**OPINION 8** 

**RUFFLED FEATHERS** 

RAFALE DEAL: SMOOTHEN

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SAUDI REJECTS THREATS AS STOCKS

PLUNGE AFTER TRUMP REMARKS

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HAZARE SEMIFINAL

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SONAKSHI RECALLS HER TIME IN BHUJ

13 VIVACITY

### BHUBANESWAR, MONDAY OCTOBER 15, 2018; PAGES 16 ₹3

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# Akbar fights back MeToo

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

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.

As many as ten women journalists, who served under Akbar when he was the editor of a national daily, have narrated horrifying tales of sexual assault made on them by their boss. Soon after returning from a trip to Africa, the Minister of State for External Affairs issued a statement trashing the charges against him, saying accusations without evidence has become a "viral fever" among some sections.

The tone and tenure of the statement and the threat of legal action he held out against the alleged "victims" showed that as of now Akbar enjoyed backing of the Government and the party on this sensitive matter. However, with more and more women coming out against him and the Government facing flaks for shielding him, Akbar has reasons to face sleepless nights.



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

ment, Congress spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi wondered how the BJP leader could try to hide behind the allegation of a political campaign against

him.
"I wonder how over a dozen women sharing their experiences can be claimed as political conspiracy? Bigger wonder is which constituency does his stepping down impact

Dismissing Akbar's state- in elections? The only clear answer is that this government is actively protecting & promoting the sexual perverts," Chaturvedi posted on Twitter.

The Congress has also Prime Minister asked Narendra Modi to speak his mind on the issue. "The PM's silence is conspicuous. A PM who speaks on everything is silent on #MeToo. The silence raises questions on the digni-

- trip to Africa, the Minister of State for External Affairs
- Accusations without evidence have become a "viral fever" among some sections.
- Give as 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

ty 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 confer-

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

Akbar said even journalist

Priya Ramani who started this campaign with a magazine then worked out of a small hall. At the time concerned, I had a Priya Ramani who started unis 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. Akbar went on to add, But a sea of innuendo, specu-Wahab states that she comlation and abusive diatribe has plained to Veenu Sandal, who wrote features for the paper. been built around something that never happened. Some are total, unsubstantiated hearsay;

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 partying in a swimming pool. I do not know how to swim," he said..

others confirm, on the record,

that I didn't do anything. Let

me note examples. Shutapa Paul states, "The man never

"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 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.

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.
Akbar ended his statement

on threatening note saying, Lies do not have legs, but they do contain poison, which can be whipped into a frenzy. This is deeply distressing. As indicated above, I will be taking appropriate legal action."

# 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 neu-trality 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



encounters. Four others were released in a jungle. 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 near

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.

The decision was made in a high-level review meeting presided over by Chief

Later, Special Relief

Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi

est police station. Later, the

army produced five bodies at

the Dholla police station.

## **Gajapati landslide: 15 bodies recovered**

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



PNS PARALAKHEMUNDI

R escue 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-

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 in the Gajapati landslide tragedy, informed Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Bishnupada Sethi in Bhubaneswar

Sethi said, "68 families out of 75 residing in the Barghar village under Rayagad 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 Severe Cyclonic Storm Titli, the situation continued to be grim in Baleswar district on Sunday.

Baleswar, 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

Eye to State elections,



several localities, normalcy was yet to be restored.

Aska town was the worstaffected by the flash floods following heavy rains triggered by the Cyclone Titli. Thousands of people were still stranded while relief materials were being air-dropped 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.

Keeping in view the improving situation, State Government decided to stop providing cooked food in the relief camps from

Bishnupada Sethi said, "As the

at the State Secretariat.

Sunday evening.

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

Heads "The 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

to Badagarh under Gangabada GP of Rayagarh 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 gruha. 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

### Parents want her rescued

SAROJ KUMAR MISHRA PURI

written complaint filed Awith 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 com-plainant urged the police to rescue her along with a handicapped girl child living 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 handi-

capped 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 state-

ment of Daudi's mother Rama, in the mean time, three women labourers who were working with Daudi coming from the same Baliapanda Basti mislead 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.

#### 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

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, reengagements, 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

In the Gujarat Assembly

statements etc. Rajasthan Congress has

conveyed to the party High Command that in its manifesto it would like to offer a monthlv allowance of ₹3,500 to unemployed educated persons in

identify the qualifications of cent urban and 77 per cent

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 opportuni-ties in the BJP-ruled States and the country in general in its campaigns, pubic rallies,

people. Besides, 500 packets of chuda and gur have been sent

# Titli: 56L people hit, 2.30L ha crops damaged

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Bishnupada Sethi on Sunday said that over 2.30 lakh hectares of standing crop area have been affected due to Cyclone Titli and the floods it triggered in the State.

Crop areas in Ganjam, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Khordha, Keonjhar, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh, Rayagada, Puri, Mayurbhanj, Baleswar and Cuttack districts were affected. Besides, over 56 lakh people have been affected due to the cyclone and floods in 16 districts.

Sethi told mediapersons on Sunday that due to Titli, heavy downpour and flood situation occurred in the river Rushikulya and Vanshadhara, standing crops and houses have been damaged.

Districts like Gajapati, Ganjam, Rayagada, Puri, Khorda, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Baleswar, Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj and Angul were affected.

District authorities evacuated 3, 50,124 persons and sheltered in 1,504 relief centers on account of cyclone and subsequent floods and on Sunday, 1, 17,672 persons were sheltered in 975 relief centers.

Electricity and road communication were disrupted due to falling of trees in Gajapati district. Major portion of foot over bridge over Kalingadala barrage (river Bahuda) has been washed away due to heavy rain in Ganjam district.

Trees have fallen in some places causing road blocks in Rayagada district. Landslide occurred at Bengedangaghat, Daringibadi due to heavy rainfall in Kandhamal district.

Raikia to Simanbadi



bridge, Karada to Indragada bridge, Tudupaju bridge and Chhatigarh bridge have been damaged in Kandhamal district. Bakingia to Raikia culvert, Brahamanapada to Chakapada culvert and Dandakia culvert have also been damaged in Kandhamal district.

Ghatiguda road and Brahamanpada to Badala road in Chakapada block, Katargada to Raikala road, Katalagada to Beearpanga and Uduagiri to Sirki road in G Udayagiri block

of Kandhama district have been damaged.

A breach on embankment has occurred near village Arkhakuda of Krushnaprasad block due to storm surge in Puri district.

There was a breach of 50 feet width on the embankment of Malaguni river near Mankadakhia bandha of Brahmagiripatna village under Dibyasinghpur panchayat of Kanasa block in Puri district,

Ichhapur village under Sapua tributary in Cuttack district which marooned five villages and 1,500 population under Athagarh block.

More than 10 PACS and LAMPCS of Gajapai district were damaged.

As per preliminary estimate, 16,432 houses were damaged in Ganjam, Kandhamal, Puri, Keonjhar, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Baleswar, Angul, Nawagarh, Mayurbhani and Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj and Khorda districts.

As per preliminary report of the Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Service, 7, 21,670 livestock were affected in Puri, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Khordha and

In Gajapati, 13, 139 persons have been evacuated and sheltered in 161 shelters, while fire service team and NDRF

**AZAD HIND GOVT'S 75TH ANNIV** 

3 PMs urged to hold

of trees for road clearance.

The Fire Services DG has sent 45 power saws and manpower available at Cuttack to Gajapati district; OFDC has sent 70 skilled persons with 13 power saws and axe and other equipment for road clearances; six rescue team consisting 30 personnel with six boats are in operation in Gajapati district.

In Ganjam, 94,265 people have been evacuated and shel-tered in 683 shelters, 44 mobile medical teams deployed, 145 medical relief centres opened and 115 pregnant women shifted to hospital.

In Rayagada, Puri, Kandhamal, Khorda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh, Baleswar and Mayurbhanj free kitchens were opened and hapless people were fed.

În these areas, medical services were also provided.

### AJSU to contest in 3 tribal MP seats

And 20 Assembly seats

 $R^{\rm egional}$  political outfit All Jharkhand Students' Union  $R^{\rm (AJSU)}$  is going to contest from three Lok Sabha and 20 Assembly constituencies in the State in the 2019 general elec-

AJSU president Ananta Alok Baskey, in a Press statement here on Sunday, stated that his party will be putting up its candidates in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Sundargarh, the three ST reserved Parliamentary seats. Besides, the party is planning to fight in at least 20 Vidhan Sabha Constituencies of these tribal-dominated districts in the coming elections.

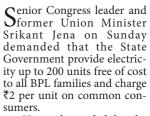
The AJSU, it may be pointed out, like the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), enjoys a comparatively stronger mass-base in

JMM too, it is learnt, is going to contest in most of the Assembly seats of north Odisha and at least in the three Lok Sabha seats of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Sundargarh. Thus the 2019 elections will witness a situation of cutting into each others's tribal vote banks by the parties, observers here say.

### 'Give electricity to BPL families, farmers free'

Srikant seeks CBI probe into power sector irregularities

PNS BHUBANESWAR



He too demanded that the Government give electricity free of cost to farmers for agri-cultural operations. "The Punjab Government has been giving free electricity to farmers for the last 30 years. Similarly, the Andhra Pradesh Government is providing a total subsidy of ₹5,000 crore to farmers annually.

However, the Odisha

Government charging highest power tariff on farmers and other consumers," pointed out Jena at a Press meet here.

in Delhi gives ₹2 per unit upto



Odisha, a user gives various rates till consumption of 400 units and the total charge comes to ₹1,950.

He too slammed that the transmission and distribution (T and D) loss is highest in Odisha i.e 41 per cent. Stating that the OERC has put 25 per cent T and D loss as a burden on common consumers, he termed it as 'power theft' and said power consuming private companies and the State administration are directly involved.,

Informing that the power distribution companies now owe a total of ₹ 7,000 crore to the State Government, Jena demanded a CBI inquiry into all irregularities committed in the electricity sector. He too demanded that a special audit be conducted in the power sec-

tor by a third party.

### 16 rivers' water polluted; NHRC notice to CS

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission, in an order on October 12, has asked the Chief Secretary, Odisha to take appropriate action within six weeks on severe pollution of water of 16 rivers of the State.

Taking cognizance of a petition by Human Rights Watch secretary Sangita Swain, the apex rights body issued the order.

Swain had complained that hundreds of residents of the riverside areas are affected by poisonous water in 16 rivers including Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarani, Kharasrota, Gongua, Daya and Kuakhai. They are affected by various diseases as revealed from the report of the Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Odisha, Swain said, adding that this was a violation of rights as due to inaction and unlawful action and abetment by the public authority, the water of the rivers has gone unfit for use.

Swain prayed to take criminal action against the responsible public authorities, ask them to take urgent steps to reduce the rate of pollution in water resources and compensate the kin of each of those who died by consuming the poisonous water with ₹20 lakh and those affected with diseases

### Titli: SP demands ₹10 lakh to each deceased's kin



PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Samajwadi Party **▲** (SP), which held a candlelight rally here on Sunday to pay tributes to those who died during in floods in the aftermath of the Cyclone Titli, demandthat the State Government provide ₹10 lakh each to the family of each deceased.

Party State president Rabi Behera said that more **Party State president** Rabi Behera said that more than 25 persons are reported to have died in the floods

than 25 persons are reported to have died in the floods. He also demanded that the State Government provide pucca houses to the deceased's kin and the Central Government provide an interim relief of ₹ 500 crore to the State.

### I-Day on Oct 21 JUBA PARISADA TO CELEBRATE EVENT IN BBSR The Utkala Bikasha Juba Parisada which has spear-headed the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Birth Soil Yatra all over the country has appealed to the heads of India,

Pakistan and Bangladesh to celebrate 75 years of Azad Hind Government of Netaji Subhas Bose in undivided India and hoist the flag of the Azad Hind On October 21,1943, Netaji had formed his Government in Singapore.

Bose along with others had taken the oath of secrecy as Prime Minister and Ministers in the united India. Rash Behari Bose was its supreme adviser. The ministry was represented by represen-

tatives belonging to all regions The Government had



currency and its army known as the Indian National Army. The Government was recognised by 11 nations and diplomatic relation was established.

