

IN GAJAPATI

DM walks, distributes reliefs in remote areas



PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

Gajapati district Collector Anupam Shah moved on foot many kilometers and distributes relief among Cyclone Titli and floods-affected people

in remote areas on Sunday.

The Collector took stock of damages and plights of people in Dimbosing, Badiar, Tilibang and Daleisahi of Managarajpur gram panchayat under R Udayagiri. He told the people,

who are now staying in the Bhuyanpada relief camp, that they would be rehabilitated in a safer area for which land have been identified. As many as 56 families would be shifted, he said.

Besides, Shah went to Anjarabada, 17 km from the main road, and distributed blankets among the villagers. Later, he distributed land patta to 40 families at Ramgiri TR Colony. He handed over a cheque of Rs 10 lakh to the widow of Shukru Dalei, who died due to the cyclone. The Collector directed officials to provide pension to Krupasindhu Badamundi of Behera Saji, who has been partially disabled, and put his children in an Ashram School. Additional District Collector Birendra Karkara, R Udayagiri BDO Pradeep Nayak and DCPO Arun Tripathy were present.

U Sammilani holds 'Odia signboard' drive

Urges city traders to write shop names in Odia



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Utkal Sammilani central committee on Sunday organised an awareness campaign on the need for writing signboards in Odia and urged owners of all shops and other business establishments along Master Canteen Square-Rajmahal Square to write sign-

boards in Odia. Members appraised about the rules of Odisha Shop and Business Establishment (Amendment) Act 1018 while asking them to write signboards in Odia. A shopkeeper can be imposed a fine of ₹1,000 to ₹2,500 if he violated the Act. Many businessmen hailed the campaign and assured that they would

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abide by the Government rules. Among others, Utkal Sammilani central committee president Basant Kumar

Tripathi, general secretary Dr Radhanath Praharaj, vice-president Dr Gourang Prasad Behera, Tapas Ranjan Mishra, Satyajit Nayak, Dr Banambar Parida, Pathani Jena, Trinath Samantray, Sarojini Mohanty, Ashok Patra, Krupanidhi Mishra, Benudhar Sahoo and Dr Abani Bhushan Mishra participated.

Tourists thronging S'pal in large numbers

PNS ■ BARIIPADA

With the Simlipal National Park having reopened for public from November 1, tourists, from within and outside the State have been flocking to the sanctuary in increasing numbers.

With the weather being fine and favourable and everything being conducive and peaceful, the visitors have been showing great enthusiasm in travelling to the area.

On the first day itself, i.e. November 1, the tourists moved to the National Park through both the Jashipur and Lulung routes. Simlipal, it may be noted, will remain open for the visitors for the next 7-8 months.

Simlipal had been closed for the tourists for the last four and a half months. Every year, authorities close Simlipal for visitors during the rainy season.

NITIE honours Bishnupada Sethi

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Senior IAS officer Bishnupada Sethi has been honoured by the National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) Alumni Association in Mumbai for his rich contributions and exemplary services.

Sethi, who is currently Odisha's Special Relief Commissioner, Higher Education Secretary and Odisha Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) Managing Director, has been bestowed with Distinguished Alumnus Award-2018 for his emblematic leadership, exemplary services and outstanding contributions to the industry and academia.

NITIE Director Professor Karuna Jain honoured Sethi in the Annual Alumni Meet held in Mumbai on Saturday. Sethi did his Post Graduate Diploma in Industrial Engineering (PGDIE) at the NITIE in 1989-1990 with an outstanding feat.

The NITIE offers a two-year residential Post Graduate Diploma in Industrial Engineering, equivalent to Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering, recognised by the Government of India. Later, Sethi joined the Indian Administrative Service.



NITIE DIRECTOR PROFESSOR KARUNA JAIN HONOURED SETHI IN THE ANNUAL ALUMNI MEET HELD IN MUMBAI ON SATURDAY. SETHI DID HIS POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING (PGDIE) AT THE NITIE IN 1989-1990 WITH AN OUTSTANDING FEAT

BJP to gherao job exchanges today

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP will lock all Employment Exchange offices across the State on Monday in protest against the State Government's failure to provide jobs to youths, informed BNP Yuba Morcha president Tankadhar Tripathi at a Press meet here on Sunday. "Unemployment has risen in the State during the last 19 years of BJD rule.

The State Government has betrayed them. It is disappointing that the State Government is only blaming the Central Government instead of providing job to youths," said Tripathi.

Alleging that the District Employment Exchange offices have failed to provide jobs to youths in both the Government and private sectors, Tripathi said party activists would lock all these offices and held protest meetings in front of them.

"In 2008, it was decided at the Government level that private companies would recruit 90 per cent of unskilled workers, 60 per cent of semi-skilled workers and 30 per cent of skilled workers from among local youths. The State Government has failed to implement the decision," Tripathi alleged.

failed to implement the decision," Tripathi alleged and demanded that the State Government make it public regarding recruitment of Odia youths appointed by MoU-signed large firms.

Among others, BJP Yuba Morcha general secretary Bishwaranjan Badajena, treasurer Pratap Chandra Nayak and coordinator Kamaksha Prasad Pradhan were present.

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Acharya nominated AIIMS-BBS president

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Padma Shri Prof Subrata Kumar Acharya, Pro-Chancellor, KIIT University and overall in-charge of Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), has been nominated as President of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar by the Government of India.

Dr Acharya was associated with the AIIMS, New Delhi rendering service for last 40 years. After retirement, he joined as Pro-Chancellor of



KIIT two years ago.

KIIT & KISS FOUNDER DR ACHYUTA SAMANTA EXPRESSED HAPPINESS OVER DR ACHARYA'S NOMINATION AS PRESIDENT, AIIMS-BBS AND CONGRATULATED HIM

Dr Achyuta Samanta expressed happiness over Dr Acharya's nomination as President, AIIMS-BBS and congratulated him.

Dr Acharya is a renowned gastroenterology and hepatology specialist.

He was honoured with Padma Shri for his remarkable contribution in the field of medicine.

Reacting to the development, Dr Acharya said he would remain as KIIT Pro-Chancellor and overall in-charge of KIMS along with his new assignment.

Cong, BJP protest CM visit at R'kela 'Stone laying by Naveen to dupe people'

PNS ■ ROURKELA

The Rourkela District Congress and the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's visit here on Sunday at different places of city.

Congress led by unit president Rabi Ray staged a peaceful protest near Bisra Chowk. The party alleged that Chief Minister Patnaik had laid foundation stone of the Koel barrage, a whole sale market at Balughat, a Medical College and Hospital at Kuanmunda four years ago but all the projects have not yet taken off. Since the election is approaching, the

During the protest, they further alleged that land acquisition for the second Brahmani bridge has not yet been done by the State Government

present show of the Chief Minister by laying of foundation stones of some other projects at Rourkela is to dupe the people, the Congress protesters alleged.

During the protest, they further alleged that land acquisition for the second Brahmani bridge has not yet been done by the State Government but it was blaming the Center for delay in construction of the bridge. The party men targeted both the Center and the State for doing nothing for

the people of Rourkela.

Similarly, the BJP under the leadership of Rourkela district president protested the Chief Minister near Sinhasini temple with similar allegations.

The BJP charged that though it had demanded a quarter final or semifinal match of the Hockey World Cup at the Biju Patnaik stadium but it was ignored.

The BJP further said that Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram and Rourkela MLA Dilip Ray were also not invited to foundation laying ceremony attended by the Chief Minister. Around 200 BJP protesters were arrested during the protest.

City resident duped of ₹20 cr

CM INTERVENTION SOUGHT AFTER POLICE INACTION

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

After failing to get justice from police, a resident of Bhimatangi, who has become a victim of a fraud of whopping ₹20 crore, has sought the Chief Minister's intervention to get back his money from the fraudster.

The Thaka Birodhi Sanghathan has informed in a statement that Ashok Das of Bhimatangi has been duped of ₹20 crore by fraudster over nine years.

Though he had filed a complaint at the Airfield police station, the latter didn't take any action.

He then approached ACP, DCP and the CP, but in vain. Then he approached court, which directed the police to conduct probe and take action into the allegation of Ashok.

"If the accused doesn't get punishment and the victim justice, we will gherao the Police Commissioner office," said Sanghathan convener Jnana Prakash Pal.

India Post cover released at SOA meet



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

For the first time, a special cover was released by the India Post to commemorate

the organisation of a National Integration Camp (NIC) being held at the SOA University here on Saturday.

The week-long NIC, being

attended by around 250 National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers from ten States representing 21 universities, was inaugurated on October

29. The postal cover, emblazoned with the design of the famous Shanti Stupa (Peace Pagoda), located on the historic Dhauhi hill here, and logos of NSS and SOA, was presented by Senior Superintendent of India Post, Bhubaneswar Division Satyabadi Biswal to Regional Director of NSS, Odisha R Gokulkrishnan at a simple function held at the Khandagiri Sub-Post Office in presence of SOA's Vice-Chancellor Prof Amit Banerjee.

Explaining the significance of the release of the postal cover, eminent philatelist and secretary of the Eastern India Philatelic Association Shanti Swarup Rath said a special cover was issued by India Post when a commemorative stamp was not released.

Such postal covers are treated as a collector's item which are picked up thematically and were of immense value.

'Mo Bus' network to be launched tomorrow

Routes in three phases

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

City's robust public transport through state-of-the-art technology the Mo Bus's phase-I network will be launched on November 6 with nine routes, while the phase-II network will be launched from November 15 and phase-III from December 10.

Sources at the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) said while route No. 20 will include Master Canteen Terminal and Khurda New Bus Stand via Vani Vihar, route 21 will include Master Canteen Terminal and Khurda New Bus Stand via Odisha University of Agriculture Technology. Similarly, route No. 22 will include Master Canteen Terminal and Khurda New Bus Stand (via Jatni).

Route No. 23 will link Master Canteen Terminal and SUM Hospital and the route No. 24 will have Kalinga Vihar and Sai Temple.

While the route 25 will link Dumduma with Mancheswar, route No. 26 will include the route between Dumduma and Chakeisani.

While the route No. 27 will connect between Master Canteen Terminal and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) near Sijua, route No. 28 will link Master

Canteen Terminal with Kalinga Nagar.

The Mo Bus phase-II network will have route No.10 connecting Biju Patnaik International Airport (via Nandankanan) Badambadi Square (Cuttack), route No. 11 connecting Master Canteen Terminal with Biju Patnaik Park (Cuttack) and route No.12 linking Sikharchandi with Lingaraj Temple.

Route No. 13 will connect Master Canteen Terminal with Patia, route No. 14 with Vani Vihar and Uttara Square and route No. 15 will join Sikharchandi with SUM Hospital. Route No. 16 is going to connect Biju Patnaik International Airport with SUM Hospital, route No. 17 with Baliana and Lingaraj Temple and the route No. 18 will include a hop-on and hop-off service between Lingaraj Temple and Madhusudan Das Park, Pokhariput.

The Mo Bus phase-III network is likely to be launched on December 10 and for it the route planning is under way.

While 100 buses will be utilised for the Mo Bus Phase-I network, another 100 buses are in for Mo Bus Phase-II network. Similarly, 89 refurbished buses from the older fleet will be used for the Mo Bus phase-III network.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
E-PROCUREMENT OF TRACK FITTINGS
E-TENDER NOTICE NOS. ECoRCONT/181906 & ECoRCONT/181907
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT OF INDIA, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CON), EAST COAST RAILWAY, BHUBANESWAR INVITES E-BIDS AT E-PROCUREMENT WEBSITE : <http://www.ireps.gov.in> UNDER E-TENDER-GOODS & SERVICES PORTAL FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF TRACK FITTINGS. DATE OF CLOSING OF E-TENDER NOTICE NOS. ECoRCONT/181906 & ECoRCONT/181907 ARE 19.11.2018 & 26.11.2018 RESPECTIVELY.
THE INTENDING TENDERERS ARE ADVISED TO VISIT THE WEBSITE : <http://www.ireps.gov.in> FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND SUBMIT THEIR OFFERS.
PR-85/CB/18-19 Dy. Chief Engineer/CON/TP, Bhubaneswar

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
INVITATION FOR BIDS (SHORT NOTICE)
E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.RWD-II/KPD-06/18-19 DTD 30.10.2018
1. Name of work : Construction of building and repair of road work in the District of Kendrapara for the year 2018-19
2. Total No of road : 1 No of road & 1 no of Building
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.51.86 lakhs & 61.88 lakhs
4. Period of Completion : 4 (Four) months to 9 (Nine) Months
5. Class of contractors : A & B class
Other details as follows:
a) Procurement officer : Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Kendrapara
b) Availability of tender online & submission of bid : 08.11.2018 at 11:00 AM to 22.11.2018 up to 5:00 PM
c) Last date & time of seeking of tender : 20.11.2018 up to 5:00 PM clarification
d) Opening of Technical Bid : 24.11.2018 at 11:00 A.M.
e) Opening of Financial Bid : 29.11.2018 at 11:00 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd/ Executive Engineer Rural Works Division-II Kendrapara
25098/11/0012/1819

Now or never

The RSS realises that the next few months are crucial for a Ram temple at Ayodhya



The last time the Sangh Parivar attempted a mass mobilisation on the Ram temple issue, it failed to get appreciable traction. That was in 2002. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister at the head of a multi-party coalition at the Centre and not exactly simpatico, Uttar Pradesh was in between Chief Ministers Rajnath Singh and Mayawati with a few months of President's Rule to separate their tenures but the administrations were committed to preserving the status quo at

Ayodhya, and Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, one of the few States where the call for *kar sevaks* had resulted in decent numbers being mobilised. Oh, and the acerbic, doctrinaire KS Sudershan, who did not have anywhere near the influence his predecessors and successor had — and have — on the BJP, was the RSS Sarsanghachalak. A lot of water has flowed down the Saryu since. Now, the Sangh, in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's recent refusal to accord the kind of urgency the RSS felt was required in hearing and disposing of the appeal against the Allahabad High Court by Muslim parties to the Ram Janmabhoomi Ayodhya title suit, has decided to ratchet up the pressure. With the Bench to hear the appeal not yet constituted and the hearing of the matter listed for January 2019, the court verdict path to the Ram temple is effectively closed. And with negotiations between community representatives over the past decades having come to naught, the Sangh knows that the intervention of the Executive is now the last chance, at least for the foreseeable future, of ensuring what has been an article of faith for it. But the RSS also knows it is dealing with a BJP leadership which while in tune with its agenda does prioritise electoral power politics over all else and will be weighing the pros and cons of bringing in a law/ordinance, especially in terms of timing. RSS thinkers are also acutely aware of the fact that while its senior leaders, including general secretary Suresh 'Bhaiyyaji' Joshi, are speaking of looking at the option of launching a 1992-like agitation to demand the construction of Ram Mandir "if required", the moot question remains who its cadres will agitate against to concede their demand for a law enabling the construction of a grand Ram Temple at Ayodhya? Prime Minister Narendra Modi? BJP president Amit Shah? Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath? Sangh cadres, who have played a significant role in ensuring these personalities have achieved political success and the BJP is the dominant political force across large swathes of the country today, clearly feel it is time for payback.

Indeed, the taunt — *mandir wahin banayenge lekin tithi (date) nahi bataenge* — is hitting the Swayamsevak where it hurts most; his credibility and claim to *tyaag ki bhaavna* (spirit of sacrifice) in the nation-building effort. The RSS has made it clear to the BJP — Amit Shah was closeted with senior leaders for hours at the end of the RSS' executive meet last week — that the cavalier fashion with which it believes the apex court has ignored the sensitivities of the Hindu community in not expediting its verdict on the Ayodhya land dispute leaves the Government with no choice but to bring in an appropriate law. The timing, apparently, has been left to the BJP to work out and insiders say post-Assembly elections and after seeing how the court hearing in January goes is the rough timeline. Because for all the talk of Opposition unity and anti-incumbency which is part of the ebb and flow of politics, the Sangh is pressing the point that it is on Ayodhya that there can be no backtracking by the BJP.

Web of hatred

The indigenous versus outsiders divide has flared up periodically through clashes in parts of the Northeast



Is Assam going back to its dark days of the *Bongal Kheda*, a systematic ethnic cleansing of Bengali origin people whom it once considered colonisers and now see as bleeders of its natural resources and growth in an assertion of neo-Ahom identity? Is there a hitback following the NRC (National Register of Citizens) drive where the lines between settlers and immigrants have blurred, where the Hindu origin and Muslim immigrant residents have been lumped in the same basket as "foreigners" or "infiltrators" and is fuelling the current wave of hatred? Or is it that faced with the strong identity politics of the BJP, which came to power in 2016 on an anti-foreigner platform, the hawkish wing of the United Front of Liberation of Assam (ULFA) is reclaiming legitimacy? Perhaps it is a tidal sentiment born of all the three insecurities. Nothing else can explain the savage killing of five Bengali Hindu farmers of Tinsukia district by suspected ULFA extremists. While the debate over inclusion of *bhumiputras* and exclusion of foreigners in the NRC rages, it has inadvertently opened the wounds of the state's history, its hurt pride and a denial of equal opportunities. The indigenous versus outsiders divide has played out from the colonial era and has flared up periodically through clashes in parts of the Northeast, the latest being in Meghalaya. But the problem in Assam is one of disentangling genetics as one third of the population is Muslim, mostly of Bengali origin.

When the British took over from the Ahom kings in the early half of the 19th century, they manipulated the state's demographics by relocating and resettling Bengali farmers as the territory was grossly underdeveloped. Encouraged by this policy, millions of Bengalis settled in Assam, rising in prominence in local businesses and civil administration. Understandably, they carved a negotiable niche for themselves as the colonial government rolled out a "grow more food" policy and put the local economy under their supervisory watch. The indigenous people were clearly left out of the political, administrative and most importantly economic discourse, a drift which has only grown wider post Independence. Assam's politics from 1940s onwards has been plagued by ethnic violence against Bengalis, who were cast as neo-imperialists and land-grabbers. In fact, the immigrant Muslims were in those early years encouraged by indigenous movements to wipe out Bengali Hindus, without realising that they too would become targets one day by virtue of their over-population. The subsequent language wars, whereby Assamese was posited as the official state language, only cemented the divide. Local political movements have used this to stake their claim, often through violent and genocidal means. And now that the NRC compilation has questioned the definition of who is Assamese and who is not, identity assertion is manifesting itself in troubling ways. What is disturbing is the gunmen are allegedly believed to have cited the Bengali support to the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016, which allows Hindu immigrants from neighbouring countries to become naturalised citizens. As the attack concerns Hindus, the BJP has a tough call ahead to reconcile local dynamics with its nationalist agenda.

Theory of strong leadership

The National Security Advisor's apprehensions about the weaknesses of coalition Governments should not be politicised; nor should we jump to conclusions



JASIM MOHAMMAD

When India achieved Independence, our freedom fighters and leaders dreamed that the country should become strong and poverty should be wiped out. In her early years itself, India faced hostilities from across the border. But the country embarked upon massive nation-building nonetheless. In the following decades, India witnessed massive industrialization and then an agricultural revolution of sorts. India's economy, which started at a slow trot, began galloping from the 1990s.

