, it is clear that there is a lot of work to be done. In each capital, I have come back with the clear message that all these countries share mutual bilateral as well as multilateral interests with Uganda. Each of them sees her as an important player in all strategic arena of national, regional and international diplomacy. This is not a surprise since our countries share many histories: of colonialism, of the struggle for freedom and independence, of the solidarity and struggle against oppressive policies such as apartheid and racial discrimination in pre-independent South Africa and Zimbabwe; and of the struggle for international recognition and respect at the United Nations and other international bodies and fora.

Today, Uganda's overriding interest, to be shared with these countries, is how to leapfrog from a peasant economy and poverty-riddled social base to a modern prosperous economy. This over-arching interest derives from the socioeconomic transformation agenda which the country is pursuing. The work to be done in this regard is at the heart of my assignment — the heart of the country's commercial or economic diplomacy. The impetus and pace for this work is laid out in our Strategic Vision 2040, whose principal aim is to transform Uganda from a predominantly peasant, low income country to an upper middle income one by 2040.

Along this route we have so far implemented two of the five-year strategic plans into which this Vision is divided. The activities spelt out and implemented in the first two five year development plans of the Vision, have ensured that essential infrastructural basics such as security, power, connectivity and IT are in place. Now we are embarking on the third development plan with one singular aim: to cause industrialisation. I could not wish for a better environment in which to push this agenda than India and the other countries to which I am accredited.

In this part of Asia, examples for the keen transformation student abound. Singapore today is unrecognisable from the Singapore which got independence in 1965, three years after Uganda. Then Uganda and Singapore were comparable in their levels of economic development or underdevelopment. Today, Uganda has barely moved from the level of economic development at independence. Singapore on the other hand, is a first world economy with a per capita income greater than that of many developed countries.

Another good example is my current home base. India has battled famine and food shortages occasioned by a peasant agricultural mode, and has been so successful in transforming her agricultural sector that three or four harvests can be realised in one year; and that sector has spawned many SMEs. That is the dream that Uganda is chasing in her third national development plan aimed at agriculture-led industrialisation. As in agriculture, so has India been successful in transforming other sectors of the economy too; especially through her MSME model. We will want to take lessons. And it is from these countries that we invite investment into all economic sectors.

Uganda's engagement with India: a relationship of development

GANDA ENJOYS warm and friendly relations with each of the six countries in which I have the honour to serve as her envoy. The many reciprocal high-level visits by leaders of these countries, as well as by top-level Ugandan leaders to these countries, mark the depth of these relations. The highlight of these visits during my tenure was the 2018 state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to Uganda. Narendra Modi's visit to Uganda

while cementing the excellent bilateral relations between India and Uganda, also opened a new door to closer ties between India and the continent of Africa. As Modi addressed the Ugandan Parliament, he enunciated India's new policy towards the continent. The Indian leader pledged to make his country's engagement with Africa top priority, and outlined nine other points constituting the new Indo-Africa engagement principles. These include development policies being set by Africa and not dictated upon her; open door trade with the continent; helping Africa harness the digital revolution for her development; and helping the continent to commercialise its agriculture for increased productivity. Speaking in a



country where the inimical impacts of climate change cause damage bigger than the budget for the Ministry of Environment, Modi declared that India would stand shoulder to shoulder with Africa in the fight against climate change. Three other principles in the new India-Africa policy include forging a unity of purpose in the fight against terrorism, keeping the waterways, especially the eastern Indian Ocean, free for international trade; and working with the continent in all

fora for a just, representative and democratic global order.

Recently the Indo-Africa Forum Summit projects were subjected to close scrutiny by both Africa and India. It is to be expected that the spirit and letter of these new rules of engagement between India and Africa will be reflected in the next set of pan-African projects.

For Uganda, during this visit, the country benefited from an essential cancer machine, medicines of all sorts, vehicles to be used as ambulances as well as for the military and school textbooks.

Ministerial visits and other high level visits underline the reciprocity in the warm relations between Uganda and South Asia. Among these were the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka to Uganda, the visit of the Ugandan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to India during the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, the visit of the Minister of Energy and Minerals and

of the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives to Kolkata. Uganda's Attorney General paid a visit to Singapore, partly to endorse the UN Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting From Mediation or more simply the Singapore Convention on Mediation. Apart from this multinational activity in Singapore, the Attorney General also took time to meet his counterparts in the Ministry of Justice.

Business and party delegations' visits reflect the development aspect of existing warm bilateral ties. For example in late July, a high-powered multi-stakeholder business delegation led by the Ugandan Minister of State for Trade visited India and Sri Lanka to learn more about the cotton, textile and apparel industry in those countries. Meanwhile, at about the same time, a high-powered business delegation organised by the Hon Consul in Bangladesh, travelled to Uganda. During this visit, the delegation met the Vice President and the Minister of State in charge of general duties in the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. With the latter, the delegation discussed a wide range of matters to do with investment and collaboration in economic matters.

Calling for investments for industrialisation

onfident of the country's economic growth prospects, the Government of Uganda is calling upon the investor community to take advantage of the many opportunities in its economic sectors. The President set the tone for the forthcoming drive to industrialise the country, in his State of the Nation Address of June 6, 2019. HE President Yoweri Museveni welcomed investments in industrialisation along the value chains of agriculture, in light manufacturing and processing of minerals into finished products and investments into promising new lines within all sectors of the economy. He further said that his government is prioritising investment in industrial parks which will help drive the industrialisation process and create jobs.

