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SONAKSHI
RECALLS HER
TIME IN BHUJ
13 VIVACITY



Akbar fights back MeToo

Trashes charges, threatens legal action, gives no indication of stepping down

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Union Minister MJ Akbar on Sunday tried to brazen out the charges of sexual misconduct levelled against him by several women journalists and threatened them with legal action while giving no indication of stepping down from office. Akbar described the charges against him as "false and fabricated" and gave a political twist to the whole controversy by suggesting that this was part of an "agenda" as the charges came a few months before a general election.



Union Minister MJ Akbar, who is facing allegations of sexual harassment by a number of women journalists, at his residence after his arrival from a foreign tour in New Delhi on Sunday PTI

DEFENSIVE
• Soon after returning from a trip to Africa, the Minister of State for External Affairs issued a statement
• Accusations without evidence have become a "viral fever" among some sections.
• Give a political twist to the whole controversy by suggesting that this was part of an "agenda" as the charges came a few months before a general election.
• Lies do not have legs, but they do contain poison, which can be whipped into a frenzy. This is deeply distressing, he says

of the PM's office. The country has been waiting for days for Modi to clear his stand on this," Congress leader Anand Sharma said at a Press conference. Describing the allegations of misconduct made against him false and fabricated, Akbar said, these were "spiced up by innuendo and malice." "Accusation without evidence has become a viral fever among some sections. Whatever be the case, now that I have returned, my lawyers will look into these wild and baseless allegations in order to decide our future course of legal action," he said in the statement. Akbar said even journalist

Priya Ramani who started this campaign with a magazine article a year ago did not accused him of doing anything. "She did not however name me as she knew it was an incorrect story. When asked recently why she had not named me, she replied, in a Tweet, "Never named him because he didn't do anything." "If I didn't do anything, where and what is the story? There is no story. This was admitted at the very inception. But a sea of innuendo, speculation and abusive diatribe has been built around something that never happened. Some are total, unsubstantiated hearsay; others confirm, on the record, that I didn't do anything. Let me note examples. Shutapa Paul states, "The man never laid a hand on me," he said.

Akbar then referred to Shuma Raha and pointed out that she too said he didn't actually 'do' anything. "One woman, Anju Bharti, went to the absurd extent of claiming I was parting in a swimming pool. I do not know how to swim," he said. "Another accusation was made repeatedly by Ghazala Wahab, in an effort to damage my reputation. She claimed that she had been molested in office, 21 years ago. This is 16 years before I entered public life, and when I was in media. The only office where I worked with her was that of *The Asian Age*. A part of the editorial team

then worked out of a small hall. At the time concerned, I had a very tiny cubicle, patched together by plywood and glass. Others had tables and chairs two feet away. It is utterly bizarre to believe that anything could have happened in that tiny space, and, moreover, that no one else in the vicinity would come to know, in the midst of a working day. These allegations are false, motivated and baseless," he said.

Akbar went on to add, "Wahab states that she complained to Veenu Sandal, who wrote features for the paper. Sandal has described Wahab's version as nonsense, in an interview to the *Indian Express*. Ms Sandal has also said that she has never heard, in 20 years, anybody accusing me of any such thing.

Akbar then went on to remind that both Ramani and Wahab kept working with him even after these alleged incidents. "The reason why they remained silent for decades is very apparent: as Ramani has herself stated, I never did anything. This is the reason why no one went to the authorities for so long, because I had done nothing.

Maj Gen, 6 jawans get life in Dangari fake encounter case

5 youths were gunned down in 1994 by Army

ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI



Seven personnel of the Indian Army, including a Major General, have been sentenced to life imprisonment by a Summary General Court Martial (SGCM) for their involvement in a fake encounter that had taken place in Assam in 1994.

"I am extremely happy to see that justice is finally delivered in the infamous Dangari encounter case where five innocent youths were killed. The verdict of the court martial yesterday once again brought to the fore the neutrality of the Indian Army. It has proved that one must have faith in Indian judicial system, democracy and the discipline and neutrality of an institution like Indian Army," said Jagadish Bhuyan, who has been pursuing the case for the last 24 years.

The Army jawans from 18 Punjab Regiment had picked up nine youths and student leaders from different areas of Tinsukia district on February 18, 1994 for their alleged role in killing the general manager

of a tea estate. The arrest caused widespread public outrage. The army branded them as Ulfa militants and gunned down five of them in what has now been established as fake encounters. Four others were released in a jangle.

The then All Assam Students' Union leader Jagadish Bhuyan filed a habeas corpus petition in the Gauhati High Court the same month seeking to know the details of these youths. Based on the petition filed by Bhuyan, the Gauhati High Court ordered the Army to produce the nine at the nearest police station. Later, the army produced five bodies at the Dholla police station.

The investigation of the case was later handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which filed a chargesheet against the seven Army personnel.

Gajapati landslide: 15 bodies recovered

Govt to give aid of ₹4L each to bereaved families



PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

Rescue teams have recovered the bodies of 15 persons, who were killed in a landslide at Barghara village under Rayagada block of Gajapati district, informed district Superintendent of Police Amulya Kumar Das on Sunday. The last rites of the deceased would be conducted on the day in the village, Das said. A medical team reached the spot and carried out post-

mortem of the bodies, he added. The State Government on Saturday rushed a team of rescuers after media reported that at least 12 persons, including five children, lost their lives while four others were missing due to a landslide in the district. The incident occurred in Barghara village when the cave, in which they had taken shelter, collapsed following incessant rain triggered by Cyclone Titli on October 11. Chief Minister Naveen

Patnaik expressed condolence over the tragic incident. "The tragic incident of landslide in Gajapati has been most unfortunate. I extend my deepest condolence to the bereaved families," said the Chief Minister. Meanwhile, the State Government on Sunday decided to provide an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh each to the families of the deceased, who lost their lives in the Gajapati landslide tragedy, informed Special Relief Commissioner

(SRC) Bishnupada Sethi in Bhubaneswar. Sethi said, "68 families out of 75 residing in the Barghara village under Rayagada block in the district were evacuated to safety by the district administration due to cyclone Titli as a precautionary measure." The seven families, which refused to shift to safer location, later became victims of the landslide, the SRC said and added that the compensation would be given to the seven bereaved families.

Situation limping back to normal in 3 south dists

No more cooked food in relief camps Baleswar situation still grim

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR/BALESWAR

Even though waters have started receding almost two days after the heavy rain which pounded several parts of the State under the impact of Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Titli, the situation continued to be grim in Baleswar district on Sunday. In Baleswar, the Budhabalanga river flowed below the danger mark of 7.8 metre near Barunighat. However, the Jalaka river was flowing slightly above the danger mark while several villages of Mathani, Sadanandpur, Sindurhata and Paida were still marooned.

The situations in Sadar and Remuna blocks were yet to improve despite there being no rain.

As per reports, 30 families of Sindurhata took shelter at a primary school while local BDO informed that already cooked food was being provided to the flood-hit people.

The flood situation in Ganjam district was also improving with the water levels of major rivers also decreasing as there was no rainfall in the past 24 hours.

However, though floodwaters were also receding from



several localities, normalcy was yet to be restored.

Aska town was the worst-affected by the flash floods following heavy rains triggered by the Cyclone Titli. Thousands of people were still stranded while relief materials were being airdropped by two helicopters of the Navy.

"Airdropping of food packets is being carried out in Aska and periphery areas in Puroshuttampur," said Ganjam Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange.

Sunday evening. The decision was made in a high-level review meeting presided over by Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi at the State Secretariat.

Later, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Bishnupada Sethi said, "As the floodwaters have receded in Ganjam, Gajapati and Rayagada districts, with the improvement in the weather conditions people would return to their houses. Considering this, no cooked food will be provided in the relief camps in these districts from this evening."

"As decided by the Government, the affected families will be provided relief for 15 days, for which the money for the 15 days will be deposited in the bank account of the family members at the rate of ₹60 for each elderly person and ₹45 for each child," Sethi added.

Heads of Depts to oversee Gajapati relief operation

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has sent Directors of various departments to monitor relief and restoration works in Cyclone Titli-hit Gajapati district.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Bishnupada Sethi informed this after attending a review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary AP Padhi at the Secretariat here on Sunday.

"The Heads of Departments of Panchayati Raj, Health, Veterinary, Agriculture, Horticulture, Energy, etc have been sent to Gajapati to assist the district administration in restoration works," said the SRC.

He said two additional NDRF and three ODRAF units would be deployed in Gajapati to expedite the restoration process.

He three trucks loaded with 4,000 pieces of polythene sheets have moved to Gajapati district for distribution among affected people. Besides, 500 packets of chuda and gur have been sent

to Badagarh under Gangabada GP of Rayagada block.

A total of 29 medical relief centers have been opened and 14 mobile medical teams deployed in the district.

He said 69 pregnant women shifted to Maa guha. While 16 cattle camps opened and 100 metric tonne of cattle feed supplied.

He said Sundhipudi-Paralakhemundi road (5 km) and Mohana to Parlakhemundi road (120-125 km) were cleared. Similarly, communication between Chandragiri and R.Udayagiri Road, Mohana to R.Udayagiri and Nuagada to Khajuripada road were restored.

Now, restoration work on Mochamara-Gosani road and Kashinagar-Paralakhemundi is in progress. And restoration of roads in Gunupur block has been completed. Restoration of Gopili to palasa road is in progress.

Drinking water has been provided in 40 per cent area using generator sets. BSNL services have been improved in the district, he said.

Puri married Dalit woman sold at MP

SAROJ KUMAR MISHRA ■ PURI

Parents want her rescued
A written complaint filed with Puri Sadar police station on Sunday by one Aru Mallick of Bauribasta village near Brahmagiri alleged that his married daughter of four children was sold at a cost of ₹55,000 to one Dhusa Singh of Madhya Pradesh. Giving his daughter a false hope of good job, three women labourers lured her from a worksite at Puri to MP and sold to Singh of Janata village near

the Ashok Nagar railway station, revealed the complainant. Even Mallick said his daughter is presently trapped in MP after married off to the person by force. Apprehending that her life is at stake there, the complainant urged the police to rescue her along with a handicapped girl child living with her. Sources said Daudi Mallick, the daughter of the complainant, was living in Puri Baliapanda Basti with husband Daku Mallick for last 15 years. They have four children with last being a handicapped girl child. Daku works as daily wager.

The problem arose when Daku further married to another woman and is living with her in the same house. After the remarriage, he started to torture Daudi. According to the statement of Daudi's mother Rama, in the mean time, three women labourers who were working with Daudi coming from the same Baliapanda Basti misled her daughter on promise of good job in Madhya Pradesh. She said Daudi told them over mobile phone about her condition and wanted to be rescued. Rama also charged that when they reached MP and tried to rescue their daughter, they were attacked.

Eye to State elections, Cong pursues youth

Party mulls doles for jobless in its manifesto

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to wrest power in Hindi belt of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in the upcoming polls, the Congress is conducting an elaborate exercise to gauge their mood, aspirations and hopes to woo youth offering them lucrative offers in the party manifesto for the three State Assembly polls. A group of dedicated professionals are working on the task. Sources said the party has already started a survey to

identify the qualifications of youths, degree of unemployment and how their "frustration" can be redressed by the grand old party. "We are conducting an independent survey and not based on Government data. Anything further can be worked upon only after the data collection as how they can be offered employment, re-engagements, allowances etc," said a top AICC functionary. A team member of the manifesto committee said as per Government data while Madhya Pradesh has an employment rate of 43 per cent (40 per cent in rural and 44 in urban areas); Rajasthan has an extreme rate of 71 per cent unemployment with 43 per

cent urban and 77 per cent rural. In the Gujarat Assembly elections, too, the Congress had promised an unemployment allowance of up to ₹4,000 a month for each jobless youth in the State. The Congress has been highlighting what it alleged rising unemployment and shrinking job opportunities in the BJP-ruled States and the country in general in its campaigns, public rallies, statements etc. Rajasthan Congress has conveyed to the party High Command that in its manifesto it would like to offer a monthly allowance of ₹3,500 to unemployed educated persons in the State.

Hota made D'nal, S'pur Kishan Morcha Pravari



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Debashisha Hota became BJP Kishan Morcha Lok Sabha Pravari of Dhenkanal and Sambalpur Parliamentary constituencies. There is a joyous movement for the Bhuban and Kamakhyanagar people after the elevation of Hota. Meanwhile, Hota thanked Union Petroleum Minister

There is a joyous movement for the Bhuban and Kamakhyanagar people after the elevation of Hota

Dharmendra Pradhan, BJP national secretary Suresh Pujari, State BJP president Basanta Kumar Panda, State

secretary Kalandi Samal, Kendriya Pravari Dr Rakesh Sharma, BJP Kishan Morcha State president Sibaji Mohanty, former Rajya Sabha member Rudranarayan Pany and Dhenkanal district president Bibhuti Pradhan for reposing faith on him.

Hota is a well-known rights campaigner and anti-displacement activist, besides a good organiser.

BJD: Jealous BJP politicising Titli

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Over the allegations by the BJP that the State BJD Government failed miserably to tackle the Titli cyclone, the BJD said the BJP was playing politics over a disaster.

The BJP is unnerved by the way the cyclone has been handled. In its desperation, the BJP is spreading lies with political motive.

The statement of BJP leaders is dishonouring the sacrifices made by volunteers, people's representatives, and Government employees who have worked day and night selflessly to evacuate more than 3 lakh people, said a release of the BJD.

It further said the BJP is politicizing a human tragedy that happened in Gajapati district because of a landslide due to heavy rains.

It said CM and BJD president Naveen Patnaik has said

THE STATEMENT OF BJP LEADERS IS DISHONOURING THE SACRIFICES MADE BY VOLUNTEERS, PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES, AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE WORKED DAY AND NIGHT SELFLESSLY TO EVACUATE MORE THAN 3 LAKH PEOPLE, SAID A RELEASE OF THE BJD

not to be perturbed over the BJP's taunts and continue working for the people in relief and restoration.

At the same time it told the two BJP Central Ministers from the State, instead of going for photo opportunity with Union Home Minister, should contact the Telecom, Road Transport and Highways, Railways, and Finance Ministries and make them work in their sectors effectively.

Naveen No. 1 choice as CM: Survey

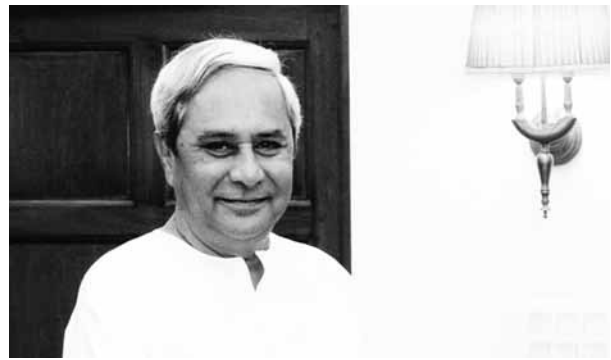
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With only a few months to go for the Assembly elections in Odisha, BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik has once again emerged as the number 1 choice as Chief Minister with highest per cent of popularity in the State.

This is revealed in a survey conducted by English magazine 'India Today'. Patnaik scored high on popularity with 59 per cent of the respondents.