As October 21 is a historic day and a day of faith, struggle and sacrifice for today's India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, it

#### be observed by these three nations piously" should be observed by these three nations piously, a Parishad release said.

"As October 21 is a

historic day and a

day of faith, struggle

and sacrifice for

today's India,

Pakistan and

Bangladesh, it should

Request letters were sent to Prime Ministers Narendra

Modi, Imran Khan and Sheikh Hasina in this respect. So also appeal is made to all political party leaders and organisations for celebration of

the day, Parisad president

Debiprasad Prusti stated,

adding the event will also be

observed in Bhubaneswar.

He said while a consumer 400 units of power consumption, bearing ₹800 in total, in

## Govt appoints 172 | FOREST LAND 'GRAB' BY INFRA CO dental surgeons

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The State Government ▲ appointed 172 dental surgeons on Sunday. For the first time, such a large number of dentists have been appointed in

Earlier, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had approved a proposal in this regard as the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) had recommended for recruitment of 172 dental surgeons through its proper process. The dental surgeons are appointed in the rank of Group A (Junior) of the Odisha Medical and Health Services (Dental) Cadre under the Health & Family Welfare Department. They are entitled to a scale of pay of ₹56,100 as

per the Seventh Pay tions with allowances as admissible and sanctioned by the State Government from time to

Department Secretary Dr PK Meherda asked these surgeons tojoin within 30 days from the date of issue of the notification on October 14. Out of the surgeon, there are 106 female and 66 male candidates. Modern dental care equipments are being arranged by the Odisha State Medical Corporation and are placed in the medical centres, said an official. In 2016, the Government had appointed 151 dental surgeons in the undivided Kalahandi-Balangir-Koraput (KBK) districts.

# NGT asks Keonjhar DM, DFO for probe

The National Green Tribunal **I** (NGT), Eastern Zone has directed the Keonjhar district Collector and DFÓ to inquire into the alleged grabbing of forest land by a Gujarat-based infrastructure company in the district and take action.

The petitioners had alleged before the NGT that 18.61 acre of forest land in Bayapandadhar village under Keonjhar Sadar police station has been unauthorisedly grabbed by a company Monte Carlo for its camp office, concrete mix plant, bitumen hot mix asphalt and stone crusher without any approval from the Ministry of

Climate Change (MOEFCC) as required under Section 2 of Forest Conservation Act 1980.

Apart from the government forest land, the private company has fraudulently grabbed forest land which was titled in favour of local tribal community members under Forest Rights Act

As such the land titled under FRA cannot be transferred to any other person or company and in this case the same has been grabbed unlawfully by means of power of attorney,

The petitioners have alleged that in this regard no action has been taken by the

BIP ultimately by winning the

Attabira and Hindol NAC elec-

tions and a Jajpur ZP by-elec-

tion. It gave a message that the

Panchayat results of the BJP

BJD has been inducting reput-

ed personalities. The Hockey

World Cup shall boost its

To build its popularity, the

The BJD is also planning

The Congress, though did

were not sustainable.

image further.

Later, the BJD had won

2018 Bijepur by-election.



State respondents like the district Collector, DFO and MoEFCC as on date and

prayed the NGT to restrain the private company from using and changing the land use of the land to its original status, exemplary penalty and compensation for damage to the forest land and appropriate action against the State respondents for their inaction.

Local villagers Bayapandadhar Bayakumutia villages namely Niranjan Pradhan, Khageswar Juang, Sanatan Juang, Mitrabhanu Pradhan, Pala Fadukar and BimalSenapati have approached the NGT at Kolkata for appropriate action against the private company.

NGT Bench comprising Justice SP Wangdi and Nagendra Nanda, after hearing the lawyers for petitioners Sankar Prasad Pani, on

district Collector and Keonjhar DFO, Odisha State Pollution Control Board(OPSCB) Member Secretary to inquire into the compalaints and take appropriate action in case the allegations are found to be

Banspal Tehsildar, Odisha Forest and Environment Department Secretary, MOE-FCC and Monte Carlo have been arrayed as parties and notices have been issued to all these respondents to file their replies.

The next date has been fixed on November 30 for replies and action taken report by the district Collector and the

# BJD to face stronger Opp, dissidents in 2019

### Yet it's grassroots base unbeatable

LALIT MOHAN MISHRA

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{n}}$  the 2009 Assembly polls, the BJD had bagged 39 per cent of votes and won 103 seats, followed by the Congress with 29 per cent vote share and 27 seats.

The BJP had finished third with 15 per cent votes and six seats. The six Independents took away 9 per cent of votes. The Opposition and the Independents bagged 53 per cent votes together.

In 2014 Assembly poll, the BID's vote share increased. It got fattened to 43 per cent and the number of seats increased to 117 seats.

The Congress bagged 26 per cent votes and 16 seats. The BJP finished third with 18 per cent vote share and 10 seats.

The Opposition and the Independents bagged 49 per cent votes and their 4 per cent loss from the 2009 went to the

Two independents bagged 5

per cent of votes.

In the next poll, the vote share of the BJD may not grow further beyond 43 per cent level due to powerful triangular competitive environment.

yet to strengthen the grass root base in all constituencies, a 2009 scenario.

The BJP improved from its fare schemes. It was able to 2014 Assembly performance checkmate the growth of the

level in the 2017 Zilla Prishad (ZP) election. The BJP's tally increased

from 36 ZP seats of 2012 to 306 seats while the ruling BJD's tally dropped from 651 seats in 2012 to 460 and the Congress ZP seats tally dropped from 126 to 66 seats. The BJP mainly ate away a large portion of the Congress votes in certain regions, though it took some portion of the BJD's votes in general.

The BJP stood as the second party after the BJD, pushing the Congress to third position with vote dropping to 18 per cent.

But it may not fall below the BJD took up reform meathe 39 per cent level of 2009 as the BJP and the Congress are Government. It refocused on its strength in terms of its 'grassroots presence. It also introduced new wel-

not to give tickets to the unpopular leaders. The BJD might also take some anticorruption action or change the style of party management to After the Panchayat poll, silence the critics.

> not act after its Panchayt poll failure, it got activated after its Bijepur by-election fiasco. It changed its State unit president in April and the new OPCC president Niranjan Patnaik has been striving relentlessly to

fidence among caders. The improvement in the

BJD and the Congress check-

mated the growth of the BJP for sometime in the State. However, the State BJP did not It continued to organize mass mobilization programmes, Union Government

programmes and cadre induction programmes, some of which were attended by its national president and the Prime Minister. It is sure to step up such programmes ahead. The BJP is following a combined approach consisting

of the regional approach, the constituency approach and the macro- propaganda approach, to address its constituency level weaknesses. While the BJD had recov-

The party might re-induct

ered its image after the Bijepur by-election, its image was again affected when dissidence erupt-

unite his party and build confidence among caders.

ed in the party in the middle part of 2018. The BJD had no option but to drop its former MP Baijayant Panda and former Minister Damodar Rout for anti-party activities. These dropped- out leaders

have no potential to split the party or form a new viable alternative regional party, but they may run anti-BJD image damaging propaganda or promoting dissidence in the BJD. This time the film stars

cannot deliver result. The BJD might form a campaign team, consisting of new and old leaders, men and women, different caste group and religious group leaders along with the film

few dropped- out Biju-follower senior leaders to use them during central and field level campaigns to counter the political attack of the opposition as well as the dropped-outs. counter effectively the political attack of the Prime Minister or the BJP national President and the vocal dissidents.

Presently, the BID is not able to

The second challenge for the BJD relates to its poll management. The BJD might alter the central poll management team, its poll management style and strategy that failed partially in the 2017 Panchayat

As the State BJP is ready to fight the poll alone and the State Congress is growing in strength, the BJD shall work in a calculative manner to maintain its vote share minimum above 39 per cent level, its Assembly seats above 98 and the Parliament seats above 14 level, like the 2009.

As the BJP and the BJD are at the Center and at the State respectively, the Congress was theoretically in the advantageous position to come to

has been out of the State power since 2000.

But the Congress acted late. Secondly, the State Congress is yet to hold mass mobilization programmes to

raise its public demand. The Congress seems to be working with Constituency approach. But unless the Congress gives a feeling that it shall form the State Government, its Constituency approach shall have limited

However, the performance of the BJP and the Congress shall be better than their 2014 performance.

Their achievement level

depends on their national wave and the Constituency management loopholes of the BJD.

People still believe that the BJP's 120 or the Congress's 85 Assembly target are not realistic.

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# Titli shows disaster management in deep water!

riverside

☐Pear-shaped Rushikulya prone to fast flood Hydrograph analysis not part of State disaster

■NDMA tips post Hudhud ignored by OSDMA

SANJEEV KUMAR PATRO ■

 $T^{\text{he Very Severe Cyclonic}}_{\text{Storm Titli brought to fore how the Odisha Disaster}}$ Authority Management (OSDMA) is in deep water as far as people's evacuation, deployment of NDRF or ODRAF or Fire Services personnel for relief work are concerned.

How the OSDMA messed up the things is revealed from the fact that when the IMD had

The recently-inaugurated Veer Surendra Sai Airport

(VSSA) at Jharsuguda has dis-

appointed people of western

Odisha with no operation of

flights under the UDAN

scheme in the past one week.

commissioning of Odisha's sec-

ond major airport, air passen-gers hardly got the flight ser-vices to other destinations from

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had released

a schedule for flight operations

still waiting to get services.

from the airport.

Even three weeks after the

After its inauguration, the

However, passengers are

As per the schedule, the

flight services to Bhubaneswar,

Raipur and Ranchi from

Jharsuguda were to be operat-

ed six days in a week excluding

The regular schedule for

observed that post making landfall near Palasa, 40 km southwest of Gopalpur, the Titli's location was shown to be at 19 degree north latitude and 84.

1 degree east longitude, which exactly is around the geographic location of origin of the Rushikulya river, the Water Resources Department should immediately have flagged the danger of heavy flood along the Rushikuliya system

Because the IMD bulletin had stated that the Titli rainfall

flight operations had com-

menced from September 24.

single flight by the Air Odisha

has been operated in the past

seven days. Rather, the airport

has turned into a point of

been halted due to technical

glitches, a source in the Air

The flight operations have

amusement for public.

Reports said that not a

steep, heavy inflow could aggravate heavy runoff of rainwater to the catchment and inundate villages/towns because the river slope flattens there, velocity of runoff slows down owing to congestion at river mouth by

many factors including the fallout of Titli Rushikulya is prone to fast flood as the river catchment is in shape of a pear, which means the upstream ends of the river are narrow

still a Severe Cyclonic Storm.

And given that the slope in the

upper reach of the river is very

In such river systems, the water level rises very fast and

and the catchment outlet is

broader.

Odisha said

No flights from Jharsuguda for a week

A proper hydrograph (response of water flow of Rushikuliya catchment to a rainfall input) analysis could have saved the day," observed a senior engineer working in the Rushikulya integrated irri-

gation system.

In this context, it is significant to mention that Water Resources Secretary PK Jena told media that since the Rushikulya basin is categorised as deficient now, there was no need to press the panic button. But the alarming flood scenario later shows no hydrograph analysis by the State disaster management team.

Earlier, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), post a

Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme.

Built with an investment of

₹210 crore, the airport was

expected to play a major role in

development in sectors of

Odisha Tourism and hotel

flight services from the airport

have raised doubt on its long-

However, the irregular

industries.

Cyclone Hudhud in 2014, had found glaring loopholes in the State's preparedness for flash floods post cyclone as it identified shortcomings like weak bunds in rivers in Ganjam and high congestion at river

The NDMA field visits found no pre-positioning of excavators, tractors and manpower at block headquarters to restore fast any breaches in river embankments; no stocking of sufficient sand bags or casuarinas at block-level or near vulnerable pockets to meet such contingency.

Moreover, with media reports coming to the fore in Gajapati where about 16 people died in landslides, the surinformed about the looming Titli threat.

Earlier, the NDMA had also pointed out that in Odisha the early warning dissemination failed to reach the last mile (communities), for which it suggested the State to form State Emergency Operation Centres (SEOCs) at taluk and panchayat levels to make the early warning disseminations reach the communities.

Now, the ground scenario reflects no fortification of the OSDMA as suggested by the NDMA

The result: not only the State disaster management system is yet to come off age, but the ghost of the 1990 floods in Aska revisited in 2018.