In line with her Vision 2040 Uganda is calling for investment in many sectors of her economy as she gears on to creating an industrial economy. Industrialisation is the singular focus of the country's Third National Development Plan covering the financial years

2020/21 to 2024/25. The National Budget Conference of 12th September, encapsulating a budget strategy for 2020/21, was the first of the budget consultations to be called for under the Third National Development Plan. By looking into the future, it is easy to see where investment opportunities lie in the new economic direction which Uganda is pursuing.

First and foremost, investments will be needed in the industrial and manufacturing sectors which hold enormous potential to employ young people, and drive faster economic transformation. Elaborating on the theme of industrialisation, the Minister for Finance, Planning and Economic Development emphasised that government will pursue a reindustrialisation source-led agenda. Investments will therefore be required in commercialising peasant production modes: in agriculture as well as mineral exploration and exploitation. The investment needed should target commercialisation and value addition in the five areas which are considered to have the highest transformative potential — (i) agro-based industrialisation, (ii) mineral beneficiation, (iii) petroleum resource exploitation, (iv) manufacturing and trade; and (v) scientific research and innovation.

Despite Uganda having huge deposits of iron ore, copper and limestone, the economy has not benefitted from these minerals todate as most are extracted and exported in their raw forms. Investment is welcome in the area of beneficiation of such minerals.

Finally in all these areas, the challenge of producing enough volumes to meet local and external demand is of fundamental importance to the growth of the Ugandan economy. Access to markets is available to Uganda under the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) comprising 25 markets in this block of countries; the Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) granted by the US; and of the Economic Partnerships Agreement (EPA) negotiated with the EU.

Touring Uganda like a king

■he Chairman of the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) sat under a tree in the luxurious mountain undergrowth, apparently determined not to move another inch.

"Come on, my dear brother!" I urged. "You have only a few more steps!"

"Yeah," echoed our tour guide. "Just round the corner, ladies and gentlemen. I can hear them. The gorillas are just a few metres away!"

Beckoning us as he gingerly found his footage among the tangling foliage of the mountain slope, our gorilla-trekking guide of three hours, cajoled the long line of TAFI and Bollywood producers and film-makers. This time round, the gorillas were indeed just round the corner, as our guide said. All of us were sceptical about the proximity of gorillas because he had used the same words to encourage us before.

The February 2019 gorilla trek in Uganda was the crown of a tour adventure for TAFI and Bollywood illuminaries, sponsored by the Hon Madhusudan Agrawal, our Honorary Consul in Mumbai. Government of Uganda met most of the costs on the ground. This group was also lucky to attract the attention of the President of Uganda, who donated his helicopter to ease movement across the many attractions in the country.



Uganda's tourism attractions are more than gorillas. They are to be found in the lofty 16,762 foot Ruwenzori range of mountains, in the largest volcanic lake atop the 14,177 foot Mt Elgon in the east; in the undulating River Nile which starts its journey to Egypt in Jinja in Uganda, and in the wide spaces of the African savannah where every genre of tropical animal roams free. Of these the widest and most unadulterated is Kidepo National Park in the north of the country. But teeming with animal life as well are the Murchison Park and the Queen Elizabeth National Park, the latter with its famous tree-climbing lions.

So when are you travelling to this Pearl of Africa? Let us know and we will do a special Ebwola dance for you. Reserved for kings, this Acholi dance from our people in northern Uganda, is a fitting welcome to all who wish to tour Uganda.

From the desk of the Honorary Consul

"I OFFER my best wishes to the people of Uganda as they celebrate the 57th anniversary of its Independence. I wish and hope that the year to come will bring happiness, good health, and success for all the residents of Uganda.

I am working relentlessly towards strengthening business engagement between Uganda and India, by bringing in investments, promoting tourism and creating job opportunities for the youth of Uganda."

The efforts of Mr Madhusudan Agrawal Hon Consul of Uganda in Mumbai, to promote Uganda in India, started when the Rt Hon Rugunda Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, came on a business tour to Mumbai in March 2017. Since then, Mr Agrawal has been speaking extensively on all platforms about the natural beauty of Uganda and its abundant flora and fauna. He has highlighted that Uganda is home to 50% of the world's Gorilla population and is truly the 'Motherland of Gorillas'. Through his efforts, prominent Bollywood personalities, TAFI and Indian media personalities visited Uganda between 27 February to 06



March 2019, accompanied by Mr Vishal Saria Vice Consul of Uganda. The visit was jointly sponsored by the Honorary Consul, the Uganda High Commission in New Delhi and by the Government of Uganda through the Uganda Tourism Board. One of the most important outcomes of the joint Bollywood-TAFI visit was that the 2020 Annual TAFI Convention is scheduled to be held in Uganda. This event should not only help promote Ugandan

tourism but it should also be a big boost to the country's forex earnings. His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni has accepted to chair the conference.

The Honorary Consul has also donated a mobile cancer van to help fight cancer in Ugandan women. This was during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Uganda in July 2018.

Ugandans owe exceptional gratitude to their Honorary Consul in Mumbai for the way he has mobilised resources, including qualified specialist doctors and other medical personnel to carry out free eye screening and cataract surgery. This activity has already been carried out in 56 camps where 21,850 patients were screened, 1,100 underwent cataract surgery and three patients had highly specialised procedure of cornea transplant. These surgeries have been done in association with NICA.

The Honorary Consul, working with UWESO, an organisation headed by the First Lady, has championed the provision of pads to schoolgirls from poor background communities in order to reduce the trend of their dropping out of school.



Samta Mines & Minerals (Uganda) Limited Samta Group



Congratulates

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA **ON ITS 57[™] NATIONAL DAY**

> Purushottam B. Agrawal Founder & Chairman of Samta Group of Companies

Madhusudan B. Agrawal Hon. Consul of Uganda, Mumbai Co-founder & Vice Chairman Ajanta Pharma Ltd.