Amidst lots of criticism from opposition parties' leaders over several issues and his Government's alleged failure in executing the Central schemes, Patnaik continues to woo people with several developmental projects, anti-poverty programmes and welfare schemes undertaken by his Government.

According to the survey, while 44 per cent of the respondents are satisfied with the performance of the Patnaik Government, only 19 per cent showed dissatisfaction with the BJD regime.



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who has been trying to take credits for the Centrally-sponsored developmental projects in the State, is placed second in terms of popularity with 21 per cent.

Giving a big thumb up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 54 per cent of Odisha people want him voted to the office in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls while Congress president Rahul Gandhi received only 21 per cent votes for the next PM.

The survey was conducted

on the basis of telephonic interviews across the 21 Lok Sabha seats with a sample size of 8,232 as the respondents.

Similarly, the survey in other States reveals that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is favourite for the post as 38 per cent people are satisfied with performance of his Government.

However, the study shows that Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghuraj Das' popularity is on the decline. Only 34 per cent people in Jharkhand are happy with his Government while 33 per cent are dissatisfied.

NIMER math training camp from Oct 16

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Institute of Mathematical Education and Research (NIMER), as part of its year-round routine activity is going to organise an Annual Mathematics Training Camp for students from Class V to XI from October 16 to 19.

The camp would basically focus to stretch the mathematical talent of the students strengthening their problem solving ability and giving them an exceptional exposure to the challenging and amazing world of mathematics.

The camp would basically focus to stretch the mathematical talent of the students strengthening their problem solving ability

The students would be trained by a team of professionals, INMO and IMO trainers of national and international repute including Prof SR Santanam, Bhas Bhamre, Shyam Sunder Agarwal and Narasimha Raju.

Ex-Services League holds convention

PASSES A FEW PROPOSALS

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha State Ex-Services League organised a joint convention at the 120 TA Battalion here recently.

League members from all districts attended the meeting. Vice Admiral SH Sharma, Brigadier Basudeb Routray, league president Brigadier BP Patnaik, senior vice-president Colonel Sudarshan Mishra, Colonel BK Bastia, general secretary Lokanath Sahoo, joint secretary Subedar Pradeep Giri, treasurer SK Nayak, executive members NK Mishra and Godabarisha Mohaptra attended the programme, among others.

Members discussed various issues, including a proposal



to bring some changes in the constitution of the league. Besides, they decided to expedite works in eight districts and to open Polyclinic and canteens in each

district. The annual budget presented by the treasurer was approved unanimously.

Bhubaneswar Station Officer Colonel C Shashi was

present and resolved some issues. Proposals of provision of canteen service at Rourkela and establishment of District Army Boards and polyclinics were passed unanimously.

'Repatriate Odia youth to native land'

BAIJAYANT URGES INDIA ENVOY TO UAE

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Former Kendrapada MP Baijayant Panda has urged Ambassador of India to UAE Navdeep Singh Suri to take all steps for repatriation of Santosh Kumar Swain from Abu Dhabi to his village Kalanga Paika Sahi in Kordha district.

"As informed by his family members, Swain is working under a contractor at Naithil's General Contracting LLC, Abu Dhabi for the past eight to nine months. He had gone to Abu Dhabi through one local agent via direct interview. But he is working there in very a pre-

Swain is working under a contractor at Naithil's General Contracting LLC, Abu Dhabi for the past eight to nine months

carious condition as the contractor is not providing any food and adequate salary to him. His family has requested for assistance in returning to India," Panda mentioned in the letter.

Rapid prototyping camp ends at DAV CSpur



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A three-day-long rapid prototyping camp to nurture scientific talents and innovative approach among generation next youths organised at the DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur here in collaboration with the Intel and School and Mass Education

Department concluded on Sunday.

More than 50 of all categories' schools of the State and more than 100 student innovators participated in the camp which was a part of nationwide campaign under the Atal Innovation Mission, Niti Aayog. Around 60 projects were made and displayed in the camp.

In the concluding session Secondary Education Deputy Director Dr Sipra Nayak attended as chief guest and handed over certificates and mementos to all the participants. ATL team of DAV Chandrasekharpur under the leadership of school coordinator Indira Bhattacharya coordinated the programme.

'Govt responsible for deaths, damages' 45 people dead in floods in Gajapati, Ganjam: BJP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP on Sunday reiterated that precious human lives were lost and properties were damaged in different districts during the cyclone and subsequent floods due to sheer negligence of the State Government.

"The State Government didn't take the IMD warnings seriously. It kept claiming zero casualty.

But lakhs of people are now suffering miserably," said BJP leaders Bhrugus Baxipatra, Prithviraj Harichandan and Sameer Mohanty at a Press meet here.

Three teams led by Baxipatra, Harichandan and Mohanty had visited the Titli-affected Gajapati, Rayagada and Ganjam districts, respec-

tively. They demanded that the Special Relief Commissioner tender resignation for failing to discharge his duty properly.

As many as 40 persons died in Gajapati and five in Ganjam. No relief had reached Gangabada GP in Gajapati district by Friday evening, they alleged.

They too alleged that there is no truth in the State Government's claim of shifting 49,000 people to safer places in Rangeilunda block of Ganjam district.

Only 20 to 25 five persons were seen in each cyclone shelter, they said.

They demanded that the State Government make a realistic assessment of the damages and provide assistance to the affected people at the earliest.

In Sundargarh: Under-construction bridge collapses; 20 injured

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

At least 20 labourers were injured after an under-construction bridge collapsed near Kanjipani under the K Balanga police station in Sundargarh district on Sunday. Among the injured labourers, five are stated to be in critical condition.

According to sources, a portion of the 50-metre-long and 20-foot-high under-construction bridge caved in where as many as 40 workers were engaged in the construction work.

On getting information, the police reached the spot and rushed the injured persons to the Bonai Sub-Division Hospital.

Later five critically injured labourers were referred to a hospital in Rourkela.

It might be mentioned here that the bridge was being constructed by the National Buildings Construction Company (NBCC) on the road connecting Jamudih to Kunjapani.



BJYM urges CM for Baji statue in capital

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) State secretary Deepak Gochhayat has requested CM Naveen Patnaik for installation of a bronze statue of Saheed Baji Rout in Bhubaneswar.

In his letter to the CM, Gochhayat mentioned that Baji Rout was born on October 5, 1926 at Nilakanthapur village of Bhuban block in the district of Dhenkanal.

He was a member of children's wing of the 'Prajamanadal Andolan.' He was also in charge of a country boat at the Brahmani river basin in Dhenkanal district.

There were many martyrs in Odisha at that time, Saheed Baji Rout was one of them. But he was the youngest martyr of our State.

was killed by the then British police when he denied ferrying them across the Brahmani river on the night of October 11, 1938.

Though he was a little boy, his dedication, sacrifice and patriotism was unparalleled.

He deserves to be duly honoured at the highest level for his contribution to the freedom struggle which took place in 1938 in Dhenkanal district against the atrocity of the Britishers as well as the then king of Dhenkanal.

Even after 73 years of independence of India, we have not yet endeavored to install a statue of Saheed Baji Rout in the State capital.

The statue of the young freedom fighter would be a mark of inspiration to millions of children and people of Odisha and abroad, Gochhayat mentioned in his letter.

Talk on EU-programme held in B'ngir



PNS ■ BALANGIR

The Balangir Vikash Parishad organised a district-level impact and experience sharing talk relating to the EU-Programme Information Project here on Saturday.

Project Director Achyut Das spoke about the project, its aim and objective and achievement so far. District Collector Arindam Dakua appreciated the steps taken by the project in strengthening the rural-level institutions and providing necessary information to people. He also stressed on the

- Project Director Achyut Das spoke about the project, its aim and objective and achievement so far.
- District Collector Arindam Dakua appreciated the steps taken by the project in strengthening the rural-level institutions and providing necessary information to people.
- The proper functioning would reduce malnutrition of children and anaemia in women and adolescent girls, he added.
- Mukund Sahu and lawyer Bishnu Sharma, among others, spoke about the change in migration scenario of the district over the years.

need to ensure proper functioning of Anganwadi centres

to build a healthy village and a society as well.

The proper functioning would reduce malnutrition of children and anaemia in women and adolescent girls, he added. Mukund Sahu and lawyer Bishnu Sharma, among others, spoke about the change in migration scenario of the district over the years.

Later participants shared their experiences of getting benefits by utilising the information and different provisions of the RTI Act.

Baby jumbo dies due to rains in A'garh

PNS ■ ATHAGARH

After giving birth to a baby elephant in the middle of the paddy fields near Pahilabar village of Athagarh block on Thursday night, a mother elephant lost its offspring due to the effect of Titli.

Sources said that when a herd of elephants were passing through paddy fields here during the Titli, which led to heavy downpours, the mother

elephant gave birth to its baby and the herd tried to take the baby to a safe place but failed.

Due to heavy rains pounding on the newborn jumbo for long hours, it suffered from severe cold and died.

On Saturday morning, nearby villagers rescued the baby elephant from the muddy paddy fields and intimated forest officials.

Later, the forest staffs buried the carcass.

□Sources said that when a herd of elephants were passing through paddy fields here during the Titli, which led to heavy downpours, the mother elephant gave birth to its baby and the herd tried to take the baby to a safe place but failed.

□Due to heavy rains pounding on the newborn jumbo for long hours, it suffered from severe cold and died.

□On Saturday morning, nearby villagers rescued the baby elephant from the muddy paddy fields and intimated forest officials.



There is a need to improve policies which can give fillip to skill development programmes at colleges, schools, skill centres to produce skilled population for our nation. The policymakers should put more efforts into linking education with employment and entrepreneurship through skill development to ensure that our skilled youth can get jobs

Khurshid Ahmad Ganai, Advisor to J&K Governor

BUZZ FROM GOVT

Under the current scenario, I see at least another three plus quarters of losses. Why? Because personally, I do not think the present tariffs are sustainable for long term health of the industry. Already we have been through two quarters of losses (this fiscal). So something dramatic has to happen in the next two quarters and we know that is not going to happen

Rajan Mathews, Director General, COAI



Govt invites bids for int'l Udan flights

OPERATIONS UNDER THE SCHEME WILL BE PERMITTED THROUGH FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT ONLY WITH MORE THAN 70 SEATS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Central Government has invited proposals from interested air operators for the international version of its 'Udan' (*Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik*) scheme as it seeks to enhance air connectivity from India to select overseas destinations.

This is despite the domestic format of the scheme failing to yield desired results with almost half of the routes approved in the first phase of the bidding for the scheme still to be launched.

National airports operator AAI, which has been mandated to implement the international version of the Udan scheme, has invited 'e-proposals (bids) from international bidders for selection of airlines under the International Air Connectivity Scheme, IACS

Udan," according to a notice in a leading English daily.

The Government, in its bid to make flying more affordable for masses, had in October 2016 announced the Udan scheme with airfares capped at ₹2,500 for a one-hour journey through subsidised ticket rates and to provide air connectivity to smaller towns.

In the subsequent developments, five airlines were mandated to fly on 128 regional routes in the first phase of the bidding in March 2017, and 15 airlines on 325 regional routes, including those having chopper operations, in the second phase in January this year.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is also the implementing agency for the domestic format of the regional connectivity scheme.

The bids could be submitted to the AAI by November 22, according to the notice inviting e-proposals.

The AAI has invited the bids on behalf of the civil aviation ministry and the Assam Government, as per the notice.

The Central Government had in August unveiled a draft scheme for extending the UDAN scheme to international circuits, with state governments identifying routes for the operations.

The draft International Air Connectivity (IAC) scheme envisages to increase the international ticketing to 20 crore by 2027.

As per the draft, the scheme is to be made operational only for states which demonstrate their commitment to implement and provide the requisite support for promoting operations under the scheme.

The BJP-ruled Assam had last year offered to provide Rs 100 crore as viability gap funding towards extension of the scheme for international air connectivity from the state capital Guwahati.

According to the draft scheme, State Governments will identify the routes to be connected, and airline operators will assess demand on the identified routes and submit proposals for providing connectivity.

Operations under the scheme will be permitted through fixed-wing aircraft only with more than 70 seats.

The scheme has proposed to set up an International Air Connectivity Fund (IACF) — dedicated for providing subsidy support under the scheme. It will be created through the contributions of State Governments.

Bank credit rises by 12.51%, deposits by 8.07%



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Bank credit rose by 12.51 per cent to ₹89.82 lakh crore in the fortnight ended September 28, while the deposits grew by 8.07 per cent to ₹117.99 lakh crore, according to the RBI data.

In the year-ago fortnight, advances stood at ₹79.83 lakh crore, while the deposits at ₹109.17 lakh crore.

In the fortnight ended September 14, bank credit had risen by 13.46 per cent to ₹87.98 lakh crore, while the deposits grew by 8.58 per cent to ₹115.70 lakh crore.

In August this year, non-food credit rose by 12.4 per

cent, as against an increase of 5.5 per cent in the year-ago month, the RBI data showed.

Advanceto industry rose by 1.9 per cent in August, against a contraction of 0.3 per cent in August 2017.

Bank loans to agriculture and allied activities were up by 6.6 per cent, compared with an increase of 6.5 per cent in the same month last year.

Credit to the services sector expanded by 26.7 per cent, against 5 per cent last year.

Personal loans rose by 18.2 per cent in August 2018, compared with 15.7 per cent in August 2017.

Govt may not further hike import duty on non-essential items

THE IMPORT DUTY ON MOBILE PHONES HAVE BEEN SPARED IN THE RECENT DUTY HIKE AS THE LEVY HAS ALREADY BEEN RAISED EARLIER

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government may not go for another round of import duty hike on any more items and could take other measures to contain the impact of rupee slide on current account deficit (CAD), an official said.

The Government, within a span of two weeks, has hiked import duty on a host of household items like refrigerators and air conditioners, and telecom and communications system products as it looked to cut import of non-essential items.

"Further hike in import duty on non essential goods is not likely," the official said.

In the latest round of duty hike effective October 12, the Finance Ministry increased the levy of import of base station, IP Radios, soft switches and

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) equipments, and optical transport equipments, among others, to up to 20 per cent.

The import duty on mobile phones have been spared in the recent duty hike as the levy has already been raised earlier.

"This round of duty hike was suggested by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeiTY), after discussion with Ministry of Commerce and Industry. We have gone ahead with their suggestion," the official added.

Indian rupee had touched a historic low of 74.50 to a dollar on October 11. It later recovered and ended October 12 trading session at 73.57 to a dollar as global crude prices eased. The rupee has depreciated about 13 per cent since the beginning of 2018.

"We expect the rupee to rise from here. No more import curbs would be needed at the moment. Rather we should look at ways to check dependence on petrol, diesel," another official said.

The Government, effective September 27, had doubled duties on import of 19 items, including air conditioners, household refrigerators and washing machines (less than 10 kg), to 20 per cent. The cost of import of these items was ₹86,000 crore in 2017-18 fiscal.

Following a meeting by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government had on September 14 announced that the centre would impose curbs on import of non-essential items to contain the widening CAD and check the rupee fall.

To address the issue of expanding CAD, the Government will take necessary steps to cut down non-essential imports and increase exports. The commodities of which imports will be cut down will be decided after consultations with concerned ministries and will be WTO-compliant," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had then said.