Against this backdrop, we must remember that our system of democratic governance is based on a multi-party model, which has its advantages and disadvantages. Often, Governments have to take populist decisions. But this trend of taking populist decisions has, objectively speaking, weakened the Indian economy and, in fact, undermined it over the past three decades. After the 2014 Lok Sabha election, Narendra Modi took over as the country's Prime Minister and soon after taking the oath of office, launched economic and administrative reforms which were resented in many quarters. Simultaneously, the rise in terrorist incidents over the past nearly two decades were taken seriously by the Prime Minister and a counter-strategy put in place to take on terror. The data shows clearly that there has been an appreciable decline in terrorist incidents after the zero tolerance policies put in place by the Prime Minister started having an impact. This is, by all standards, an achievement which all Indian citizens regardless of colour, creed and caste should applaud.

Recently, the National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, who has had a key role to play in formulation of the Government's policies, delivered the annual Sardar Patel Memorial Lecture organised by All India Radio (AIR) titled 'Dream India 2030 — Avoiding the pitfalls' wherein he said: "India will need a strong, stable and decisive Government for the next 10 years to achieve our national, political and strategic objectives." He further argued that a 'weak democracy can tend to make the country a soft target and India cannot afford to be a soft power for the next few years.' Doval also pointed out: "Weak Governments are unable to take hard decisions which are good for people but are not necessarily populist. Unstable regimes are more vulnerable to fragility and corruption, and often local and sectarian political interests take precedence."

Doval did nothing more than state the obvious but he has been vilified by those working overtime to defame and demonise the Narendra Modi Government on one pretext or the other. His speech drew a lot of criticism from various political leaders



too, who claimed Doval should not have delivered such a speech which had "political overtones". His critics also argued that a strong Government meant a tyrannical Government under which the interests and freedoms of citizens would not be safeguarded. The most objectionable, underlying implication of their criticism was that if any Government takes hard decisions in the national interest, it would be contrary to the wishes of people and thus dictatorial. This is nonsense.

The freedom of expression and speech in the country allows everybody to have and express his/her opinion on any issue. But when the interest of the country and its security are involved, it is not desirable that we make such remarks which may damage our national interest which is in fact nothing but the interest of the people who are the sovereign in a democracy. It would behoove the NSA's critics to analyse his speech academically and critically before jumping to any conclusions.

First, we should understand why Prime Minister Narendra Modi picked Ajit Doval for the post of National Security Adviser. Doval is a highly competent intelligence professional, who retired from the Indian Police Service after vast experience in security



THOUGH INDIA IS A PEACE-LOVING COUNTRY, GEOPOLITICS OF THE PRESENT ERA CALLS FOR THE COUNTRY TO BE STRONG MILITARILY IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN PEACE IN THE REGION



matters. He has held a number of sensitive posts with full competence.

The NSA has shown over his glittering career that he has the talent and capability to hold talks with any adversary even when the odds are stacked against him; take for instance his crucial role in negotiating with the Taliban-backed terrorists when an Indian Airlines flight was hijacked to Kandahar in December 1999. Modi appointed him as NSA, a position that comes with both power and responsibility, to ensure a check on terror and the results have borne out his choice as the correct one.

Second, during the tenure of the current Prime Minister, the country has seen impressive if incremental reforms in the structures that govern our economy and administration. Industrially, we are on the upswing with a focus on manufacturing and militarily our position is one of strength. The military-industrial complex in India, including the involvement of the private sector, is finally taking shape in tune with global realities.

Though India is a peace-loving country, contemporary geopolitics calls for the country to be strong militarily in order to sustain a peaceful atmosphere in the region. Apropos of which, one needs

to remember India's retaliation against Pakistan's cross-border infiltration of terrorists by carrying out surgical strikes.

Lastly, we need to keep in mind that the world has moved to a market-oriented economy. The corporate sector should be strong for the overall development of the country. Also, trade, business and industry will improve when there is no problem or shortage of labour. Modi's moves have all been to ensure just that, for which he had to take tough decisions like demonetisation and implementation of GST to rationalise the tax structure in the country. These choices are not populist but are very important for the future development of the country and its people.

Doval hinted at these developments in his speech; there is no question that he was right, the country needs a strong Government. Doval's argument is very meaningful if analysed in depth.

The development initiated by the Government is now visible on ground level. An era of development and prosperity is dawning on the country but it will only be visible to all if political leaders have the courage to take the correct decisions at the right time.

(The writer is former Media Adviser, Aligarh Muslim University.)

SOUNDBITE

There should be no liquidity crunch for businesses in India while ensuring accessibility to loans from banks.

Union Minister
—Rajnath Singh



China and Pakistan are all-weather partners. Pakistan has always been regarded as a foreign policy priority.

Chinese Premier
—Li Keqiang



There are moments when I always feel I am not good enough. And therefore, I put in more effort in my work.

Actor
—Shah Rukh Khan



Out of the many promises, I have never heard a political leader promise a new court. Courts are a low priority item.

Retired SC judge
—J Chelameswar



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cancer awareness

Sir — Awareness is the key word to prevent and overcome any health disorder. Cancer is no different. It is heartening that various health bodies in the world are focussing on certain common cancers every month. October was the breast cancer awareness month and November is set to raise awareness on lung cancer. The occurrences and deaths due to lung cancer are on the rise in both developed and developing countries. The chemicals in smoke, estimated to be above three thousand, of which many are carcinogenic agents, have put the life of smokers in peril.

Spotting the early symptoms of lung cancer will go a long way in early diagnosis and treatment. Cough, breathlessness and chest pain are major symptoms which should draw the attention of people towards the disease. Simple investigative tools like chest x-ray and sputum examination may help in diagnosis of the disease, though more sophisticated techniques may be needed to confirm the presence of the disease and set up approaches towards planning of treatment. The cost of

Rafale deal row gets messier

This refers to the report, "Reliance got ₹284 kickback from Dassault: Rahul" (November 3). In a recent interview, Eric Trappier, CEO of Dassault Aviation had said that Dassault had been in discussions with the Ambani family since 2012. He rejected the allegation that the Indian side had nudged them to give the offsets to Anil Ambani's Reliance Group and claimed that India had bagged a better deal for the 36 jets in 2016 compared to what it would have paid for the 18 that the previous Government was pursuing as part of the 126-jet deal.

Trappier said that India brought down the cost by nine per cent and Reliance Defence will get only ₹850 crore worth of offsets, not ₹30,000 crore as being alleged. His statement contradicted Congress president Rahul Gandhi's allegations against the Reliance and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Rafale deal. He said that Dassault CEO had lied and



MC Joshi
Lucknow

chemotherapy drugs are prohibitive for the less fortunate. The Government has a duty to ensure that patients get proper treatment.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

Welcome initiative

Sir— Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a "Diwali gift" for

micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to finalise 12 policies to boost the sector. The announcement of a 59-minute loan facility of up to one crore rupees for small and medium businesses was one of the key decisions while launching the MSME support programme. As the MSME sector plays a vital role in employment, it constitutes a vast network of over 63 million

units and employs around 111 million people. It also contributes around 30 per cent to the gross domestic product (GDP). Such industry-friendly initiatives by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will surely boost the economy, reduce unemployment and encourage each and every Indian to venture out and explore their entrepreneurial skills. The Prime Minister needs to

be applauded for taking public-centric decision. However, he should also form a system to ensure that the loans are repaid on or before time.

QB Malik
New Delhi

Slow justice delivery

Sir — The biggest weakness of our justice delivery system is liberal ex parte stay orders followed by frequent adjournments in courts, the main reasons of huge pendency of cases resulting in justifying the proverb, justice delayed is justice denied.

Even then Vice President Hamid Ansari was of the view that liberal adjournments in courts needed to be taken seriously by the judiciary for reforms within. The Supreme Court in the Shiv Cotex vs Tirgun Auto case observed that the litigants seek and the courts grant adjournments at the drop of the hat. This has corroded the entire justice delivery system.

Madhu Agrawal
Delhi

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Brexit and the Irish border

As UK is edging closer to a chaotic Brexit by ending the customs union, the prospect of a renewed war in the North is creeping closer



GWYNNE DYAR

It was either ignorant or irresponsible for those campaigning for Brexit (British exit from the European Union) two years ago to claim that the Irish border would not be a problem. In fact, it may lead to a catastrophic 'no deal' Brexit in which the United Kingdom crashes out of the EU without an agreement of any kind. Both the British negotiators and their EU counterparts say that the deal is "95 per cent agreed", but the other five per cent is the border between the Republic of Ireland (an EU member) and Northern Ireland (part of the UK and therefore soon not part of the EU). Time is running out, and agreement on that last five per cent is far from certain.

The border has been invisible since the signing of the Good Friday agreement in 1998 ended 30 years of bloody conflict between the Protestant and Catholic communities in Northern Ireland. Three thousand people had been killed, but the situation had reached stalemate. The Good Friday deal let both sides accept that fact. For the (Catholic) nationalists in Northern Ireland, a completely open border with the (Catholic) Republic was a vital part of the deal. It implicitly acknowledged that the two parts of the island might one day be reunited, although not now.

As the 1998 agreement plainly said, people born in Northern Ireland have the right to be "Irish or British or both as they may so choose." And it worked, sort of. The only way you can tell you have crossed the border now is that the speed signs change from miles to kilometres or vice versa. It was a brave, imaginative deal that has given Northern Ireland 20 years of peace, but it is now at risk. When the 'Leave' side narrowly won the Brexit referendum in the UK and Theresa May replaced David Cameron as prime minister in 2016, she had a credibility problem. Like Cameron, she had supported 'Remain', but the Conservative Party she now led was dominated by triumphant Brexiters. So, she became an enthusiastic Brexiter herself. The English nationalists who ran the Brexit campaign had said nothing about leaving the EU's 'single market' and customs union, but within weeks of taking office May declared that Britain must leave both of them.

She even made this demand part of her famous 'red lines', the non-negotiable minimum that the British Government would accept in the divorce settlement. Unfortunately, ending the customs union would mean recreating a 'hard' border between Northern Ireland and the Republic — and that might lead to a renewal of the sectarian civil war between Catholics and Protestants in the North. It's not clear when the Conservative government in London realised that the Irish border was going to be the biggest stumbling block on the road to Brexit, and the party's more extreme Brexiters are still in denial about it. But the Republic will stay in the EU, and it insists that there must be no hard border after Brexit. Ireland has seen enough killing. No hard border is therefore an EU red line, and it's impossible to square that with May's decision to leave the EU customs union. If there is no customs union, then there have to be border checks. And maybe a new war in the North. So the EU suggested a 'backstop'.

If London and Brussels can't come up with a free-trade deal to keep the border soft (ie invisible), then Northern Ireland could stay in the customs union, and the rest of the UK could leave. The real border, for customs purposes, could run down the middle of the Irish Sea. Theresa May actually signed up to this solution last December, because the only real alternative is a hostile Brexit that simply ignores the EU's position. But no sooner had she agreed the 'backstop' with the EU than rebels in her own camp — extreme Brexiters and members of a small Northern Ireland-based Protestant party whose votes are all that keeps the Conservatives in power — forced her to repudiate it.

Now May's position is pure fantasy: No customs border with the EU either on land or in the Irish Sea — which is why the probability of a chaotic 'no deal' Brexit is growing daily, and the prospect of renewed war in the North is creeping closer. Is renewed war really possible? Last year Sinn Fein, the leading Catholic party in Northern Ireland, withdrew from the 'power-sharing' Government mandated by the Good Friday agreement. That could be seen as clearing the decks for action once it became clear that Brexit would undermine all existing arrangements in Ireland.

And if the UK crashes out of the EU without a deal, the ratings agency Standard and Poor's predicted on Tuesday, unemployment in the UK will almost double, house prices will fall by ten per cent in two years, and the British pound will fall even further. First impoverishment for the British, then war for the Irish.

(The writer is an independent journalist)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE GOVERNMENT WAS HELPING THE ANIL AMBANI GROUP GET A CONTRACT WORTH ₹30,000 CRORE FROM THE RAFALE DEAL.
 —CONGRESS PRESIDENT RAHUL GANDHI



RAHUL IS A CONFUSED MAN. HE HAS BEEN SAYING AT DIFFERENT PLACES THAT WE HELPED MANY PERSONS. SOMETIMES HE SAYS IT IS ADANI, SOMETIMES AMBANI.
 —DEFENCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

Rusting steel frame

Among all the civil services in the country, the work profile of IPS officers requires total devotion to effectively enforce law and order in a country of India's size and dimension



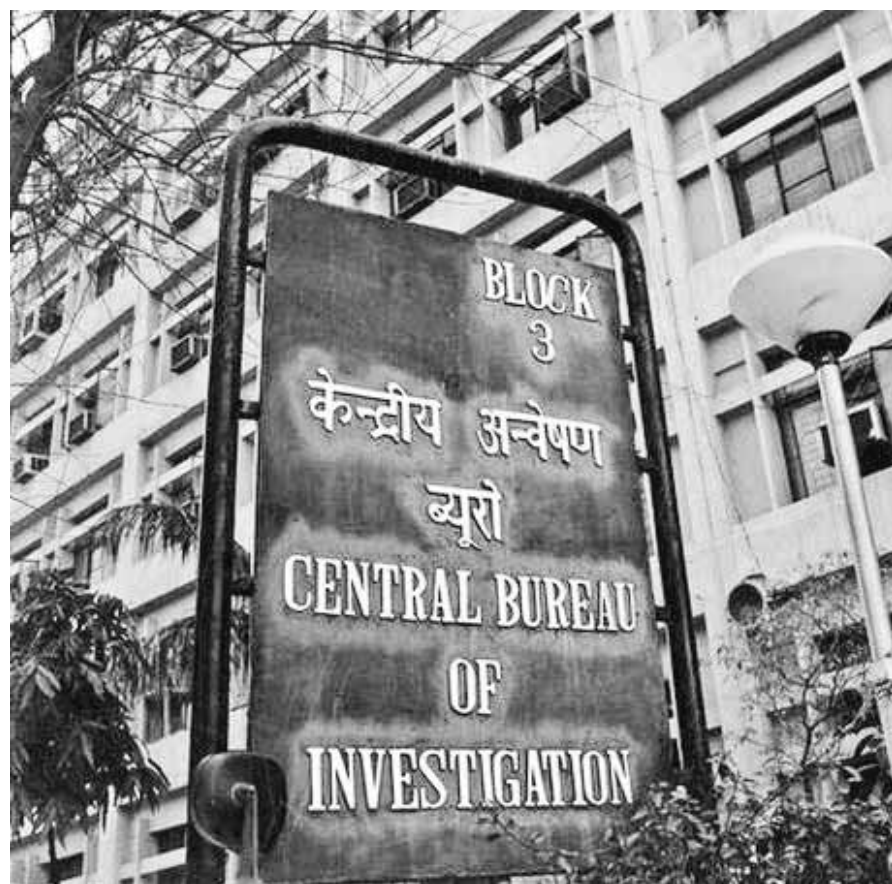
VK BAHUGUNA

The steel frame of the country is slowly losing its sheen as story after story reveals the murky world of India's babudom. The latest before the public is the dirty linen being washed in public by two top IPS officers of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), India's premier investigation agency. The All India Services played a crucial role for British India in setting up an administrative structure for efficient governance and uniting the country as a nation. Soon after Independence, the civil services played a very vital role in integrating the country on a uniform pattern, and its work during the initial years of Independence led Sardar Patel to call India's civil services, the "steel frame" of India's Government machinery. Watching the CBI top bosses quarrel in open, against this backdrop, is depressing.

Among all the civil services in the country, the work profile of IPS officers requires total devotion for enforcing law and order in a country of India's size and dimension. They have to work beyond designated office hours; they are on duty round-the-clock, eating into their family time. The CBI is an organisation which has gained immense faith of the citizens of the country for its expertise in detecting crime and exposing graft. The latest developments within the CBI, however, are the culmination of a larger malaise of deterioration of the value system of institutional integrity. This is more often than not seen in other areas of administration too. In any society, lack of a sense of justice and a preponderance of lawlessness is the greatest terror the people in power can enforce on citizens. The Indian public has a short memory and a great tolerance for wrongdoers and, because of this, we fail to generate public opinion against bad governance and fritter our energy on petty issues.

A proto-CBI could be said to have been created in 1946. It was the successor organisation to the Special Police Establishment (SPE) which was set up in 1941 to investigate cases of bribery and corruption in transactions with the War & Supply Department of India during World War II. After the end of the war, the need for a Central Government agency to investigate cases of bribery and corruption by Central Government employees was felt. The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act was, therefore, brought into force in 1946. The CBI derives powers from this Act. The reputation and image of the investigation agency has been severely dented recently. This systemic degradation of institutions has been a gradual phenomenon in this country, mainly due to political interference and the misuse of bureaucracy and police against political opponents; the CBI is no exception to this.

When such things happen, the corrupt gets closer to such elements and destroy the fairness and integrity of the institution. It is also ironic that Alok Verma is the third CBI director after AP Singh and Ranjit Sinha to be investigated for alleged corruption with the infamous meat trader and suspected smuggler Moin Qureshi hogging the limelight in two of the cases. The CBI has been routinely used against



THE LATEST CBI FIASCO IS THE CULMINATION OF A LARGER MALAISE OF DETERIORATION OF THE VALUE SYSTEM OF INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY

the political opponents by the ruling party at the Centre. It was hoped that the scenario would change after the misuse was challenged and a consequent Supreme Court decision in the Vineet Narain Case of December 1997. The order laid down guidelines to ensure independence and autonomy of the CBI and ordered that the CBI be placed under the supervision of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), an independent governmental agency free from executive interference. In the current brawl, between Verma and special director Rakesh Asthana, the Supreme Court on October 26, 2018, delivered one of its finest judgements in recent months and saved the reputation of the CBI which the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) had failed to do. The apex court has given two weeks time to the CVC to inquire into the allegations against Verma under the eyes of a retired Supreme Court Justice AK Patnaik. It has also restrained the interim Director from taking policy decisions. Let us examine this episode from the point of view of propriety and what is wrong in the governance template and who is responsible for it. The country had been witnessing an agonising war between these two officers for past few months as media

was full of news of both trading charges against each other. The CVC and the Cabinet Secretary were aware of this internecine war. In any organisation, the hallmark of a good leader is to control things within the organisation. In this particular case, the CBI director proved to be a poor leader. He should have gone beyond his ego and taken up matter with higher authorities if he found Asthana doing wrong. Similarly, CVC and Cabinet Secretary proved their incompetence in not handling the matter in a timely fashion and allowed things to go out of hand despite knowing the facts. In such a situation, no Prime Minister can run the country if people responsible for running important institutions have a lackadaisical attitude in dealing with such matters. The Prime Minister's Office should have acted firmly at the first hint of differences and the CVC should have taken a stand. Not doing so has eroded the image of the Government while the Opposition is busy politicising the issue. It is, therefore, necessary for the Government to analyse in detail how far the institutional reforms after the Supreme Court decision in December 1997 have been able to improve the functioning of the CBI. And it will be worth finding out the rate of conviction

of cases probed by CBI after this decision. This decision of the Court took away the power of appointing and sacking the CBI director from the Executive. In hindsight, it seems that it has emboldened incumbents to be arrogant; otherwise, how would a former CBI director have the courage to meet an accused in his residence? As for appointments, it is well-known that most of the appointments in the Central Government have since long been controlled by a Delhi coterie which, irrespective of the party in power, can mar the reputation of any good and honest officer and promote officers who are smart in networking. It would be prudent to say the job of the Executive should be done by the Executive, provided the methodology of short-listing candidates is fair and beyond reproach. The CBI is a prestigious organisation and its former glory should be salvaged. Prime Minister Narendra Modi must stem the systemic rot by going for drastic reforms and he must review if the Vineet Narain judgement has been of use and how far it was implemented for maintaining the institutional integrity of the CBI. Politicians of all hues, however, must stop meddling in this matter. (The writer is a Retired Civil Servant)

Healthcare in India: Not so healthy

It is time for India to take the innovation route as this crucial sector has substantial unmet needs which must be addressed. We need out-of-the-box initiatives that propel the development of high quality medicines for patients



NEELAM MOHAN

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded India's potential as the multi-trillion investment hub at the recent Independence Day speech, the world gaped in awe. This speaks volumes for the exciting investment market India is becoming, doesn't it? Promises are fragile. Especially, when the roadmap to fulfilling them is packed with potholes. There is no denying that India has made a mark on the global map. In fact, after a record jump of 30 places to rank 100th in the World Bank's Ease Of Doing Business ranking, the country is all set to leapfrog into the top 50. But are we ready to make the next jump? While the aim is laudable, the process is debatable. How is global innovation to enter the domestic mar-

ket without an environment to prosper? Price caps are creating market distortions in a country which relies heavily on imports in medical devices. Decisions like a blanket price on coronary stents are a disincentive to future investment in India.