#### **INBRIEF**

PIYUSH GOYAL TO VISIT MCL MINES TODAY Sambalpur: Union Minister of Coal and Railways Piyush Goyal would visit the mines of the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) on Monday. Goyal, who would be on a day-long visit, would inspect the mines in both the Talcher Coalfields and Ib Valley Coalfields and review the performance of the MCL. He would also inaugurate a CSR project for Divyangs in the State

#### LOK ADALAT HELD IN BRAHMAPUR

Brahmapur: The 5th district-level Lok Adalat of 2018 was held at the various courts in the district on Saturday. Under the supervision of former District Judge and District Legal Services Authority Chairman Eshan Kumar Dash, a total of 12 civil and criminal cases were disposed of. Family Court's Lalit Kumar Das, PLA (PUS) Chairman EV Rao, Senior Civil Judge Pragya Paramita Rout, Additional Civil Judge (SD) Bidyadhar Prusty and Alok Mayee Pradhan heard the

**GIRL MEETS WATERY GRAVE IN BHADRAK RIVER** Bhadrak: A girl drowned in the Kundi river in Bhadrak district on Sunday morning. She was identified as Sasmita (16), daughter of Bijay Jena of Radhanga village under Tihidi block. Sasmita had gone to the river for performing some puja on its shore. As she did not

return for a long time, the family members searched for her and

#### ultimately found her body floating in the river. TWO UD CASES REPORTED IN JSPUR

Jagatsinghpur: Two unnatural death (UD) cases were reported from different locations of Raghunathpur block on Saturday. Police registered the cases after conducting postmortem in the District Headquarters Hospital here. Saroj Sahoo, a resident of Redhua, drowned while bathing in a village pond. In the other incident, a teenage boy, Akash Mishra, died due to snakebite on road in Tarapur when he was returning home from school.

#### FIRE AT PUNJAB AND SIND BANK BRANCH IN PARADIP

Jagatsinghpur: A fire broke out in the Punjab and Sind bank branch at Paradipgarh on Saturday. As smoke billowed from the building, locals informed fire personnel about the incident. Fire tenders from Paradip and Kujang were pressed into service and the blaze was doused. Some electronic articles were destroyed by the fire. The bank was closed for holiday. The details of damage would be known after the bank reopens on Monday.

#### **VYASA PRINT MEDIA ASSN EXECUTIVE MEET HELD**

Jaipur Road: A working committee meeting of the Vvasa Print Media Association was held here under the

chairmanship of its president Haradhan Banarjee on Friday. Secretary Chintamani Padhi informed about the future plans of the association. Advisors Baburam Jena, Harsha Bardhan Behera, Sarat Pathal and Abhimanyu Mishra, other office-bearers like VP Umakant Rout, Bijay Kumar Sahoo, Bharat Rout, Pradyumna Boitai, Jagdish Matania, Dushmanta Kumar Rout, Nityananda Mahalik, Pabitra Mohanty, Biswaranjan Pattanayak, Kailash Rout, Debendra Nayak gave various suggestions to strengthen the association.

MCDOWELL'S NO 1 HOSTS NO. 1 YAARI JAM WITH KK Bhubaneswar: The McDowell's No 1 Soda in association with the RED LIVE brought the singing sensation KK, who performed for the No 1 Yaari Jam concert in a two-city tour that began on October 12

with Rourkela and ended with a bang on October 13 in Bhubaneswar. The No1 Yaari Jam was built on the theme of "Jab Boli Mile, Yaari Badhe". KK said music is one of the few things that can touch hearts across the world, often bridging geographic and language barriers and singing songs in Odia was fun.

B'ngir migrant

missing; father

asks for help

### Missing woman's body found in Ganjam 4 STILL MISSING; EARLIER YOUTH'S

**BODY WAS FOUND** 

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The body of a woman, who along with five others had gone missing after being swept away in flash floods in the Adangi river in Ganjam district two days ago, was recovered on

Rescue team officials said the body was recovered from a bush near the river almost two days of search.

Notably, six persons including four of a family went missing after their house got swept away in flood waters following heavy rain triggered by Severe Cyclonic Storm 'Titli' in Bhutapankal village under Gajalbadi panchayat of

the district. Six persons including four

of a family and two others had taken shelter on the roof of the house when the tragedy occurred. "Due to heavy rainfall it

was nearly impossible for police officials and other administrative personnel to enter the village by crossing the flooded river during the day of the incident. Presently, a JCB engaged in NHAI works has been pressed in service to carry out search operations," said an offi-

Earlier, body of a youth, who went missing in the tragic mishap, was recovered on

### Lawyer misbehaved by cops in U'kote **BAR ASSN SEEKS RETURN OF BIKE** UNCONDITIONALLY

**PNS** ■ UMARKOTE

Umarkote Bar Association member Md Husain has alleged that a team of the Chandhandi police misbehaved him using slang language during a vehicle checking on

Husain was returning home after Friday prayer in his bike when he was stopped by a team of police and MV officials on Chandahandi-Jharigam Main road. As asked by them, Hussain produced all documents. However, the team took his bike on the plea that he was not wearing a helmet

"When I protested saying MV checking after sunset is illegal, they verbally abused me and booked me in a false case," alleged Husain.

Basing on his complaint, the Umarkote Bar Association called a meeting here on Saturday and condemned the act of police. The association threatened to take bold steps if the cops don't not withdraw false case and release his bike unconditionally.

"Lawyers are now protesting attack on a lawyer of the Orissa High Court. This incident would add fuel to the fire," said association president Prasant Kumar Sahu.

# School education in NSpur in a shambles

The flight services would

be resumed after getting noti-

fication from the DGCA about

a winter flight schedule. The

operations would probably

flagged off by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on September

22 under the UDAN (Udega

Notably, the VSSA was

start from Monday, he said.

□119 teacher posts vacant □No regular HMs in more than 50 schools

BIJAYA KUMAR PANDA ■

The primary education in Narasinghpur block in Cuttack district is in a shamble due to lack of teachers and infrastructure in schools.

Shortage of teaching staff has severely affected the school education in which 15,573 stuto VIII. As against 631 sanctioned

teacher posts, 119 are lying vacant now. Besides, more than 50 schools don't have regular There are 202 schools

operating in the block and they include 92 schools have Classes I to V, 52 schools having Classes I to VII, eight schools having Classes VI-VIII, nine fully-aided and block grant schools, three Seva Ashram schools and 38 high schools.

Even if, 185 schools have Mid-Day Meal (MDM) provision, 42 of them don't have kitchen.

Many schools don't have drinking water facilities. Water available in a few schools doesn't worth drinking.

As there is no other option to quench thirst, students have to drink the same.

It may be noted that many people have suffered from kidney-related diseases in the block, particularly due to con-

CMs. Lalu made his wife Rabri



Meanwhile, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan members have reported to the higher authorities recommending for provision of safe drinking water in every school.

Interestingly, the Block Education Officer (BEO) office doesn't have a drinking water facility and officials go outside to collect a glass of water.

It has been marked that the number of students' enrolment has dwindled by more than two thousand during the last four

Meanwhile, transfer of Narasinghpur BEO Sushree Sujata Priyadarshini Panda has created resentment among teachers as she had worked in teachers' favour relating to pension disbursment.

MEANWHILE, THE SARVA SHIKSHA **ABHIYAN MEMBERS** HAVE REPORTED TO THE HIGHER **AUTHORITIES** RECOMMENDING FOR PROVISION OF SAFE DRINKING WATER IN

**EVERY SCHOOL** 

The locals have demanded that the State Government take necessary steps for upgrading infrastructure, filling up vacant teacher and Headmasters posts and providing other facilities to improve education system in

## Two loot cases in 3 days in Balanga

₹1.20 LAKH LOOTED; MISCREANTS NOT NABBED

PNS ■ BALANGA

Within three days, two loot incidents occurred in Balanga police limits where the miscreants have decamped with Rs 1.20 lakh at gun point. According to sources, on Saturday 2, employees of a medicine distribution company of Telenga Bazar, Cuttack had collected Rs 50,000 at Khelar Bazar. Miscreants intercepted Rakesh Barik and Aurobind Gochhi's Tata Pick-up Van at Kuanarpur Kateni Padia.

They came in two black Bajaj Pulsar bikes and terrorised the

staffers and snatched away the cash bag before fleeing the spot. Getting information from Barik and Gochhi, medicine distribrushed to the spot and started an investigation. Notably, two days ago, a micro finance company agent was looted of Rs 70,000 in similar fashion at Biratsahi. However, the police have not yet got

### 3 women Maoists, minor held in M'giri

Explosive materials seized

PNS MALKANGIRI

Police on Sunday arrested four Maoists including three woman cadres near Jantri village in the cutoff Chitrakonda region in the district. Among the arrestees, one is a minor. Police seized two boxes containing nails, glass pieces, urea fertiliser, two electronic detonators, three packets of gelatin stick paste used as high explosives and some electric wires from their possession.

The police refused to divulge any details about them as they are trying to conduct an identification parade to ascertain whether they were involved in other cases.

Sources said a joint operation was launched by SOG of Odisha police and Greyhounds of Andhra Police in Jantri gram panchayat in the district. The security personnel spotted the four accused running suspiciously towards the nearby prest and nabbed them.

The police after frisking them recovered the explosive materials. During intensive grilling, they admitted that they are working for banned CPI (Maoist) organisation.

Tet again, the plight of a I migrant worker from Balangir district has come to According to reports, Gangadhar Sahu (20)of

**PNS** ■ BALANGIR

Tengrapathar under the Larambha police station had migrated to Tamil Nadu along with Suresh Sahu, Ranjit Bariha, Daitari Sahu and others of that village in 2017 and one Santosh Behera, a contractor had taken them.

After staying for a few days at Chennai, they started working at an aluminum factory at Coimbatore. However, after the death of then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Jayalalitha, the company was closed and since then there is no trace of Gangadhar.

Yugeshwar Šahu, father of Gangadhar, in his complaint with the Larambha police station, said, "Whenever I tried to contact the contractor, he has



been threatening me of dire consequence if I keep pestering him." He urged the police to take prompt action.

Yugeshwar told that the State Home Department on April 3 last year has also directed to the SP Balangir to take

steps in the case. Meanwhile, All Odisha Other Backward Class Forum chairman Balaram Singh Yaday has demanded immediate steps

to trace out of the missing youth and action against the

# Bijubabu was averse to dynastic politics

### Leader of high order

**B RAMCHANDRA CST VOLTAIRE** 

rnown for his exemplary Known for his cache. gle of Indonesia for which he was declared as the Bhumiputra of Indonesia, Biju Patniak was totally opposed to dynastic politics. He did not project anyone of his family

members as his successor. Naveen Patnaik came to power much after his father Bijubabu's demise. Thus Bijubabu was unlike Devi Lal, M Karunanidhi, Prakash Singh Badal, Farooq Abdullah, HD Deve Gowda and Lalu Prasad Yadav. Each of them made their sons CMs or Deputy

Devi the CM of Bihar. Even, Gowda and Lalu put both of their sons in political offices. Now HD Kumaraswamy, the second son of Gowda, is the CM of Karnataka while his elder brother HD Revanna is a Cabinet Minister. Lalu's two sons: Younger one Tejashwi Yadav made Deputy CM while his elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav was made a Cabinet Minister during the Mahagathbandhan Government of Nitish Kumar. Even PDP of Jammu and Kashmir is not free from Dynastic Lineage. Founded by Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, the PDP is now being run by his daughter Mehbooba Mufti who was CM of Jammu and Kashmir after the death of her



Bijubabu had no love for political and spiritual Babas. AB Vajpayee was seen dancing with Asharam Bapu, a rapist Baba of huge political influence in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Bijubbabu had no such stigma which Vajpayee had.