Earlier in the day, a finance ministry official had said more steps will be taken to check CAD and hoped that the rupee would appreciate.

"Rupee, Balance of Payments, CAD are the main worries, we have strategy in place to tackle situation. We will take action at opportune time on these issues," the official said.

The CAD widened to 2.4 per cent of the GDP in the first quarter of 2018-19.

Large trade deficit and rupee decline against the US dollar are putting pressure on the CAD, and these steps are likely to have a positive impact on the external sector.

Results, rupee movement to guide mkts this week: Experts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Quarterly earnings from blue-chips like Infosys and RIL as well as movement of the rupee and crude oil prices will dictate the market trend in the holiday-shortened week ahead, say experts. "Currently, broader markets look attractive while investors may seek more clarity from upcoming quarterly results. The continuity of this trend largely depends on stability on bond yields and INR.

"However, worries about US Fed rate hike, US-China trade dispute and political uncertainties in India on account of upcoming state elections may impact sentiment in the short-term," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

"Companies like Infosys, Federal Bank, ACC, Reliance are to announce their results this week," said Prateek Jain, Director, Hem Securities. Over the last week, the BSE 30-share Sensex gained 356.59 points to close at 34,733.58 on Friday.

Govt may give ₹2.5K cr bank guarantee for State-owned firm STC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State Trading Corporation (STC) may soon get relief from the Government in terms of bank guarantee of ₹2,500 crore to help the company resolve the liquidity problem, sources said.

The commerce ministry has approved the proposal and sent that to the finance ministry for final approval.

"There is also a plan to restructure loans of STC as the company is facing financial hardship," the sources said.

The firm is also in the process of preparing a plan to sell its non-core assets to raise funds.

The move assume significance as there was a proposal of the commerce ministry for a merger of STC and another state-owned trading firm MMT.

STC has posted 88.44 per cent fall in standalone net profit to ₹1.46 crore during April-June 2018-19, on account of poor income.

The company, while releasing

The Commerce Ministry has approved the proposal and sent that to the Finance Ministry for final approval

ing its unaudited financial result for the quarter ended June 30, 2018 in August, had stated that it has appointed financial advisor for restructuring of existing loans and for raising additional loans.

It had also proposed to raise additional working capital funds against its properties.

"Therefore, the Company has approached its lender banks for an appropriate resolution plan with the objective to make the operations of the company viable and sustainable. The lender banks have formed Joint Lender Forum to finalise the reconstruction plan," it had said.

Govt to give priority to State power producers for coal supply

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has asked Coal India Ltd and its subsidiaries to prioritise coal supply to State power producers like NTPC, leaving private electricity plants in a lurch, multiple sources said.

The Coal Ministry has directed CIL to prioritise the coal supply to select central and State Government-owned power houses under the pretext of building coal stocks at these plants.

Following this, all subsidiaries of Coal India like South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL) have been directed to supply coal to state power generators such as NTPC.

This has come at the cost of private power producers, who are running out of feedstock used to produce electricity.

Sources in private producers say rationally Coal India should give first priority to those plants having critical coal stocks. Next should come plants facing supplies below contractual obligations and then to most efficient plants, irrespective of ownership.

Preferential and priority

distribution should not be limited to public sector, they said, adding that private power plants should not be discriminated against.

As per the sources, following the instruction from coal ministry, Coal India has its subsidiaries like SECL to supply 25 rakes per day of coal to NTPC's Korba, Mouda and Bhilai power plants and such other state power plants.

Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) has also accorded priority supplies to central public sector plants and WCL has been verbally instructed to supply coal to only Mahagenco (formerly known as Maharashtra State Electricity Board) plants.

As a result, SECL in October increased the supplies to state and central generating companies from an average 10 rakes per day (40,000 tonnes) to 17 rakes per day (68,000 tonnes) whereas for private power plants it has reduced from an average 10 rakes per day to only 6 rakes per day (24,000 Tons).

Private power generators feel such priority supply only to state and central PSU electricity generating companies is

discriminatory.

This discrimination based on ownership of assets puts into question the sanctity of level playing field and ease of doing business besides being bad in the eyes of law and equity, they said.

The move comes just when the festive season has started when power demand goes up. Also, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Telangana will go to polls this year.

Also, power tariff in spot market have hit a record high past few days. In last week of September, spot electricity price touched nine year high of ₹14.25 per unit and swelled further to ₹18.20 in the first week of October on Indian Energy Exchange.

This spark in power tariff was attributed to inadequate coal supplies from Coal India, the sources said.

While domestic coal production during April-September has risen to 256 million tonnes from 232 million tonnes in the year ago period, increased power demand has meant that coal imports have also risen to 119 million tonnes from 105 million tonnes in April-September 2017.

74 firms generated 11 bn euros revenue in Germany: Survey

PTI ■ MUMBAI

As many as 74 Indian companies have generated annual revenues of 11 billion euros and employed nearly 23,300 people in Germany, a recent survey said.

According to a survey titled 'Indian Investment in Germany: Update 2018' conducted by EY, Indo German Chamber of Commerce and CII, four dominant sectors accounted for almost 95 per cent of the revenue generated by Indian companies in Germany, as well as 89 per cent of the 23,300 people employed.

"Out of the total number of more than 213 Indian subsidiaries operating in Germany, nearly 74 Indian companies each with annual turnover of more than 10 million euros generated combined annual revenues of around 11 billion euros," the report said.

The four dominant sectors include automotive, metals and metal-processing, chemicals and pharmaceuticals and professional, scientific and technical services.

"The top 10 Indian compa-

nies alone account for more than 74 per cent of all revenues generated by Indian companies and employ around 59 per cent of this groups total workforce," it said.

The report noted that excellent infrastructure, favourable R&D and innovation conditions as well as a highly skilled labour force comprise top-rated business environment factors by Indian investors in the 2018 update.

"In addition, the opportunity to access European market post Brexit is an important factor for Indian investors," it said.

The study noted that Indian investors viewed the quality of living at affordable prices very positively. "The quality of education, which is offered for free by the Government, makes Germany an attractive location for relevant research and development activities.

"Also, the security standards, personally and for financial investments, qualify Germany to be a perfect destination for Indians, who intend to diversify risks investing their private wealth in the Federal Republic," the report added.

'Continued investment in infra will help industry'

The CEO of SpotOn, a Bangalore-based logistics firm, **Abhik Mitra** talked to *The Pioneer*. Here are excerpts of his interview taken by **Vikas Kumar**:

Recently you developed Piece Level Tracking System to track products being delivered. How does it work?

The technology that we use for tracking a consignment or boxes/pieces within a consignment is a combination of track and trace system which is supported by Piece Level Tracking System. Piece Level Tracking means the box of a consignment can be tracked. A consignment may be from say a auto spare parts to a distributor. He may be sending one consignment box. But in that one consignment note there could be 10 boxes, so we can track each box in that consignment. The technology has been developed in house. What it helps us to do and the customer to do is know exactly where his shipment is, in

which vehicle it is and in which hub or service centre it is.

Purpose of this technology is visibility for the customer and control for SpotOn; so that we know where every shipment is. And we can move the shipment fast enough and correctly so that we make an accurate delivery.

You are going to provide air services in 2019 across India. What are your plans to provide the same to neighbouring countries in particular and world in general? And why are you coming up with air services after long seven years of establishment of your company?

The air services that we are starting in April 2019, for which the work has already started in building the IT platform and building the infrastructure that we need is something we are going to do for domestic air cargo. Where the product will be available to our existing customers and B2B

"Yes, there is a time lag but while it is (fuel prices) challenging; but not that challenging that can affect our business"



customers. We believe this could have happened a little earlier but as you know there was a transaction was going on. Our earlier investors were existing and new investors were coming in so as a result of that we just delayed the whole process by a period of around 6-8 months.

We started planning process for this about a year ago when we knew the new investors were coming on board. And now we have started work so that we can launch the product by April

What are the challenges logistics sectors is facing due to rising fuel prices? Tell us how hard it is to run operations during such volatile market conditions?

Of course it is hard, having said that the stability of network is never compromised, because service is most important thing. We typically get a pass through to our vendors who compensate us for higher prices, and we also get compensated by our customers. Yes there is a time lag but while it is challenging but it is not that challenging that

can affect our business.

Is logistics industry facing any hurdles due to Government rules and regulations? What suggestions would you like to give to the Government so that logistics sector easily can comply with the regulations?

Not really. The GST has been a very positive step for us. E-Way bill has been positive. Of course the implementation and execution takes a little bit of time. And the Government has been listening to us in terms of our situations; especially under the express industry because as an express industry we do not move from one pick up point to one delivery point. We move through hubs and spokes. And obviously large number of e-way bills need to be made, which are made using technology as manually it is impossible to do that and I don't think there are any negatives. These are positives.

Obviously continued

investment in infrastructure, will help the industry. The ability to move through tolls (I understand the need for tolls) - but if trucks could move faster through toll booths faster than what happens now it would improve the speed and predictability of the network.

Did the recent truck union's strike hamper your operations?

Yes of course it did, because our trucks were stopped and held back at different places. Loads were in the trucks. Customers did not get the service they should have got. Couple of the trucks was also attacked. Fortunately we didn't lose anything. A strike does impact the industry.

In an express network- for us a network is like a loop. A truck leaves Delhi to Mumbai and there are 2 en-route after that. The truck which has left from Delhi needs to reach Mumbai and go back. If this loop is broken it certainly takes time to settle down.

India International Silk Fair to begin this week

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Smriti Irani will Tuesday inaugurate India International Silk Fair (IISF), a three-day event where over 108 exhibitors of silk and blended silk will display their produce here.

"The fair will give a platform to exporters to display their products and to overseas buyers an opportunity to place orders and source their merchandise," the textiles ministry said.

"The IISF-2018 is expected to generate business of over \$20 million for the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) engaged in producing silk and blended silk garments, fabrics, accessories and floor covering," it added.

Over 218 buyers from various countries will participate in the fair. Artisans from Jammu & Kashmir and north-east will showcase their unique

THE IISF-2018 IS EXPECTED TO GENERATE BUSINESS OF OVER \$20 MILLION FOR THE SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMEs) ENGAGED IN PRODUCING SILK AND BLENDED SILK GARMENTS, FABRICS, ACCESSORIES AND FLOOR COVERING

products from their region which will be an added attraction for buyers.

India is the second largest producer of silk in the world. The country's silk industry is agriculture based and labour intensive and provides gainful employment to around 8 million artisans and weavers in rural areas.

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	309.9354
Index FundSensex Plan (FV Rs 32.161)	306.5626

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

Blended Plan A - Dividend	13.5898
Blended Plan A - Direct Plan Bonus	10.9152
Blended Plan A - Growth	22.7587
Blended Plan A-Direct Plan - Dividend	13.6408
Blended Plan A-Direct Plan - Growth	23.0933

KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND

Bluechip Fund - Dividend	31.676
Bluechip Fund - Dividend - Direct	34.468
Bluechip Fund - Growth	210.87
Bluechip Fund - Growth - Direct	223.999
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend	21.286
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend - Direct	24.64
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth	34.688
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth - Direct	37.015
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly Direct	20.0423
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly Direct	20.2378
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend	10.7359
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend - Direct	11.0381
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Regular	23.0584
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth	25.6888
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth - Direct	26.4285
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Direct	23.5305
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend	22.969
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend - Direct	24.696
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth	105.988
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth - Direct	112.65
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Growth	13.8901
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Monthly Dividend	11.3976
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Quarterly Dividend	11.0045
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Growth	13.52
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Monthly Dividend	11.1333
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Quarterly Dividend	10.9059
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend	15.195
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend - Direct	15.973
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth	15.196
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth - Direct	15.902
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend	19.58
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend - Direct	21.698
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth	48.034
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth - Direct	51.667
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Div	16.193
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Growth	17.774
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund-Direct Plan- Div Option	18.948
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund-Direct - Growth Option	19.166
Small Cap Fund - Dividend	34.375
Small Cap Fund - Dividend - Direct	37.134
Small Cap Fund - Growth	66.567
Small Cap Fund - Growth - Direct	71.434
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend	21.113
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend - Direct	22.587
Standard Multicap Fund - Growth	31.609
Standard Multicap Fund - Growth - Direct	33.437

SAHARA MUTUAL FUND

BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-GROWTH - Direct	64.5499
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-GROWTH OPTION	60.8821
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND - Direct	21.9234
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND OPTION	21.5229
Growth Fund-Dividend	37.8643
Growth Fund-Dividend-Direct	38.5599
Growth Fund-Growth	130.3965
Growth Fund-Growth-Direct	145.5617
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING -Direct-Dividend	20.328
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	25.4496
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option	17.2523
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	23.6255
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Dividend	22.3093
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	28.0185
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option	20.1426
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	27.3815
Midcap Fund-Auto Payout	71.5549
Midcap Fund-Auto Payout-Direct	76.4255
Midcap Fund-Bonus	71.5549
Midcap Fund-Bonus-Direct	76.4255
Midcap Fund-Dividend-Direct	32.0292
Midcap Fund-Dividend Plan	31.5581
Midcap Fund-Growth Option - Direct	76.4255
Midcap Fund-Growth Plan	71.5549
Power & Natural Resources Fund - Dividend Option	16.5529
Power & Natural resources Fund - Growth - Direct	20.8981
Power & Natural resources Fund - Growth Option	19.4074
Power & Natural Resources Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.0357
R.E.A.L Fund - Dividend Option	19.5224
R.E.A.L Fund - Dividend Option-Direct	19.9131
R.E.A.L Fund - Growth Fund	19.5192
R.E.A.L Fund - Growth Fund-Direct	21.5048

Star Value Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.9545
Star Value Fund-Dividend Option	16.68
Star Value Fund-Growth - Direct	23.1748
Star Value Fund-Growth Option	21.5681
Super 20 Fund - Dividend - Direct	16.3573
Super 20 Fund - Dividend Option	18.9689
Super 20 Fund - Growth - Direct	20.6309
Super 20 Fund - Growth Option	18.9873
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Dividend Option	29.4685
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	41.5708
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Dividend Option	28.9942
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Growth Option	40.7108
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct -Dividend	34.8372
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	48.5678
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Dividend Option	34.3497
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Growth Option	47.3791

MAGNUM NRI FLEXASSET PLAN-DIVIDEND	30.3025
MAGNUM NRI FLEXASSET 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

SBI MUTUAL FUND

FXED MATURITY PLAN - SERIES 47 - DIRECT PLAN-GROWTH	14.096
FXED 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	10.266
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	24.0808
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	19.6985
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	17.7978
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 1 - Retail Qty Div Payout	10.0022
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Direct Plan - Growth	17.6211
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Growth	17.5944
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 -Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 Plan - Direct - Qty Div Payout	10.0023
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	10.0271
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.0296

OPEN-ENDED (INCOME)