Unintended consequences of price capping: India's healthcare sector is expected to be \$280 billion in size by 2020, growing at a compound annual growth rate of 16 per cent and medical devices form a significant share of this infrastructure. The total import of medical devices is more than 75 per cent of total medical devices sales in India. The Government decided to regulate the prices of medical devices with the aim to increase access to patients, who were not able to afford them. These benefits seem lucrative in the short-term but may not work as effectively in the coming years.

Sure, it is time to make healthcare affordable and accessible but these steps cannot be executed in silos. When you bring critical medical devices, like heart stents, diagnostic equipment and orthopaedic implants



under regulation, it impacts the import of high-end state-of-the-art medical equipments.

On the one hand, we talk about the multi-trillion investment hub that India is, but on the other, specific policies are discouraging these companies from investing. To deal with the healthcare roadblocks that pervade in India, we need the market to be open to foreign investments, because technology is making healthcare better around the world. Why should India be left behind? For instance, fixing the price of

stents below their cost of production does not offer an economic incentive for firms to continue production. No wonder many multinationals that supply stents in India debated on pulling out of the market, with some refusing to bring their latest innovations to India. The concept is small investors judge the attractiveness of an investment based on its expected return compared to other investments. Thus, as long as price caps affect relative returns, it would change the amount and urgency of investments into bringing new products in the mar-

ket. These returns are needed for companies to maintain business sustainability and focus on new research and innovation.

When we talk about accessible health care, what about all those who are looking for the latest technology to improve their condition? Today, India is one of the top 20 global medical device markets and the fourth largest medical device market in Asia. The medical value travel market in India is expected to grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate of 30 per cent from \$2.8 billion in 2014 to \$10.6 billion in 2019. When we talk of medical tourism and Make in India, we cannot ignore the influx of quality healthcare services that foreign players bring.

Of what started as a dream to build India by creating a robust manufacturing sector, 'Make In India' also came with a promise to "represent important opportunities for foreign investor." The strategy included 25 target sectors, including pharmaceuticals and wellness among others. India's murky medical devices market needs innovations and because 'Make In India' is

now becoming all about creating everything in the local market, it can impact the health market negatively.

It is time for India to take the innovation curve as the healthcare sector has substantial unmet needs that need to be addressed. We need pro-innovation policies that propel the development of high quality and innovative medicines for Indian patients. It is critical that innovative thinking walks in line with the social and economic evolution of the nation.

As mentioned earlier, we need to look beyond price capping. What India needs is a solution like trade margin rationalisation, which allows for market-based differentiation of product prices, and that too, from the first point of sale, so that the margins are fairly decided. For India to sustain the ranking in the Ease of Doing Business, it is imperative that we have the right policies in place to invite investments from global research-based companies.

(The writer is Director, Paediatric Gastroenterology & Hepatobiliary Institute of Digestive & Hepatobiliary Sciences, Medanta: The Medicity)



FOREINEYE



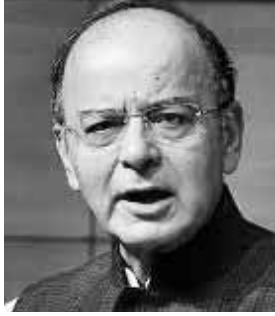
DEMOCRACY & SUBVERSION

Western democracies are vulnerable to subversion. Murky offshore wealth can be used to support proxy political actors. Nowhere is that being more thoroughly exposed than in the work of US special counsel Robert Mueller, who is examining links between Trump's presidential campaign and the Russian Government. (The Guardian editorial)

Jaitley likely to finalise capital infusion in PSBs this month

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry is likely to finalise the second round of capital infusion for public sector banks (PSBs) towards the end of this month taking into account the latest quarter's performance, sources said.



In this round of fund infusion, most of the banks would be getting growth capital for expanding their lending, particularly to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a slew of measures, including loan sanction of up to ₹1 crore in less than an hour and relaxation in labour and environmental laws for MSMEs to give a boost to the sector, the country's second-biggest employer.

Second quarter result announcements of banks, barring one or two, would be over this week and subsequently the ministry would start discussions with them, sources said.

After assessing the requirement, the ministry is expected to finalise the capital infusion of about ₹54,000 crore by November-end or by the first half of the next month.

The ministry had earlier this year provided capital infusion of ₹11,336 crore to five PSBs to help them meet their interest payment commitments.

Punjab National Bank (PNB), hit by the Nirav Modi scam, got the highest amount of ₹2,816 crore, while Allahabad Bank received ₹1,790 crore.

Andhra Bank got capital support of ₹2,019 crore, Indian Overseas Bank ₹2,157 crore and Corporation Bank ₹2,555 crore.

The infusion was part of the remaining ₹65,000 crore out of ₹2.11 lakh crore capital infusion over two financial years.

The government announced the ₹2.11 lakh crore capital infusion programme in October last year.

As per the plan, the PSBs were to get ₹1.35 lakh crore through re-capitalisation bonds, and the balance ₹58,000 crore through raising of capital from the market.

Out of the ₹1.35 lakh crore, the government has already infused about ₹82,000 crore through recap bonds and the balance would be done during this fiscal.

Oil market on alert as Iran sanctions hit

AFP ■ LONDON

US sanctions against importers of Iranian oil threaten the crude oil market's precarious balance and risk surging prices, all under Saudi Arabia's watchful gaze, according to experts.

"In the next weeks all eyes will be on Iranian exports, whether there will be some cheating around US sanctions, and on how quickly production will fall," said Riccardo Fabiani, an analyst for Energy Aspects.

The US will from Monday target buyers of Iranian oil in order to deprive Tehran of its main source of income.

Going after Iran's oil money will hit Tehran where it hurts, but it also means hitting a major pillar of the global oil market -- Iran is the OPEC cartel's third-largest producer -- with major consequences for world supply.

Iran exported the equivalent of 2.5 million barrels a day in April, before the announcement of sanctions turned buyers away.

The US will from Monday target buyers of Iranian oil in order to deprive Tehran of its main source of income

"Even if the United States grants exemptions, Washington will demand that the volume imported from Iran be significantly reduced," said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo, who expects prices to rise.

However, oil prices have fallen by nearly \$15 in less than a month, after peaking in early October at their highest level in two and a half years, with a barrel of Brent at over \$85.

Part of the explanation lies in the ambiguous position of the US, which initially insisted that the sanctions were designed to reduce Iranian exports to zero barrels, but has since softened its position.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday announced exemptions for eight countries, without naming them.

Turkey indicated that it was one of them and analysts believe that India, one of the world's largest importers, is also on the list, which will be published on Monday.

"India said to the US that they can't stop before March, they are facing a major currency crisis," explained Joel Hancock, analyst at Natixis.

Consumer confidence in the US itself could also suffer if rising oil prices translate into higher prices at the pump.

"If prices start to rise again or another major producer has difficulties, it could put pressure on the US and lead to new exemptions," said Fabiani.

The other major oil producing countries are expected to ramp up production to try and compensate for Iran's anticipated decline in output.

But in doing so, they run the risk of hampering their ability to react to any future crises.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter, has claimed that it

can respond to the Iranian shortfall, but some market players are wondering whether the kingdom is exhausting its capacities.

"Saudi Arabia can produce 12 million barrels a day, but only if it invests," said Hancock, noting that the country currently produces just under 11 million barrels a day. He believes that Riyadh can currently only rely on 300,000 barrels per day of spare capacity, the extraction of which can be launched in fewer than 30 days.

"The mantra right now is to go to Saudi Arabia but its exports have remained flat at around 10 or 10.2 million barrels a day," said Samir Madani, an analyst at Tanker Trackers, which specialises in satellite tanker tracking.

"The big increase right now is Iraq at 4.2 million, which I've never seen before," he added.

The US, which is in the process of becoming the world's leading producer thanks to its shale oil operations, could meet part of the demand, but lacks export capacity, said the analyst.

DG Audit to ensure right GST allocation to States 'Complete exploration of 329 mining leases expiring in 2 yrs'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In order to prevent incorrect allocation of GST revenue among states, the Directorate General of Audit has been asked to scrutinise the accounting software of large service providers like banks and telecom companies, an official said.

The issue concerning allocation of revenue in case of inter-state supply of services was raised by some states during high-level meetings between the Central and state tax officers to analyse reasons for Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue shortfall, the official said.

Some states have expressed the apprehension that service providers might not be depositing the taxes collected from customers to the state exche-

quer where they are rightfully due. Instead, they are depositing in some other states where they are not due as per the GST rules and regulations of Place of Supply (PoS).

Under the PoS rules, the taxes are required to be paid at the place of consumption. However, in case of services it becomes difficult to identify the place of consumption and hence, the GST regulations have laid down elaborate rules for appropriation of taxes by states.

"The DG Audit will check whether the accounting softwares of service providers who are operating in different states are depositing the taxes with the states where they legitimately accrue," an official told PTI.

The DG Audit has been asked to give its report within

three-four months. The official said that since GST is a new tax, it is likely that the service providers may not be depositing the taxes correctly to the states which are entitled, especially with regard to banking and telecommunication sectors.

In case of banking and financial services, the PoS is the location of the recipient of the services.

However, in case the location is not known, the PoS would be deemed to be the location of the supplier of services.

In case of post-paid mobile connection, the PoS is the billing address of the recipient. As regards pre-paid vouchers for mobile, internet or home television, the PoS would be deemed to be the address of the selling agent or distributor as per the record of the sup-

plier. However, in case of online recharges, the place of depositing GST will be the address of the recipient of service on record with the telecom companies.

For the hospitality industry, the PoS would be the location of the immovable property. Similar regulations have been laid down for other services like insurance, passenger transportation and transportation of goods including by mail or courier.

The DG Audit would go into the details of software being used by service providers to ensure whether the GST collected is flowing to the states as specified under the regulations, the official said.

Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia has met GST officers, both from central and

state tax departments, in certain states to understand issues plaguing the GST collections.

A discussion to shore up revenues has already happened with six states -- Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry, Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar and Uttarakhand. The states faced an average 16 per cent shortfall in GST mop up in the first year of implementation (July 2017-March 2018), which has come down to 13 per cent during April-August period of current fiscal.

While only six states -- Mizoram, Arunachal, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim and Andhra Pradesh -- are facing revenue surplus in the current fiscal, 25 states are staring at revenue shortfall and have to be compensated by the Centre.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked mineral rich states to complete by next month the exploration of all the 329 mining leases expiring in another two years. Mines Secretary Anil Mukim advised that "exploration of all mining leases expiring in 2020 should be completed by December 2018," according to the minutes of the C o o r d i n a t i o n - c u m - Empowered Committee (CCEC) meeting held last month.

During the meeting, Mukim --who reviewed the exploration status of various mines -- sought constitution of a committee to look into the

post auction issues related to transition from the old to the new lessee and prepare a draft guidelines for the same.

Of these 329 mines, 281 are non-working while 48 are working mines. The maximum 184 mineral blocks are in Goa, followed by 48 in Karnataka and 31 in Odisha, among others. During the meeting, Odisha government stated that exploration of various mines in the eastern state will be completed by December by the existing lease holders.

"The Secretary also advised the states having less number of leases due to expire in 2020 to initiate action on similar lines," the minutes of the meeting said. During the meeting,

the Secretary also sought information from states with regard to the blocks which were planned to be auctioned in 2018-19 and current state of the preparation regarding the auction of mineral blocks.

The Centre had earlier asked all states to begin the auction of mining leases expiring in the next two years by July 2019 to avert any shortage of minerals.

The Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) has expressed concerns over the expiry of the existing mining leases in March 2020, which, it said, may affect availability of raw materials for the Indian mining industry if leases are not renewed in time.

Govt plans to list TCIL in Jan-March quarter

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry is planning an initial public offering (IPO) to sell up to 25 per cent stake in telecom engineering and consultancy firm TCIL in the January-March quarter of the current fiscal, an official said.

The ministry is planning to list four Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and work on launching the IPO of Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) has begun, the official added. "We are looking at launching TCIL IPO in current fiscal. We will soon approach Cabinet for securing approval for up to 25 per cent stake dilution," the official told PTI. TCIL, under the administrative control of the Department of Telecommunications, was set up in 1978. The company had a turnover of Rs 1,205 crore and profit after tax of Rs 70.8 crore in 2016-17 fiscal.

SBI puts up 11 NPA accounts for sale to recover ₹1K crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

SBI has put up 11 non-performing assets (NPAs) for sale to ARCs and financial companies to recover dues of nearly ₹1,019 crore.

The country's largest lender said the e-auction of these NPA accounts will take place on November 22.

"In terms of the bank's policy on sale of financial assets in line with the regulatory guidelines, we place these accounts for sale to ARCs/ Banks/ NBFCs/ FIs," SBI said in an auction notice on its website.

Of these 11 accounts, Janki Corp Ltd has the highest outstanding dues of ₹592.53 crore.

Among others, Venus Remedies Ltd has to repay ₹83.01 crore, SBS Transpole Logistics Pvt Ltd ₹63.36 crore, R S Luth Education Trust ₹60.62 crore, Nilachal Iron &

In terms of the bank's policy on sale of financial assets in line with the regulatory guidelines, we place these accounts for sale to ARCs/ Banks/ NBFCs/ FIs

Power Ltd ₹52.41 crore and Sri Balmukund Polyplast ₹50.12 crore. The rest of the five companies owe the bank the remaining ₹117 crore.

The interested asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)/ banks/ non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)/ financial

institutions (FIs) can conduct due diligence of these assets with immediate effect, after submitting expression of interest and executing a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with the bank, State Bank of India (SBI) said.

Once the deal is finalised, the assignment deed and other legal formalities will be completed in the shortest possible time as mutually agreed upon, it added.

SBI's gross NPAs rose to 10.69 per cent of the total advances at the end of the first quarter ended June this fiscal year, as against 9.97 per cent a year ago. In value terms, they increased to ₹2,12,840 crore, from ₹1,88,068 crore.

SBI has reported a hefty loss of ₹4,876 crore for the June quarter due to higher NPAs or bad loans.

'Global factors, ₹, oil to drive stock markets this week'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Trend from global equities, macroeconomic data as well as movement of the rupee and crude oil prices will set the tone for the stock markets in the holiday-shortened week ahead, say experts.

Bourses would remain closed on Wednesday and Thursday for 'Diwali Laxmi Pujan' and 'Diwali Balipratipada'.

The BSE and NSE will conduct a special 'Muhurat' trading session on Wednesday, November 7.

'Muhurat' trading, which is conducted on the auspicious occasion of Diwali, will be held between 1700 hrs and 1830 hrs, the stock exchanges had said Friday.

PMI data for the services sector is scheduled to be released Monday, which might have a bearing on market sentiment, experts said.

On the global front, the US Fed interest rate decision

will be closely watched.

"For markets as we said, it will be global cues and any positive news or move from western markets will have an exponential factor for domestic markets and the recent drop in crude is further keeping sentiments positive."

"IIP numbers, inflation are lined up and will be watched in the second week. The volume may remain thin due to holidays on the occasion of Deepawali," said Mustafa Nadeem, CEO, Epic Research.

The rupee Friday clocked its biggest single-day gain in over five years, surging by 100 paise to close at 72.45 against the US dollar.

Cipla, Gail (India) and Indian Bank are among the corporates scheduled to announce their earnings this week.

POWERGRID conferred Dun & Bradstreet Infra Award

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

POWERGRID has been conferred the Dun & Bradstreet Infra Award-2018 for Excellence in Power Transmission category.

Shri K. Sreekanth, Director (Finance) received the award from Shri Amitabh Kant, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog, Government of India at a ceremony held in New Delhi.



Petrol dips down by 21 paise; total reduction reaches ₹4.05 in 18 days

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol price has been cut by over ₹4 per litre and diesel by ₹2.33 in the last 18 days on softer international rates, a pace faster than the spike in prices witnessed in the two-month period beginning mid-August.

Petrol price Sunday was cut by 21 paise a litre and diesel by 17 paise, according to a price notification issued by state-owned fuel retailers.

In Delhi, petrol now costs ₹78.78 per litre while diesel is priced at ₹73.36, it said.

Petrol in Mumbai costs ₹82.28 and diesel ₹76.88.

With this, the reduction in rates in last 18 days now totals ₹4.05 per litre for petrol and ₹2.33 for diesel.

Rates have been on the decline since October 18. Petrol price had touched a record high of ₹84 per litre in Delhi and ₹91.34 in Mumbai on October 4. Diesel on that day had peaked to ₹75.45 a litre in Delhi and ₹80.10 in Mumbai.

Prices had started to climb from August 16. Petrol in Delhi was priced at ₹77.14 and in Mumbai at ₹84.58 per litre

on August 15. Diesel on that day was priced at ₹68.72 per litre in Delhi and ₹72.96 in Mumbai.

Between August 16 and October 4, petrol price was hiked by ₹6.86 per litre and diesel by ₹6.73.

On that day, the government decided to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹1.50 per litre each and asked state-owned fuel retailers to subsidise the price by another ₹1 a litre by reducing their margins.

Subsequent to this, the petrol price came down to ₹81.50 per litre in Delhi and diesel to ₹72.95 a litre on October 5.

In Mumbai, rates fell to ₹86.97 per litre for petrol and ₹77.45 in case of diesel.

As the international oil prices continued to rise, price of petrol and diesel in Delhi increased to ₹82.83 and ₹75.69 on October 17.

In Mumbai, rates touched ₹88.29 a litre for petrol and ₹79.35 for diesel.

But since then, international oil prices have been falling and rupee has also appreciated, resulting in decline in retail rates.

Mukesh Ambani sets up Estonian JV for e-governance; takes up E-residency

PTI ■ TALLINN / MUMBAI

Industrialist Mukesh Ambani is keen on the e-governance space and has set up a subsidiary company in Estonia to get a grip on the solutions, government officials of the Northwestern European nation have said.

Ambani has formed a subsidiary with the Estonian government's former chief information officer Taavi Kotka.

The joint venture will be looking for solutions in the e-governance space, Viljar Lubi, vice-minister for economic affairs and communications of Estonia, which is a European Union member, told a group of visiting journalists recently.

He, however, did not elaborate on the exact scope of the partnership, saying government only plays the role of a facilitator. A Reliance Industries spokesperson refused to share details of the project or plan. Multiple officials in Estonia, which is among the most digitised countries in the world, maintained that the role of private companies has been crucial in developing the digital infrastructure used by all most all of its citizens.

The country claims of 99 per cent of digital penetration. Ambani, the richest Indian who runs the most profitable domestic company Reliance Industries, took an e-residency of the European nation in May this year, the officials said.