Bijubabu used to finance poor meritorious students' education. He did it till his last breath. It was in 1994 when Bijubabu was CM of Odisha, a

Senapati, whose father was a poor rickshaw puller and family staying in a wretched house on the side of a drain in Budheswari Colony, approached him for financial assistance for his engineering education. He was promptly assisted by his staff led by his Private Secretary Benudhar Mishra. Senepati is now wellplaced in society.

poor meritorious student Tutu

Bijubabu did not expect from him any slogan like Bijubabu Zindavad. He did not bow down before Indira Gandhi. He stood on his own. He politically survived independent of Indira. He was of scientific mind. That was why he instituted the Kalinga Prize in the UNESCO for popularisation of science. He built the Burla Engineering College,

growth of Odisha by various

He relied on his political aides like Srikant Jena, Bijay Mahapatra, Nalini Kanta Mohanty, none of them being his relative. Some of them betrayed him, for which he could not become Chief Minister in 1995. For which he could not become PM of India and the office went to HD Deve Gowda. He had no ill-will against any one of his betrayers. He had to suffer because of Chanakyagiri by JB Patnaik, Bijay Mahapatra and Srikant Jena. He was assisted faithfully by another Chanakya, late

Paryi Mohan Mohapatra. (The writer is secretary, AMOFOI and general secretary, Freethoght Party of India (FPI), Mob: 9238878280)

### Govt has failed in combating Titli DOUP SEEKS PROPER ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES

**PNS** ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Dak Unnayan Dakhin Odisha Parishad (DOUP) on Sunday alleged that the State Government has completely failed in tackling the Cyclone Titli in districts of Ganjam, Gajapati and Rayagada.

The Chief Secretary had been telling media about the possible cyclonic storm Titli and claiming that the State Government was fully prepared to ensure least damage and zero casualty.

However, the reality is different now. It is very disappointing that about 30 people have died by the impact of Titli in the three districts," said

"THE CHIEF SECRETARY HAD BEEN TELLING MEDIA ABOUT THE POSSIBLE CYCLONIC STORM TITLI AND **CLAIMING THAT THE** STATE GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY PREPARED TO ENSURE LEAST

CASUALTY' DOUP convenor Rabi Rath in a statement.

DAMAGE AND ZERO

He said the Government's claim of shifting 3 lakh people was not at all true as there was no information about shifted people made public. Officers Secretary made the claim only to take credit. He criticized Minister Surjya Narayan Patra for say-

from district level to the Chief

ing that he was unaware of the death of 16 people due to landslide in Baraghara village in Gajapati district. Rath said three persons were killed as walls collapsed over him at different places in Kashinagar and Mohana blocks and six persons washed away in Sorada Rath demanded that the

State Government provide relief to all the affected families and make a proper assessment of loss of human lives and damages and provide adequate

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



PNS BHUBANESWAR

Er Debashisha Hota became BJP Kishan Morcha Loksabha 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

BJD: Jealous BJP politicising Titli

Over the allegations by the BJP that the State BJD Government failed miserably to tackle the Titli cyclone, the BID 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

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

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 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

# 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

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.

on the basis of telephonic inter-Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who views across the 21 Lok Sabha has been trying to take seats with a sample size of 8,232 credits for the Centrally-sponas the respondents.

terms of popularity with 21 per 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

for the next PM. The survey was conducted

received only 21 per cent votes

sored developmental projects

in the State, is placed second in

Similarly, the survey in other States reveals that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is favourite for the post as 38 percent people are satisfied with performance overnment. However, the study shows

that Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar 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

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

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

### Ex-Services League holds convention PASSES A FEW

**PROPOSALS** PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha State Ex-Services League organised a joint convenion 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 Coronel Sudarshan Mishra, Coronel 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

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

The annual budget presented by the treasurer was approved unanimously. Bhubaneswar Station

Officer Coronel C Shashi was

present and resolved some issues. Proposals of provision of canteen service at Rourkela and establishment of District Army Boards and policlinics 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 contactor is not providing any food and adequate salary to him. His family has requested for assistance in returning to India," Panda mentioned in

## Rapid prototyping camp ends at DAV CSpur



PNS BHUBANESWAR

three-day-long rapid pro-Atotyping camp to nurture scientific talents and innovative approach among generation next youths organised at the 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 Chandrasekharpur under the

leadership of school coordinator Indira Bhattacharya coor-

dinated the programme.

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

**PNS** ■ BHUBANESWAR

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

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

meet here. Three teams led by Baxipatra, Harichandan and Mohanty had visited the Titliaffected Gajapati, Rayagada and Ganjam districts, respec-

They demanded that the The BJP on Sunday reiterat- Special Relief Commissioner 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.

ate: 13.10.2018

### In Sundargarh: Under-construction bridge collapses; 20 injured

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

t least 20 labourers were At least 20 mounter-construction bridge collapsed near Kanjipani under the K Balanga police station in Sundargarh disinjured labourers, five are stated to be in critical condition.

According to sources, a portion of the 50-metre-long and 20feet-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 (NBCČ) on the road connecting Jamudihi 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. The 12- year-old boat boy

was killed by the then British police when he deniedferrying them across the Brahmani river on the night of October 11,

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

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.

**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. Projet 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 rurallevel institutions and providing Projet 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 necessary information to peo- need to ensure proper func-

ple. He also stressed on the tioning 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

### Talk on EU-programme held in B'ngir 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 ele-phant lost its offspring due to the effect of Titli.

suffered from severe cold and died

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 pound-

ing 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

Later, the forest staffs buried the carcass Sources said that when a herd of elephants were passing through

forest officials.

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

paddy fields here during the Titli, which led to heavy downpours, the

□On Saturday morning, nearby villagers rescued the baby elephant

from the muddy paddy fields and intimated forest officials.

### DEGRADATION BY RISING FOOTFALLS IN HIMALAYAS =

# Niti Ayog favours green cess

The Government's top think tank, Niti Ayog has favoured imposing a "green cess" from tourists to arrest the environmental degradation caused by the rising footfalls in the Indian Himalayan region.

The Niti Ayog proposal in its recent 'Report of Working Group II Sustainable Tourism in the Indian Himalayan Perion (IHP)' follows observed Region (IHR)' follows observation that the region annually records about 100 million tourists and the number is expected to increase to 240 million by 2025, putting huge pressure on resources.

The 'green cess' will help boost revenue services as well as ensure sustainable development of the region that stretches about 2,400 km across the northern border of India, covering an area of about 500,000 sq km, as per the report. It also suggested payments for environmental services (PES) such as charging entrance fees from tourists and services sector as a long term solution within the



Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya , Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal are the part of the IHR.

The report notes that though all mountain states have developed tourism/eco-tourism policies and master plans but not all of them address challenges such as climate change, inadequate solid waste management, air pollution, degradation of watersheds and water sources and loss of natural

while the RPF charges only

ed with the responsibility of

protection and security of rail-

way property, passenger area

and has the power to arrest, investigate and prosecute crim-

inals, it would be able to use

Also, as the RPF is entrust-

₹78,000 per jawan yearly.

harness opportunities that change brings.

Also, sustainable aspects of tourism development in the IHR, such as carrying capacity of potential destinations, do not find enough resonance in planning long-term invest-

The think tank also noted that the movement of Indian tourists is increasingly becoming individualistic as standards of living have gone up and people travel to IHR landscapes as and when they want. "As a result, traffic congestion and air  $\,$ and noise pollution, overbooked hotels, non-availability of parking places, and local water and energy security are becoming recurrent problems, even in smaller towns such as Dharamsala.

"Even trials of control mechanisms to restrict the number of visitors to very fragile sites (e.g. Rohtang Pass from KulluManali or Amarnath Yatra), have not yielded desired results as people find alternative routes and means to reach such

"Even Sikkim, which has

good experience with ecotourism, is increasingly challenged by mass tourism," as per Vikram Singh Gaur from NITI Aayog and Dr. Rajan Kotru from International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development( ICIMOD), the lead authors of the report. Among other contributors were Ashok K Jain ( NITI Aayog), Sejal Worah (WWF India) and

Mridula Tangirala (Tata Trust). Not only the panel has favoured 'tourism tax' as being imposed by many countries like Bhutan as sources of revenue, it also suggested PES schemes that offer financial incentives for locals to provide a wide range of ecosystem services untouched by normal market transactions.

The panel has also called for carrying out tourism development management of Destination Carrying Capacity as the destinations have their own limited natural and heritage resources and infra-

# PM Modi has much to hide about Rafale deal: Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing with its cam-paign against the Government over the Rafale deal, the Congress on Sunday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was directly involved in it, adding that he had much to hide about it.

Questioning Modi's silence over the deal, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma claimed that only the Prime Minister was aware that the offset contracts would not be given to Hindustan Aeronautics

Limited (HAL). "It was his (Modi's) decision. Only he was privy to what he was going to do," said Sharma at AICC Press

"It was expected that the Prime Minister would speak on this issue of national importance, but he continued to remain silent while making tall claims about his Government. The Prime Minister has much to hide in the Rafale deal. His silence raises fundamental questions, because he is directly complicit and personally accountable for it," he alleged



Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma addresses a Press conference at AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Sunday

biggest scam in the history of the country, Sharma reiterated his party's demand for setting up a Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into it.

The former Union Minister also questioned Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's visit to France, during which she will take stock of the progress of French firm Dassault Aviation supplying 36 Rafale jets to the Indian Air Force under the ₹58,000-crore deal.

Sharma maintained that there was a

PM's silence raises **fundamental** questions, because he is directly complicit and personally accountable for it

—Anand Sharma

hike in the price of the fighter aircraft India was buying from France and asserted that the Prime Minister needed to clear many doubts about the deal

Claiming that the Rafale deal was the that had been raised. He said more details of the deal would emerge if a forensic audit of it was carried out. The Congress has been claiming that

the aircraft will cost significantly more than what the previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government was negotiating. The Opposition party has also been demanding answers from the BJP Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government as to why HAL was not involved in the deal as finalised during the UPA regime.

Top court comes to rescue

of SC man who was

the Supreme Court has come

to the rescue of a man belong-

ing to the Scheduled Caste

category whose services were

terminated twice by the Uttar

Pradesh Government owing

to a dispute over his caste cer-

the subsequent change in law

does not have the effect of

reversing all the decisions

made prior to the fresh view

The Supreme Court in 2013 had upheld an Allahabad

High Court order by which

Vijay Shankar was reinstated

to service with all conse-

quential benefits, holding him

as a member of SC category

after state government had

withdrawn its appeal follow-

ernment, however, in 2015

again dismissed him from

service, saying a larger bench

of the high court has taken a

different view and his caste

does not fall under the

Schedule Caste category.

The Uttar Pradesh gov-

ing a lengthy hearing.

taken by a court of law.

The top court, held that

tificate

# Railway proposes RPF to safeguard Metros

Cash starved Indian Railways has proposed that Railway Protection Force (RPF) be given the responsibility of securing the premises of all upcoming metro stations in the country. Presently Metro property is being managed by the elite Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). The railway board has writ-

ten to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs saying that the RPF which is already guarding the Kolkata Metro be made in charge of security for the new metros in Lucknow, Nagpur, Chennai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Indore, Bhopal and Hyderabad.

"Having a single dedicated force for the Metro Railway is advantageous since the staff can be trained in the safety and security requirements of the metro. The RPF has specialised training because it is already securing sub-urban stations for years," a senior railway official said.

The official also pointed out that the move will also be cost effective. The CISF charges for securing metro premises,

Dehradun-based plant

will convert e-waste

into high grade fuel:

 $I^{
m ndia}$  will soon be able to convert its plastic wastes into

high-grade petrol and diesel with the help of Dehradun-based Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP). "The plant

has been set up at Dehradun

and it will be operational by

January next year. The plant

converts plastic into gasoline,

diesel or aromatics through the use of a combination of suit-

able catalysts. It will also pro-

duce LPG as a common by-

The IIP, a constituent lab of

the Council of Scientific and

Industrial Research, has for

the first time in the country

developed a technology to con-

vert plastic waste into petrole-

um products. Such a technol-

ogy is so far available only in

Germany, Japan and the US

while Australia and the UK are

still working on it.
According to Union

Environment Minister Harsh

Vardhan, the facility, which

will be run on pilot basis, is

capable of converting plastic

waste into bio-diesel. The

model will then be replicated

across the country. The Union Minister said that the plant has

the capacity to convert one tonne of plastic waste into 800

litres biofuel which will be of highest quality and it can be used in any diesel automotive vehicle. E-waste is the world's

fastest growing waste stream and India is the fourth largest

e-waste producer. At present

around 95 per cent of the waste is processed by the infor-

product.