DHFL PRAMERICA MUTUAL FUND

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

Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	20.0513
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0013
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Growth	19.9985
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Direct Qty Div Payout	10.0085
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	10.0083
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	20.7912
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.1854
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	17.5014
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0061
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Growth	17.4312
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Cumulative	13.9619
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct - Cumulative	13.9796
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct Plan - Div	10.9291
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	14.9423
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	14.9835
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Cumulative	14.9023
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct - Cumulative	14.9454
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct Plan - Div	10.441
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	13.774
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	13.7979
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Dividend	10.8654
Interval Fund II - Qty Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Qty Div Payout	10.2479
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	21.1917
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Quarterly Div Payout	10.0015
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.6172
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.6425
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Qty Div Payout	10.224
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0124
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	20.9682
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0051
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	14.1819
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	14.2363
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Quarterly Div Payout	10.0016
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Dividend	10.0038
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Growth	22.1759
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Growth	14.0323
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct - Qty Div Payout	10.2204
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Dividend	10.0039
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Growth	13.9772
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Instl Qty Div Payout	10.2061
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Dividend	10.0799
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Growth	22.795
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0051
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct - Qty Div Payout	10.1535
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7073
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Dividend	10.005
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Growth	13.469
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Quarterly Div Payout	10.2309
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Dividend	10.0742
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Growth	20.25
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0168
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7138
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct - Qty Div Payout	10.0095
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Dividend	10.1825
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Growth	17.716
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F Retail Qty Dividend Payout	10.0046
Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0009
Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	19.7164
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.001
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	18.1794
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	18.1012
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B -Dividend	10.1688
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan - II Retail Quarterly Div Payout	10.234
Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	20.0008
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.9183
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.8735
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Half Yearly	13.6318
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Monthly	12.7914
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Quarterly	13.8562
MIP - Direct Plan - Growth	49.7829
MIP - Direct Plan Bonus	13.7171
MIP - Dividend Half Yearly	12.8248
MIP - Dividend Monthly	12.3602
MIP - Dividend Quarterly	13.5226
MIP - Growth	48.1366

Short Term Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option	10.5901
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.4269

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	40.0173
Banking and PSU Debt - Monthly Dividend	10.5059
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Annual Dividend	17.1427
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Growth	40.6285
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Monthly Dividend	10.6102
Bond - Annual Dividend - Direct	22.0861
Bond - Growth - Direct	50.1636
Bond - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	13.5759
Bond Regular Plan Annual Dividend	29.391
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	47.9724
Bond Regular Plan Quarterly Dividend	10.7277
Bond-Deposit-Dividend	13.6554
Bond-Deposit-Growth	42.9354
Bond Short Term Plan - Direct Plan - Normal Dividend	10.2716
Bond Short Term Plan-(Dividend)	10.1317
Bond Short Term Plan-(Dividend) - Direct	10.9516
Bond Short Term Plan-(Growth)	33.1652
Bond Short Term Plan-(Growth) - Direct	34.5907
Bond Short Term Plan-(Half Yearly Dividend)	12.0897
Bond Short Term Plan-(Half Yearly Dividend) - Direct	12.2705
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan-Growth Option	2034.9063
Corporate Bond Fund- Direct Plan- Growth Option	2410.4554
Corporate Bond Fund- Direct Plan- Monthly Dividend Option	1106.9616
Corporate Bond Fund- Institutional Plan-Growth Option	2090.4924
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Growth Option	2359.5035
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	1052.9376
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	10.527
Credit Risk Fund - Annual Dividend - Direct	15.4705
Credit Risk Fund - Growth	19.5401
Credit Risk Fund - Growth - Direct	20.597
Credit Risk Fund - Monthly Dividend	10.3386
Credit Risk Fund - Monthly Dividend - Direct	10.5703
Credit Risk Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.7738
Credit Risk Fund - Quarterly Direct Dividend - Direct	10.1594
Credit Risk Fund - Weekly Dividend	10.0071
Credit Risk Fund - Weekly Dividend - Direct	10.4321

Saudi rejects threats as stocks plunge after Trump remarks

AP ■ DUBAI

Saudi Arabia warned on Sunday it will respond to any “threats” against it as its stock market plunged following President Donald Trump’s warning of “severe punishment” over the disappearance of Washington Post contributor Jamal Khashoggi.

Trump made a point of visiting the kingdom on his first overseas trip as President and has touted arms sales to Saudi Arabia. But both the White House and the kingdom are under mounting pressure as concern grows over the fate of the veteran journalist, who hasn’t been seen since he entered the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

Already, international business leaders are pulling out of the kingdom’s upcoming investment forum, a high-profile event known as “Davos in the Desert.”

“The kingdom affirms its total rejection of any threats and attempts to undermine it, whether by threatening to impose economic sanctions, using political pressures or repeating false accusations,” the statement published by the



state-run Saudi Press Agency read. “The kingdom also affirms that if it receives any action, it will respond with greater action, and that the kingdom’s economy has an influential and vital role in the global economy.”

The statement from the world’s top oil exporter came after the Tadawul exchange in Riyadh dropped by 7 per cent at one point during the week’s first day of trading, with 182 of its 186 listed stocks showing

losses by the early afternoon. The market clawed back some of the losses, closing down 3.5 per cent for the day.

Turkish officials say they fear Saudi agents killed and dismembered Khashoggi after he entered the consulate, saying they have audio and video recordings of it that they have not released. The kingdom has called the allegations “baseless,” but has offered no evidence the writer ever left the consulate.

In an interview to be aired

Sunday, Trump told CBS’ “60 Minutes” that the consequences of Saudi Arabia being involved would be “severe.”

“There’s something really terrible and disgusting about that, if that was the case, so we’re going to have to see,” Trump said. “We’re going to get to the bottom of it and there will be severe punishment.”

However, Trump in the same interview said: “As of this moment, they deny it and they deny it vehemently. Could it be them? Yes.”

Other stock exchanges in the Mideast saw less volatility Sunday. US markets were ruffled by rising interest rates, signs of a slowdown in the global economy and the US-China trade dispute.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has aggressively pitched the kingdom as a destination for foreign investment. But Khashoggi’s disappearance, and suspicions he may have been targeted over his criticism of the crown prince, have led several business leaders and media outlets to back out of an upcoming high-profile investment conference in Riyadh.

Trump also said “we would

be punishing ourselves” by canceling arms sales to Saudi Arabia, which his administration touted on his first overseas trip.

The sale is a “tremendous order for our companies,” and if the kingdom doesn’t buy its weaponry from the United States, they will buy it from others, he said. Trump said he would meet with Khashoggi’s family.

American lawmakers in both parties have been more critical of Saudi Arabia, with several suggesting officials in the kingdom could be sanctioned if they were found to be involved in Khashoggi’s disappearance and alleged killing.

Khashoggi, who was considered close to the Saudi royal family, had become a critic of the current government and Prince Mohammed, the 33-year-old heir apparent who has shown little tolerance for criticism.

As a contributor to the Post, Khashoggi has written extensively about Saudi Arabia, including criticism of its war in Yemen, its recent diplomatic spat with Canada and its arrest of women’s rights activists after the lifting of a ban on women driving.

Turkey accuses Saudi of not cooperating as Trump threatens ‘punishment’

Istanbul: Turkey accused Saudi Arabia of failing to cooperate with a probe into the disappearance of a journalist inside its Istanbul consulate, as US President Donald Trump threatened “severe punishment” if it turns out he was killed.

Comments by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu represented a hardening of Ankara’s hitherto circumspect tone over the case of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who has not been seen since he stepped inside the consulate on October 2.

Turkish officials have said they believe Khashoggi was killed inside the consulate and lurid claims have been leaked to media that he was tortured and even dismembered, while Trump has also struck a pessimistic tone about the missing journalist’s fate.

Saudi Arabia insists

UK, US may boycott Saudi conference over scribe’s killing

London: Britain and the US are considering boycotting a major international conference in Saudi Arabia after the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the BBC reported on Sunday. Khashoggi, a critic of the Saudi Government, vanished on October 2 after visiting its consulate in Istanbul, triggering tensions between Riyadh and Ankara.

The authorities in Istanbul believe he was murdered there by Saudi agents. Saudi Arabia has rejected the allegations as “lies”. Several sponsors and media groups have decided to pull out of this month’s investment conference in Riyadh, dubbed Davos in the Desert, as a result of concerns over Khashoggi’s fate.

Diplomatic sources said both US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and UK International Trade Secretary Liam Fox might not attend the event, being hosted by the kingdom’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to promote his reform agenda. IANS

Trump wants people to come to US on basis of merit

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has said he wants people with merit to enter the United States, a move that can help technology professionals from countries such as India. “I’m very tough at the borders. We’ve been very tough at the borders. People have to come into our country legally, not illegally. Legally. And I want them to come in on merit,” Trump told reporters at the White House.

Responding to a series of question on illegal immigration, the president reiterated that he wants people based on merit, a move that can help technology professionals from countries such as India.

“What I want is merit. I

want a lot of people to come in. We have great car companies entering our country again. This hasn’t happened for 35 years. We have companies like Foxconn going to Wisconsin with a massive, massive plant,” he said.

“We need people coming in, but we want them to come in on merit. We want people that are going to help us. It’s very important,” Trump said. Observing that immigration is not tricky to him, he insisted that the administration and the Congress have to do the right thing whether there’s an election or not.

He opposed the chain migration policy and said, “If that’s a bad policy, then guess what, a lot of bad things are



going to happen. But a lot of people agree with me. I would say a vast majority of our country agrees. They don’t want criminals coming into our country. They don’t want people that they don’t want in the

country that aren’t going to help us as a country. They don’t want these people coming in. So we have a very strong policy.”

“The one thing that really has changed over the last couple of years since I’ve been President — our country is doing so well, even with real interest — not with false interest rates. Zero interest.

Anybody can do well with zero interest. We’re the hottest country in the world, economically, by far. You take a look at us compared to China, compared to everybody else, we’re the hottest country in the world. A lot of people are trying to come in. Our border security, our ICE, our law enforcement is doing an incredible job,” he said.

Ready to share debt details of CPEC with IMF: Pak

Islamabad: Pakistan is ready to share details of the debt related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with the IMF, Finance Minister Asad Umar has said while rejecting the US’ view that China-funded projects were to blame for the cash-strapped country’s current economic woes.

Speaking to the media here on his return from Indonesia where he requested International Monetary Fund’s Managing Director Christine Lagarde for a bailout package for Pakistan, Umar said the decision to approach the global lender was taken after consultations with friendly countries.

The IMF team, Umar said, was scheduled to arrive in Pakistan on November 7 to

negotiate the programme, likely to span over a three-year period. He said Pakistan’s current year debt repayments were about \$9 billion but obviously it would not entirely be available from the IMF.

Lagarde has made it clear that the IMF would require absolute transparency on Pakistan’s debts, including those owned by China under the \$50 billion CPEC.

Umar, however, rejected the US State Department’s statement, suggesting that the debt accrued on the CPEC projects was to blame for Pakistan’s current economic crisis. The CPEC is a network of infrastructure projects that are currently under construction throughout Pakistan that will



connect China’s Xinjiang province with Gwadar port in Pakistan’s Balochistan province. It is the part of Chinese President Xi Jinping’s ambitious Belt and Road initiative.

The US said the huge Chinese debt was responsible for the economic challenges in Pakistan, adding it will review Islamabad’s bailout plea to the IMF from all angles, including the country’s debt position.

“We understand that Pakistan has formally requested assistance from the IMF. In

all cases, we examine that closely from all angles of it, including Pakistan’s debt position, in evaluating any type of loan programme,” State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert had said, adding this is something the US has been tracking fairly closely. Responding to a question, Nauert said; “The secretary (of state Mike Pompeo) had spoken about this a few months back. I know, in some interviews not that long ago. I think part of the reason that Pakistan found itself in this situation is Chinese debt, and the fact that there is debt that governments have incurred that they maybe thought wouldn’t be so tough to bail themselves out of, but has become increasingly tough.” PTI

Pak auto rickshaw driver summoned after Rs 300 crore found in his account

Karachi: An auto rickshaw driver got the scare of his life when he received a call from Pakistan’s top investigation agency which sought an explanation from him about a whopping Rs 300 crore worth of transactions made to his account. The driver, identified as Muhammad Rasheed, who lives in Karachi came to know about the huge transactions in his account when the Federal Investigating Agency (FIA) summoned him for an explanation.

“I got a call from the FIA office and they told me to show up for questioning. I was so scared as I didn’t know what had happened,” Rasheed said. “When I went to the FIA office they showed me the record of my bank account,” he said.

“The FIA officials told me that transactions of some 300 crore rupees were made through my salary bank account which I had opened back in 2005 when I was working for a private company as a driver,” Rasheed said. Rasheed said he had quit job just after a month to start his own work. “Three hundred crore rupees is a dream. I have never even seen Rs 1 lakh in my life,” he lamented. PTI



A view of the sail boats taking part in the 50th edition of the traditional Barcolana regatta in the gulf of Trieste, north-eastern Italy on Sunday. The Barcolana is an annual sailing race in the Gulf of Trieste with hundreds of participants which is described by the organisers as “everybody’s regatta” AP

Mattis ‘could be’ leaving as US Defence chief: Trump

Washington: US President Donald Trump said in an interview airing on Sunday that Defence Secretary Jim Mattis “could be” leaving, referring to him as “sort of a Democrat.”

Mattis, seen as one of the steady members of Trump’s cabinet, has served as a low-profile counterweight to the president in his often abrasive treatment of US allies.

In an interview, Trump was asked whether he wanted Mattis to leave. “It could be that he is. I think he’s sort of a Democrat, if you want to know the truth,” Trump said, according to an excerpt released by CBS.

“But General Mattis is a good guy. We get along very well. He may leave. I mean, at some point, everybody leaves.” Trump said he had lunch

with Mattis two days earlier and Mattis, a retired Marine four-star general, had not told him that he was leaving.

The exchange on Mattis came after Trump alluded to upcoming changes in his cabinet, which last week saw the surprise resignation of Nikki Haley, the US ambassador to the United Nations.

“I’m changing things around. And I’m entitled to. I have people now on standby that will be phenomenal. They’ll come into the administration, they’ll be phenomenal,” Trump said.

“I think we have a great cabinet. There’re some people that I’m not happy with. I have some people that I’m not thrilled with. And I have other people that I’m beyond thrilled with,” he said. AFP

4 men killed in shooting at child’s birthday party in Texas

Taft (US): Investigators say a party in South Texas to mark a toddler’s first birthday erupted in gunfire, leaving four men dead and a fifth man wounded. The Texas Department of Public Safety says the shooting happened shortly after 5 pm in Taft, 19 kms north of Corpus Christi. Sgt Nathan Brandley says an altercation erupted between two families attending party and escalated into deadly shooting.

Brandley said the wounded man was airlifted to a Corpus Christi hospital. His condition wasn’t clear. Brandley said two suspects are on the loose. No identities or other details have been released. AP

GLOBE TROTTER

ALL ISRAELI AIRLINES TO STOP FLYING FROM 2019

Jerusalem: Israel’s leading airline El Al warns that all Israeli airlines will stop flying from January 1, 2019 because of security concerns abroad, a newspaper reported on Sunday. The surprising announcement was made by Eli Dapas, El Al chairman, in his urgent letter to the deputy head of Israel’s National Security Council and the Director General of the Prime Minister’s Office, the Hebrew-language newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth reported.