An e-residency helps a foreigner

access the EU opportunity by helping him/her form a company, among other benefits.

"We've one of the founders of e-residency programmes, Kotka, who is currently working together with Reliance and Mukesh Ambani to digitalise India in terms of accessing digital identity.

"That is why Ambani became an e-resident recently," a spokesperson for Estonia's e-residency programme said.

An email sent to Reliance Industries spokesperson on this aspect was also not answered. Asked if Ambani has visited Estonia, Lubi declined to comment, but named other Indian industrialists like Infosys co-founder NR Narayana Murthy as among those who have visited their country to have a closer look at the work on digitisation. Lubi said while digitisation has helped Estonia to get connected its scattered and very low population basethe country with a large land mass is home to only 1.4 million citizens -- it can help India as well because it has a large population to be reached out to.

There are just about 2,000 Indians who have opted to become e-residents of Estonia so far, primarily to access the business opportunity presented by the European Union.

Over half of them are freelancers, who unlike big companies, cannot afford to set up subsidiaries in any EU country, the official said.

An e-residency enables a person to work for EU clientele and is lapped by startups looking for a footing in the EU.

Lubi said Estonian journey to digitalisation started right after regaining independence in 1991 from the erstwhile USSR due to a resource crunch and later it discovered the efficacy of the same as the world went digital.

At present, nearly all - 99 per cent to be precise -- government services are digital in this country and an Estonian gets to know who all have accessed his/her records.

If a citizen observes any activity on her information being accessed by an unauthorised entity, including any government department, then she can initiate legal action.

The e-residency initiative was started in 2014 as a digital identity for foreigners. Apart from forming a company, an e-resident can access banking services, payment processing and also gets a digital signature.

India ranks ninth among the list of countries from where e-residents are coming in, but the pace of growth is very fast, e-residency programme's managing director Kaspar Korjus said. The country is aiming to increase the number of e-residents from India to 1 million by 2025, he said, pointing out that India has over 50 million freelancers who will be keen on such an initiative.

India to impose anti-dumping duty on uncoated paper import from three countries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India may impose anti-dumping duty on certain kinds of uncoated paper from Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore for three years to protect interest of domestic companies against cheap shipments.

The commerce ministry's investigation arm directorate general of trade remedies (DGTR) has recommended the duty after establishing in its probe that the dumping of uncoated paper from these countries are having impact on domestic players.

The West Coast Paper Mills, Tamil Nadu Newsprint, Papers Ltd, Ballarpur Industries and JK Paper had filed an application before the directorate for initiation of the anti-dumping investigation.

The DGAD in its probe has concluded that the product has been exported to India from these countries below their normal values and consequently, the domestic industry has suffered material injury.

It said in a notification that

material injury has been caused by the dumped imports of the goods from these countries during the period of investigation.

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"The Authority recommends imposition of definitive anti-dumping duty... On the imports of the subject goods, originating in or exported from these countries, for a period of three years" the DGTR has said.

The directorate has recommended anti-dumping of difference between the landed value of the product and USD 855 per tonne.

The finance ministry will take the final call on the imposition of the duty.

The move is aimed at protecting domestic players in the sector against cheap imports. The period of probe would be April 2016-June 2017 (15 months). Countries carry out anti-dumping probe to determine whether their domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.

OPEN-ENDED
(GROWTH)

SCHEME	NAV
HDFC MUTUAL FUND	
Index Fund Sensex Plus Plan-Direct Plan	469.996
Index Fund-Sensex Plus (FV-Rs32.161)	462.5623
Index Fund Sensex Plan-Direct Plan	312.7204
Index Fund Sensex Plan (FV Rs 32.161)	309.2916
ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND	
Blended Plan A - Dividend	13.5898
Blended Plan A - Direct Plan Bonus	10.9152
Blended Plan A - Growth	22.7387
Blended Plan A-Direct Plan - Dividend	13.6408
Blended Plan A-Direct Plan - Growth	23.0933
KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND	
Bluechip Fund - Dividend	31.927
Bluechip Fund - Dividend - Direct	34.763
Bluechip Fund - Growth	212.541
Bluechip Fund - Growth - Direct	225.915
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend - Direct	21.842
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend - Direct	25.301
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth	35.595
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth - Direct	38.008
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly	20.1309
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly Direct	20.3331
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend	10.7148
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend - Direct	11.0155
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Regular	23.074
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth	25.8023
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth - Direct	26.5529
Equity Arbitrage Fund -Fortnightly - Direct	23.5487
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend	23.515
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend - Direct	25.3
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth	108.511
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth - Direct	115.404
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Growth	13.976
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Monthly Dividend	11.4121
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Quarterly Dividend	11.0725
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Growth	13.5983
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Monthly Dividend	11.1475
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Quarterly Dividend	10.969
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend	14.989
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend - Direct	15.763
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth	14.99
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth - Direct	15.693
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend	19.706
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend - Direct	21.853
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth	48.342
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth - Direct	52.036
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Dividend	16.855
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Growth	18.5
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund-Direct Plan -Div Option19.738	
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund-Direct Plan- Growth Op	19.965
Small Cap Fund - Dividend	34.781
Small Cap Fund - Dividend - Direct	37.594
Small Cap Fund - Growth	67.364
Small Cap Fund - Growth - Direct	72.326
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend	21.478
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend - Direct	22.992
Standard Multicap Fund - Growth	32.156
Standard Multicap Fund - Growth - Direct	34.036
SAHARA MUTUAL FUND	
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH - Direct	66.4947
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH OPTION	62.6608
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND - Direct	22.5675
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND OPTION	22.1517
Growth Fund-Dividend	38.9036
Growth Fund-Dividend- Direct	39.6252
Growth Fund-Growth	133.9756
Growth Fund-Growth- Direct	149.7337
Infrastructure Fund —FIXED PRICING-Direct-Dividend	20.328
Infrastructure Fund —FIXED PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	26.3348
Infrastructure Fund —FIXED PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option	17.8238
Infrastructure Fund —FIXED PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	24.4081
Infrastructure Fund —VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Div	22.3093
Infrastructure Fund —VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	28.9807
Infrastructure Fund —VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Div Option	20.8245
Infrastructure Fund —VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Growth Op	28.3083
Midcap Fund-Auto Payout	74.496
Midcap Fund-Auto Payout- Direct	79.6429
Midcap Fund-Bonus	74.496
Midcap Fund-Bonus- Direct	79.6429
Midcap Fund-Dividend -Direct	33.3511
Midcap Fund-Dividend Plan	32.6552
Midcap Fund-Growth Option - Direct	79.6429
Midcap Fund-Growth Plan	74.496
Power & Natural Resources Fund - Dividend Option	17.1801
Power & Natural Resources Fund- Growth - Direct	21.7152
Power & Natural Resources Fund- Growth Option	20.1427
Power & Natural Resources Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.0357
REAL Fund - Dividend Option	20.0108
REAL Fund - Dividend Option- Direct	20.4151
REAL Fund - Growth Fund	20.0075
REAL Fund - Growth Fund- Direct	22.0575
Star Value Fund-Dividend - Direct	17.4984

Star Value Fund-Dividend Option	17.2122	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	20.0513
Star Value Fund-Growth - Direct	23.9182	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0013
Star Value Fund-Growth Option	22.2581	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Growth	19.9965
Super 20 Fund - Dividend - Direct	16.3573	Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Direct Qtly Div Payout	10.0085
Super 20 Fund - Dividend Option	19.252	Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	10.0083
Super 20 Fund - Growth - Direct	20.9621	Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	20.7912
Super 20 Fund - Growth Option	19.2707	Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.1854
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Dividend Option	29.8628	Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	17.5014
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	42.1331	Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0061
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Dividend Option	29.3771	Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Growth	17.4312
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Growth Option	41.2484	Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Cumulative	13.9619
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Dividend	35.3276	Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct - Cumulative	13.9796
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	49.2641	Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct Plan - Div	10.9291
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Dividend Option	34.8277	Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	14.9423
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Growth Option	48.0384	Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	14.9835

SBI MUTUAL FUND

MAGNUM NRI FLEXIASSET PLAN-DIVIDEND	30.3025
MAGNUM NRI FLEXIASSET PLAN-GROWTH	30.1918
ONE INDIA FUND - DIV (PREV CLOSE ENDED UPTO 14/01/2010)	10.43
ONE INDIA FUND - GR (PREV CLOSE ENDED UPTO 14/01/2010)	10.43

OPEN-ENDED
(INCOME)

DHFL PRAMERICA MUTUAL FUND

FIXED MATURITY PLAN - SERIES 47 - DIRECT PLAN - GROWTH	14.096
FIXED MATURITY PLAN - SERIES 47 - REGULAR PLAN - GROWTH	13.9784

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

Blended Plan B - Dividend Option - I	15.0425
Blended Plan B - Growth Option - I	23.9631
Blended Plan B - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.286
Blended Plan B - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.4926
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend Option - I	17.7362
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth Option - I	24.8068
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.3063
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I	10.0227
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Option - I	10.7
Blended Plan B - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I	10.3661
Blended Plan B - option I-Bonus	11.9703
Blended Plan B-Direct Plan - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.032
Child Care Plan Study - Cumulative	69.6122
Child Care Plan Study - Direct Plan- Cumulative	72.4243
Dynamic Bond Fund - Annual Dividend	10.6484
Dynamic Bond Fund - Bonus	19.6984
Dynamic Bond Fund - Daily Dividend	10.0171
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Daily Dividend	10.5669
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Growth	20.425
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2129
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend	10.4618
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Annual Dividend	10.6164
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Bonus Option	20.23
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend	10.4779
Dynamic Bond Fund - Growth	19.6989
Dynamic Bond Fund - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2388
Dynamic Bond Fund - Monthly Dividend	10.9656
Dynamic Bond Fund - Premium Plus Growth	20.7632
Dynamic Bond Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.408
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.7894
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	22.5035
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan Bonus	12.628
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Growth	17.983
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	N.A.
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	18.0131
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.8172
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	11.9883
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.6497
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Direct Plan - Growth	23.4449
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Dividend	11.8549
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Growth	23.3622
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	11.7874
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	21.8977
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Direct Plan - Growth	21.7978
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Dividend	10.8352
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Growth	17.7495
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Dividend	11.6845
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Growth	21.7637
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Dividend	11.7708
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Direct Plan - Growth	20.4818
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Growth	20.4088
Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.1844
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0692
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	13.4735
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.0015
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Growth	13.4637
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0025
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.9999
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan - I Retail Quarterly Div Payout	10.0022
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	17.6211
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Growth	17.5944
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 Plan - Direct - Quarterly Div Payout	10.0023
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	10.0271
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.0296

JM FINANCIAL MUTUAL FUND

Income Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	19.7295
MIP Fund (Direct) - Bonus Option - Principal Units	25.9834
MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Annual Dividend	20.9404
MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Quarterly Dividend	19.5151
MIP Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.7788
MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Monthly Dividend	12.6302
MIP Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	24.5085
MIP FUND-Annual Dividend	19.4034
MIP FUND-Growth	24.1503
MIP FUND-Monthly Dividend	11.4362
MIP FUND-Quarterly Dividend	18.1976
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Daily Dividend Option	13.8079
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option	10.5745
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.5038

KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND

Banking and PSU Debt - Annual Dividend	16.1842
Banking and PSU Debt - Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.188
Banking and PSU Debt - Direct Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.2604
Banking and PSU Debt - Growth	40.2862
Banking and PSU Debt - Monthly Dividend	10.5242
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Annual Dividend	17.1427
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Growth	40.9097
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Monthly Dividend	10.6275
Bond - Annual Dividend - Direct	22.2241
Bond - Growth - Direct	50.4769
Bond - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	13.6607
Bond Regular Plan Annual Dividend	29.5584
Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan	30.696
Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan - Direct	22.7736
Bond Regular Plan Direct HF dividend	40.4758
Bond Regular Plan Growth	10.7888
Bond Regular Plan Quarterly Dividend	13.6564
Bond-Deposit-Dividend	42.9354
Bond-Deposit-Growth	10.3235
Bond Short Term Plan - Direct Plan - Normal Dividend	10.124
Bond Short Term Plan (Dividend)	11.0072
Bond Short Term Plan (Dividend) - Direct	33.3174
Bond Short Term Plan (Growth) - Direct	34.7664
Bond Short Term Plan (Half Yearly Dividend)	12.1452
Bond Short Term Plan (Half Yearly Dividend) - Direct	12.3328
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan- Growth Option	2034.9063
Corporate Bond Fund- Direct Plan- Monthly Dividend Option	2421.5648
Corporate Bond Fund- Direct Plan- Monthly Dividend Option	1105.0212
Corporate Bond Fund- Institutional Plan-Growth Option	2030.4824
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Growth Option	2369.9719
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	1051.1716
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Quarterly Dividend Option	1066.6837
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan- Monthly Dividend Option	1040.0538
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan- Weekly Dividend Option	1052.3061
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan-Daily Dividend Option	1052.6393
Corporate Bond Fund- Standard Plan-Daily Dividend Option	1052.7994
Corporate Bond Fund- Standard Plan-Weekly Dividend Option	1202.9939
Credit Risk Fund - Annual Dividend	10.5645
Credit Risk Fund - Annual Dividend - Direct	15.5351
Credit Risk Fund - Growth	19.6096
Credit Risk Fund - Growth - Direct	20.6831
Credit Risk Fund - Monthly Dividend	10.3338
Credit Risk Fund - Monthly Dividend - Direct	10.5642
Credit Risk Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.8121
Credit Risk Fund - Quarterly Direct Dividend - Direct	10.2019
Credit Risk Fund - Weekly Dividend	17.7073
Credit Risk Fund - Weekly Dividend - Direct	10.4405
Debt Hybrid - Growth	29.2262
Debt Hybrid - Growth - Direct	31.0343
Debt Hybrid - Monthly Dividend	11.6952
Debt Hybrid - Monthly Dividend - Direct	12.1407
Debt Hybrid - Quarterly Dividend	13.0345
Debt Hybrid - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	13.6455
Dynamic Bond Fund - Daily Dividend - Direct	10.1362
Dynamic Bond Fund - Growth - Direct	23.7172
Dynamic Bond Fund - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	10.8381
Dynamic Bond Fund - Weekly Dividend Direct	12.8673
Dynamic Bond Fund- Regular Plan- Monthly Dividend Option	21.8967
Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Daily Dividend	10.0364
Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Growth	22.8971
Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Quarterly Dividend	11.0426
Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Weekly Dividend	10.5335
Dynamic Bond Fund-Direct Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	22.5597
Flexi-Debt - Regular Plan - Dividend	10.7268
Flexi-Debt - Regular Plan - Growth	25.1289
Flexi-Debt- Regular Plan - Daily Dividend	14.3817
Flexi Debt - Regular Plan- Weekly Dividend	10.035
Low Duration - Regular Plan-Weekly Dividend	1014.7986
Low Duration Fund - Direct Plan- Monthly Dividend Option	1070.3762
Low Duration Fund - Regular Plan - Normal Dividend	1070.089
Low Duration Fund Direct Plan- Bonus Option	1321.4208
Low Duration Fund- Direct Plan- Growth Option	2282.0587
Low Duration Fund- Direct Plan- Weekly Dividend Option	1199.3756
Low Duration Fund- Regular Plan-Growth Option	2201.7916
Low Duration Fund- Regular Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	1021.4517
Low Duration Fund-Retail Plan-Growth Option	1971.7193
Low Duration Fund-Retail Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	1020.796
Low Duration Fund-Retail Plan-Weekly Dividend Option	1021.1728
Medium Term Fund - Annual Dividend	10.7646
Medium Term Fund - Direct - Annual Dividend	15.3534
Medium Term Fund - Direct - Quarterly Dividend	10.6739
Medium Term Fund - Direct - Growth	15.3163
Medium Term Fund - Growth	14.6863
Medium Term Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.653
Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Annual Dividend	12.0699
Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Annual Dividend - Direct	12.891
Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Growth	17.0712
Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Growth - Direct	18.0715
Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Monthly Dividend	14.3128
Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Monthly Dividend - Direct	13.1358
Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Quarterly Dividend	12.3879
Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Quarterly Dividend - Direct	12.9066

MIRAE ASSET MUTUAL FUND

Mirae Asset Mutual Fund	10.3019
Short Term Bond Fund - Regular - My Dividend Option	14.1804

RELIANCE MUTUAL FUND

Interval Fund - II - Series 1 - Direct Plan - Growth Option	12.842
Interval Fund - II - Series 1 - Dividend Option	10
Interval Fund - II - Series 1 - Growth Plan	12.8098
Interval Fund - II - Series 2 - Direct - Dividend Plan - Div Option10	12.9862
Interval Fund - II - Series 2 - Dividend Plan - Dividend Option	10
Interval Fund - II - Series 2 - Growth Plan - Growth Option	12.7938
Interval Fund - II - Series 3 - Direct - Dividend Plan - Dividend Option	10
Interval Fund - II - Series 3 - Direct - Growth Plan - Growth Option	12.8033
Interval Fund - II - Series 3 - Dividend Plan - Dividend Option	10
Interval Fund - II - Series 3 - Growth Plan - Growth Option	12.7519
Interval Fund - II - Series 4-Direct Plan-Growth Plan - Growth Option	13.6322
Interval Fund - II - Series 4-Dividend Plan-Dividend Option	10
Interval Fund - II - Series 4-Growth Plan-Growth Option	13.596
Annual Interval Fund - Series I - Direct Plan Growth Plan - Growth	18.3281
Interval Fund Annual Interval Fund Series-I - Dividend Option	10.2278
Interval Fund Annual Interval Fund Series-I - Growth Option	18.2323
Interval Fund Annual Interval Fund Series-I-Retail Plan Growth Option	24.5872
Interval Fund Annual Interval Fund Series-I-Retail Plan-Div Option	10.2278
Interval Fund-Monthly Interval Fund Series-I - Dividend Option	10.0378

Main contingent of migrants pushes through Mexico

AP ■ ISLA, MEXICO

Thousands of wary Central American migrants resumed their push through Mexico on Sunday, a day after arguments over the path ahead saw some travelers splinter away from the main caravan, which is entering a treacherous part of its journey. The majority of the roughly 4,000 migrants are now headed along what some called the "route of death" toward the town of Cordoba, Veracruz, which is about 124 miles (200 kilometers) up the road. The daily trek will be one of the longest yet, as the exhausted group of travelers tries to make progress any way it can. The arduous trip has already taken its toll. A day prior, the group was beset by divisions as migrants

argued with caravan organizers and criticized Mexican officials before setting out on their own for Puebla and Mexico City. Some were disappointed after caravan organizers unsuccessfully pleaded for buses after three weeks on the road. Others were angry for being directed northward through the Gulf Coast state of Veracruz, calling it the "route of death." A trek via the sugar fields and fruit groves of Veracruz takes them through a state where hundreds of migrants have disappeared in recent years, falling prey to kidnappers looking for ransom payments. Authorities in Veracruz said in September they had discovered remains from at least 174 people buried in clandestine graves, raising questions about whether the bodies

belonged to migrants. But even with the group somewhat more scattered, the majority of migrants trekking through Veracruz on Sunday were convinced that traveling as a large mass was their best hope for reaching the U.S. "We think that it is better to continue together with the caravan. We are going to stay with it and respect the organizers," said Luis Euseada, a 32-year-old from Tegucigalpa, Honduras who is traveling with his wife Jessica Fugon. "Others went ahead, maybe they have no goal, but we do have a goal and it to arrive." Mynor Chavez, a 19-year-old from Copan, Honduras, was determined to continue. "I have no hope. I graduated as a computer technician and not even with a degree have I been able to find work,"



Central American migrants, part of the caravan hoping to reach the US border, a ride on in the trunk of a taxi, in Acayucan, Veracruz state, Mexico on Saturday AP

he said of life in his home country. In his desperation to flee, Chavez was one of the many people who crossed a river from Guatemala into Mexico, defying authorities deployed to patrol that country's southern frontier. It remained to be seen if the main group will now continue directly north through Veracruz to the closest U.S. border, or veer slightly west-

ward and make a stop in the country's capital. The capital could serve as a better launching pad for reaching a broader array of destinations along the U.S. border. They could also receive additional support, although Mexican officials have appeared conflicted over whether to help or hinder their journeys. Mexico now faces the unprecedented situation of having three caravans stretched over 300 miles (500 kilometers) of highway in the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Veracruz, with a total of more than 6,000 migrants. On Friday, a caravan from El Salvador waded over the Suchiate River into Mexico, bringing 1,000 to 1,500 people who want to reach the U.S. border.