Harsh Vardhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

### **Rajnath Singh** to celebrate **Dussehra along Indo-pak border**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Home Minister Rajnath Singh will celebrate Dussehra and perform 'shastra puja' in Bikaner along the highly sensitive Indo-Pak border with BSF jawans. During the two-day visit, the Home Minister will arrive in Bikaner on October 18, stay the night at the BOP, before celebrating the festival with the jawans on October 19, said Home Ministry officials.

Singh is expected to review the situation on the border and assess the progress in various infrastructure projects. He will attend a 'Bada Khana' (feast with the jawans) and address the security personnel, they said. The 3,323-km-long Indo-

them at stations as well. The RPF with only 900 Pak border is considered to be staffers is managing Kolkata metro which has a footfall of highly sensitive. Even though the border in Rajasthan is peaceful, about five to six lakh comthe border guarding forces of the two countries often engaged in muters daily. They have both massive firing in Jammu & the expertise and the experi-Kashmir, leading to loss of human lives and properties. ence to manage and secure mass transport system like Railways, so they are equipped to deal with metros," the offi-Last year, the Home Minister had celebrated Dussehra at Joshimath in Uttarakhand along cial said. The RPF has a sanc-

## China's Confucius Institute on India's covert agencies' radar

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The role of China's Confucius Institute, which is overtly an intellectual institution, has now come under the scanner of the Indian covert agencies, which suspect that the institute is exploited by Beijing worldwide for Intelligence gathering. The establishment of one Confucius Institute centre in Mumbai University and efforts at setting up similar centres in Vellore, Sulur, Coimbatore and Kolkata has sent alarm bells ringing in the Intelligence community here.

The Chinese agencies' efforts through Chinese businessmen to gain access to decision making levels in Indian establishments have also emerged as another area of concern, a senior Intelligence official said. Amid China's growing geopolitical ambition, the Indian Intelligence agencies are apprehending aggressive Intelligence gathering by Bejing.

The agencies are keeping a watch on the MoUs signed with Indian universities /colleges, student exchange programmes and attempts to manipulate the post-Dalai Lama situation in edly sought the custody of the

17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje from Washington. Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje deceitfully exited from India to the US in April last year.

Karmapa is the second most important leader in the Tibetan Buddhism hierarchy after Dalai Lama. China already has taken custody of another key Tibetan Buddhist leader Panchen Lama. Union Home Ministry

sources said Home Minister Rajnath Singh is seized of the threats emanating from Chinese penetration in Indian educational institutions and has sought a strategy to be put in place to deal with the challenge. The Intelligence agencies

have advised the States to keep a watch on the Chinese activities and inform the Central agencies for collation of data and remedial action.

"The modus operandi of the Chinese Intelligence gathering apparatus globally is using amateurs and its expatriate community settled worldwide which is not only a big challenge to detect but also difficult to prove in a court of law. China is the most active nation involved in cyber espionage with formidable capabilities," an

The Chinese intelligence official.

agencies are also known to be different from their counterparts in US and Russia wherein Beijing exploits its soft power for espionage activities under the cover of legitimate activities. Notably, China indulges in intelligence gathering through academics and scholars, business people and Intelligence operatives under official cover of diplomats, defence attaches and

journalists, another official said. India and China share a omplicated relationship due to the lack of delineation of India-China boundary, lack of clarification of the Line of Actual Control, Beijing's concern about presence of the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso in India and New Delhi's concerns regarding post-Dalai Lama scenario.

The relationship is further complicated by Chinese support to Northeastern insurgent groups, increased Chinese interest in the Indian Ocean Region and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC, a part of BRI) which passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and growing Chinese influence in India's neighbourhood especially Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri

the 'Kasera' community, a sub-caste of 'Shilpkars' which

is a SC category notified under the Constitution, challenged the decision once again before the Allahabad High Court, but it dismissed his plea saying that the law has now been changed by a larger bench of the top court. A bench of justices S A

Bobde and L Nageswara Rao said the high court in its judgment, dated August 12,2015, has completely "misappreciated and misapplied the law".

"The difference between a

superior court reversing a decision, which is in appeal before itself, and overruling the view is well known," it

The apex court directed the Uttar Pradesh government to immediately release the withheld pension and other retirement benefits of Shankar, who superannuated egories from seven to 21 as per from the post of assistant the new Disability Act prosecution officer during his announced in 2016. Also, just second termination period.

The court, while allowing the appeal of Shankar, set aside the high court order of August 2015, rejecting his plea and his dismissal order of Ĵune 15, 2015.

"If a point is settled interparties and there is a subsequent change in the law because the court takes a different view, the change in a

terminated twice by UP Govt New Delhi: In a rare instance, law does not have the effect of

unsettling the rights settled

"The subsequent change in a law does not have the effect of reversing all the decisions made prior to the fresh view," the bench said.

It said in the present case, Shankar's rights were settled by the earlier high court judgment of December 23, 2011, which was upheld when the appeal of the state government was dismissed as

withdrawn by the apex court. The apex court said it was not permissible for the principal secretary, home department, to rely upon the subsequent contrary decision and dismiss the appellant

(Shankar) from service again. The ordeal of Shankar, who joined the service in 1991 as assistant prosection officer, started when he was terminated on May 21, 2007, by the state government on the ground that he has obtained the job by submitting a forged

It was found that Shankar's in his school certificate, which according to the state government was not a SC category.

Scheduled Caste certificate.

Shankar, first challenged his dismissal order before the Uttar Pradesh State Public Services Tribunal, which granted him relief by setting aside the punishment order and reinstated him with all consequential service benefits and continuity in service.

The tribunal also observed that 'Kasera' is a subcaste of 'Shilpkar' as per a government order dated December 12,1950. It said there are 26 sub castes of 'Shilpkar' and that 'Kasera' was one of them.

Thus, 'Kasera' being a subcaste of 'Shilpkar' comes under the category of Scheduled Caste, the tribunal said.

Aggrieved by the tribunal's order, the Uttar Pradesh government moved the Allahabad High Court that on December 23, 2011, upheld the tribunal's order, saying the caste of his parents as per the National Citizen Register, was found to be 'Shilpkar', which is a Scheduled Caste.

The State Government, then moved the apex court where after a lengthy hearing, the appeal was withdrawn and the order of the high court reinstating Shankar was upheld.

# 6 new Zika virus cases detected in Rajasthan

Jaipur: Six new cases of Zika virus were detected in Jaipur Sunday, taking the total number of infected people to 61, a Rajasthan health department official said.

The figures were issued after a review meeting chaired by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) medical and health, Veenu Gupta.

Of the infected people, 11 are pregnant women, a source in the Union Health Ministry

The Centre will review the outbreak of Zika in the capital city of Rajasthan on Monday, the source said.

60 patients are healthy after

"Forty-five out of the total treatment," the Rajasthan health

department official said. Most of the cases which have been reported are from Shastri Nagar area here where fogging and other anti-larvae activities are being carried out to prevent

Till Saturday, door-to-door survey at 76,000 households was conducted in Shastri Nagar and mosquito larvae was found and

the spread of the virus.

quarantined in nearly 64,000 households, the officer said.

The state health department has also issued an advisory for pregnant women staying outside the affected area to not visit Shastri Nagar.

The virus, transmitted through the aedes aegypti mosquito, causes fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint

pain. It is harmful to pregnant women, as it can lead to microcephaly, a condition in which a baby's head is significantly smaller than expected, in newborn children. In India, the first outbreak

was reported in Ahmedabad in January 2017 and the second in Tamil Nadu's Krishnagiri district in July that year.

the widening of disability cat-

less than 20-25% PwDs actu-

acknowledge their presence

while people and children suf-

fering from involuntary body

movements, Down's Syndrome

and multiple disabilities do not

have an Aadhaar card, a

mandatory document to get

Also, many families don't

ally get the DCs.

### NATIONAL PROJECT TO CONVERT DCs INTO E-UDIDS

# Development moving at a snail's pace in all States

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

T aunched in 2016, the disability certificates (DCs) into e-Unique Disability Identity cards (UDIDs) that aims to ensure Persons with disabilities (PwDs) avail all the Government benefits like pension irrespective of their domicile status is moving at a snail's pace in almost all the States.

Data available as on October 9, 2018, from the Union Social Justice and **Empowerment Ministry shows** that a miniscule percentage ie 7 per cent of the total 1.44 crore PWDs having DCs have been issued the UDID cards.

The laggard States are Delhi, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Punjab, Telangana, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Bihar and almost all the Northeastern States which have either not started or taking their own time in issuing the UDIDs. (See Box) These States have sizeable population of PwDs.

mal sector, using practices harmful to their health and the However, five States-four BJP-ruled — Chhattisgarh,

Rajasthan, Odisha, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh have comparatively fared better, reaching the double digit enrolment with Rajasthan leading the pack. Rajasthan has issued UDÎD cards to 61% of its PwDs population, followed by Madhya Pradesh (42%), Chhattisgarh (26%). Gujarat

and Odisha are limping at 15% and 17% respectively. With an 18-digit UDID

number, the card is designed to reduce the duplicate and fake entries and ensure that benefits such as admission, employment and pensions reach the deserving beneficiaries. But the cards have not reached majority of the beneficiaries due to lack of awareness and updated data, admitted an official from the Ministry.

Clearly, the sector does not seem to be the priority for the States. The official pointed out that, in fact the PwDs population could be several times higher, firstly because of

### APATHY GETTING IN THE WAY OF PWDS RIGHTS

STATES	DCS	E-UDID CARD	%WRT DCS ISSUED
Andhra Pradesh	9,38,220	415	5.38
Assam	2,76,030	0	0
Bihar	12,35,434	206	0.02
Chhattisgarh	3,15,833	82726	26.19
Delhi	1,34,705	0	0
Gujarat	4,89,629	73179	14.95
J&K	1,79,385	14	0.01
Jharkhand	4,20895 24	5969	1.42
Karnataka	9,72,305	0	0.00
Kerala	4,22,087	1227	0.29
MP	6,60,313	282728	42.82
Maharashtra	13,47,949	24160	1.79
Odisha	8,42,250	138864	16.49
Punjab	3,58,206	6078	1.70
Rajasthan	4,49,618	275629	61.30
TN	11,19,151	27808	2.48
UP	19,43,868	76965	3.96
Uttarakhand	98,881	0	0.00
WB	10,81,316	1	0.00
Total	144,32,999	10,18,680	7.06
*DCs: disability cards			



Artists preparing effigies of Ravana for the upcoming Dussehra in New Delhi on Sunday



#### **BENGAL DURGA PUJAS**

# **Govt makes massive** police arrangement

The bitter memory of the Nagerbazar blast that left two persons, including a child, dead less than a fortnight ago still fresh in the mind, the Bengal Government has thrown an unprecedented security net across Durga Puja-bound Kolkata, police sources said. With the pandal hoppers Cultural, Tridhara Sanmilani, Deshapriya Park, Suruchi

already cramming the roads from Dwitiya (second day of Sangha, Chetla Agrani etc. the 10-day-long celebrations) the administration has made massive police bandobast deploying 8000-strong police force across the city.

This figure is in addition to several thousand civic volunteers and private security operations, sources said. "Our officers to the rank of Deputy Commissioners will personally man vital positions in north and South Kolkata," said a senior official, adding that the police officers will be deployed in three shifts.

The first shift will work from 8 am to 4 pm. The sec-

to 12 in the midnight and the third shift will be deployed from 12 to 8 am, officials said adding about 800 police pickets have been put up in places near important Durga Puja Pandals like Ahiritola, Bagbazar, Md Ali Park, College Square, Sealdah in the North and Ekdalia Evergreen, Ballygunge

We have deployed 25 divisional mobiles and 46 watch towers at important locations," said a Deputy Commissioner adding 74 additional CCTV cameras have been installed at various locations. "This is in addition to the existing ones," he said adding the CCTV feed will be monitored round the clock by the police officials in the control room."

The Government was not willing to take chances during the Durga Pujas, said a senior IAS officer adding these Pujas Kolkata is likely to witness more than 30 million crowd

"In order to make pandal hopping during the Pujas safer, secure and trouble-free we have set up 27 trauma care ambulances that will move around the city to tackle emergencies" he said adding nine missing person's squads will also be deployed to help people find their children who often are lost in the crowd. This year the police expects about 20 lakh people to visit Kolkata from distant districts and states.