HUNTER KILLS BRITISH CYCLIST IN FRENCH ALPS

Paris: A prosecutor says a hunter shot and killed a 34-year-old cyclist in the French Alps in what appears to be an accident. Thonon-Les-Bains prosecutor Philippe Toccanier said the 22-year-old hunter was hospitalised for shock after the Saturday evening shooting and couldn’t be taken into custody while he is investigated on suspicion of aggravated manslaughter.

CHINA’S 1ST SATELLITE FOR WAVE DETECTION

Beijing: China plans to launch its first satellite to test the technologies of the space-based gravitational wave detection programme “Tianqin” by the end of 2019. The programme Tianqin, meaning “harp in sky,” was initiated by Sun Yat-sen University in south China’s Guangdong province in 2015.

As sea ice melts, some say walrus need better protection

AP ■ ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Given a choice between giving birth on land or sea ice, Pacific walrus mothers most often choose ice.

Likewise, they prefer sea ice for molting, mating, nursing and resting between dives for food. Trouble is, as the century progresses, there’s going to

be far less ice around. How well walrus cope with less sea ice is at the heart of a legal fight over whether walrus should be listed as a threatened species, giving them an added protection against human encroachment.

The federal government in 2008 listed polar bears as a threatened species because of

diminished sea ice brought on by climate warming. That year the Center for Biological Diversity petitioned to do the same for walrus.

However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded in October 2017 that walrus are adapting and no one has proven that they “need” sea ice. “It is unknown whether Pacific walrus can give birth, conduct their nursing during immediate post-natal care period, or complete courtship on land,” said Justice Department lawyers in defending the decision.

A federal judge in Alaska will hear the center’s lawsuit challenging the government’s decision not to list the walrus as threatened. There is no court date set for the lawsuit. Pacific walrus males grow

to 12 feet (3.7 meters) long and up to 4,000 pounds (1,815 kilograms) — more than an average midsize sedan. Females reach half that weight. Walrus dive and use sensitive whiskers to find clams and snails in dim light on the sea floor.

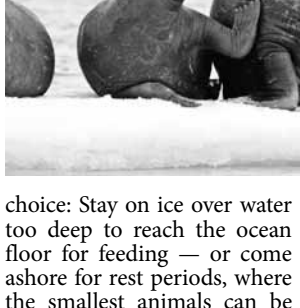
Historically hunted for ivory tusks, meat and blubber, walrus since 1972 have been shielded by the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Only Alaska Native subsistence hunters may legally kill them. An Endangered Species Act listing would require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to designate critical habitat for walrus and plan for their recovery. Federal agencies, before issuing permits for development such as offshore drilling, would be required to ensure walrus and their habi-

tat would not be jeopardized. Inaccessibility protected walrus for decades, but a rapid decline in summer sea ice has made them vulnerable.

In the Chukchi Sea between Alaska and Russia, where Pacific walrus females and juveniles spend their summer, ice can be absent during that season by 2060 or sooner, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Since 1981, an area more than double the size of Texas — 610,000 square miles (1.58 million square kilometers) — has become unavailable to Arctic marine mammals by summer’s end, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center.

By late August, as sea ice recedes beyond the shallow continental shelf, female walrus and their calves face a



choice: Stay on ice over water too deep to reach the ocean floor for feeding — or come ashore for rest periods, where the smallest animals can be crushed in stampedes triggered by a hunter, airplane or bear.

More open water already has meant more ship traffic. Walrus also could find more humans in their habitat with a reversal of U.S. policy on Arctic



offshore drilling. Former President Barack Obama permanently withdrew most Arctic waters from lease sales, but President Donald Trump in April 2017 announced he was reversing Obama, a decision being challenged in court. The administration’s proposed five-year offshore leasing plan includes sales in the Chukchi Sea.



CYCLONE LESLIE SLAMS INTO PORTUGAL, 27 HURT

Lisbon: A weakened hurricane Leslie slammed into the coast of Portugal, leaving 27 people injured as it uprooted trees, brought down power lines and smashed store windows with gusting winds and heavy rain.

19 KILLED IN MIGRANT VEHICLE CRASH IN TURKEY

Istanbul: Nineteen people, including children, died on Sunday when a vehicle carrying migrants reportedly heading for EU member Greece ploughed off the highway into a waterway in western Turkey.

TALIBAN ATTACK AF ARMY BASE, 17 SOLDIERS KILLED

Kabul: Afghan officials say the Taliban have attacked an Army base, killing 17 Afghan soldiers and abducting 11 others.

Trend
Blazer

Sonakshi recalls her time in Bhuj

Actress **SONAKSHI SINHA** said that certain experiences become a part of who you are while calling the time that she spent with soldiers in Bhuj an "unforgettable" one. "Thanks for this amazing opportunity. Sports girl for life, volleyball, Jai Jawaan, Bhuj, Punjab Regiment, Army camp," tweeted Sonakshi, who was at the camp to shoot for a news channel. "Will never forget the time I spent with our amazing soldiers, tried some of the things they do, made them smile and left with an unforgettable experience," she added. She will soon be seen in *Kalank*, which is conceptualised by Karan Johar.



'I have a lot of friends. I do not believe in having 'best friends' because I am a social person. I get along well with a lot of people and establish a good relationship with each of them. I met Erica (Fernandes) for the first time on set. We hit it off right away.'



Actors **ABHAY DEOL** and **PANKAJ KAPUR**'s films are among the 11 projects chosen for the first edition of the South Asian Film Market (SAFM). It includes a selection of 11 filmmakers and their projects giving them an opportunity to showcase them for a jury, which includes producers like Marc Baschet, Shaailish R. Singh and Saurabh Gupta. Through this initiative, SAFM intends to introduce promising

new filmmakers to the world of independent cinema. The 11 projects chosen for the first edition of SAFM are *Aadi*, *Barasinghey*, *JL50*, *18 Not Out*, *So Sicily*, *Khwaish*, *Samir*, *Maadathy*, *Country Of Blind*, *Charulata* and *Hum Bhi Akele Tum Bhi Akele*.

Advocate Neeha Nagpal, who is a practicing lawyer at the Supreme Court for over 10 years, says, "Although the onus is on the government to formulate legislation permitting LGBTQ couples to marry, adopt and inherit their spouse's property, this verdict lays down the legal basis for the formulation of such legislation. At the same time, individuals who face discrimination because of their sexual orientation can now count on the Judiciary." The fact that we can be proud of the country today, is because of the Supreme Court's verdict

Caity wants 'girlmances'

Actress **CAITY LOTZ** said there are a lot of great 'bro-mances' on *Legends of Tomorrow* so she wants to see more of 'girlmances.' "Now that we have so many girls on our cast, I'd like to have more missions where it's all ladies. We need some more girl-mances. If a 'bro-mance' was to happen with girls, what would it be called? Anyway, I'd like to see more of that," said Lotz. She also praised actress *Jes Macallan*, who is seen as *Ava Sharpe* on the show, "Jes is an amazing actress. We have so much fun working together. The chemistry in real life comes out on screen."



BEYOND 377

While the Supreme Court has decriminalised homosexuality, the road ahead is long for the LGBTQ+ community to get their fair share of rights, says **AYUSHI SHARMA**



Rights, for centuries has been nothing more than an empty word for the LGBTQ+ community. They have been denied basic rights like Right to Dignity, Personal Liberty, Health, Education, and even the Freedom of Expression. The Keshav Suri Foundation which aims to work towards the upliftment of the marginalised LGBTQ+ community, is a step in that direction.

While the Supreme Court's historic verdict might have decriminalised homosexuality and paved the way for same-sex couples to legally cohabit and conduct their personal affairs without fear of persecution but it did not automatically translate into a seamless transition to equality for the lesbian gay bisexual transgender queer (LGBTQ) community. For while it has opened the doors for several changes to be introduced to marriage, medical, adoption and inheritance laws for same-sex couples but legal experts say that even though the judgement was historic, same-sex couples still have an uphill task ahead of them. The verdict is indicative of consequential revolutionary changes, but these don't follow automatically. The government now needs to act on this and frame laws to allow same-sex marriages or adoption by LBGQT couples.

Keshav Suri, executive director of The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group, who launched the foundation, is excited about the endeavour and he says, "We are glad that Section 377 has been read down. However, we have merely scratched the surface. Building on the success of the It Gets Better campaign, the Keshav Suri Foundation will illustrate how it can improve in the Indian context. The founda-

tion aims to provide employable skills to the community and sensitise organisations on incorporating more diverse and inclusive practices. The idea at the foundation is to give individual attention to all members. Each story is different and every person has baggage. Counsellors will evaluate each individual, basis of their story. They will then be helped to achieve a skill set best suited to their personality in order to earn a livelihood and lead a life of dignity. Role models from the LGBTQ+ community will also interact with members. This is being planned to help lift the self-esteem and morale of all. These efforts are all centred around one goal — usher the community into mainstream society by putting an end of discrimination."

The motto of the foundation is to embrace, empower, and mainstream the community. It is building a discrimination free platform, enabling community members to share their stories and stigmas - physical, emotional or mental. Alex Mathew, better known as *Maya* the drag queen who outed himself as a gay man in October 2014 says, "Things got better after I met Keshav Suri, who has changed my life completely. Because of him, I'm now currently working as a PR and marketing executive at The Lalit



Ashok Bangalore. Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, a transgender rights activist, faced many difficulties and challenges in life. But things improved for her when she had the guts to say 'NO' to the abusive behaviour of people towards her and when she found her husband in Anjali Gopalan. Laxmi says, "Anjali has taught me to speak my mind. I was like an animal in a cage where trans community member said, 'Oh she's divine' but not heaven treated me like a piece of waste. The day I got to know the reason of their hatred towards me, people loved me so much that they hated me. I got better when I was exposed to this different world (LGBTQ community). When there was a controversy about me being a bad woman, I said good girls go to heaven whereas bad girls go everywhere. I have the power to go everywhere."

Satyashri Sharmila who hails from Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu is India's first transgender woman to enroll as a lawyer in the TN bar council. She says that, "Change is the only constant and it begins from home. The family must start accepting their child for who they are. When you have support from your parents and your family you can fight all the battles. I'm so glad that Keshav has his mother by his side all the time supporting him and he's so blessed to have a mother like her. If I had someone like her, trust me, my journey would have been so much easier. Family is the first frontier."

In response, Jyotsna Suri, chairperson and managing director of Bharat Hotels Limited and mother of Keshav says, "It's the primary point. Unless parents don't support their children, we are not going to make a change. It's not the politicians, not even the judiciary, it is we the people of India who have to make that difference. Judiciary has done it's part by decriminalising. We have to begin from home."



From Russia with love

Bollywood, Russian films and books are an important cultural connect between the two countries. A festival aims at revitalising the existing relations to strengthen them, says **CHAHAK MITTAL**

The fan following of veteran legends like Raj Kapoor, Nargis Hema Malini and Mithun among the Russian public was as massive as India, if not more. On the other hand, through books and Russian classical films, there's a lot that even India has learnt and admired about the Russian film industry. The ties between the then USSR and India have been linked closely to the cultural exchange between the two nations for years.

Exchanges like these continue to merge various cultural habits of both the countries even today. Initiatives like Russian Film Days, by the Russian Federation bring a range of Russian classics and contemporary films to revitalise the relations and strengthen linkages between the two nations.

As the fourth edition of the film festival begin in three major cities — Delhi, Mumbai and Pune — Russian actresses and Russian Ambassador to India inaugurated the three-day festival on Friday at the Russian Federation Centre. He said, "Generations of Russians have experienced emotions through Raj Kapoor's films." The first day saw the world premiere of the Russian film *The Last Trial*, starring Anna Churina, Alisa Grebenshchikova, among others, who were also present at the inauguration. Among the others at the event were Galina Lemesheva, general producer of Russian Film Days in India, TV presenter, editor-in-chief of *The Hollywood Reporter*, Russian edition, actress Valentina Mazunina, Artem Tkachenko, and Vladimir Poluektov, press secretary.

Lemesheva highlighted the importance of the festival, saying that it is important for a better understanding between two nations and their cultures. She said, "People's knowledge of the Russian culture might only be based on books and old classical films. But what is currently happening in Russia can only be found in contemporary movies."

As the festival showcases around seven Russian films, the question arises that on

what criteria are these chosen? There are three broad ideas. "The film *The Last Trial* is one of the highest grosser at the box office and that's why it was chosen. The second basis is new idea and experimental. *Gogol*, the film was originally shot as a serial but the producers decided to first make it as a film and then bring it as a TV series. The third is the variation, where we want to bring a variety of movies and hence, we bring different genres like animation, comedy, war, blockbusters." She said that they are trying to bring out the newest and the best movies, for example, the film *The Last Warrior*.

While the current Indian film industry has been high on realism and are more inclined towards sports films, or biopics these days, the Russian films veer towards patriotism. "For example, the film, *Spaceworkers*, shows one big country where two heroes work for the nation and a woman who saves all the hostages," she said

She believed that the Russian film industry has evolved to a great extent over the years as compared. "After the fall of the Soviet Union, we have had a huge gap in the progress. In Russia, we mostly shot commercial movies which were not produced with very good quality, but now the landscape has changed. Now, for the past seven-10 years, we have been trying to screen our films at every place in the world because they are worth showing and are of good quality like the Russian classics. Now we are using our knowledge of the past to head towards a better future.

Russians have always admired Indian actors and Anna Churina told us that one of her favourites is actor Shah Rukh Khan. Representing his film *Gogol*, which was much loved in Russia, Artem Tkachenko said that it was not his first visit to India and that he "loved coming here, its culture and wants to keep coming back to the country."

Highlighting the significance of the film festival, he said that the festival enables them to come to India without having any political tensions where they do not have to answer any serious questions. Here "we just have to answer about the characters we play in our films and about how the character has evolved."

Among the films that will be shown are among a wide range of genres — a sports drama, *Ice*, cosmic drama, *Spacewalkers*, cinema series, *Gogol: The Beginning*, comedy, *Well, Hello There Oksana Sokolova*, fairytale, *The Last Warrior* and animation series, *Sheep and Wolves*.
(The festival ends today.)

As the fourth edition of the film festival begin in three major cities — Delhi, Mumbai and Pune — Russian actresses and Russian Ambassador to India inaugurated

Amitabh and Aamir shake a leg



Ace choreographer Prabhudeva directed *Vashmalle*, a fun dance number for *Thugs Of Hindostan* that will see the duo dance their heart out after getting drunk. The film will see of the biggest icons of Hindi cinema Amitabh Bachchan and Aamir Khan for the first time on big screen. They've even danced together in the film.

Vijay Krishna Acharya, director of *Thugs of Hindostan* says, "It is amazing that we could write a suitable moment in the film that sees these two icons of Indian cinema shake a leg with each other and the song will stand out because of their infectious energy and camaraderie. The sequence will show them getting drunk during the celebrations and then breaking out to dance on this high energy number. It is a priceless moment."

Sukhwinder Singh and Vishal Dadlani have sung this number while celebrated lyricist Amitabh Bhattacharya has penned the lyrics. Ace music composers Ajay-Atul have created this track.

The film is releasing this Diwali.

Streets of nostalgia

Designer **RAHUL MISHRA** talks about how walking down the lanes of memory brought him closer to the idea of his new collection. By **C MITTAL**



How do you preserve the memory of home? By reconstructing the sights of childhood in varying gradients, like a child would sort out a messed up up jig-saw puzzle, or probably by recalling your old toys and clothes that you've outgrown physically but still adore.