That caravan initially tried to cross the bridge between Guatemala and Mexico, but Mexican authorities told them they would have to show passports and visas and enter in groups of 50 for processing. Another caravan, also of about 1,000 to 1,500 people, entered Mexico earlier this week and is now in Chiapas. That group includes Hondurans, Salvadorans and some Guatemalans. The first, largest group of mainly Honduran migrants entered Mexico on Oct. 19. Immigration agents and police have at times detained migrants in the smaller caravans. But several mayors have rolled out the welcome mat for migrants who reached their towns — arranging for food and camp sites.

GLOBE TROTTING

NORTH KOREA SLAMS SEX ABUSE REPORT
Seoul: North Korea on Sunday slammed a report by Human Rights Watch which said sexual abuse of women was rampant in the isolated nation. In its report released on Thursday.

6.0-MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS PHILIPPINES
Manila: An earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale jolted the Philippines' Lanao del Norte province on Sunday, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said.

SHOOTING IN SWEDEN LEAVES 7 PEOPLE INJURED
Helsinki: Swedish Police say seven people have been wounded and 12 arrested in a shooting allegedly linked to a biker gang members near the country's second city of Goteborg.

NEW CALEDONIA

French Pacific territory rejects independence

AFP ■ NOUMEA

The Pacific islands of New Caledonia opted to remain part of France on Sunday, early results showed, as voters rejected independence in a closely-watched referendum seen as a measure of support for Paris in one of its many strategic outposts.

Some 18,000 kilometres from the French mainland, New Caledonia is home to a quarter of the world's known supplies of nickel — a vital electronics component — and is a foothold for France in the Pacific.

With 70 per cent of voting slips counted, 59.5 per cent of people had rejected the proposition that New Caledonia become independent, the local electoral authority said. Some 175,000 people were eligible to vote in the remote islands fringed by spectacular beaches, with opinion polls ahead of Sunday's ballot predicting a large majority in favour of staying French.

But there are fears the referendum could inflame tensions between indigenous Kanak people, who tend to favour independence, and the white population which has settled since France annexed the islands in 1853.

These differences caused ethnic strife in the 1980s which claimed more than 70 lives. It led to the 1998 Noumea Accord



Polling station officials count the votes as part of the independence referendum in Noumea, the New Caledonia's capital on Sunday AP

which paved the way for a steady devolution of powers as well as Sunday's referendum. Separatists had urged Kanak voters to choose self-determination for Kanaky, their name for New Caledonia, and throw off the shackles of the "colonial" authorities in Paris.

The Kanak community is plagued by high school dropout rates, chronic unemployment and poor housing conditions. "My father, my grandfather fought for this country and today is the second fight in the ballot box," said pro-independence supporter Patrick Watrone as he voted Sunday.

"Today, as young Kanaks, we have no jobs. If we are the ones who manage the country, we will have more opportunities," said Fabrice Ude, 28.

But indigenous people make up less than 50 per cent of the electorate and some Kanaks back staying part of France, not least due to the 1.3 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) the French state hands to the islands every year. Going it alone, "I'm not sure we have all the assets we need to succeed," said Marc Gnipate, a 62-year-old pensioner. Michaele Mikena, 61, also "voted no. I'm not afraid of independence, but I am attached to France, I owe it a lot".

Under the 1998 deal, further referendums on independence can still be held before 2022. French President Emmanuel Macron, who is due to give a televised address

With 70 per cent of voting slips counted, 59.5 per cent of people had rejected the proposition that New Caledonia become independent, the local electoral authority said

after the results, has largely stayed clear of the campaign but during a visit to Noumea in May he declared "France would be less beautiful without New Caledonia".

He also raised concerns over increasing Chinese influence in the Pacific, where Beijing has invested heavily in Vanuatu, a territory which broke from France and Britain in 1980.

Accusing the US of "turning its back on the region in recent months", Macron said China was "building its hegemony step by step" in the Pacific — suggesting an independent New Caledonia could be Beijing's next target.

Australia has also expressed concerns about China's activities in neighbouring island states — which the Lowy Institute think-tank estimates received \$1.78 billion in aid from Beijing from 2006-16 — boosting its own spending in response.

Home to 2,69,000 people, New Caledonia is one of a handful of French island outposts — a legacy of the country's 19th-century empire — which retain strategic importance.

The referendum will be a test of the appeal of remaining part of France for such far-flung territories, which are heavily dependent on state handouts but where many feel overlooked by Paris.

Trump: Democrats would ruin Florida, his second home

AP ■ PENSACOLA, FLA.

President Donald Trump on Saturday used his final Florida campaign event before next week's elections to implore supporters to send Republicans to the governor's mansion and the US Senate, claiming that allowing Democrats to win either office would bring ruin to the state he also calls home.

Trump returned to Florida for the second time this week to help rally support for Gov. Rick Scott, who is challenging Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson. Trump also sought to boost former Rep. Ron DeSantis, who is facing off against Andrew Gillum, the Democratic mayor of Tallahassee, in the race for governor.

Trump argued that Gillum would "destroy Florida" and claimed that "Gillum's policies would be a total nightmare" for the state.

"You have only one choice, Ron DeSantis for governor," Trump told thousands of cheering supporters at a rally at Pensacola International Airport, with Air Force One park right outside of the hangar.

"If you want to pay high taxes, you ought to vote for the mayor of Tallahassee," Trump said. "You will destroy the state that I love," Trump noted that he also calls Florida home; his Mar-a-Lago estate is located in Palm Beach and he spends most weekends there in the



Donald Trump speaking at a campaign event in Pensacola, Florida AP

winter. He also said of the Democrat: "Andrew Gillum is not equipped to be your governor. It's not for him." Trump criticized Nelson, too, claiming that he only sees the former astronaut "around election time when he's on television every night."

Earlier Saturday, Trump campaigned in Montana, where he made it clear that he wants to see Democrat Jon Tester booting from the Senate on Tuesday over a personal grudge as much as political ambition.

Trump blames Tester for the defeat of his nominee to run the Department of Veterans Affairs. The president told hundreds of cheering supporters at a separate airport rally in the Montana hill that Tester "tried to destroy" Ronny Jackson, a Navy admiral and White House doctor.

"That's why I'm here," Trump said. "I've never forgotten it and it's honestly one of the reasons I'm here so much," said Trump.

Egypt says police kill 19 jihadis suspects linked to Copt attack

AFP ■ CAIRO

Nineteen suspected jihadis linked to a deadly attack on Coptic Christians in central Egypt have been killed in a shootout with police, the interior Ministry said on Sunday.

Those killed in the exchange of fire were part of a cell that left dead seven pilgrims in Friday's attack in Minya province, a statement by the Ministry said.

"The terrorist elements opened fire on the (security) forces who responded," the statement said.

The 19 suspected jihadis were found "as part of a pursuit of terrorist elements involved in carrying out hostile operations in the country, including the last armed attack which targeted citizens returning from the Saint Samuel monastery", the Ministry said.

The Islamic State group claimed Friday's attack — which killed six Copts and one Anglican — in a message via its propaganda agency Amaq.

Raids were undertaken in the mountainous western desert of Minya province to track down the "fugitive terrorist elements", the interior Ministry said.

Several Egyptian TV stations broadcast images provided by the interior Ministry, which showed the bodies of armed men strewn across desert sand.

The television images also displayed a tent alleged to have been used by the suspected jihadis cell, and a black ISIS flag. Pope Francis on Sunday spoke of his pain over the attack.

"I express my pain after the terrorist attack which two days ago hit the Coptic Orthodox church in Egypt," Francis said at Saint Peter's in the Vatican City.

"I pray for the victims, pilgrims killed just because they were Christian," he added.

Copts, a Christian minority that make up 10 per cent of Egypt's 97 million people, have in recent years been repeatedly targeted by ISIS jihadis.

In May 2017, masked gunmen ordered Christians travelling to Saint Samuel to get off their buses and recant their faith. The group refused and were shot one by one, leaving 28 people dead in that ISIS claimed attack.

ISIS also killed more than 40 people in twin church bombings in April 2017, and an IS gunman last December killed nine people in an attack on a church in a south Cairo suburb. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi called for citizens to battle against religious discrimination.

"When an Egyptian falls in a terrorist attack, we suffer and all the people of Egypt suffer," Sisi said in an address to a youth forum in Sharm el-Sheikh.

China backs Pak's 'quest for peace through dialogue' with India

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Sunday said it supported Pakistan's "quest for peace through dialogue" to settle the outstanding disputes with India as it backed Islamabad's "engagement" with the Nuclear Suppliers group (NSG).

A joint statement, issued here after Prime Minister Imran Khan's talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang, said that China backed Pakistan's efforts to improve ties with India to settle "outstanding disputes", without directly mentioning the Kashmir issue.

"China appreciates Pakistan's quest for peace

through dialogue, cooperation and negotiation, on the basis of mutual respect and equality, and supports Pakistan's efforts for improvement of Pakistan-India relations and for settlement of outstanding disputes between the two countries," the joint statement said.

The ties between India and Pakistan had strained after the terror attacks by Pakistan-based groups in 2016 and India's surgical strikes inside Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

In recent years, China has refrained from taking a public stance on the India-Pakistan ties, expressing hope for resolution of the disputes through dialogue.

On the Kashmir issue,

China's oft repeated stand was that it should be resolved peacefully through dialogue.

India too supports dialogue as the way to resolve the issue with Pakistan but maintains that the talks and terrorism cannot go together.

For its part, Pakistan supported active participation of China at the platform of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Also significantly, China tacitly expressed its backing for Pakistan's efforts to secure the NSG membership.

India has also been seeking entry into the 48-member elite nuclear club, which controls nuclear trade, but China has repeatedly stonewalled its bid.

Ahead of polls, Hasina announces to build 560 model mosques

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday announced that her Government will construct 560 model mosques and an Islamic university with the Saudi assistance, in an attempt to woo hardline Islamists ahead of the parliamentary elections scheduled next month.

Speaking at an Islamic clerics rally here, Hasina urged the clerics not to be agitated by anti-Islam propaganda on social media, saying her government has enacted tougher laws to expose to justice perpetrators of any malicious campaign regarding the religion.

Storms, floods in Sicily kill at least 12 people; 2 missing

Rome: Storms lashing Sicily have killed at least 12 people with torrential floods, Italian authorities said on Sunday to the stricken Mediterranean island.

Divers pulled out nine of those victims from a home flooded by a rapidly swelling river in the countryside near Palermo.

State TV broadcaster RaiNews24 said the sole survivor of the flood that ravaged the home with water and mud was the owner, who had just stepped outside to walk the family dogs Saturday when the torrent hit.

News reports said the man at first clung to a tree, then ended up on the roof of a nearby house. He used his cellphone to call for help but it was too

late for the others, who included a one-year-old baby, a three-year-old child and a teenager. The victims were from two families who had gathered in the country villa for the weekend.

A man's body was also found on a guardrail along a Palermo-area road after floodwaters swept away his car, Italian news reports said.

Across the island, in the town of Cammarata, near Agrigento, the fire department said its divers were working to recover the bodies of two people swept away while driving on a road near the flooding Saraceno River.

Also in Agrigento province, firefighters rescued 14 people from a hotel in the town of Montevago. AP

Over 150 killed in weekend violence around Yemen's Hodeida

AP ■ SANAA

Yemeni officials say fighting has escalated around the key port city of Hodeida, with more than 150 combatants killed over the weekend from both the rebel and government-backed side.

They say on Sunday that airstrikes and naval artillery have pounded rebel positions around the Red Sea coastal city, which government backed-troops launching a major ground assault seek to wrest from dug-in rebels. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Fierce fighting also erupted in Bayda and Saada provinces.

IS attack kills 12 US-backed fighters in east Syria: Monitor

AFP ■ BEIRUT

The Islamic State group killed 12 US-backed fighters in a surprise attack on Sunday from the jihadists' holdout in eastern Syria on the Iraqi border, a Britain-based monitor said.

Twelve fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) were killed and 20 wounded in a suicide car bombing and subsequent clashes in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. An SDF spokesman, however, denied any members of his Kurdish-led alliance had been killed.

Pakistan arrests 250 for rioting, disrupting peace

Islamabad/Lahore: Pakistan police on Sunday arrested nearly 250 people from across the country on charges of arson, vandalism and violence during the three-day mass protests following the acquittal of Christian woman Asia Bibi.

A day after striking a deal with the radical Islamist party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), the government swung into action as it started a crackdown against the people who vandalised public properties during the protests. Asia Bibi, was convicted in 2010 after being accused of insulting Islam in a row with her neighbours. PTI

Obama to rally for Indiana senator who backs Trump policies

Indianapolis: Former President Barack Obama's national campaign tour to boost Democratic candidates takes an unusual path on Sunday with an Indiana rally for Sen. Joe Donnelly, who has sounded more like Donald Trump while trying to persuade voters in the conservative Midwestern state to grant him a second term.

Obama's rally for the Democratic senator in Gary will be sandwiched between his successor's trips to the state Friday and Monday on behalf of GOP Senate candidate Mike

Braun. For Braun, a businessman who has campaigned as a steadfast Trump ally, the current senator's appearances in Indianapolis and Fort Wayne are no-brainers in a state he won two years ago by 19 points. But for Donnelly, who frequently touts how often he votes with Trump, the Obama rally is a little more complicated.

"If he does need to inoculate himself from some of his former conservative rhetoric, it's a pretty effective way to do it," said Christina Hale. AP

World leaders to mark WWI in France amid warnings about nationalism

Paris: French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday kicks off a week of commemorations for the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, which is set to mix remembrance of the past and warnings about the present surge in nationalism around the globe.

Some 70-80 world leaders including US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin are preparing to fly to the French capital next weekend for a ceremony marking a century since the guns fell silent. This Sunday, Macron begins his own week-

long tour around the country, which will see him criss-cross war-hit areas in northern and eastern France and attend individual ceremonies with the leaders of Germany, Britain and Mali. The 40-year-old French centrist is expected to use the international spotlight to issue a rallying cry against nationalism, having recently warned that the world risked forgetting the lessons of the 20th century's great conflicts.

"I am struck by similarities between the times we live in and those of between the two world wars," he told a French newspaper last week.

Rohingya teen injured in firing at Bangladesh-Myanmar border

AFP ■ COX'S BAZAR(BANGLADESH)

A Rohingya refugee boy was shot and injured on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border as multiple rounds were fired from a Myanmar border security post, an official said on Sunday.

Nurul Islam, 15, was grazing cows when 17 rounds were fired from Myanmar's Rymongkhali security post, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) spokesman Major Iqbal Ahmed said.

"Islam was lucky as a bullet scratched his elbow," he told AFP, adding the boy lives

in Balukhali refugee camp in Bangladesh's southeastern Cox's Bazar district.

The BGB would send a protest letter to their Myanmar counterparts, the Border Guard Police, over the shooting, he said. A local Bangladeshi official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the incident might be aimed at delaying the repatriation of Rohingya refugees, set to begin in next week.

"Otherwise, why would they fire at the Bangladeshi ground? It is to create pressure on the refugees and the UN," he said. Bangladesh and Myanmar officials last week said some

2,000 Rohingya refugees would return to their homeland in Myanmar's western Rakhine state as part of a repatriation deal. More than 720,000 of Myanmar's stateless Rohingya fled a brutal military crackdown in August last year, taking shelter in crowded camps in Bangladesh and bringing with them harrowing tales of rape, murder and arson in a military crackdown.

Investigators have said senior Myanmar military officials should be prosecuted for genocide in Rakhine, but the country has rejected these calls, insisting it was defending itself against militants.

Trend Slazer

Richa speaks on patriarchy

Actress RICHY CHADHA, who essays south Indian film actress Shakeela in an eponymous biopic, says being disrespectful towards any successful adult film star and tagging her as a "porn star" is a sign of a hypocritical and patriarchal society. "Calling an adult (film) star a porn star is a sign of patriarchy. You are disrespecting an actress (Shakeela) who is part of films that are adult in theme," said Richa. She added, "Adult films are made because there is a market for them. It is really easy to call successful, self-made woman names in a patriarchal society." Directed by Indrajit Lankesh, the logo of Shakeela reads Not A Porn Star.

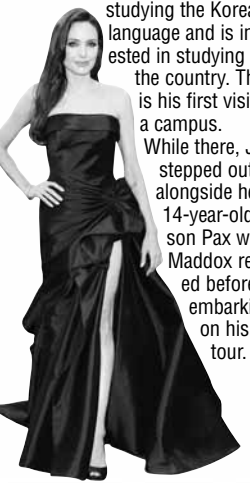


'Digital space has opened up a whole new chapter in our (actors) lives and I am grateful for it. The format of a web show is very interesting from a writing point of view. It has given a lot of writers opportunities to explore characters and plots.' -Rasika Dugal

Actor RAJNIKANTH's forthcoming science-fiction action drama 2.0s trailer was unveiled recently. It is a sequel to Shankar's film Enthiran. The film also stars actors Akshay Kumar, Amy Jackson, and Sudhanshu Pandey. Speaking at the trailer launch, Rajnikanth said that the film has been made on a lavish budget, "Mark my words, the film will be a super hit. Wishes to Shankar and Lyca Productions. Nearly ₹600 crore has been spent on the film. The film wouldn't have been possible without Lyca's support." The film is set to release on November 29.

Jolie takes son to university tour

Actress ANGELINA JOLIE's oldest child Maddox is getting ready to leave the house as the actress took the 17-year-old on a university tour. The actress travelled to South Korea on an official visit as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) Special Envoy and she made sure to set aside time for her 17-year-old son Maddox to visit university campuses. The teenager has spent time studying the Korean language and is interested in studying in the country. This is his first visit to a campus. While there, Jolie stepped out alongside her 14-year-old son Pax while Maddox rested before embarking on his tour.



The pianist tells ASMITA SARKAR how the landscape in India is changing enough to pull more youngsters to the genre

Jazz it like Louiz

There are only a few individuals who can be called an institution or the origin point of something and Louiz Banks is one such person. He has been called the godfather of jazz in India by many and the septuagenarian's journey into the exploration of music, fusion or pure jazz, goes on still.