Immersion of Durga idols will take place from Vijay Dushmi which falls on October 19. Some select clubs will however be required to take part in the Durga Carnival to be organized at historic Red Road on October 23.

A brainchild of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee about 100 clubs will march past the Red Road a la the Republic Day Parade with guests and revelers enjoying the occasion from the galleries raised on the two sides. Durga Carnival became a huge success in 2017.

BJP to use occasion to improve outreach

As Bengal's biggest festival Durga Puja nears, the Opposition BJP in the State is leaving no stone unturned to use the mega platform to reach out to the masses and has decided to set up nearly 3,000 bookstalls displaying books on the party's ideology outside pandals in the State, party leaders said.

In addition to books on BJP's ideology, those on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the works of Jan Sangh icons — Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Shyama Prasad Mookherjee — would be put up on display in these stalls

Besides, literature on National Register of Citizens (NRC) and Citizenship (Amendment) Bill would be exhibited to make people aware of the contentious issues. "This year, we had received

requisitions for nearly 3,000 bookstalls from across the state. We hope to come up with stalls outside various puja marquees," BJP State general secretary Sayantan Basu told PTI.

According to State BJP president Dilip Ghosh, the number of stalls coming up this Durga Puja is the highest in the history of the State BJP.

"Earlier, our party organisation was not so strong that

we could afford to set up stalls the number two in West Bengal outside puja pandals. But things have changed and more and more people are getting connected with our party," Ghosh said.

The BJP aims to highlight the NRC issue in Assam as well and how its updation exercise earlier this year was carried out to benefit the northeastern State as well as the country.

The complete draft NRC was published in July this year with 2.9 crore names in which over 40 lakh people were left out from the document, touted to be a proof of Assamese

"We will use this (platform) to propagate about NRC in Assam and how it is done for the benefit of that state and country, contrary to the propaganda of the TMC. We will also issue articles on violence and misrule of TMC Government and the developmental work done by the Narendra Modi Government in the last four-and-half years," he said.

According to party sources, the State leadership has been buoyed by its performance in the last Panchayat polls and now wants to do even better in the next Lok Sabha polls by reaching out to the people of

The BJP had emerged as

after TMC in the three-tier local bodies' polls recently, leaving behind CPI(M) and the Congress.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah have on several occasions said that West Bengal is a priority State for the party in the coming parliamentary poll.

Shah recently set a target of winning 22 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal for his party workers. The BJP leadership appre-

hends it would be denied permission for setting up bookstalls under "instruc-tions of TMC leaders in respective areas". For years, various political

parties including the CPI(M) have been setting up stalls in the State to promote their books and literature outside Puja pandals as a public relations exercise. After the Left Front was

voted out of power in 2011, the TMC has been promoting party mouthpiece "Jago Bangla" outside puja pandals in the State. "For us, Durga Puja is integral part of Bengali culture, heritage and history. We look up to it as a festival, unlike the BJP which tries to use religion to create rift among the masses," TMC Secretary General Partha Chatterjee said. Shah may join Cong pendent candidate as he could

Ex-BJP Min Bimal

**PNS** ■ GANDHINAGAR

 $B^{\mathrm{imal}}_{\mathrm{Transport}}$  Shah, former BJP-run Keshubhai Patel Government who has been side-lined for almost one decade, may join the Opposition Congress party after the Diwali.

Sources in the Congress party said that Shah has put some condition in order to join the Opposition party that includes ticket for the Lok Sabha seat in Central Gujarat. Even in the ruling BJP many believe that the ex-MLA from Kapadvanj assembly constituency would join the Congress.

He was elected to the State assembly from Kapadvanj seat in Kheda district in 1998 and 2002, and had served as Minister of State for Transport in 1998. Although in 2007 assembly polls, BJP won with thumping majority, but Shah lost measurably and since then his role in the ruling party reduced gradually.

În order to keep his sinking political career afloat, the 57-year-old political leader contested from Kapadvanj as an independent candidate after the saffron party ignored him. He however couldn't make his mark as an inde-

secure mearly 47,000 votes and stood third.

Sources in BJP said that because of Shah, BJP lost Kapadvani seat as division of votes helped the Congress candidate Kalabhai Dabhi to win the seat by defeating BJP can-didate Kanubhai Dabhi with margin of 27,000 votes.

Despite Shah's denial to join the Opposition party in near future, a senior leader in Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) said that very shortly Shah would meet Congress president Rahul Gandhi. Meanwhile Shah is maintaining that he would let media know if any such development would take place. In case Shah would join Congress, he may contest from Kheda Lok Sabha Constituency as the opposition party didn't have powerful leader in the constituency to take on the saffron brigade.

With Lok Sabha polls coming closer, political migration from one party to another would start not only in Gujarat but across the country. Being a home-state of the Prime Minister, Congress party is trying hard to make major dent in PM Modi's bastion as in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls BJP won all 26 seats.

### Man injured in blast dies in **Kolkata** hospital

IANS MI KOLKATA

Afruit seller injured in a bomb blast in West Bengal's Dum Dum area died at a Government hospital here on Sunday, police said.

"The injured Ajit Halder (38), who had a fruit stall in Dum Dum's Nagerbazar, succumbed to his injuries at SSKM Hospital on Sunday," the police said.

With this, the toll has risen to two.

An eight-year-old boy was killed and nine others, including Halder, injured in a socket bomb blast in front of a multi-storeyed building in Nagerbazar area on October 2.

The blast that had taken place near Halder's fruit shop severely damaged at least two shops and shattered the window panes of an adjacent

The State's Criminal Investigation Department is

### 67% people unaware of emergency kits, disaster preparedness in Kerala: Survey

Thiruvananthapuram: The people of Kerala, the State which has an envious record in several human development indicators, have largely been found to be unaware of precautionary measures and emergency kits to be used at times of disasters with two-thirds of respondents of a survey pleading ignorance.

The findings in the State-wide survey held just over two months after the State was devastated by unprecedented floods of a century have prompted the organiser, Kerala State Literacy Mission (KLSM), to pitch for a "disaster man-

agement literacy programme".

The State is known for its high literacy, lowest infant mortality and highest life expectancy rates among others.

Yet according to the survey, 66.77 per cent of people, cutting across cities and villages, were unaware of precautionary measures and emergency kits to be used at times of disasters.

survey-How and What the Flood-Affected Kerala Thinkscarried out by the KLSM, was

released by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at a function here on Saturday.

At least 20.02 per cent of people, who took part in the survey, had not even heard about climate change, though it is one of the most discussed topics globally, it says. Only 43.74 per cent of

people were aware of different forms of natural disasters such as drought, flood and earthquake, while just 8.43 per cent knew that cyclone is a form of disaster, the report said. The initiative, carried out

with the support of about 50,000 students pursuing the mission's equivalency programmes on October 2, covered over 2.91 lakh households in all the 14 districts of the State.

Besides men and women, the survey covered over 35 transgenders also, the mission sources said.

At least 66.77 per cent of people were unaware about the emergency survival kits time of disasters, the survey

Director of Literacy

After getting information

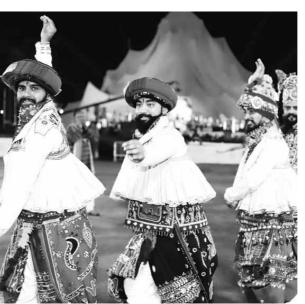
Mission P S Sreekala said it was also interesting to note that 41.86 per cent of people did not have an idea about the precautionary measures to be taken during the time of

Carried out as part of the rebuilding initiatives of the State Government post the August deluge, the survey was aimed at assessing the public's scientific knowledge on climate change, disaster management and environment-friendly lifestyle, she said.

Based on the report, the Literacy Mission has submitted a set of recommendations to the Government.

One of the major proposals was to introduce a disaster management literacy programme in the State, Sreekala said. Disaster management, emergency preparedness and climate change should be made part of the public education system, she said. Floods and rains had left a trail of destruction during this year's South West









The longest dance festival, 'Navaratri Garba,' is in full swing in Gujarat. The Gandhinagar Cultural Forum is organising the nine-day long Garba in the State Capital

# Teenager killed in snowstorm

15-year-old boy was killed Aand four of his family members were injured in a snowstorm in the higher reaches of Poonch district in Jammu & Kashmir, a police official said Sunday.

Over 150 sheep and goats also perished in the snowstorm which swept the high altitude Hill Kaka area in Pir

Panjal yesterday, trapping a Bakerwal family from Rajouri district, the official said.

He said the family comprising five members was undertaking the bi-annual migration from central's Kashmir's Budgam to their Rajouri home town when they got stuck in the storm while crossing Choti Marg near Hill Kaka.

After getting information about the incident, a police

about the incident, a police party with some villagers from Bafliaz reached the remote area and recovered the body of Usman Ali (15), a resident of Androte area

of Rajouri, the official said

party with some villagers from Bafliaz reached the remote area and recovered the body of Usman Ali (15), a resident of Androte area of Rajouri, the official said.

Four other family members Mohammad Aslam, his wife Bano Bi, Nazir Ahmad and Mohammad Yousuf - were rescued with injuries to their feet and shifted to a hospital in Srinagar.

# Scientific solution to beach erosion makes a coastline breathe easy

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN** ■ CHENNAI

¬here is an Indian solution for beach erosion, the fallout of global warming and climate change. Scientists of the National Institute of Ocean Technology (under the Ministry of Earth Sciences) have reconstructed a beach which fell victim to erosion over the years.

"It was a beach nourishment programme. The Puducherry coastline, one of the scenic and serene beaches, had lost much of its surface charm and area due to sea erosion over a period of time. We were contacted by the Government of the Union territory when it became a cause of concern and that was how NIOT entered the scene," Dr M Atmanand, director, NIOT, told The Pioneer

Scientists led by Dr M V Ramana Murthy, project director, undertook a study of the coastline with satellite pictures and field data and used it to run models which

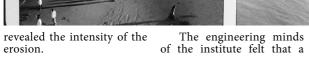
### **Formation of Beach**

Significant extent of beach has formed to the south of the reef and people have been thronging in large numbers.











merged dyke using steel caisson (a giant structure made of 900 tonnes of steel which is submerged into the sea) and allowing the beach to grow by

"This submerged structure, which is at a distance of about 100 metres from the shore, reduced the wave activity by working as a breakwater and allowed free movement of the sand towards the shore," explained Dr Murthy. The pilot project saw the

beach gaining an extent of 60 meters and this led to the major venture. The sand dredged from the port was used for "nourishment" For the complete restoration, another dyke at the south side is being worked.

The steel caisson built by the NIOT is of 60 meter long, 50 meter wide and has an elevation of 2.5 metre. It acted as an artificial reef and was lowered into the sea on August 2018.

"As a consequence, the sandy beach started to restore of the south side of the beach and is still growing. It is expected to grow to the extent of the expectations to restore as looked on old days, so as to walk along the coast," said Kiran Bedi, the Lieutenant Governor, Puducherry.

Bedi, who is monitoring the project to restore the beach has expressed her desire to have the restoration of the entire stretch which was swallowed by the sea. Dr Atmanand is of the view that it was possible and NIOT take up the could

project soon. The submerged dyke venture could be extended to other parts of the country for restoring and reconstructing the beaches which vanished due to erosion. The process developed by the NIOT could be the ideal beautification programme for Mother India, the country was looking for, feels scientists of NIOT.

"It all depends on factors like topography, speed of the wind and some more geographical features. We are confident of resolving the issue of erosion," said Dr

### Free ₹5 L insurance for Vaishno Devi pilgrims

Jammu: Pilgrims heading for the Vaishno Devi shrine will get free insurance cover of ₹5 lakh.

This was decided on Saturday at a meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (MVDSB) chaired by Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik.

The Board has approved enhancement of free accident insurance cover for pilgrims visiting the shrine to ₹5 lakh besides free treatment to trauma victims. The Governor is also the Chairman of the Board. The spokesman added that the insurance cover shall be in addition to the accidental cover available to each pilgrim once he or she collects the yatra slip

and commences the journey. "It is pertinent to mention that premium on providing insurance cover to the pilgrims is borne by the Board and the insurance cover has been upgraded after a gap of eight years", the spokesman added.