Internationally-acclaimed designer Rahul Mishra's collection on the third day of the Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week looked back in time.

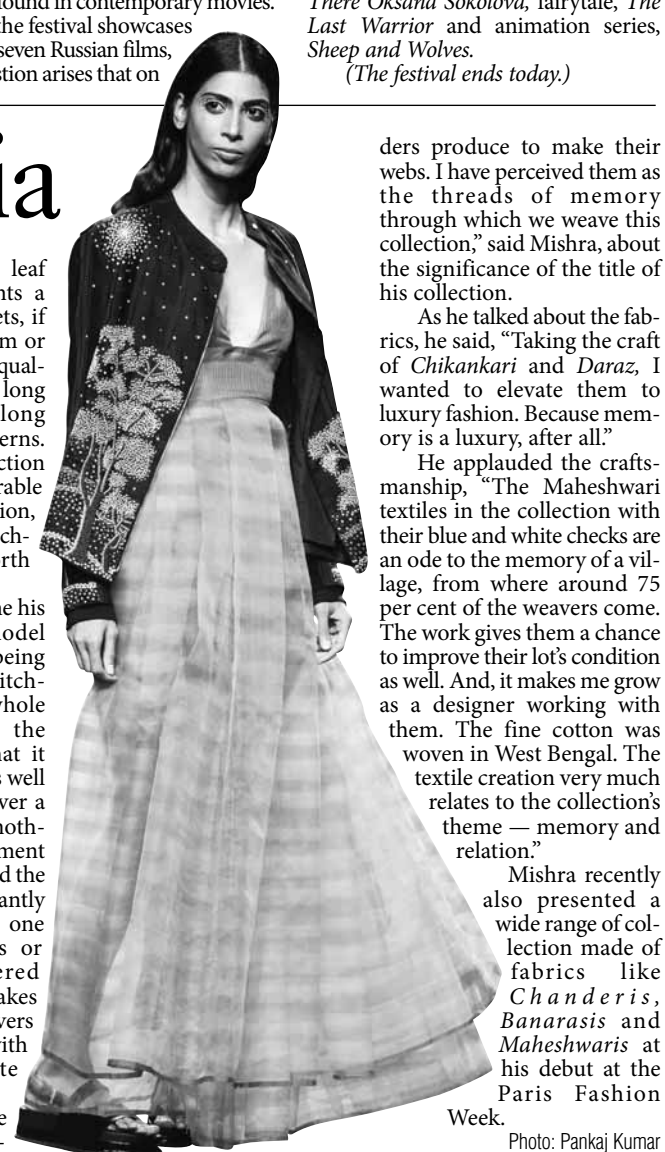
"My true motivation was my home and childhood which in turn was inspired by my three-year-old daughter," said Mishra. Opening the floodgates of memory, his collection, titled, *Gossamer*, brought back the "1980s in colour" and was aimed at "exploring an intimate relationship with the things of my

childhood — the chequered white and blue *lungis* that the weavers wore, my grandmother's Maheshwari sarees, the pillow covers, the white curtains and the table cloth with Daraz work, a craft that is dying now."

There were long shrugs and jackets in Maheshwari silks that had Madras checks pattern, which used to be popular in the 80s and the 90s. The waist and knee-length blazers with floral and leaf motifs gave the garments a vibe of spring. The jackets, if styled with either a denim or even a skirt, would look equally gracious. There were long skirts and one-strap long dresses with striped patterns. Precisely, Mishra's collection set an example of wearable and very sustainable fashion, that is light-weighted, much-loved and instantly worth falling for.

He points towards one his designs worn by a model with its special element being that "it has only four stitches so as to make the whole garment wrap around the body in such a way that it looks both like a dress as well as a jacket to be worn over a dress." Well, there's yet another element in the garment that will make one applaud the designer's creativity instantly — that it is made from one cloth without any cuts or wastage. The chequered design pattern indeed makes one go back to the weavers who wore such *lungis* with blue checks and white stripes.

"Gossamer is also the very thin thread that spi-



ders produce to make their webs. I have perceived them as the threads of memory through which we weave this collection," said Mishra, about the significance of the title of his collection.

As he talked about the fabrics, he said, "Taking the craft of *Chikankari* and *Daraz*, I wanted to elevate them to luxury fashion. Because memory is a luxury, after all."

He applauded the craftsmanship, "The Maheshwari textiles in the collection with their blue and white checks are an ode to the memory of a village, from where around 75 per cent of the weavers come. The work gives them a chance to improve their lot's condition as well. And, it makes me grow as a designer working with them. The fine cotton was woven in West Bengal. The textile creation very much relates to the collection's theme — memory and relation."

Mishra recently also presented a wide range of collection made of fabrics like *Chanderis*, *Banarasis* and *Maheshwaris* at his debut at the Paris Fashion Week.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

Engagement with data, information and policy can aid in preventing forest fires, says TEAM VIVA



Technology can save India's forests

At a time when India has managed to increase its forest cover to over 20 per cent of its geographical area, forest health continues to show signs of strain. Regeneration is either inadequate or absent in about 45 per cent of all forest area and about 95 per cent of all forest plots inventoried show some signs of degradation, according to the report, "Strengthening Forest Fire Management in India", jointly prepared by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the World Bank. The report discusses policies on forest fire prevention and management (FFPM) at the national, state and local levels. It provides recommendations on five broad themes – policy, institutions and capacity, community engagement, technology, and data and information and looks at national and international best practices in FFPM.

According to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the annual carbon emissions from forest fires globally range between 2.5 billion to 4.0 billion tons of CO₂, adding large volumes of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.

The report was released by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. "Forest fire management is part of our long-term vision for sustainable forest management. It is also crucial for sustaining progress towards our global pledge of creating additional sinks of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tons worth of CO₂ stored in its forests by 2030,"



Prevention and Management in India."

GOOD MANAGEMENT IS BUILT ON GOOD KNOWLEDGE

Today many states in India are trying out innovative solutions for fire prevention and management. Madhya Pradesh was the first state to develop an SMS-based system to alert field staff about active forest fires in their area. Odisha has pioneered the use of fire suppression equipment and states like Mizoram, Tripura and MP have effectively involved the community in preventing forest fires. States can learn from each other's experiences to make these systems more effective. "We recommend that a formal mechanism for knowledge sharing between states should be established so that states

can learn from each other," note Urvashi Narain, lead economist, and Pyush Dogra, senior environmental specialist, World Bank, and lead authors of the report.

INVESTING TO MAKE SERVICE DELIVERY MORE EFFECTIVE

While India has made great strides in the use of technology for detecting forest fires, there is still a need to strengthen fire prevention practices and to build a well-equipped and trained workforce to fight fires. Investments in modern technologies for fire detection, investing in adequate fire suppression and safety equipment, while at the same time working to build capacity across the rank of forest officers and improving accountability will help the forest department deliver on this mandate, the report says. Rather than prescribing specific fire-suppression tools to be used in all states, states be encouraged to experiment, and best practices be scaled up, where appropriate. There is also an urgent need to fill vacancies for field staff, particularly in fire-prone areas, and to make adequate and reliable funding available, the

report adds.

PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITIES AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

Recognizing the fact that people will continue to use forest fire, and that some fire is desirable, engaging with the communities that depend on forests and involving them in the decision-making process is therefore vital, as is improving coordination with the other agencies that are involved in managing forests and responding to forest fires, such as disaster management agencies, the report says. It also suggests that the National FFPM Action Plan should delineate the roles and responsibilities of the MoEFCC, state forest departments, communities, and disaster agencies.

IMPROVING DATA AND RESEARCH

Lastly, there is a need to support forest fire management through improved data, and research to fill critical knowledge gaps. A national forest fire information database, bringing together satellite-based remote sensing data, and field-reported data, will be instrumental for assessing longer-term trends across states and regions and for planning fire prevention and response. Also, defining a national research agenda for fire management and provision of funding opportunities for scientific research would help to establish formal cooperation between members of the research community and the forest department.



BE A KARMA YOGI

Fight the urges of vices with a spiritual war within. By RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Bhagavad Gita — the song of spirit or the divine song is one of the greatest contributions India has made to the world, and is ranked as one of the greatest repository of wisdom since ages. For centuries people have been daily reading and teaching the message of the Gita with great devotion and it has been the guiding post for many seekers of truth who wish to know in detail about the existence of soul, god and karma. There have been numerous interpretations, commentaries and expositions on the verses of the Gita. Still most people see it in a literal sense, because they believe that the conquest of evil was achieved by a bloody war between two armies and the good men won because they were fighting for dharma or righteousness and because God was supporting them. However, there are clear references in the Gita towards another kind of war. There are numerous verses pertaining to the subtle war against vices such as lust, anger, greed, attachment etc.

In the Gita, God tells Arjuna that by means of this war gates of heaven will open and that if anyone dies fighting this war he will go to the heaven. It is further clarified in the Gita as to who is entitled to go to heaven. When the righteousness in man gets to the highest limits of perfection, it is only then that man attains the highest and purest heaven. Hence, the war is symbolic of the spiritual endeavour to conquer all vices and make oneself pure. It is further said that in this war within the human mind, one must conquer lust and anger. Violence is born from anger so how can God promote violence on one hand and exhort us to conquer anger? Even the word warrior refers to a person who battles the vices or Maya with the weapons of spiritual knowledge and yoga. A yogi is the one who stabilises his mind on God and conquers all forms of Maya or vices. Such a person is brave, courageous and a powerful soul.



His power comes not from any martial skills of warfare but spiritual knowledge and true love for God. So then why does the Gita put so much emphasis on violence and war? The word war implies strong action and decisiveness. Human souls are sleeping in a deep slumber of spiritual ignorance and even though they are living in subjugation of vices, they continue to be indolent and carry on their passive existence. Thus, when we realise that we are in a battlefield and are at war, we cannot be apathetic and careless in our thoughts, decisions and actions and we cannot go on ignorantly indulging in vices, because in a battlefield one has to be constantly attentive, alert and active. A warrior has to be skillful, agile and intelligent. He cannot afford to make mistakes or be sluggish. In a war there are only two responses — fight or flight. Hence, the realisation that vices are the soul's enemies and have to be conquered will bring out the qualities of courage and will give power to fight this war within our mind. However, there are many who choose to take flight or to escape from vices by renouncing active life and worldly duties. They believe that is the only way to free the soul from the vicious grip of lust, greed and attachment. But the Gita espouses the path of *karmayoga* — which entails living in the world and yet transcending its vices. Hence, by practising true spiritual knowledge, being in yoga with the Supreme and by imbibing divine virtues, a *karmayogi* is able to manifest the highest level of perfection and gain victory over all vices. Moreover, such a spiritual endeavour happens on a war-footing at a time when the forces of evil and chaos are at their peak in the world i.e. at the end of *Kaliyuga*. Hence the war against vices is described as the great war of Mahabharata. It is at this time that Supreme being Himself is awakening humans from their deep ignorance and empowering them through knowledge and yoga to gain victory over vicious tendencies. In this way He is preparing humans to open the gates of heaven.

(The writer is a spiritual educator.)

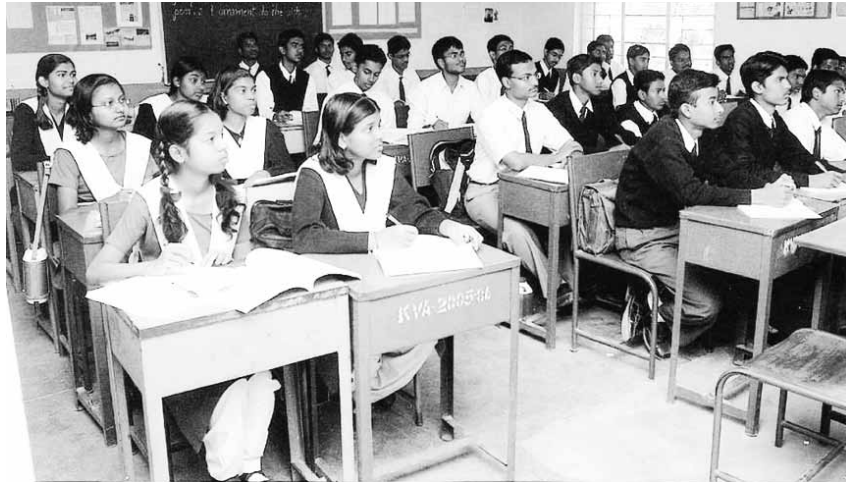
India needs world class higher education system

The growth in the sector has been phenomenal but the focus has been on quantity over quality

India has the third-largest higher educational system in the world. In 2016, there were 799 universities and 39,071 colleges spread across the country. The growth of higher education in India over a little more than half a century has been even more staggering. Between 1950 and 2014, the number of universities in India increased by 34 times. This quantitative explosion in higher education institutions has not been matched by the quality of the education they provide. To become such a leader, India needs to develop a world class higher education system.

Two years ago, the Narendra Modi administration attempted to put some focus on quality in higher education with its introduction of draft regulations for a new initiative called the UGC (Declaration of Government Educational Institutions as World Class Institutions) Guidelines, 2016. By 2018, when the first six institutions were named under this initiative, they were designated as Institutions of Eminence as opposed to world class institutions. This is to elevate the status of these institutions. But enhancing the capacity of a few institutions, thus possibly enabling them to be rated a little higher in the world rankings of higher education institutions, does nothing for the many.

That's not to say that India does not need world class institutions of higher education. India needs a world class higher education system. It is one where the student is the focus rather than the institution. It comprises



certified and caring institutions that have the resources required and the core mission of ensuring that students/customers acquire the knowledge/skills/abilities and dispositions that they need to achieve their individual goals and to maximise their contribution to society. The current system has been almost exactly the opposite of that. The emphasis has been on a few institutions and individuals rather than embracing and addressing the needs of the whole.

There are many steps that must be taken to change this. They include:

- Increase public financing: The federal and state governments currently provide limited funding for higher education. As a result, over 70 per cent of the higher education institutions are operated by the private sector. These institutions are not well regulated and are of highly variable quality. Public sector financing could be used to support existing public institutions and to establish new ones in regions in which there are limited higher educational opportunities.
- Enhance the infrastructure: Colleges and universities throughout India have inadequate physical settings, lack equipment, and suffer from a shortage of competent

teachers. Ensuring that each higher educational institution is infrastructurally sound, establishes the proper environment for learning and growth.

- Expand access to and participation in higher education: The enrollment in higher education is approximately 15 per cent of the eligible population. This needs to be much higher to be considered and to become a developed or developing country. It also needs to be representative of the entire population.

- Enforce standards and requirements appropriately: The announced replacement of the UGC with the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) created considerable debate. The essential question regardless of whether there is an UGC or HECI, is the proper data being collected and used to monitor performance and ensure accountability for each institution in the higher education system?

- Place an emphasis on vocational education: The higher education system must meet the needs of potential employers and prospective employees. Currently, there is a mismatch.

There are many other steps that must be taken, such as addressing politicians controlling many educational institutions but there must be only one mindset. That mindset must be that the country's higher education system must be restructured, redesigned, and renewed to benefit all Indians.