In fact, he believes that his journey will go on right till the end and then "after that somewhere else". "They say that a musician dies with his boots on and that's how I want to die," he says. Given that he doesn't stop experimenting even now, that statement is the truth he lives by. Recently, he performed at a concert called Sufi Jazz and as the name suggests, it was a fiesta of fusion. He performed with vocalist Pooja Gaitonde and because of her interest in western music and ideas of integration with jazz they formed a new group. "We kept both streams of music pure," he says. Having discovered fusion in the 80s, he has performed with Indian classical musicians like Zakir Hussain, with whom he has

band Cross Currents, "god of the flute" Hariprasad Chaurasia, Shivkumar Sharma, Ramamani, Niladri Kumar. He counts Shivamani and Shankar Mahadevan among his favourites. "If I focussed only on jazz it would be difficult to relate with them. With fusion, it allows me to bring East and West together," he says.

He started learning his craft at a young age since his father was also a jazz musician. As a performer now, he encounters a space with younger audiences and a bit of flair is perhaps what they seek. However, Banks is old school. He says, "In jazz, music is most important and what the artist does with the music. 90 per cent of it is improvised and while different jazz musicians have a set of language with hand and facial gestures, the thinkers don't. They might be expressionless, like I am, when playing the piano. We don't dance around and the music that comes out is of a high standard. My son, Gino, who is a drummer, says 'Dad, come on move a bit but I am like that. I concentrate more on what I will play.'



'I WORRY ABOUT THE FIRST NUMBER I WOULD PLAY AND HOW IT WOULD CUT ACROSS THE AUDIENCE. BUT IT PASSES AS I START PERFORMING. IF THE RESPONSE IS VERY GOOD EVERYTHING FALLS INTO PLACE'

Despite years of performing, he still begins his performances with a silent prayer and nervousness deep in his heart, but one that is limited only till the first song.

"I worry about the first number I would play and how it would cut across the audience. But it passes as I start performing. If the response is very good everything falls into place," he says.

The musician doesn't want to compare Indian and foreign audiences because the tradition of jazz is a lot more entrenched in Western shores while in India the youngsters are just picking it up.

"The foreign audience is more knowledgeable. They understand everything that you do on stage. In India, it's sometimes difficult to

reach out to the audience with the serious stuff you want to do. Then you sort of play the popular stuff, play to the gallery but the scene is changing there's a whole lot of breed of musicians and listeners. They understand what's going on stage and I am happy about that," he says, adding that festivals like the Jazz India Circuit Launch Concert are helpful in pulling new crowds. "To bring bands on stage to do a variety of performances definitely contributes to the popularity of the genre. And gone are the days when it was thought that only those over 40 listen to it because it's too complex. Gradually, kids are beginning to listen and that is great for performers," he says.

If not for a musician, he would be a painter. He currently has over 100 canvasses with portraits, abstract art that he wants to put up for an exhibition soon as well. The multi-talented man says, "I am learning so much every day with new people. I am looking inward into my own work and thinking of music. It's a vast ocean with no end to it. You can go on searching and learning. I always say that the next performance will be better and when people ask me what's the best song you created my response is that it's the song I am going to write tomorrow. In music, there is no end to creativity and no age limit."

In Delhi, his quartet headlined the concert, in which he performed with Sheldon D'Silva on bass. While he loves playing with Gino, he is on a tour this time. Instead he performed with jazz drummer Aron Nyiro and Sanjay Divecha.

"I like working with professional people who have expertise of the highest order. If you want to perform a great piece of music you need good people around you. I like to play with Sheldon, my son, they are my first choice. In India, I like Sonia Sehgal, Vasundhara, Gary Lawyer, with whom I have been performing with him for years," he says.

Reflecting back, he says, "I always ask that question how does it happen that one member of the family takes up the father's dream and career and the rest are not interested. My father was the kind of guy who did not force anything on anybody but being a musician he taught all his children the rudiments. The only one who kept it up and began to love music was me. The rest learnt a bit but not quite but I am happy with my youngest son has taken it up and my other children are associated with it in different capacities. We are a musical family. There is music in the house all the time," he says.



Lights to guide you home

As festivities take over our lives, various fashion destinations and shopping complexes make sure their decor give relay that with joyful vibes to brighten otherwise monotonous routines.

While Mall of India celebrated it by bringing in the multiple deals for shoppers, the place also installed a life-size blue elephant with an anklet around its foot in their main atrium. DLF Place, Saket hosted a Diwali Bazaar offering gifts, jewellery, lights, fun games and home decor items. It also decorated its interiors withjali-cut hangings which are placed in the atriums and the plaza area. They have also installed a Ganesha made with layers ofghunghroos.

The next in line is Promenade, Vasant Kunj that is celebrating a green and eco-friendly Diwali. It has



brought to life the sacred emblem of Ramayana with Lord Vishnu and his various avatars (disguises) by installing a life-size shankha (conch) in their main atrium. It has also been gifting saplings to its mall patrons to promote a green and clean Diwali. These places of commerce are trying their best to make it a wholesome time.



Big B sings lullaby

Actor Amitabh Bachchan has sung a soulful lullaby that highlights his character Khudabaksh's relationship with Zafira, played by Fatima Sana Shaikh, the film Thugs of Hindostaan. Khudabaksh is the father figure in Zafira's life and has vowed to protect her at any cost.

It isn't confirmed yet that what happens to Zafira's parents that compels her to be looked after and mentored by Khudabaksh, it is sure that this is the most pivotal point in the script that triggers every plot.

According to a source, Viktor wanted to show the beautiful father-daughter like relationship between the two that develops ever since Zafira was a child. Khudabaksh will be seen protecting Zafira at every step. He will be seen trying to make Zafira, who fights the brutal memories of her past, sleep by singing a lullaby. Bachchan was moved by doing this scene and decided that he wants to sing the lullaby himself.

"Bachchan was so kicked about singing this lullaby that he decided to record it himself and that too at his home. The initial idea was to make a short lullaby but Bachchan went a step further and converted it into a song. He insisted that Adi puts it into the album," the source adds.

Bachchan, who felt really excited to sing the lullaby, says, "The song tells you the depth of the bond that Zafira and Khudabaksh



share. The lyrics are beautiful and the composition highlights the emotional journey of the two characters who have an incredible father-daughter relationship. I have been telling Adi to put this in the album. I'm sure he will do it because it's turned out to be a beautiful song."

The lullaby has been composed by the duo Ajay-Atul and the lyrics are penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya.

A few lines of the lullaby are: "Baba lauta de mohhe gudiya mori, Angna ka jhoalna bhi, Imli ki daar wali muniya mori, Chaandi ka painjana bhi..."

WEBBED

Tales from the back of the beyond

Directors KARAN ANSHUMAN and GURMEET SINGH tell AYUSHI SHARMA, one cannot do justice to the crime genre in cinema because of certain restrictions in the medium

There's always a spot for gore and crime content. We are all big fans of stories from the hinterland and have seen and appreciated it in films like Omkara and Gangs of Wasseypur. But one cannot do justice to this genre in cinema alone because the format comes with censorship. Cinema demands a check on the content, believe directors Karan Anshuman and Gurmeet Singh.

In Mirzapur, a small town in Uttar Pradesh well known for its carpets and brassware becomes a place for bloodshed and gang wars in a new Amazon prime series releasing on November 16.

Gurmeet says, "At our end we're just trying to touch the walls that have not been touched. We want to push the boundaries in a manner where it's enjoyable to watch for the audience. When there's no curtailment you have the authority to showcase a scene in a way it should be. When there is some kind of restriction to present the content, there are big guidelines that one has to serve. You might not agree with it but you have to sanitise the content. It becomes your job to follow it."



Whereas Karan says while explaining how it becomes trouble-free for directors like us, when there is no added pressure of restrictions. "Censorship is a thrust upon us. It's not about showing anything and everything because you can. It becomes easy for directors to present a story in a very natural and organic manner. We won't do anything that the script doesn't demand just for the sake of no censorship. Let me give a practical example, suppose there's a scene where one has to behead a person what they do is take you away from that moment so that you cannot see it but then take you back there to make you feel the impact and effect of it, in movies. And what happens in digital is that we show it and in a manner it needs

to be done, because of no issue of censorship. We can actually show how brutally one has killed or murdered someone.

"The digital format definitely allows one to push boundaries. A character is written and portrayed in a much better manner. It allows a person a lot of space to explore new possibilities," he says.

"They wanted to create a world that was hyper-real, a world of violence where even the nicest person would have a gun and could pull the trigger if it needs to be pulled.

Gurmeet feels that Mirzapur is a lot more about youngsters' aspirations from small towns and how they act according to given circumstances. The characters and their relationships are emotional. All the characters are heroes in their own arc, so each type of audience will find something to relate to. This definitely sets the series apart from the stories of Gangs of Wasseypur and Omkara.

"This is not an exploration of good vs evil. It's just a story of gang wars. We have showcased violence and visceral imagery," says Karan.

TECH TALK

Why a WiFi failure makes you angry?

If poor digital connectivities frustrate you, then it could be because of your personality, says a research

Do you get frustrated and angry when your WiFi connection stops working? It could be because of your personality, says a research.

A research showed that when digital technology stops working, people with a fear of missing out (FOMO) — the anxiety that you are missing out a social experience others might be having while you are offline — or an internet addiction displays more extreme reactions.

People who were seen as being more neurotic and extroverted also had more extreme reactions to failures in digital technology.

"The more we use our devices, the more we get attached to them, so when they do not work, we tend to just go a little bit 'crazy' or just switch off and stop doing things altogether," said lead researcher Lee Hadlington, psychologist at the De Montfort University, UK.

For the study, published in the journal Heliyon, the team examined 630 par-

ticipants aged 18 to 68. The fear of missing out, internet addiction, extroversion and neuroticism, all have a significantly positive influence on maladaptive responses. This means the people most psychologically dependent on digital technology are most likely to have maladaptive responses when it goes wrong.

Maladaptive responses are not only unhelpful, they also have a detrimental impact on productivity and achieving goal, resulting in poor job performance, the researchers said.

Moreover, they also found that as the age increases, the level of frustration a person experiences decreases.

"If we can understand what leads individuals to react in certain ways, and why these differences occur, we can hopefully make sure that when digital technology does fail people are better supported and there are relevant signposts for them to follow to get help," Hadlington noted. —IANS



GREEN WATCH

Tourism hotspots like Peru, UK and New Zealand are facing the brunt of climate change and are beginning to take cognizance of its effect on the natural habitat and temperatures in their surroundings



Tropical nights

Britain's national weather forecasting service says warm spells and tropical nights are increasing in Britain as the climate changes.

The Met Office study says the length of warm spells has more than doubled when data for the last 10 years is compared to figures from 1961 to 1990.

It also said Friday that hot summer days in the last 10 years period are on average hotter than during the earlier period. The Met Office also finds an increase in the frequency of tropical nights, classified as nights when temperatures do not fall below 68 degrees Fahrenheit (20 degrees Celsius).

The head of the Met Office National Climate Information Center Mark McCarthy said the data provide a "valuable record of the changing climate" in Britain.

—AP

PLAY IT SAFE

In an attempt to protect the coral reefs that divers so admire they have dubbed them the underwater Serengeti, the Pacific nation of Palau will soon ban many types of sunscreen.

President Tommy Remengesau Jr. last week signed legislation that bans "reef-toxic" sunscreen from 2020. Banned sunscreens will be confiscated from tourists who carry them into the country, and merchants selling the banned products will be fined up to \$1,000.

Remengesau said in a statement that the penalties find the right balance between "educating tourists and scaring them away."

The law defines reef-toxic sunscreen as containing any one of 10 chemicals, including oxybenzone, and states that other chemicals may also be banned.

The legislation also requires tour operators to start providing customers with reusable cups, straws and food containers.

Remengesau said a big impetus for the ban was a 2017 report which found that sunscreen products were widespread in Palau's famed Jellyfish Lake, which was closed for more than a year due to declining jellyfish numbers before being recently reopened.

The president noted legislative findings that "plastic waste, chemical pollution, resource overcon-



sumption, and climate change all continue to threaten the health of our pristine paradise."

Palau's ban comes after Hawaii in July banned the sale of sunscreen containing the chemicals oxybenzone and octinoxate from 2021 in an attempt to protect its reefs. In Hawaii, however, tourists will still be able to bring the banned sunscreen with them into

the state or buy it there if they have a doctor's prescription.

Scientists have found that some chemicals in sunscreen can be toxic to coral reefs, which are a vital part of the ocean ecosystem as well as a popular draw for tourists. But some critics say there aren't enough independent scientific studies on the issue while others worry that people will suffer from too much

sun exposure if they stop using the products. Some manufacturers, meanwhile, have already started selling "reef-friendly" sunscreen.

Palau, located east of the Philippines and north of Indonesia, is home to 21,000 people and has an economy that relies on tourism and fishing. It has a compact free association with the US.

—AP

PEACE ALL AROUND

Constraints make it difficult for us to develop universal empathy, as a result we cannot think or act globally. It translates to a very limited understanding of ourselves.

By RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

It's often observed that whenever people meet any spiritual personality or a learned, enlightened soul, they invariably get an expression on their face that reflects inner contentment and peace. However, hardly do these people make a sustained effort to go deeper into the factors that lead to a life of contentment, inner harmony and a state of calm and composure and much less do they make a serious attempt to attain these even though they highly value them.

A quiet reflection and serene introspection would, however, lead to the conclusion that contentment does not come from high and numerous material attainments. Contentment dawns when the dark night of ignorance ends. It is a sign of spiritual wisdom and maturity. It comes when there is the spirit of renunciation and fulfillment. So what is so special about it that it has made many great people talk or write about it? We would first need to understand its opposite, i.e. discontentment. If we look around, we would hardly find anyone who is not discontented, right? As per studies, there are numerous causes of discontentment that brings mental agitation and disturb intellectual equipoise. When he is not in a position to exercise his discrimination to find means of improving his conditions and loses the ability to act. Thus, his plans and acts go wrong and give rise to quarrels.



human constraints, of which the first is the constraint of the human body. We neither know past lives nor our future. The only thing we know is what we are in our present life. Hence, we do not understand the implication of laws of karma to discipline us in the present. Apart from this, we are constrained by geographical, environ-

mental, cultural and religious barriers in addition to individual personality traits. All these constraints make it difficult for us to develop universal empathy; as a result we cannot think or act globally, resulting in very limited understanding of our world and ourselves too.

Our skewed vision has led us to believe that the massive army and weapon built-up will make us more secure. This approach has led to an unhealthy competition, malpractices and misleading the whole generation, thereby killing our feelings of sympathy, compassion and co-operation, the fundamental human quality. One wonders, then how can we bring peace to the divergent universe? For that we need to first understand that peace is a composite phenomenon. Hence one cannot hope to live in peace without hoping the same for his/her neighbours. Therefore our positive actions that ensure peace for self, society and the environment alone can generate and sustain universal peace.

Contentment, purity and peace are the trio which make one's life worth living. They appear on the life-scene after one has been pursuing one's spiritual studies and has also been practising meditation. Without Yoga, one cannot attain and sustain inner peace. The crux of the problem, however, is that people generally think that spiritual studies are uninteresting, boring and tedious and are based mainly on faith (in many cases 'blind faith') and are accompanied by rituals and mantras. But this is not true. Spiritual studies are as interesting as any other subject and meditation is neither a ritual nor does it involve the repetition of a sacred Sanskrit formula. It is as simple as reflecting, remembering and feeling. It does require guidance in the beginning. Spending some time for this should be considered as a small investment for gaining contentment and peace, which are the most valuable in life. If we look around, how many people would we find who are spending their time, money and energy for peace in society? Unfortunately, there are not many. It's high time that we resolve to put our time, money and energy for harmony, because if we wish to have a peaceful world around us, then it should begin with each one of us.

Birds find new home

A meticulous re-creation of a three-decade-old study of birds on a mountainside in Peru has given scientists a rare chance to prove how the changing climate is pushing species out of the places they are best adapted to.

Surveys of more than 400 species of birds in 1985 and then in 2017 have found that populations of almost all had declined, as many as eight had disappeared completely, and nearly all had moved to higher elevations in what scientists call "an escalator to extinction."

"Once you move up as far as you can go, there's nowhere else left," said John W. Fitzpatrick, a study author and director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. "On this particular mountain, some ridge-top bird populations were literally wiped out."

It's not certain whether the birds shifted ranges because of temperature changes, or indirect impacts, such as shifts in the ranges of insects or seeds that they feed on.

These findings, published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, confirm what biologists had long suspected, but had few opportunities to confirm. The existence of a 1985 survey of birds on the same mountain gave scientists a rare and useful baseline.

Past research has documented habitats of birds and other species moving up in ele-

vation or latitude in response to warming temperatures. But Mark Urban, director of the Center of Biological Risk at the University of Connecticut, who was not involved in the study said it was the first to prove what climate change models predicted: that rising temperatures will lead to local extinction.

"A study like this where you have historical data you can go back to and compare is very rare," said Urban. "As long as the species can disperse, you will see species marching up the mountain, until that escalator becomes a stairway to heaven."

In 1985, Fitzpatrick established a basecamp alongside a river running down a mountain slope in southeastern Peru, aiming to catalogue the habitat ranges of tropical bird species that lived there. His team spent several

weeks trekking up and down the Cerro de Pantiacolla, using fine nets called mist nets to catch and release birds, and keeping detailed journals of birds they caught, spotted or heard chirping in the forests.

Two years ago, Fitzpatrick passed his journals, photos and other records to Benjamin Freeman, a postdoctoral fellow at the Biodiversity Research Centre at the University of British Columbia. Freeman, who has been researching tropical birds for more than a decade, set out to recreate the journey in August and September of 2017. Using old photos of mountain views, his team located the same basecamp.

Freeman largely recreated Fitzpatrick's path and methodology to see what had happened in the intervening years, a period when average mean temperatures on the mountain rose 0.76 degrees Fahrenheit (0.42 degrees Celsius). Because the mountain

lies at the edge of a national park, the area hadn't been disturbed. In addition to unfurling 40-foot (12-meter) mist nets on the slopes, Freeman's team placed 20 microphone boxes on the mountain to record the chirps of birds that might not easily be seen.

"We found that the bird communities were moving up the slope to reach the climate conditions to which they were originally adapted," said Freeman, the lead author of the study. Near the top of the mountain the bird species moved higher by 321 feet (98 meters), on average.

"We think temperature is the master-switch in explaining why species live where they do on mountain slopes," said Freeman. "A huge majority of species in our study were doing the same thing."

Birds adapted to live within narrow temperature bands — in regions without wide seasonal variations — may be particularly vulnerable to climate change, Fitzpatrick said. "We should expect that what's happening on this mountaintop is happening more generally in the Andes," he added.

—AP



Food for cause

Cafe Arpan in Mumbai is helping staffers overcome disabilities

It was barely three months ago that a US-returned medico started a small cafe in upscale Juhu as a unique venture — employing mostly those who suffer from various developmental disabilities. Now, Cafe Arpan has gained huge popularity — among patrons, many of whom have become regulars, and among the 19 specially-abled staffers who love to slog 30 hours over six days a week to make this trendset-

ter eatery a success. "It was like a dream, but only after getting a proper place and crowdfunding we finally opened the doors on August 2. I have 19 staffers including my elder daughter, all suffering from some or the other form of developmental disability," the founder-owner, Sushama Nagarkar. A psychologist and single mother of two daughters — Aarti (32), who suffers from autism, and Divya



(30), settled abroad — Nagarkar wanted "to do something different, and empower disabled people."

Initially, she started with a tiffin service, around one-and-half years ago, which proved to be a hit and had over a dozen staffers with afflictions like autism and Down

Syndrome, as also under-developmental and intellectual disabilities. The cafe is specially designed for them.