The meeting also reviewed

the functioning of the Shri

Super Speciality Hospital. "The Board ... approved a medical support policy for the treatment of victims of trauma under its social support initiative

Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana

include public trauma victims of road accidents, landslides or shooting stone incidents and such calamities from surrounding areas of the shrine referred to the hospital by Deputy Commissioners. The medical assistance

would be provided in all such

cases by the Board till the sta-

bilization of the patient up to

at the super speciality hospital.

The beneficiaries will

a ceiling of ₹2 lakh as a goodwill gesture. The Board also decided to create a new medical unit at

Bhairon temple at an estimated cost of ₹1 crore keeping in view futuristic requirements," spokesman said. Each year over two crore pilgrims visit the shrine situated on the Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu region.

# **Discharged from AllMS, Parrikar returns to Goa**

INCLUDING THOSE IN

GOA, MUMBAI AND

THE US

and its allies, who met Parrikar

separately, had ruled out any

change in leadership in the

BJP's key decision-making

body in Goa, comprising senior leaders like Parrikar,

Union Minister Shripad Naik

and party State chief Vinay

since mid-February and has

been treated at different hos-

pitals including those in Goa,

Mumbai and the US.

Parrikar has been ailing

"I got the news that he is

Tendulkar, among others.

The core committee is the

coastal State.

PTI ■ PANAJI

Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar arrived in his home State Sunday afternoon from New Delhi, where he was undergoing treatment at the AIIMS for pancreatic ail-

Parrikar, 62, was flown in in a special flight and later taken to his private residence at Dona Paula, near here, in an ambulance

The flight landed around 2.35 pm at the State's Dabolim airport and the ambulance was brought out from the gate of the naval enclave INS Hansa, which is a part of the

Éarlier, Parrikar was on Sunday morning discharged from the AIIMS

According to sources in the AIIMS, he was in the morning shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for a while after his condition deteriorated. But later, the administration decided to discharge him.

The state-run Goa Medical College and Hospital near here has made elaborate arrangements at his private residence with a team of doctors on standby to take care of

his health. Parrikar was admitted to the AIIMS on September 15. On Friday, Parrikar met

Goa BJP's core committee members and ministers from coalition partners at AIIMS to discuss ways to ensure his Government functions normally during his absence from office due to ill health.

Leaders of the ruling BJP coming back but I can't believe



Manohar Parrikar in Panaji on Sunday

PARRIKAR HAS BEEN that he is returning. His health is improving and he was AILING SINCE expected to stay at the AIIMS MID-FEBRUARY AND for a few more days," the HAS BEEN TREATED Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said. AT DIFFERENT **HOSPITALS** 

Naik dismissed any possibility of dissolution of the Goa Assembly and expressed confidence that the Parrikar-led government will complete its five-year term.

Questions over the stability of the Goa government have been raised by the Opposition Congress because of Parrikar's

In the 40-member Goa Assembly, the Parrikar-led government has the support of 23

These comprise 14 BJP MLAs, three each from the Goa Forward Party and the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) as well as three Independents.

The Opposition Congress is the single largest party in the state Assembly with

Parrikar should've stayed at AIIMS, completed treatment, says Minister

IANS ■ PANAJI

iling Goa Chief Minister Amanohar Parrikar should have stayed back at the AIIMS in New Delhi and nursed himself back to health instead of returning to the State, a Minister said on Sunday.

Speaking to the media ahead of Parrikar's arrival in Goa, Union Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Naik said: "I have got the news. I still cannot believe it. I met him day before yesterday. His health has improved over last 15 days but I feel he should stay there for a few days more".

Naik also said that it was imperative that Parrikar takes adequate rest as part of his healing process after being treated for advanced pancreat ic cancer.

"After he returns, I will meet and speak to him. He must have returned (to Goa) because the last chemotherapy must have been administered. He can take future treatment in Goa.'

Parrikar was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences last month.

The former Defence Minister has been in and out of hospitals in Goa, Mumbai, New York and now Delhi for the last seven months.

On Friday, Parrikar also held a meeting of his cabinet ministers and senior BJP state executive committee members

The opposition Congress has been demanding Parrikar's resignation on account of his prolonged illness and absence

## Rupani arrives in city, to invite Yogi

PNS LUCKNOW

ujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani will formally invite Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to attend the function to unveil the Statue of Unity, deemed to be the tallest statue, at Kavedia in Gujarat.

The Gujarat Chief Minister and a 14-member delegation accompanying him will meet the UP Chief Minister at his official residence here on Monday morning.

Rupani has arrived in Lucknow with his team and will have a series of meetings, including an interaction with the Gujarati samaj in the state capital. He will also address the media to give details of the statue of Sarďar Vallabhbhai Patel. He is expected to return to Gujarat on Monday evening.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's statue, named as the Statue of Unity, will be unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 31.During the meeting, both the Chief PM to unveil Patel statue on Oct 31

Ministers and their officials would discuss various issues, including attacks on north Indians in Gujarat after a rape incident. Earlier, the UP Chief

Minister had expressed his concern over the security of north Indians living in Gujarat after the violence. The Chief Minister is also likely to reiterate his request for

land for construction of Uttar Pradesh Bhawan at Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat complex which

will come up near the Statue of

Yogi had earlier written a letter to Rupani demanding land for construction of UP Bhawan. In his letter on September 12, 2018, the UP Chief Minister had sought land around the Statue of Unity.

"If Gujarat government gives land, the UP govern-ment will build a bhawan for the benefit of the people of Uttar Pradesh who visit Gujarat," he said. Yogi further wrote: "This is a great proposal of the Gujarat government to allow various State Governments to build their own bhawans at Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat complex. This initiative is commendable."

The Statue of Unity when unveiled will be the tallest stat-

#### BJP launches 'Booth Chalo Abhiyaan' in UP

Lucknow: Apparently in a bid

to identify its prospective voters rather early in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP has embarked on Booth Chalo Abhiyaan' (let's go to the polling booth) in the State. UP BJP leaders are also of the view that the campaign may help the party to identify the "unauthorised voters" including Rohingyas and those from Bangladesh. The Booth Chalo Abhiyaan started on October 5 and continued till October 10, UP BJP spokesperson Manish Shukla said. Elaborating about the campaign, Shukla said.

"The Booth Chalo Abhiyaan revolves primarily on three issues - youngsters turning 18 on January 1, 2019 should be made voters, names of all the unauthorised persons (including Rohingyas and others who have illegally entered India) be deleted from the voters list and correction of names of voters in the voter list be carried out ." PTI

#### Krishi Kumbh to boost all sectors

PNS LUCKNOW

This will be a Kumbh of a different kind in which farmers and agricultural scientists from across the country will brainstorm for three days in the State Capital from October 26 to search avenues for increasing the income of the

farming community. The agri-meet — Krishi Kumbh-2018 — will also be attended by Haryana and Jharkhand as partner States.

Chief Secretary Anup Chandra Pandey said that Uttar Pradesh had already organised UP Investors' Summit 2018 and MSME conclave - One District One Product

Summit— and the Krishi Kumbh would be the third important summit that will give a boost to all the three sectors, particularly ODOP. The aim is to promote

modern agricultural techniques and diversification of crops which in turn help the farmers to double their income. Over 100,000 farmers, scientists, experts and entrepreneurs are expected to take part in this three-day event.

Manish Sharma, a senior official looking after the preparations for Krishi Kumbh, said that this event would include all aspects of rural economy, such as agriculture, horticulture, dairy, pisciculture, bee-keeping, food processing, animal husbandry and farm implements to provide a holistic picture to farmers for increasing their income.

The summit seeks to introduce farmers to the evolving dynamics of farming so that they may increase their earnings by tapping the vast potential in agriculture and post harvest management of crops, he said.

Sharma said that the Bharatiya Janata Party government always advocated diversification in the farm sector as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath believed that in present day scenario, diversification in farm sector would lead to better profits to farmers.

The Chief Minister advocates that farmers should take up vegetable growing, fruit production, horticulture, pisciculture and dairy development other than conventional

In a recent meeting with a delegation of Asian Development Bank, the Chief Minister had said: "It is a beneficial effort to enhance agricultural production. Experts in this field should be roped in for wide ranging deliberations. This will also help the government in fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream to double the income of farmers by 2022."

J&K youth important stakeholders in peace

process: Guv Malik

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir

Governor Satya Pal Malik

Sunday said the State's youth

were the most important stake-

holders in the peace process and it was essential to engage

them regularly and effectively.

during an interactive session —

'Kashmir Youth Dialogue' —

organised by the Jammu Kashmir Youth Alliance at

Sher-i-Kashmir International

The Governor said this

## Fire breaks out in **Obra power plant**

PNS LUCKNOW

fire broke out at the Obra Athermal power plant, a subsidiary of Uttar Pradesh Thermal Power Generation Corporation Limited, leading to the closure of its 200 MW power units on Sunday morning.

The Obra thermal power plant, situated on the border of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand, supplies power mostly to UP. Due to the fire, power generathis disrupted power supply in some parts of the State.

Official sources said here that the fire started from the switch gear in the cable yard around 5 in the morning and the fire spread to nearby areas within an hour.

About 12 fire-tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the flames. Due to the fire, unit numbers 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the power plant generating around 200 megawatt (MW) electricity were shut down.

OFFICIAL SOURCES SAID HERE THAT THE FIRE STARTED FROM THE SWITCH GEAR IN THE CABLE YARD AROUND 5 IN THE MORNING AND IT SPREAD TO NEARBY AREAS WITHIN AN HOUR

Senior officials of the UP Thermal Power Generation Corporation Limited along with district authorities rushed to the spot. Sonebhadra's District Magistrate Amit Kumar Singh down and the employees had been evacuated. He said no one was injured in the fire.

Official sources said the loss due to the fire could be in several crore of rupees. They also said that the losses would have been much higher had the fire not been brought under control immediately and the entire Obra thermal power plant, which generates 800 MW of power, would have to be shut down leading to major power crisis in the State.

# Goa Forward MLA quits party over fish mafia row

Goa Forward vice-president Trajano D'Mello resigned from the party after accusing the BJP-led Government of brazenly backing the fish mafia in the State, adding to the state's political turbulence.

Even as the BJP-led coalition in Goa battles to stay afloat amid Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar's prolonged illness, a past ghost of a forcontinues to dog the government, especially BJP ally Goa Forward.

On Sunday, D'Mello resigned from the party, claiming that the Government was backing the fish mafia which uses formalin, a carcinogenic preservative used to preserve cadavers, to preserve fish sold in the state's fish markets.

"I would like to state that if fighting for justice for an upright officer who is mentally tortured is anti-party

Gopi flagged off the rally here

at Alamkode. "Each BJP work-

er will fight till his final drop

The march, which criss

Monday. Hundreds of activists

of Antarashtriya Hindu

Parishad (AHP) also took out

a rally here, urging the State

hartal in Kerala on October 17,

10 pm to October 18, he said.

The controversy involving use of formalin in fish erupted in July this year, Fernandes found traces of formalin in fish being sold in Goa during a raid

activity, I would prefer to fight for the injustice meted ed and saved the trusting Goan from the deadly cancerous poisoning of our brethren," D'Mello said in his Facebook post on Sunday.

D'Mello was referring to the targeting of the whistleblower Food and Drugs Administration official Iva Fernandes, who exposed the formalin-use scandal and has now complained to the Human Rights Commission claiming harassment by her seniors after she conducted the raid in July.

The controversy involving use of formalin in fish erupted in July this year, Fernandes found traces of formalin in fish being sold in Goa during a raid.

The BJP-led coalition Government, of which Goa Forward is a part, has been on the backfoot ever since, after several of its Ministers were accused of allegedly protecting fish-traders who were allegedly importing formalin-laced fish consignments into Goa Nadu and Karnataka.

D'Mello, who had been served a show cause notice by Goa Forward for his critique of the party last week, also said questioned the party leadership about its silence against the harassment of Fernandes.

"If Goa Forward, which forms one fourth of the state cabinet with its three Ministers, cannot insist on a crackdown on those who poison fish consumed by the people of Goa, then who can?" D'Mello said.