-IANS

It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light. —Aristotle

MOTHER'S PUBERTY LINKED TO SON'S

The age at which a young woman experiences her first menstruation is associated with the age at which her son experiences puberty, according to a latest research. While it has been known for some time that mothers' age at puberty is associated with their daughters', much less was known about the link with their sons' age at puberty.



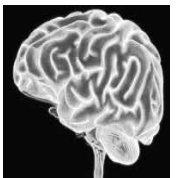
The findings, published in the journal *Human Reproduction*, suggested that mothers who reported having their first menstrual bleed earlier than their peers had sons with signs of puberty starting earlier than their peers. "The relationship in sons has only been sparsely investigated," said Nis Brix, a researcher.

ABNORMAL VISION IMPAIRS BRAIN FUNCTION

Children with abnormal vision are likely to have impairment in functions of brain areas responsible for things such as attention, a new study has found.

The researchers uncovered differences in how the brain processes visual information in patients with various types of lazy eye.

Lazy eye, known as amblyopia, is a loss of vision that originates in the brain, typically when a child develops an eye turn. The unequal input causes the brain to ignore information from the weaker eye during brain development. The findings demonstrated that the brain can divert attention away from a lazy eye when both eyes are open.



IMMUNE SYSTEM LINKED TO PREMATURE BIRTH

Researchers have found that the immune system may play a role in preventing premature labour and birth. It was previously known that cytokines are found in the amniotic fluid of many women who gave birth prematurely.

Although the immune system ought to attack the foetus, a foreign body in the mother's womb, something blocks that from happening during pregnancy. It means that the protection is stopped for some women, causing premature labour, the researchers said. "There's a lot of anti-inflammatory mechanisms that prevent the foetus from being rejected. So we thought maybe dangerous inflammation, that can break down the tolerance barrier, could mediate the start-up of birth even — or especially — premature birth," said Anthony Vella, an immunologist at the University of Connecticut.



LAB-GROWN EYES DECODE HUMAN VISION

US biologists have grown human retina tissue in the laboratory to determine how cells that allow people to see in colour are made, an advance that can lead to the development of therapies for diseases such as colour blindness and macular degeneration.

The study explored how a cell's fate is determined or what happens in the womb to turn a developing cell into a specific type of cell, an aspect of human biology that is largely unknown.

The team from the John Hopkins University in Maryland, US, focused on the cells that allow people to see blue, red and green — the three cone photoreceptors in the human eye.

"Trichromatic colour vision delineates us from most other mammals," said lead author Kiara Eldred, a graduate student at the varsity.



C-SECTION BIRTHS DOUBLED GLOBALLY

The number of babies born through caesarean section nearly doubled from 12 per cent to 21 per cent of all births between 2000 and 2015, worldwide, according to research published in *The Lancet*, that shed light on a huge gap in childbirth care between rich and poor mothers. While C-section is a life-saving intervention for women and newborns, it is not without risk for mother and child, and is also associated with complications in future births. It is estimated that 10-15 per cent of births medically require surgery due to complications such as bleeding, foetal distress, hypertensive disease. However, the researchers estimate that more than one in four countries in 2015 had lower levels (28 per cent), while most countries used C-section above the recommended level (63 per cent).



Novak seals Shanghai title

Djokovic defeats Coric in straight sets, reaches second in ATP rankings

AFP ■ SHANGHAI

The "new" Novak Djokovic warned that he was gunning for Rafael Nadal's world number one ranking after winning the Shanghai Masters with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Borna Coric on Sunday.

The 14-time Grand Slam champion has been imperious all week and barely offered a sniff to the 19th-ranked Croatian, a good friend and sometime-training partner.

The end when it inevitably arrived was anti-climactic, with the Serb winning the championship point after a video review.

Djokovic buried his head in his hand at the absurdity of it.

The 31-year-old will leapfrog Roger Federer into second in the world when the rankings are released on Monday but will not stop there as the season reaches its climax.

Spanish great Nadal, who was not in Shanghai or Beijing last week because of a knee injury, will be just 215 points ahead of Djokovic in the race to finish as year-end number one.

"I could not ask for a better scenario," Djokovic, who last sat atop the rankings two years ago, said of his late surge to the summit of men's tennis.

"I am very close now to Nadal in the rankings and put myself in a good position for the last period of the year."

Red-hot Djokovic has now been victorious in 18 ATP matches in a row and in recent months won Wimbledon, the Cincinnati Masters, the US Open and now Shanghai for a fourth time.

It is all a far cry from just five months ago, when Djokovic fell to 22nd in the world as he struggled following elbow surgery in February.

He missed the second half of 2017 with elbow and off-court issues, but said he had adapted his game since the operation.

Djokovic, who has been particularly dominant on his serve, not dropping one service game in Shanghai, said: "I think you're seeing the new Novak."

"I don't need to describe him, that's all I can say."



Winner's Novak Djokovic, left, holding the winner's trophy shakes hands with Borna Coric after the award ceremony for the Shanghai Masters

"I had to reinvent myself and find, you know, (a) proper formula for success.

"I found it and I'm just trying to hold on to it as long as I can."

Asked by AFP if he had a message for the under-pressure Nadal, the Serb smiled: "I will leave that up to your creative spirit of journalism."

The 32-year-old Nadal could return from his latest injury for the Paris Masters, which starts at the end of this month.

Djokovic said he could play Vienna or Basel, the week before

Paris, in an effort to further rein in his rankings rival.

RUTHLESS DJOKOVIC

The 21-year-old Coric said that he had no complaints about losing to "one of the best in the history of tennis."

In what was the biggest match of his life, he wore heavy strapping on one thigh and has been troubled by a stiff neck that saw him ponder pulling out before the tournament.

But he refused to blame those for defeat to the man he considers something of an idol.

"He was the much better player on the court. I was playing good, really, I was really happy how I played," he said.

"I felt even if I was serving a little bit better, he'd still return my serves, so there is nothing I can do."

Coric, the 13th seed, was chasing only the third title of his career and defeated top seed Federer in the semi-finals to underline his rich promise.

He also dispensed of three-time Grand Slam winner and Federer's fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka in his opening match.

Paes wins Santo Domingo trophy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Old warhorse Leander Paes is still going great guns as the veteran tennis star won his second Challenger level title of the season, lifting the Santo Domingo Open trophy with partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela.



The second seeded Indo-Mexican pair, playing its second consecutive final, came from behind to beat Ariel Behar and Roberto Quiroz 4-6, 6-3, 10-5 in the summit clash, which lasted one hour and 26 minutes.

Paes, who is ranked 69, added 110 ranking points to his kitty and shared a prize purse of \$ 7750 with his partner.

Last week, the 45-year-old Paes and Angel ended runners-up at Montrey Challenger to Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Marcelo Arevalo.

Paes also ended runner-up at Chicago, Dallas on the ATP Challenger circuit and won the Newport Beach event in January.

Apart from these, Paes also reached the final of Winston-Salem Open and Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships on the ATP World Tour, ending runner-up with Jamie Cerretani in both the tournaments.



GARCIA STUNS PLISKOVA, WINS TIANJIN OPEN

AP ■ TIANJIN

Second-seeded Caroline Garcia won her first tournament of the year with a 7-6 (7), 6-3 win over top-seeded Karolina Pliskova in the Tianjin Open on Sunday.

It was the 16th-ranked Garcia's first title since she won back-to-back trophies at the Wuhan and Beijing tournaments in Asia just over a year ago.

The Frenchwoman's two titles at the end of last season earned her a spot into the year-end WTA Finals in Singapore. This year, the victory in Tianjin is not enough to put Garcia into a second consecutive year-end final appearance.

Pliskova's failure to take the title also kept her from confirming a berth in the WTA Finals.

Currently in eighth place in the race to Singapore, the Czech will have to wait out the results from next week's tournaments in Luxembourg and Moscow to see if she qualifies for one of the three remaining spots. Pliskova is scheduled to play in Moscow.

American Sloane Stephens, Ukrainian Elena Svitolina and Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens are the other remaining contenders for Singapore.

Garcia was down 1-5 in the first set tiebreaker before she rebounded. She saved a set point for Pliskova at 5-6 to go on to win the hour-long first set.

In the second set, Garcia raced to a 5-0 lead, and first served for the match at 5-1, but had to wait for her victory to come

three games later. She secured the title with her sixth ace of the match.

DANYA WINS WTA TITLE

HONG KONG: Ukrainian teen Dayana Yastrembska won her maiden WTA title by upsetting sixth-seeded Wang Qiang of China 6-2, 6-1 in 65 minutes at the Hong Kong Open on Sunday.

The 18-year-old was playing in her first career WTA final in only her 11th career appearance in the WTA tournament main draw.

Yastrembska is the sixth teenager to advance to a WTA final in 2018 and the second to win a title. Serbian teen Olga Danilovic won the Moscow River Cup earlier in the year.

Prior to arriving in Hong Kong, Yastrembska held a 3-10 record in WTA-level matches this season. Her best previous result was reaching the 2017 Istanbul quarterfinals.

The victory, in which she posted 33 winners to 21 unforced errors, will move the 102nd-ranked Yastrembska to a new career high ranking in the top 80 when the next rankings are released on Monday.

Yastrembska's win prevented the 24th-ranked Wang from winning her third career title. Earlier this fall she won the Nanchang and Guangzhou trophies.

Wang, who was playing in her fifth consecutive tour semifinal, will move up to a career-high No 23 ranking despite failing to lift the title.

Dutch embarrass Germany 3-0

AFP ■ AMSTERDAM

Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk led the Netherlands to a crushing 3-0 win over Germany in the Nations League to ramp up the pressure on German coach Joachim Loew.

A first-half header by Dutch skipper Van Dijk gave the hosts the lead in Amsterdam. With the German defence in disarray, late goals from Memphis Depay and Liverpool's Georginio Wijnaldum sealed the win on a golden night for the Oranje at Amsterdam's Johan Cruyff Arena on Saturday.

This is the first time the Dutch have beaten Germany for 16 years and the comprehensive defeat leaves Loew under increasing pressure to resign after 12 years in charge.

These are dark days for the Germans, still reeling from their woeful World Cup display when they crashed out early after finishing bottom of their group.

Defeat in Loew's 168th international means Germany are once again last — this time bottom of Group One in the Nations League.

Van Dijk opened the scoring with a well-taken header after Ryan Babel had headed against the crossbar on 30 minutes.

Depay then compounded Germany's misery by stroking home a pass from Quincy Promes three minutes from time after the pair got in behind the defence.

Depay then hit the Germany crossbar moments before Wijnaldum netted Holland's third goal just before the final whistle.

Germany now face world champions France in Paris on Tuesday and Loew can ill



Georginio Wijnaldum, left, celebrates with Memphis Depay after scoring third goal against Germany

afford another heavy defeat.

Earlier Saturday, Munich-based newspaper, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung, revealed there is a release clause in Loew's contract, which runs until 2022, allowing either party to end the agreement prematurely.

Loew had promised an improved performance from the Germans.

Yet again, his senior players let him down as the Bayern Munich axis of Manuel Neuer, Jerome Boateng, Mats Hummels and Thomas Mueller struggled.

Loew pulled a surprise before kick-off by starting Manchester City starlet Leroy Sane on the bench.

Schalke striker Mark Uth made his debut up front with RB Leipzig winger Timo Werner and Mueller on the flanks.

Loew opted for a 4-3-3 formation, just

like his opposite number Ronald Koeman who started with Besiktas' Babel, Lyon's Depay and Eindhoven striker Steven Bergwijn up front.

Uth and Werner both forced chances early on to keep Jasper Cillessen, Holland's Barcelona goalkeeper, busy.

The Dutch went ahead after 30 minutes when Babel out-jumped Germany midfielder Joshua Kimmich to the ball, headed onto the post and Van Dijk pounced on the rebound.

Germany had their chances as Mueller and then his replacement Sane, who came on for the last half an hour, both fired wide with the goal at their mercy.

Having broken the German defence in the final 10 minutes, Depay hit the net, then the crossbar before Wijnaldum swept in their third goal just before the final whistle.

Messi is not a leader for Argentina: Maradona

AFP ■ BUENOS AIRES

Lionel Messi "is not a leader," said Diego Maradona of the current Argentina talisman in an interview in Mexico.

"It's useless to try and make a leader out of someone who goes to the bathroom 20 times before a game," Maradona said on Fox Sports.

"Before speaking to the coach and players he will be on the PlayStation. Then, on the field, he wants to be the leader," Maradona said as he answered questions in a stammering voice, sometimes seeming to contradict himself.

"He is the best in the world along with Cristiano [Ronaldo]," Maradona said. "But he's not a leader."

Maradona, who led Argentina to victory in the 1986, said Messi, who was again unable to emulate that feat in Russia this summer was expected to be "the saviour of the fatherland."

"Let's stop making a god out of Messi. Messi is Messi for Barcelona, but playing in an Argentina shirt he is another Messi."

Maradona, who is in Mexico coaching second-division Sinaloa, said that if he was Argentina coach he would "not call on Messi" before adding "never say never."

"You have to take the leadership away for him to be the Messi we want him to be," Maradona said.



Lionel Messi disappointed after loss in WCup

Messi, who is 31, has not played for Argentina in three low-key friendlies since a 4-3 loss to eventual champions France in the first knock-out round at the World Cup, but has not officially retired from the national team.



Deschamps backs Henry for success in Monaco

AFP ■ PARIS

Thierry Henry has "everything" needed to become a good manager, France coach and former international teammate Didier Deschamps said of the newly-named Monaco coach.

"Thierry's ready," Deschamps told TFI.

"He has everything" to be a good coach. "He's throwing himself into an exciting, exhilarating project where he'll have to take responsibility. It'll be up to him to take the reins."

Former Arsenal star Henry was named Monaco coach on Saturday, his first job in club management after leaving his position with the Belgian national team.

The 41-year-old French World Cup winner, who had been working as an assistant to Belgium coach Roberto Martinez since 2016, returns to the club where he began his professional career.

Henry, who has signed a contract with Monaco until June 2021, said it was "fate" that he had returned to the Principality.

Henry replaces Leonardo Jardim, who in 2017 guided Monaco to their first Ligue 1 title since 2000. He was sacked on Thursday after a string of poor results left Monaco in the relegation places.

The former striker will be joined by Joao Carlos Valado Tralhao, under-23 coach at Benfica, and Patrick Kwame Ampadu, coach at Arsenal's academy and father of Chelsea player Ethan Ampadu.

Henry graduated from Monaco's youth system and made his debut for the club in 1994.

He notably scored seven goals in the 1997-98 Champions League as the Monaco team of the time, then coached by Arsene Wenger, reached the semi-finals, where they lost to Juventus.

"It is with great pride that I am delighted to announce that I have accepted the position to become the manager of AS Monaco FC," he said on Twitter.

"I'm incredibly excited to be given this opportunity but now the hard work must begin. Can't wait."

Deschamps, who captained the France team featuring Henry that won the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000, also started his coaching career at Monaco, back in 2001.

INDIA ENTER HOCKEY 5s FINAL

PTI ■ BUENOS AIRES

The Indian men's and women's teams advanced to the final of hockey 5s competition in the Youth Olympics after registering emphatic wins over their respective opponents here.

India defeated hosts Argentina 3-1 in the men's semi-final match on Saturday while the women's team beat China 3-0 in their last-four match.