"With a limited yet distinctive menu, there is ample space for the staffers to move around conveniently and everything functions on

electricity for their safety. They can comfortably work around five hours a day and take home salaries comparable with industry standards," said Nagarkar. In the age group of 23-50, most are barely literate, but they have learnt to handle everything "with complete dedication and focus", said Nagarkar, who opened the eatery under the auspices of Yash Charitable Trust (YCT) of which she is Managing Trustee, and which carries out multifaceted social activities. "I returned to India after 15 years in the US and started the YCT in 2014 to bring people with developmental disabilities into the social and national mainstream," she said.

Nagarkar feels these people have great potential but severely lack opportunities, and that the cafe and the tiffin services have started to contribute in a small way, helping them become independent and capable of supporting their families. Initially, there was a communication gap between the staff and patrons,

but the latter proved to be very understanding with customers appreciating the initiative.

Open for 12 hours from 8 am, Cafe Arpan offers a simple but specially-designed menu of barely 30 items, which the specially-abled staffers handle without complications.

"During a visit for a snack, I was surprised when one of the staffers took my order, unusually quiet, but apparently efficient, serving it gracefully. Later, I realised that all the staffers here are specially-abled and the experience was amazing," said an awed customer, Mini P Menon. She feels the venture would help commoners view people with developmental disabilities in a new light and open up new avenues for them to become valuable members of the community.

Cafe Arpan's hand-picked special team includes: Nazneen Kagalwala, Sudha Chhabria, Pratibha Kamath, Ashritha Shetty, Nandini Rajwade, Abuli Mamaji,

Aaron Colaco, Samvit Desai, Chetan Jawale, Nikhil Sharma, Shefali Gundecha, Saurabh Kambli, Shonali Menon, Bunny Aman, Ram Bhiwandikar, Raees Shaikh, Anand Jangir, Gaurav Vanvari and Aarti Nagarkar.

She urged people and the society to come together and create more such opportunities that can enable people with developmental disabilities become self-sufficient and lead a dignified life. Nagarkar said that all the staffers here have come through word-of-mouth publicity and the demand of the specially-abled job-seekers is increasing.

"I briefly considered a similar venture in the US where I could have got ample state funding. However, I decided on the option here as the need is more in India, though I had to start from scratch. But we are satisfied with the results and may consider expansion plans soon," Nagarkar concluded. —JANS



You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.

—Rabindranath Tagore



NEW THERAPY FOR PARKINSON'S PROMISES

Researchers have developed a new therapy using a molecule that can stop the development of Parkinson's disease in several animal models.

The therapy is based on the MCC950 molecule. The researchers hope to carry out human clinical trials of drugs based on this molecule by 2020. It works by cooling the "brains on fire," turning down inflammatory activity caused by immune cells in the brain called microglia, and allowing neurons to function normally, as per the study published in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

"Parkinson's disease is the second-most common neurodegenerative disease worldwide, with 10 million sufferers," said researcher Trent Woodruff, associate professor at University of Queensland, Australia. There are no medications that prevent brain cell loss in Parkinson's patients, with current therapies focusing on managing symptoms rather than halting the disease.



OVER 200 GENES LINKED TO AUTISM IDENTIFIED

A network of more than 200 genes linked to autism has been unravelled by researchers. It's an advance that will help develop new therapies for the disorder that is estimated to affect one in 160 children worldwide.

The new genes were involved in controlling alternative splicing events that are often disrupted in autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Alternative splicing is a process that functionally diversifies protein molecules — cells' building blocks — in the brain and other parts of the body. The researchers had previously showed that disruption of this process is closely linked to altered brain wiring and behaviour found in autism.

"Our study has revealed a mechanism underlying the splicing of very short coding segments found in genes with genetic links to autism," said Benjamin Blencowe, professor at the University of Toronto's Donnelly Centre.



OVER 486 MN UNDERNOURISHED IN ASIA-PACIFIC

As per a report by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), around 486 million people remain undernourished in Asia-Pacific.

The region is also home to the fastest growing prevalence of childhood obesity in the world. This paradox is attributed to a nutrition transition with children increasingly exposed to cheap and convenient unhealthy processed food rich in salt, sugar and fat but poor in essential nutrients. This double burden of malnutrition sees undernourished and overweight children living in the same communities and households.

As per the report, there were multiple causes of child malnutrition, including poverty, poor access to food markets and health services, as well as poor knowledge and practices for nutrition. The UN urges local city governments and urban planners to become the new nutrition partners and nutrition policy advocates in tackling these challenges.



PROTEIN INTAKE REDUCES DISABILITY RISK

Increasing the daily amount of protein intake — known to slow the loss of muscle mass — can help the elderly preserve the ability to perform daily activities and prevent their risks of disability, as per a research. Eating more protein can delay the risk of disability obstructing them to perform basic daily and housekeeping activities like self-feeding, bathing, dressing. "Our findings support current thinking about increasing the recommended daily intake of protein to maintain active and healthy ageing," said Nuno Mendonca, researcher from Newcastle University, UK. For the study, published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, researchers examined 722 participants in North-East England, of whom 60 per cent were women. The results showed that those who ate more protein were less likely to become disabled. The elderly should aim to eat about 1-1.2 gm of protein for every 2.2 pounds of body weight, they recommended.



EARLY LIFE ADVERSITY LINKED TO AGEING

Children exposed to physical, emotional violence or sexual abuse are more likely to experience faster ageing, including pubertal development and increased symptoms of depression. In children who experienced early life violence, accelerated epigenetic ageing was associated with increased symptoms of depression. This means that faster biological ageing may be one way that early life adversity "gets under the skin" to contribute to later health problems. Children exposed to forms of early life deprivation including neglect and food insecurity were more likely to experience their puberty at a later stage compared with their peers, the researchers said. "The findings demonstrate that different types of early-life adversity can have different consequences for children's development," said Katie McLaughlin, postdoctoral student at the University of Washington.



Ranji Trophy

MUMBAI SECURE 3 PTS AGAINST RAILWAYS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former skipper Aditya Tare scored his eighth first-class hundred on an inconsequential final day of their group A encounter against Railways.

Having ensured three points by virtue of 104-run first innings lead by the end of the third day, Mumbai decided against sporting declaration reaching 321 for 5 when captains decided to call time.

Tare (100 no, 187 balls) and all-rounder Shivam Dube (69 no, 99 balls) added 163 runs for the unbroken sixth wicket stand. Tare's innings had 11 fours and two sixes and Shivam smashed eight fours and a couple of sixes.

The duo came together when Mumbai were 158 for 5 in their second innings but Tare-Dube didn't feel much pressure as the overall lead had already swelled to 262 runs by then.

Left-arm spinner Harsh Tyagi (3/86 in 36 overs) was the most successful bowler for Railways.

Siddhesh Lad (76, 168 balls) also continued in rich vein of form having scored 99 in the first innings. Lad will however rue the fact that he missed three-figure mark twice during the match and was dismissed by left-arm orthodox on both occasions.

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INDRAJITH SHINES IN DRAWN MATCH

PTI ■ DINDIGUL

Tamil Nadu captain Baba Indrajith hit an unbeaten century as the team finished at 236 for 4 on the final day of the rain-hit Elite Group B' match against Madhya Pradesh.

The hosts innings finished at 236 for 4 in 77.4 overs in reply to Madhya Pradeshes 393 as rain intervened again.

The two teams finished with one point each as the first innings was incomplete.

Indrajith and his twin brother Baba Aparajith (who came in at No 3) added 80 runs in nearly 30 overs with some enterprising play.

After Aparajiths exit, the captain was involved in a half-century partnership with Vijay Shankar (17), who didn't look at his fluent best.

Later, Indrajith and B Anirudh Sitaram (28 not out) put on 51 runs for the fifth wicket before rain brought about a premature end to proceedings.

Earlier, Madhya Pradesh made 393, riding on Patidar's brilliant 196.

In other matches in the group, Bengal and Andhra Pradesh secured three points each by gaining the first innings lead against Himachal Pradesh and Punjab respectively, while Kerala and Hyderabad had to settle for a point each as the first innings was not completed in a rain-affected encounter at Thiruvananthapuram.

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RAJASTHAN DEFEAT J&K BY 75 RUNS

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Rajasthan defeated a gritty Jammu and Kashmir by 75 runs in their Elite Group C game.

Rajasthan bowlers rose to the occasion even as a Jammu and Kashmir skipper Parvez Rasool (110 not out) played a defiant knock in the second outing, albeit which went in vain, at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium.

Chasing a daunting target of 395, Jammu and Kashmir, who began at overnight score of 34/0, were eventually bundled out for 319 in their second innings.

For the hosts leg spinner Rahul Chahar (4-89) and Nathu Singh (4-83) took four wickets each in the second innings, as they earned six crucial points and have stated their campaign on a winning note.

Chahar ended the game with nine wickets as he had taken a five-wicket haul in the first innings. In the day, Rasool raised the hopes of Jammu and Kashmir of a draw, but he was devoid of partners.

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INDIA WIN AFTER EARLY STUTTER

Krunal's all-round performance, bowlers brilliance help India beat Windies by 5 wickets in first T20

PTI ■ KOLKATA

India ended a four-match winless run against the West Indies with a five-wicket victory that came on the back of debutant Krunal Pandya's flourish and Dinesh Karthik's poise here on Sunday.

Wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav (3/13) led the Indian bowlers fine show to restrict West Indies to 109 for eight after stand-in skipper Rohit Sharma opted to field on a dew-laden Eden Gardens.

India responded well with the pacers giving them a fine start after Umesh Yadav dismissed Dinesh Ramdin in the third over.

Playing their first match at home without the inspirational Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India were 45 for four in eight overs, leaving their fragile middle order exposed.

But the 'local boy' Karthik, who leads Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL, stayed calm in his 31 not out from 34 balls (3x4, 1x6) to steer India home with 13 balls to spare.

Hardik's brother, Krunal, hit the winning boundary off Keemo Paul in the 18th over. The new Pandya smashed 21 off nine balls.

This was India's first win against the World T20 champions since 2014, spanning five matches.

The 21-year-old debutant pacer Oshane Thomas (2/21) gave Windies a flying start, removing both the openers — Rohit Sharma (six) and Shikhar Dhawan (three) — for 16 inside the third over.

It was a perfect scenario for dashing Delhi wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant as he had ample time in the middle to play a match-winning knock and justify his inclusion in the side.

But Pant (1) got out playing a rash shot in his four-ball stay to become skipper Brathwaite's first victim.

Back at the ground where he hit four sixes in an over to help his side win the World T20 two years ago, Brathwaite next



Kuldeep Yadav, center, celebrates with teammates after dismissing Windies skipper Carlos Brathwaite, left, in the first T20 clash at Kolkata

BROTHERS PLAYED FOR INDIA IN T-20

Yusuf Pathan (22)-Irfan Pathan (24)
Krunal Pandya (1)-Hardik Pandya (35)

dismissed KL Rahul (16) in a wicket maiden over to put India on the backfoot.

Fortunately for India, the target was not a steep one and all they needed was a sensible partnership, which turned out to be the 38-run stand from 45 balls between Manish Pandey (19) and Karthik (1/16) and Jasprit Bumrah (1/27) ensured

that the Windies run-rate dried up before the spin duo of Krunal Pandya (1/15) and Kuldeep made merry. Kuldeep (3/13) also completed 100 wickets in T20 cricket.

Tottering at 63 for seven inside 15 overs, the Windies looked to fold up inside 100 but Fabian Allen (27 from 20 balls) and Khary Pierre (15 not out from 13 balls) lifted the total past 100.

Krunal finished with excellent figures of 1/14 bowling his four overs at a stretch.

After being hit for a six by Kieron Pollard in his first over, the left-arm spin-

ner not only dismissed the explosive batsman but conceded just four runs in his final three overs to finish on a high.

Down with a 'gastric complaint', Bhuvneshwar Kumar pulled out in the last minute despite being named in the XI, but his absence was hardly felt with Yadav and debutant and Khaleel doing a fine job.

Left-arm pacer, Khaleel, was sensational giving away just 10 runs over his three overs, including a maiden over to Pollard. Oponer Shai Hope, who had impressed with an unbeaten 123 and 95

WI LOWEST TOTALS AGAINST IND IN T-20

Score	Overs	Venue	Date
109-8	20	Kolkata	04-11-2018
129-7	20	Dhaka	23-03-2014
143-5	20	Port of Spain	04-06-2011
143	19.4	Lauderhill	28-08-2016
169/6	20	Bridgetown	09-05-2010

Faisal Features

in the ODI series, was the poor victim.

Introduced in the fifth over, Bumrah picked up another in-form batsman, Shimron Hetmyer (10), in his fourth over.

Runs dried up early as the visitors struggled at 31 for three, and the World T20 champions never looked at ease in their favourite format, taking 62 balls to complete 50 runs.

'PANT SHOULD KEEP WICKETS'

Former India captain Mohammed Azharuddin believes Rishabh Pant is a better wicketkeeper compared to Dinesh Karthik and should be allowed by team management to keep wickets in coming matches.

"One got to bank on Pant. If he is good enough to keep wickets in Test matches in England then why not T20? And no doubt that he showed better skills in England than Karthik," Azharuddin told reporters here.

"I honestly feel Rishabh should have kept wickets today. When you are a keeper, you should keep wickets. He is a good player. He has done well. The more he keeps, the more he will learn. I think his keeping needs to improve a lot though," the Hyderabad stylist said.

Azhar felt that left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav will be a "force to reckon with" in coming days. "Kuldeep has fast emerged as a good bowler. Now he is bowling well and improving everyday. In the years to come, he will be a major force," the former skipper said.

Bowlers put Zimbabwe on top

AFP ■ SYLHET

Pace bowler Tendai Chatara and spinner Sikandar Raza claimed three wickets each to put Zimbabwe on top in the first Test against Bangladesh in Sylhet on Sunday.

Chatara claimed 3-19 and Raza grabbed 3-35 as Zimbabwe bowled out the hosts for 143 runs after left-arm spinner Tajjul Islam took 6-108 to end the visitors' first innings on 282 in the morning.

Zimbabwe, who pocketed a 139-run first innings lead, were 0-1 at stumps on the second day at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

Debutant Ariful Haque was the only Bangladesh batsman to offer some resistance, scoring an unbeaten 41 runs while wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim made 31. Mushfiqur helped Bangladesh recover briefly from 19-4 before he fell to Kyle Jarvis, who claimed 2-28 to play his part in the demolition act.

Zimbabwe gained the upper hand early on when in-form opener Imrul Kayes dragged a Chatara delivery onto his stumps for five in the fourth over of the innings.

The hosts then lost three wickets in nine balls.

Opener Liton Das followed Imrul on nine, giving a catch to wicketkeeper Regis Chakabva before Zimbabwe successfully reviewed a caught behind appeal against Nazmul Hossain (five) off fast bowler Chatara.

After Chatara bowled stand-in skipper Mahmudullah for nought in the same over, Mushfiqur Rahim and



Mominul Haque shared 30 runs for the fifth wicket to momentarily halt the damage.

Sikandar Raza removed Mominul for 11 before Mushfiqur's dismissal in the first over of the final session exposed the Bangladesh tail.

Mehidy Hasan's 21 runs proved inadequate with Bangladesh being dismissed for less than 200 runs in seven consecutive Test innings.

Bangladesh spinner Tajjul dominated the opening session, adding four wickets to his overnight haul of two to end Zimbabwe's innings before lunch, after the visitors resumed the second day's play on 236 for five.

Overnight batsman Peter Moor was not out 63 with Tajjul wreaking havoc at the other end.

Zimbabwe remained unscathed for nearly an hour but lost their remaining wickets in a rush after Tajjul broke through the resistance of Regis Chakabva (28).

Tajjul then removed Wellington Masakadza and Kyle Jarvis for four to complete his fourth five-wicket haul in Tests. Tajjul also claimed Chatara, who was caught by Das at slip.

World Test c'ship is step in right direction: David Gower

PTI ■ LONDON

Former England captain David Gower feels that World Test Championship can revive the interest in the longest format among the fans if marketed in proper manner with practical tweaks.

Gower along with former India wicketkeeper Farokh Engineer and former Pakistan captain Mushtaq Mohammad were participating in a "public conversation" on how to save Test cricket.

"There is already a move towards having World Test Championship (in 2019), which I think in the end is good. What the people want are great players doing great things. If you have good pitches, which produce good cricket, people will be interested," Gower said.

"If Virat Kohli (given his extraordinary following) says Test cricket is important, then people will listen to him," the former England captain added.

Gower feels that market forces should come together to devise a strategy that will bring in more crowd at Test



Indian team led by Virat Kohli return to the dugout after sweeping Windies in the two match Test series at Hyderabad

match venues across the globe.

"You've got to go to market forces and if need be just open the gates. Because where is the money coming from? The money is coming from television."

Engineer supported Gower, but with a caveat, saying, "Open the gates, yes of course. But with due respect, are TV going to pay that kind of money if England play suppose Nepal?"

Mushtaq agreed the cost needs to be factored in.

"If you want Test cricket to

survive, you have got to reduce the entrance fees."

He was not in favour of "freebies", though.

"Why not make it affordable?" he asked. Engineer cited: "Players don't like to play in front of empty stands."

All three were in favour of small tweaks in the longest format to make it more viewer-friendly.

Engineer suggested: "A four-day Test match with each side batting 100 overs a day and the visiting captain having the choice to bat or field first."

Mushtaq felt that first two innings could be restricted to 100 overs.

"As an old-timer, I don't want to see too much fiddling around with test cricket. You don't want to disturb test cricket. Test cricket should be left alone. Test cricket is the mother of all cricket."

He was willing to concede the first two innings of a Test could be restricted to 100 overs, but not the third and fourth innings.

Gower is in favour of four-day Tests.

"Keep the spirit of the game the same. It would be possible, just to squeeze it (a Test match) into four days without compromising the absolute nature of the game as long as you don't make too many artificial rules to go with it."

All three were positive about Day/Night Test cricket.

"Start a Test match late finish late at night," was Mushtaq's recipe.

He went on to say: "In South Asia, we have the right kind of weather to introduce day-night (test) cricket."

'Indiscipline will not be tolerated during WC'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan hockey coach Hassan Sardar has sounded out a warning to his players, saying indiscipline will not be tolerated during the World Cup in India.

Pakistan players are gearing up to play in India for the first time after the unsavoury incident during the Champions trophy, when they took off their shirts and made obscene gestures after winning their semi-final clash against India.

The FIH had suspended two players - Muhammad Tousiq and Ali Amjad - while Shafiqat Rasool was let off with a warning. Hockey India had ruled out Pakistani players' participation in future editions of Hockey India League (HIL) after the incident.

"Behavioural aspect is very important for me and I have told the players that there will be straight action if any incident of indiscipline happens. I hope their behaviour will be exemplary this time," Sardar said.

"I am told that players were provoked by the spectators otherwise they would not have done that. I am sure my players will not repeat it and will be remembered for their performance. In 2014 also we have had good memories on field when we beat India and Netherlands," the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and 1982 Asiad Gold medalist said.

Sardar, who scored a hat trick in Pakistan's 7-1 win in the Asian Games final in New Delhi in 1982, said that his experience of playing in India has been extraordinary.

"I have very fond memories of playing



in India. We beat India in Asiad final in 1982 but the next day when we went for shopping, not a single shopkeeper took money from us. We have got so much love in India and Indian cricketers and hockey players will say the same for Pakistan. We must continue this tradition of mutual love and respect," he said.

India and Pakistan were declared joint winner in the just concluded Asian Champions Trophy in Muscat after the final was called off due to heavy rains. There were reports quoting Hassan that Pakistan was willing to play but India denied.