The Indian men face Malaysia in the summit clash while their women counterparts take on hosts Argentina in the final.

This is the first time India is taking part in a hockey competition in the Youth Olympics. The country did not feature in the earlier two editions.

Hockey 5s, the five-a-side version, is played on a pitch smaller than the normal 11-player game and it was introduced in



the 2014 Singapore Youth Olympics.

In the men's semi-final match, Sudeep Chirmako (12th and 18th minute) and Rahul Kumar Rajbhar (3th) scored for India while captain Facundo Zarate found the target for Argentina.

India took the lead through Rahul Kumar but Argentina were

quick to equalise as they scored through Facundo Zarate in the 4th minute.

In the second period, India maintained pressure and benefited from it as they took the lead in the 12th minute through Sudeep Chirmako who produced a fine finish to swing the match in India's favour.

Indian attackers also created

chances and were successful again in the 18th minute as Sudeep Chirmako scored his second goal of the match to give a two-goal advantage for his side.

In the women's semifinal, India outplayed their Chinese opponents with goals coming from Mumtaz Khan (1st minute), Reet (5th) and Lalremsiami (13th).

Wrestler Simran wins Silver

PTI ■ BUENOS AIRES

Indian wrestler Simran settled for a Silver in women's freestyle 43 kg category competition after she lost to Emily Shilson of United States in the final bout here.

Simran, who had won a 40kg class Bronze in the 2017 Cadet World Championships, lost 6-11 as the American registered a 'victory by points' to clinch the Gold on Saturday night.

Simran conceded a 2-9 lead to Shilson in the first period and that virtually sealed her fate.

The Indian produced a better show in the second period by scoring four points as against two by his American opponent but that proved to be too little, too late to have any impact on the result of the bout.

Shilson is the Gold medalist in 43kg in the 2018 Cadet World Championships.

This is India's fifth Silver along with three Gold in the ongoing Youth Olympics. The medals won by shuttler Lakshya Sen (Gold), shooter Manu Bhaker (Silver) and judoka Tababi Devi (Silver) in mixed team events are not counted in the country's total medal tally as they had paired with athletes of other countries.

The other Indian in the wrestling competition, Mansi finished eighth after losing her classification match to Imbabi Ahmed of Egypt who received a 'victory by fall' decision.



Simran poses with Silver medal

DOUBLE DONE & DUSTED

India crush West Indies in three days by 10 wickets to win second Test, wrap series 2-0

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

A clinical India completed one of the most ruthless clean sweeps in recent times, demolishing a listless West Indies by 10 wickets in the second Test, inside three days, to clinch the series 2-0 on Sunday.

Umesh Yadav's maiden 10-wicket haul (6/88 and 4/45) on a decent track was the highlight as India reached the meagre victory target of 72 in 16.1 overs, courtesy unbeaten partnership between openers Prithvi Shaw (33) and KL Rahul (33).

While any Test series victory is welcome, it hardly was an ideal preparation for the big away-series against Australia, starting December 4 in Adelaide.

West Indies were back to their worst despite showing signs of fight in the first innings as they couldn't last two full sessions and were bowled out for 127 in only 46.1 in their second innings.

Out of the four innings in this series, West Indies couldn't cross the 200-run mark thrice which was a testimony to their plight during the series.

For India, it was their 10th series win at home since their last defeat against England way back in 2012.

Virat Kohli's side did an encore of 2013 series which India won by an identical margin in that year's most lopsided contest with Sachin Tendulkar's farewell taking limelight.

The second innings started with Yadav on split hat-trick but Kraigg Brathwaite (0) survived one delivery before gliding one into Rishabh Pant's gloves.

Kieran Powell (6) edged one off Ravichandran Ashwin to Ajinkya Rahane in the slips.

Shai Hope (28) hit three delightful boundaries off Umesh while Shimron Hetmeyer (17) was trying to be more assertive against spinners in their 39-run stand.

However, a rush of blood saw Hetmeyer give Kuldeep Yadav the charge only to be caught by Cheteshwar Pujara at point.

From 45 for 3, there was not much resistance as Hope was snapped when he played a Ravindra Jadeja delivery for the turn to give Rahane his second catch.

West Indies' biggest hope Roston Chase (6) got a sharp inswinger while Shane Dowrich (0) played on with Umesh getting his ninth wicket of the match.

The wicket had its share of wear and tear but it wasn't a difficult track where



Virat Kohli celebrates with Rishabh Pant after scoring hundred PTT

Matches	Team	Opposition	Time Period
47	England	New Zealand	(1930-75)
30	England	Pakistan	(1961-82)
29	West Indies	England	(1976-88)
24	Australia	South Africa	(1911-52)
24	West Indies	India	(1948-71)
22	Pakistan	India	(1980-99)
22	Australia	New Zealand	(1993-11)
21	India	West Indies	(2002-18)*

Faisel Features

Matches	Team	Time Period
10	Australia	(1994/95-2000/01)
10	Australia	(2004-2008/09)
10	India	(2012/13-present)

Faisel Features

surviving would be an arduous task. Yet, it was another instance of lack of application from the West Indies batsmen with opener Brathwaite and young Hetmeyer playing atrocious shots.

Jason Holder (19) and Sunil Ambris (38) added 38 runs for the seventh wicket but once Holder edged one to Pant off Jadeja, any chances of match going to fourth day slowly disappeared.

However, West Indies had started off well by dismissing India for 367, keeping the first innings lead down to a mere 56 runs.

In the process, they denied Rishabh Pant (92) and Ajinkya Rahane (80) from reaching their hundreds.

In a space of 16.1 overs, India lost five wickets for 25 runs to move from a comfortable 314 for 4 to 339 for 9 before Ravichandran Ashwin (35, 83 balls) made a useful contribution.

West Indies captain Jason Holder

MOST CONSECUTIVE TESTS VS AN OPPOSITION WITHOUT A LOSS

mance on Saturday came back well to take 3/107 in 20.4 overs. Holder first got one to rear up from back of length to shatter Rahane's dreams of a 10th Test hundred. The Indian vice-captain was caught at gully for 80 off 183 balls to give the opposition captain his third wicket. His innings had seven boundaries.

WINNING MOST HOME SERIES IN SUCCESION

Umesh Yadav celebrates after dismissing Windies batsman during the third day of 2nd Test PTT

MAN OF THE SERIES ON DEBUT SERIES

India coach Ravi Shastri saw in Prithvi Shaw's batting, glimpses of two of the greatest batsmen of modern era and a non-conformist who redefined batsmanship.

SHAW HAS BIT OF SACHIN, SEHWAG AND LARA

Opener Shaw played the Caribbean attack during his 52-ball 70 on the second day of the second Test to give India a flying start, days after hitting a century on debut.

GAMBHIR TAKES DELHI INTO SEMIS

Captain Gautam Gambhir smashed 104 off 72 balls after left-arm pacer Kulwant Khejroliya ran through the Haryana batting with a hat-trick to set-up a five-wicket win, sending Delhi into the semifinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Sunday.

PAKISTAN UNDER PRESSURE TO BEAT AUSTRALIA: AZHAR

Senior batsman Azhar Ali admitted Pakistan will be under pressure of expectations in the second Test against Australia starting in Abu Dhabi from Tuesday.

SINGLES

INDIA A TO TAKE ON AUSTRALIA A IN WOMEN'S CLASH

MUMBAI: India A will take on their Australian counterparts in the first of three women's limited overs games here at the Mumbai Cricket Association's Bandra-Kurla complex facility on Monday. The latter two matches are also to be played at the same venue on October 17 and 19. The games are expected to test the bench strength of hosts and all eyes will be on skipper Poonam Raut. Poonam, who played a key role in the Indian team reaching the World Cup final last year, will like to lead from the front. Along with her are likes of Mona Meshram, Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Shikha Pandey in the squad. They will all be eyeing to put up an impressive show in front of the selectors and force their way into the senior team.

SHUBHANKAR FINISHES T-10 IN CMB CLASSIC

PARIS: Overnight joint leader Shubhankar Sharma could not play his best golf on the final day, managing only an even par round to finish tied-10th at the \$ 7 million CIMB Classic on Sunday. Coming on the heels of a period during which he has had six missed cuts in nine starts, a joint lead by round three augured well for the 22-year-old from India. However, it did not turn out to be his day and he was understandably disappointed at not being able to convert his second career 54-hole lead into a maiden PGA Tour title. The genial Australian Marc Leishman, who came close to quitting the game in 2015 when his wife was discovered with a rare life-threatening condition, continued his fine run to win his fourth title on the PGA Tour. Leishman, playing a very high level of golf since his second round 62, carded a 7-under 65, that took his total to 26-under 262, equalling the tournament record set in 2015 by Justin Thomas.

FINAL SOUTH AFRICA-ZIMBABWE T20 ABANDONED

BENONI: Rain and a wet outfield caused the abandonment of the third and final Twenty20 between South Africa and Zimbabwe on Sunday. South Africa won the series 2-0 after winning an earlier one-day series 3-0. The matches were largely one-sided and South Africa used them to test the depth of their resources, using 22 players across the five matches. South Africa travel to Australia later this month to play three one-day internationals and a Twenty20 international, while Zimbabwe depart later this week for Bangladesh where they will play three one-day internationals and two Tests. The first ODI is in Dhaka next Sunday. JP Duminy, who was due to captain South Africa on Sunday, said the objective of giving opportunities to several players had been achieved. "The selectors got a look at quite a few guys," he said. "We will be going into Australia with some confidence, although it is a work in progress."

SURYA VARATHAN WINS JK NOVICE CUP

COIMBATORE: Chennai's Ashwin Datta moved a step closer to his maiden Euro JK title in the 21st JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship as a dramatic Round 3 -- replete with ups, downs and upsets -- came to an end here on Sunday. Ashwin (74 points after Round 3), who was just two points ahead of Nayan Chatterjee (66 after R3) as the action began on Saturday, made the most of Nayan's DNF to widen his lead. But Chennai's Karthik Tharani (68 after R3) won the next two races to come back into the equation. The final race of the weekend, however, saw a totally new set of winners, with Nirmal Uma Shankar, Brayan Perera and Yash Aradhya claiming the podium places. Ashwin finished fourth, though, ahead of his key competitors to be 6 points ahead of the field. Agencies

used the second new ball to good effect as he completed his fifth five-wicket haul in Test cricket. Shannon Gabriel after erratic performance on Saturday came back well to take 3/107 in 20.4 overs. Holder first got one to rear up from back of length to shatter Rahane's dreams of a 10th Test hundred. The Indian vice-captain was caught at gully for 80 off 183 balls to give the opposition captain his third wicket. His innings had seven boundaries.

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Virat Kohli celebrates with Rishabh Pant after scoring hundred PTT

Kohli expects batsmen to replicate form in Australia

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India captain Virat Kohli has no issues with the team's bowlers but wants his batsmen to replicate their home form when they travel to Australia next month.

While the bowlers have done the job for India, both home and away of late, batsmen have let the team down time and again.

After hammering Windies, Kohli said the batsmen must keep delivering to compliment the good work of the bowlers.

"I'm really happy to see these guys fit and hungry. It's up to the batsmen to do the rest of the job. I think this game was tougher for the batsmen. This first innings was more challenging than the last one (in Rajkot)," said Kohli at the post-match presentation.

Compared to Rajkot, the batsmen had it tougher against the West Indies pace attack comprising Jason Holder and Shannon Gabriel. India were put under a little bit of pressure in their first innings before Rishabh Pant and Ajinkya Rahane steadied the ship with a 152-run partnership.

"Jinx has been batting really well, he got runs in Nottingham and we won the Test. He wanted runs under the belt. His partnership with Pant is something we want to see more of," said Kohli.

He was also all praise for Umesh Yadav, who became only the third Indian pacer to take 10 wickets in a Test at home. Ahead of the Australia series, he has given a selection headache to the team.

"If you look at the three new guys (Vihari in England, Shaw and Pant) who've come in, they've grabbed their opportunities. I think all these things are a big positive. But from this Test I want to single out Umesh."

West Indies captain Jason Holder conceded that the embarrassing back-to-back three-day defeats against India is "difficult to digest", considering pitches were batsman-friendly.

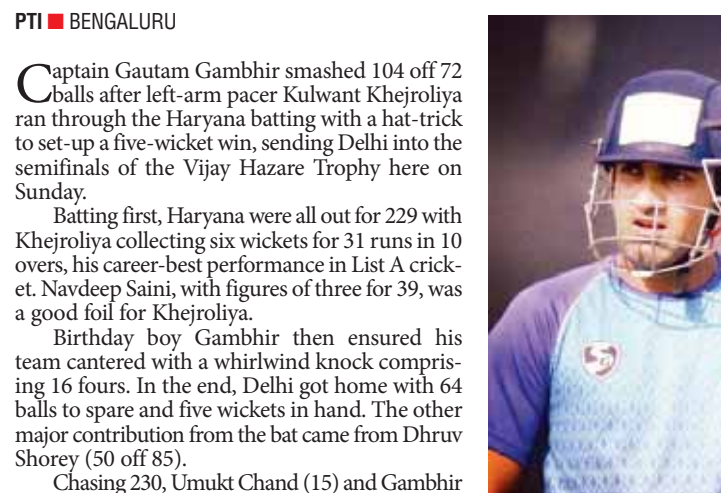
"Honestly, it's hard to take it. I am trying to understand the reasons why it is happening. It's a case where we all need to put our heads together -- the management, the selectors and the players. The onus must be on the players and we must be responsible for our actions," said Holder.

Asked about the positives, the skipper termed Roston Chase and Sherman Lewis' performance.

"It's a tough series and we didn't play our best cricket. We look back in the last two years and we have some good results. India is No 1 team in the world and we expected to be pushed by them. Their quality cricket side, especially in their own backyard. We all saw some positive performances from Roston Chase. I thought Sherman was awesome."

He admitted that batting has been an issue for them for quite some time now.

"You can look and honestly say we didn't put enough runs on the board. Quite for some time now, we've been relatively inconsistent and that has really let us down in the recent past. We haven't been getting the runs we've been looking for. We have heavily relied on middle and lower half which is not ideal. So we need to rectify at the top. The guys in the top five have to put hands up and come to the party," he said.



Gautam Gambhir and Dhruv Shorey bat during Vijay Hazare

Bihar were skittled out for 69 runs in 28.2 overs with Mumbai riding high on the back of Tushar Deshpande's five-wicket haul.

He finished with figures of five for 23 in nine overs. Deshpande was ably supported by Shams Mulani who bagged three wickets after conceding 18 runs in 8.2 overs.

Opting to bat, Deshpande wreaked havoc by removing the top three batsmen -- Vikram Ranjan, Vijay Bharati and Babul Kumar -- leaving Bihar struggling at 29 for three.



Usman Khwaja returns to pavilion after playing match saving innings against Pakistan in 1st Test at Dubai

"I can't say if the pressure will be more on Pakistan or Australia but we are the home side and obviously people expect us to win and so there is pressure," said Azhar on Sunday.

"However, having said that these are favourable conditions for us and we have to make the most of it.

"Pressure is always different in every match and obviously this is a decider. Being the home team we have to win it and we will enter the field thinking that. We will look to play positive cricket and hopefully the result will go our way."