When asked about this, he said that his team wanted to play the final but he never blamed India.

"It's not like that. I only said that we wanted to play the final against India and I am sure Indians would have been feeling the same. No player in the world would like to see the final getting washed away like this but realistically play was not possible in such circumstances," said the former captain.

Sardar said India will be among the favourites while Pakistan are also capable of springing surprises in the World Cup.

"India is in good form and reached the final of Champions trophy. They are playing on their home ground which does make a lot of difference. They are practising in Bhubaneswar and it will also help them," he said.

"We have a tough pool where we will be playing against Netherlands, Malaysia and Germany. We are targeting Germany who have not played international hockey for the last one year. We have beaten Malaysia and can beat Netherlands on our day," said the coach.

He also called for the revival of Indo-Pak bilateral Hockey.

Proteas thrash Aussies by 6 wickets

AFP ■ PERTH

South Africa hammered Australia by six wickets in the first one-day international in Perth on Sunday, with a Dale Steyn-led pace onslaught exposing their batting frailties.

Set 153 to win, Proteas' openers Quinton de Kock (47) and Reeza Hendricks (44) helped secure victory with 124 balls to spare, leaving Australia with plenty to ponder ahead of the second of the three-game series in Adelaide on Friday.

The hosts came into the clash having lost 16 of their past 18 ODIs. But they were bowled out for just 152 in 38.1 overs with Nathan Coulter-Nile (34) and Alex Carey (33) the only ones to offer any resistance. Veteran Steyn took 2-18 off seven overs while Andile Phehlukwayo picked up 3-33 off six overs.

Australia were buoyant ahead of the game with injured fast bowlers Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins returning to spearhead the attack alongside Josh Hazlewood. But they failed



to emulate their South African counterparts.

Skipper Aaron Finch bizarrely opted to open the bowling with Coulter-Nile alongside Hazlewood instead of Starc. He was smashed for 16 in his first over before being removed.

De Kock and Hendricks raced to a 94-run partnership before Coulter-Nile made amends on his return, having de Kock caught at mid-off going for another big hit.

Marcus Stoinis took the wickets of Hendricks, Aiden Markram and Heinrich Klaasen before skipper Faf du Plessis and David Miller secured the win.

The Proteas won the toss and after opting for a four-pronged pace attack on a fast pitch chose to bowl, quickly putting Australia under pressure with Steyn getting two early breakthroughs.

Travis Head got a thick

edge to de Kock off the veteran for just one and then D'Arcy Short, in the side for Shaun Marsh who needs minor surgery on an abscess, followed him back to the pavilion for a duck two balls later.

Finch, who can be explosive when in full flight, totally misjudged the bounce from a Lungi Ngidi delivery and was out lbw soon after for five.

He mistakenly opted not to review with Australia floundering at 8-3 as replays revealed the ball would have gone over the stumps.

The first four of the innings, from Chris Lynn, didn't come until the 12th over, and he was caught behind for 15 on review not long after despite the umpire initially ruling him not out.

Carey kept the scoreboard slowly ticking over but he fell attempting to scoop an Imran Tahir ball over the head of de Kock.

Some late fireworks from Coulter-Nile took Australia past 150, but it was never going to be enough.

Khachanov pulls big upset in Paris

Unseeded Russian Karen stuns 'going to be' number one Djokovic in Paris masters summit clash

AFP ■ PARIS

Russia's Karen Khachanov clinched the biggest win of his career on Sunday with a 7-5, 6-4 upset of Novak Djokovic to claim the Paris Masters title.

Khachanov became the third different first-time winner of a Masters tournament this year — joining John Isner and Juan Martin del Potro — and denied Djokovic a fourth title in a row ahead of his return to world number one on Monday.

"To finish the season like this is really a dream come true," said Khachanov, who will rise to a career high of 12th when the latest rankings are published on Monday.

Going into the event, Khachanov had won just three of 19 encounters against players in the top 10 but claimed a fourth such scalp in a week after snapping Djokovic's 22-match winning run.

Djokovic, who will reclaim the top ranking from Rafael Nadal for the first time in two years, made a strong start in his pursuit of a record-equaling 33rd Masters title as he broke for a 3-1 lead in the opening set.

But world number 18 Khachanov, a winner at the Kremlin Cup in Moscow last month, hit back in the very next game as Djokovic dragged a forehead into the tramlines, down break point.

The unseeded Russian then broke Djokovic for a 6-5 lead, momentarily faltering as he tried to serve out for the set before calmly regrouping to surge ahead.

Djokovic overcame Roger Federer in an energy-sapping thriller that lasted over three hours in Saturday's semi-finals, and the Serb began to look weary as he dropped serve to a fall behind early in the second set.

Khachanov refused to give his opponent the slightest opening, and sealed a memorable victory after an



Karen Khachanov celebrates after defeating Novak Djokovic in final



'No idea' on 2019 French Open status: Federer

PARIS: Roger Federer, who has skipped the French Open the last two years, insisted Saturday he has "no idea" whether he will play at the clay-court Grand Slam next season. The 37-year-old returned to play in the French capital for the first time since 2015 this week at the Paris Masters, where he lost to Novak Djokovic in three sets in the semi-finals.

His last appearance at Roland Garros ended with a quarter-final defeat by eventual champion Stan Wawrinka three years ago. He missed the 2016 tournament with injury — ending his run of 65 consecutive Grand Slams — and elected to sit out the event in each of the past two seasons in an attempt to prolong his career.

"No idea if it was the last match," Federer replied when asked whether Saturday's loss to Djokovic could be the final time he plays in Paris. "It was a good one actually. I am sorry I lost. Because it's never fun and nice to lose. I don't know." "As I said for the French Open, I will decide at the end of the year to see how it will have an impact on my physical training. "Bercy (Paris Masters) as for next year, it's like every year, it's always difficult. I can't foresee too much in advance but I don't think it will be my last match here."

Federer won his only French Open in 2009, while he has lost to Rafael Nadal in the final on four occasions, in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2011. **AFP**

Nishikori replaces Del Potro at ATP Finals

LONDON: Kei Nishikori will compete in the ATP Finals in London following the withdrawal of Juan Martin del Potro due to a right knee injury. The Japanese player joins Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer, Alexander Zverev, Kevin Anderson, Marin Cilic and Dominic Thiem at the elite eight-player event, which starts on November 11. Del Potro, who reached a career-high ranking of number three earlier this season, injured his knee while competing at the Shanghai Masters last month.

"It's frustrating for me not to be able to compete in London," said Del Potro. "It's a very special tournament and I've tried everything possible to get my knee better. The rehabilitation is making good progress but I need more time."

Nishikori, 28, will be making his fourth appearance at the season finale, having reached the semi-finals in 2014 and 2016. **AFP**

match I was playing this year, and probably the best quality tennis match that I was part of.

"When I get to play Roger, I know I have to get the best out of myself in order to win. And that's why our rivalries and matches are so special."

Djokovic denied Federer a shot at a historic 100th title, although the Wimbledon and US Open champion was pushed all the way by his 37-year-old rival.

"Novak is obviously on a roll. You can feel it. At the end it came down to a few things here and there," said Federer.

"But overall I'm happy with my game. It's better than last week in Basel. There I won the tournament and here I played in the semis and it needed somebody of Novak's calibre to beat me." "So that's all right. And I'm looking forward to a rest now and a good preparation for London (ATP Finals)."

SINGLES

ROONEY TO MAKE ENG FAREWELL AGAINST USA

LONDON: Wayne Rooney is to come out of England retirement for a final one-off appearance against the United States in an international friendly at Wembley this month, the Football Association announced Sunday. Rooney, a record goalscorer for both Manchester United and England, has not played international football for nearly two years. But the 33-year-old, now based in the United States where he plays for Major League Soccer side DC United in Washington, will wear the Three Lions shirt one last time for the Wembley fixture on November 15. The match will be called The Wayne Rooney Foundation International in support of the striker's charity aiding disadvantaged children, with England manager Gareth Southgate naming the 33-year-old in his squad.

HENRY STILL WINLESS AS MONACO LOSE AGAIN

MONACO: Thierry Henry is still waiting for his first win since taking charge at Monaco after his team fell to a seventh league defeat of the season in a 1-0 loss at Reims. A cool finish on 24 minutes from Mathieu Cafaro gave Reims all three points and left Henry without a victory in four matches following his appointment as Monaco coach. Both sides finished with 10 men as Alaixys Romao was shown a straight red card for a high challenge on Youssef Ait Bennasser, before Monaco saw Guinea-Bissau international Pele sent off for two bookings. "It wasn't about the tactics tonight. The desire wasn't there," said Henry. "Reims won the battles on the pitch and when you don't win them, you can't win whatever the level or league." Monaco, who won the French title in 2017, remain second from bottom after an alarming run that has yielded just one win in all competitions this season.

CHENNAI OVERCOME GOKULAM IN THRILLER

KOZHIKODE: Chennai City FC continued their impressive campaign in the 12th Hero I-League, winning the season's first Southern Derby against Gokulam Kerala FC 3-2 here Sunday. They now top the points table with seven points from three games. In an edge-of-the-seats game, Chennai rode on goals by Pravitto Raju, Pedro Manzi and Ameerudeen to get the better of their hosts. Grenadian forward Antonio German scored off a penalty to give Gokulam an early lead and then V P Suhair got one back with a brilliant individual effort but it turned out to be futile for coach Bino George's side in the end.

ROSE WINS TURKISH AIRLINES OPEN

ANTALYA: India's Shubhankar Sharma produced his best card of four-under 67 to finish tied 43rd after Justin Rose beat Li Haotong in a play-off to successfully defend a Rolex Series title at the Turkish Airlines Open. In the process, Rose also got back his top position in the ranking charts. Sharma was happy to take a good final round as he took off for the next event, the Nedbank Challenge in South Africa. Rose, 38, also made the first successful title defence in his professional career dating back to 1999 and it was the third time he had won a title in Turkey. In 2012, he won an eight-man event, beating Tiger Woods among others, while he was T-3 in 2013 and he has won the title last two years. **Agencies**

Suarez keeps Barca on track



Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring goal

AP ■ BARCELONA

Luis Suarez is making sure Barcelona keeps on winning without the injured Lionel Messi.

Suarez came to the rescue of Barcelona on Saturday with a two-goal performance that included a 90th-minute winner to cap a 3-2 comeback at Rayo Vallecano.

Suarez's double gives him six goals for Barcelona since Messi went down with a broken right forearm on October 20. He leads the Spanish league with nine goals in 11 rounds.

"The game was very difficult for us, but we knew how to turn it around," Suarez said. "You can lose leagues at grounds like this one."

Barcelona increased its league lead to four points over Altienco

Barca include Messi in squad to face Inter Milan

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi has been included in Barcelona's travelling squad to face Inter Milan in the Champions League on Tuesday. Messi broke his arm during Barca's win over Sevilla on October 20, with the club predicting he would be out for three weeks. The striker has not yet been declared fit by Barcelona's medical team but he will travel with the squad to the San Siro.

Leo Messi travels to Milan without

the medical all-clear," the club posted on their Twitter account on Sunday. Messi had trained the same day, along with other players not involved in Saturday's 3-2 victory over Rayo Vallecano. Barcelona have won all of their last four matches without Messi, including a 2-0 win over Inter at the Camp Nou last month. They sit three points ahead of the Italians at the top of Group B.

Madrid, which drew at Leganes 1-1, and Alaves.

Madrid remained seven points behind in sixth place after beating Valladolid 2-0 for its first win in six rounds in the home debut of interim coach Santiago Solari.

Suarez opened the scoring at Valdecasas Stadium when he tapped in a pass from Jordi Alba, who was played clear by a long ball from Ivan Rakitic.

But the hosts swung the match in their favor when Jose Pozo scored from outside the area and substitute Alvaro Garcia put in a ball that came off the upright.

Rayo was winning until the 87th when substitute Ousmane Demebele drilled in a headed back pass by defender Gerard Pique. Suarez then scored his second goal to complete the

Lacazette checks Reds' title bid

AFP ■ LONDON

Arsenal manager Unai Emery is happy with his side's progress, but admits there is still work to do to match Liverpool's title challenge after a thrilling 1-1 draw between the sides on Saturday.

Alexandre Lacazette extended the Gunners unbeaten run to 14 games with an equaliser eight minutes from time to cancel out James Milner's opener as Liverpool edged a point clear of Manchester City at the top of the table.

Arsenal remain four points behind the leaders. However, it is the first time Emery has avoided defeat against a Premier League top six opponent having been handed a baptism of fire in losing to Manchester City and Chelsea in his first two matches in charge.

"Against Man City, Chelsea, Liverpool — these are three teams in front of us (in the table) and you can see how three different matches we played," said Emery. Today is a more complete game for us."

Emery's Sevilla beat Liverpool in the final of the Europa League in their first season under Jurgen Klopp in 2016.

But the Spaniard believes Liverpool's progress since is an example for Arsenal to follow.

"They can win the Premier League this season. They play the final of the Europa League three



James Milner celebrates after scoring goal against Arsenal at Emirates; (right) Sergio Aguero celebrates after scoring

years ago and last season they were in the final of the Champions League," added Emery. "They are a very good example for us."

"For the supporters it is a great match and a good spectacle, but I am only 50 percent happy because we wanted to win."

Alisson Becker spread himself well to block from Lacazette before Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's deflected effort from the edge of the area flew just wide early on.

Granit Xhaka fired too close to Alisson from a well-worked corner, but the Brazilian international was fortunate when he rushed from his goal and was beaten to a floated

cross by Henrikh Mkhitaryan, whose header drifted inches wide.

However, Liverpool also had plenty of chances in a thrilling first-half that somehow lacked only goals.

A dubious offside decision denied Sadio Mane the opening goal and Virgil van Dijk twice should have scored when he was first repelled by Bernd Leno and then flicked a header against the post with the German 'keeper caught flapping.

Leno didn't get so lucky with his next mistake as he palmed Mane's dangerous cross back into the heart of the box and Milner drilled into



AP/Man City

the unguarded net.

However, Leno made amends with a fingertip stop to deny Vincent van Dijk and Liverpool a crucial second following a towering header from a corner.

Emery's decision to sacrifice Aubameyang rather than Lacazette with his substitutions was vindicated when the French international kept his composure to brilliantly curl into the far corner after being forced wide by Alisson.

Elsewhere on Saturday, Tottenham beat Wolves 3-2 in away fixture, while on Sunday table topper Manchester City beat Southampton 6-1 to hold grip on the top spot.

Jr shuttlers eye success at Worlds

Lakshya leads charge at Markham in mixed team and individual events

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

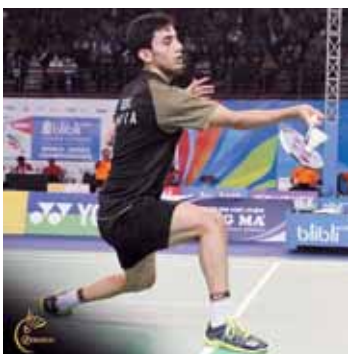
World Junior No 4 Lakshya Sen will be shouldering the burden of India's fortune at the Li Ning BWF World Junior Badminton Championships 2018, beginning at Markham (Canada) from Monday.

The 23-member squad will look up to Lakshya, the reigning Asian Junior champion, to spearhead the Mixed Team's podium charge for the first-ever medal from the Worlds since it was included in the year 2000. The 14-day championships, starting with team action continues until November 10 and will be followed by individual events, beginning from November 11 to 18.

India, who are seeded No 5 and placed in group E, are clubbed with Algeria, Faroe Islands, Kenya and Sri Lanka, giving the Indian squad a great opportunity to make it to the quarterfinals, their first priority. However, they will be wary of the only other seeded team in the group is Algeria, four places behind them at No 9.

The Canada world event is the opportunity that most of the current junior crop, including Kiran George, Priyanshu Rajawat, Alap Mishra among boys and Malvika Bansod and Gayatri Gopichand in girls, would like to use as the springboard to enhance their reputation.

There are 41 teams in fray and they have been divided into eight groups of five teams each



Indian junior shuttler Lakshya Sen returns a shot

with top group split into A1 and A2, each having three teams. The group matches will be played on round-robin league basis with the group leader making the cut for Stage II, which is the knockout round.

India's best show so far at the World Juniors has been Saina Nehwal winning the only Gold at the 2008 edition when it was held in India.



Manika, Sathiyan achieve career-best ranking

NEW DELHI: Top Indian paddlers Manika Batra and G Sathiyan achieved their career-best world rankings in the latest chart released by the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) on Sunday.

Manika, who became the first Indian woman to win a singles Gold at the Commonwealth Games, climbed two spots to become World No 53. She is the only Indian in the Top-100.

Sathiyan also moved up one place to reach the World No 35 spot. He had won three medals in the Commonwealth Games and a Bronze (men's team event) in the Asian Games. Veteran Achanta Sharath Kamal, who clinched a historic team Gold at the CWG and a Silver and Bronze in men's doubles and singles at Asiad, maintained his 31st spot, to be the highest ranked Indian in the list. **PTI**

JUVE HOLD OFF CAGLIARI

AFP ■ TURIN

Massimiliano Allegri praised Cristiano Ronaldo's leadership skills as Juventus beat Cagliari 3-1 for their 10th win in 11 games to maintain their six-point cushion at the top of Serie A on Saturday.

Paulo Dybala scored after just 44 seconds, with a Filip Bradaric own-goal accounting for Juventus' second after 39 minutes, two minutes after Joao Pedro had pulled the Sardinians level.

Ronaldo failed to add to his seven-goal league tally for new club Juventus with the Portuguese superstar hitting the woodwork before next week's Champions League visit by former club Manchester United.

But the 33-year-old's pass across goal set up Colombian Juan Cuadrado for his first of the season three minutes from time in the Allianz Stadium.

"He has always been a leader and an extraordinary player, as you saw from the assist he put on Cuadrado's foot," said Allegri.

"These are different players who in the decisive moment always come up with a goal or a great pass." Juventus have 31 points from 11



Paulo Dybala celebrates after scoring opener

games with Inter and Napoli both on 25 points.

It is the best ever start to a season for the Turin giants who have drawn just one game against Genoa.

Earlier, Inter Milan crushed Genoa 5-0 to reclaim second spot on goal difference ahead of Napoli, who had eased past Empoli 5-1 on Friday, and keep the pressure on the seven-time reigning champions.

But Allegri insisted: "This isn't good enough."

"We have to defend better, we concede too many goals and risked letting in an equaliser in the 85th minute."

Allegri gave Douglas Costa his second start this season up front alongside Dybala and Ronaldo, who was presented with a special jersey before the match after last week becoming the first player to break the 400-goal mark in Europe's top five leagues.

Wins by the top three were a boost before next week's Champions League fixtures, with Inter Milan at home against Barcelona and Napoli hosting Paris Saint-Germain.

Eusebio Di Francesco's Roma, however, needed a late Alessandro Florenzi volley to snatch a 1-1 draw at Fiorentina ahead of their midweek trip to CSKA Moscow.

Ciro Immobile scored two early goals as Lazio beat SPAL 4-1 to move fourth in Serie A and into the Champions League places on Sunday.

Simone Inzaghi's side bounced back from a home defeat to Inter Milan to move ahead of AC Milan, who play in Udinese.

Immobile scored after 26 and 35 minute to bring his tally to eight league goals this season with Danilo Cataldi (59) and Marco Parolo (70) adding two more in the second half.

Lazio with 21 points from 11 games are ten points behind leaders Juventus.