## Cong 'divided house', **BJP** sure to win State polls: Vasundhara

Jaipur: Terming Congress as a "divided house", Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje Sunday exuded confidence that the BJP would form the next Government both in the Centre and the State.

The Chief Minister ridiculed the Congress saying its various leaders have already become Chief Ministers and started forming their cabinets even before the state assembly elections.

"The BJP uniformity while the Congress has several faces and is a divided house. Various Congress leaders have already become Chief Ministers and formed their cabinets even before the elections but the BJP workers would clear their misunderstanding in the upcoming assembly elections," she said.

Raje made the remarks Sunday during a meeting of the party workers at Ranakpur in Pali district.

The meeting was attended

by the BJP workers from 31 assembly constituencies, including those from Bikaner, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jodhpur and Sriganganagar. The workers submitted to the Chief Minister their written suggestions in sealed envelopes.

Raje said the workers have the right to claim tickets from the party, but their targets should be to ensure that "lotus' blooms in the State again.

sought to ridicule the Congress' optimism" over the tradition of the state having the BJP and the Congress Governments alternatively since 1990 and said had it been so, the Congress would not have ruled the State for 50 years.

Raje exuded confidence that her party will form Governments both in the State and the Centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah.

Chopper ride for

Puja revellers in

**Agartala:** A chopper ride for Durga Puja revellers for an aer-

ial view of the festival here and

its adjoining areas has been

arranged by the Tripura Road

Transport Corporation (TRTC). "We are offering the

ride for three days on Saptami,

Navami and Dashami and the

duration of the ride will be for

25 minutes," TRTC Chairman

Deepak Majumder told

been allotted for the ride and 16

tickets will be issued every day

from the Krishnanagar bus

depot from tomorrow,

Majujmder said adding the price

of the tickets would be ₹1700 per

An eight-seater chopper has

reporters here Sunday.

Tripura: TRTC

#### Conference Centre (SKICC) Malik said it was important that the youth were given to channelise their creative, intellectual and innovative energies and talents in a pro-

ductive manner.

Conveying the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure free and fair elections in the state, he said the students are torchbearers for emerging societies and urged them to partake in the democratic process as leaders and participants to shape

the new future for the state. Malik assured full support of the State and Central administration for the overall devel-

opment of the youth. The Governor also participated in one-on-one interaction with the youth during the session, in which the youth put forth their grievances and concerns on a variety of subjects.

'To provide youth with proper launch platforms, there have been talks to host IPL matches in Kashmir, besides holding matches where local players are provided opportunities to compete with players of national and international repute," he said.

On the concerns with regard to the education sector, Malik said he will ensure that universities and other higher educational institutions will prepare and adhere to an academic calendar, clear backlogs, besides ensuring timely conduct of examination and declaration of results.

# **TDB** invites stakeholders to discuss Sabarimala issue

Thiruvananthapuram: Amid continuing protests on the Sabarimala issue, a temple body which manages the Lord Ayyappa shrine on Sunday invited stakeholders for a meeting to discuss 'various aspects', including preparations for the annual pilgrimage season, beginning next month.

As Various Hindu outfits and Lord Ayyappa devotees have been staging protests over the last few days all over Kerala against implementation of the Supreme Court order, permitting women of all age groups into the shrine, the call for talks is considered an attempt for a consensus.

The Travancore Devaswom Board has invited tantries (temple priests), Pandalam royals and devotee groups to the meeting.

TDB president Padmakumar said the meeting is scheduled to be held on October 16 at its headquarters

Besides the Tazhamon tantri family and the Pandalam royals, various stakeholders of the Sabarimala shrine,including Ayyappa Seva Sangam, Ayyappa Seva Samajam, tantri mahamandalam and Yoga

Kshema Sabah would be invit-

TDB has no prejudice over any matter related to

tazhamon tantries later said a collective decision would be taken soon on whether to attend the TDB meet or not. The three-month-long annual 'Mandalam-Makaravilakku' pilgrimage season of the

tee groups and Hindu outfits took out protest marches in different places across the state, demanding that the sanctity of the temple rituals be protected.

March', which started last week from Pandalam in protest against the CPI(M)-led LDF Government's decision to implement the top court order without going for a review, reached the capital city Sunday.

Actor-turned-MP Suresh

ed for the talks, he said.

of blood is shed to protect the Sabriamala...Let them come sanctity of the centuries old traand share their views. We will dition of Sabarimala" party take a suitable decision on all state president P S Sreedharan aspects regarding the temple Pillai said addressing the rally. after that," Padmakumar told crossed the southern districts The members of the of the State, would conclude Padalam royal family and before the State Secretariat, the administrative hub here,

and Union Governments to address the concerns of devo-Sabarimala Temple will begin on November 17. tees of Lord Ayyappa. AHP president Pravin Togadia called for a hartal in Meanwhile, various devothe State on October 18 if the Left Government implements the apex court order.

We demand that the state Government file a review petition in the Supreme Court. Till The BJP-led NDA's 'Long that petition is pending, they should not implement the court order," he said addressing the rally. If the State fails to do so, the AHP would announce a



Devotees of Lord Ayyappa, the deity of Sabarimala temple, participate in a rally to protest against a recent Supreme Court

# School principal hacked to death in front of students

**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

Aschool principal was hacked to death Sunday by a sixmember gang in front of 20 students, for whom he was holding a special class, police said.

Ranganath (60), principal of the Havanur Public School in suburban Agrahara

es for 10th standard students when the gang barged into the classroom and hacked him to death, they said. They later fled in the car in which they came to the school, police said.

treated. Police suspect a land dis-One of the gang members pute relating to the school was nabbed later from building to be the reason Mahalaxmi Layout area here, behind the killing.

Dasarahalli, was holding classbased on a tip off.

The man suffered a leg injury when police fired at him after he attacked them. He was later taken to a hospital and

> instances of drunken driving. Allowing home delivery of liquor will help in this," Excise

#### Maharashtra to allow online sale, home delivery of liquor Mumbai: The Maharashtra Minister Chandrashekhar

government has decided to allow online sale and home delivery of liquor in the state, saying it could curb the cases of drunken driving. "We want to curb the

Bawankule told PTI on Sunday. He did not elaborate as to when the decision would come

into effect. Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a senior official in the excise department said increasing the revenue was also a prime objective behind the decision. PTI

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PAPER WITH PASSION\_

# Flying unsafe

As an Air India Express plane crashes into an airport wall and flies for four hours, the scanner is on airport security

What does it say about Indian airport security that it took several hours for the airport authorities and the pilots to realise that an Air India Express plane had grazed the airport wall at Tiruchirappalli Airport. There are nowadays almost weekly incidents that are affecting Indian aviation, from taking-off and landing on wrong runways, forgetting to pressurise the plane and now hitting a wall and not realising it. We have had a horrible few months. But thankfully there has been not a single fatality in any of these cases, some aircraft damage to be sure but planes can always be repaired like the aircraft involved in this incident even with its ripped underbelly will be.

Aviation traffic has grown dramatically in India over the past few years. India's civil fleet has grown from just over 200 planes to over 500 now. New aircraft are arriving every few weeks and new airports are bringing connectivity to the farthest corners of the country. However, like with any growing industry there will be growth pangs. The problem is that these growth pangs are playing with the lives of fare-paying passengers. Airport perimeter security and careful flying are important to ensure that incidents are kept to a minimum. Of course, that is not to say that incidents will not happen and when incidents happen with large commercial aircraft there tends to be a media frenzy, quite unlike a bus or a train accident, because like it or not, the passengers on a plane are what we would consider 'people like us', and while one can argue whether that is fair, that is what will happen. Incidents also tend to be blown out of proportion by a sensationalist television media in particular. Having said that, it must be pointed out that there is genuine concern among passengers on airport safety in particular and the scary bit is not that the Air India Express aircraft hit the wall but that it took off and flew for four hours with a seriously damaged underbelly before anyone on the ground noticed it and alerted the captain. It was providential that a major air disaster did not take place.

Many of the recent incidents have been avoidable and that could spark a fear of flying among the general public. And with high fuel prices and and declining yields, this is not something that India's airlines or the government itself wants right now. For one, India's aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) needs urgent reform to improve their incident reporting and investigation teams, the DGCA has been rife with allegations of nepotism for years and the kith and kin of several officers are employed by the airlines in a perverse quid pro quo. Similarly, Indian airport security that obsessively focuses on passengers, should improve their security to become more holistic. One hopes that the incidents remain ones where nobody gets hurt, but that is just a hope.

**50WORDEDIT** Poor air quality, warm winter



If it wasn't enough that the beginning of crop stubble burning my farmers looking to clear their field for the next sowing cycle in the adjoining States of Haryana and Punjab combined with rising construction, roadside and vehicular pollution has left residents of the Capital wheezing and coughing, now comes news that the El Nino weather phenomenon will make the coming winter in Delhi warmer. From the frying pan into

# River of pain

Lack of due recognition to GD Agrawal's contribution to India's environmental movement is a matter of shame

ctogenarian environmentalist GD Agrawal died on October 11 on the 111th day of his fast to the save the Ganga. It is a national tragedy that he was martyred in a cause to which he dedicated his entire life. There have been unfortunate attempts to link his tragic death with the alleged inaction of the Government of the day despite the environmentalist's demands, which has riposted with pointing to what the Opposition when it was in power did or did not do despite repeated urging also from Agrawal. This is as ironical as it gets because both sides are wrong. And both equally guilty in some measure though it must be understood by those trying to make his sad death a mobilisation tool that all administrations have to balance completing and sometimes contradictory demands from the people who elect them.

Yes, Agrawal died at a time when the BJP-led NDA Government has undertaken the ambitious Namami Gange project to clean the sacred river for which ₹20,000 crore has been allocated but not even 25 per cent of it has been spent. Equally, the Congress in the past, despite Manmohan Singh having come in for some praise from the Ganga crusader Agrawal for his controversial decision to stop all construction on the Bhagirathi and Lohari Nagpala hydel power projects, too has fallen woefully short of keeping its promises to Agrawal and others activists like him. Much is also being made of the three letters he wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with great expectations given the latter's avowed commitment to the cause of the sacred river. While it certainly true that Agrawal was disappointed by the current regime's performance which was not up to the standards he had wanted, he is also known to have had higher and better expectations from the Modi regime than its predecessors. Especially, since Modi had set up a separate Ministry for cleaning the Ganga. The civil-engineer-turned-environmental-seer was a real grass-roots crusader who believed in action on the ground. One did not have to agree with everything he said to have immense respect for him. The lack of due recognition of his contribution to India's environmental movement which more

Agrawal died as he lived, uncompromising on his demands for which his last fast ended with his immortal soul having been freed from its mortal coil on October 11. His charter was clear: Cancel all hydel power projects under construction on the Alakananda, Dhauliganga, Nandakini, Pindar and Mandakini; nix all new proposals for power plants; ensure a complete stoppage of illegal sand mining in Haridwar and its surrounds.

media-savvy activists have garnered is a shame.

# Rafale deal: Smoothen ruffled feathers

Row over Rafale could inflict a serious dent on defence preparedness. Government must aim to develop a robust defence industry with participation from the private sector and encourage foreign investment



been in the vortex of politics in find chinks in such deals. Everyone remembers the Swedish Bofors Guns which, according to many experts, won India the Kargil War with Pakistan but had rocked the boat of the Rajiv Gandhi Government. Politics for electoral benefits precedes national security concerns when it comes to smelling corruption in defence deals. To acquire power is the primary concern of the Opposition and for this reason, the Congress had made a big hue and cry over the signing of Government-to-Government agree-

ment between France and India in April 2015

during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit

to France for the purchase of 36 Rafale aircraft

at the cost of 7.8 million Euro, which approx-

imately would cost around ₹58,000 crore.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi has directly blamed the Prime Minister for indulging in "crony capitalism" and his entire party is in hyper mode to garner public opinion on this matter. The party has also filed a Public Interest Litigation in the Supreme Court, which came up for hearing on October 10. The Court has sought details of the deci sion-making process that resulted in the award of Rafale jet purchase to the French firm, Dassault Aviation in a sealed cover. The three member Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India, Ranjan Gogoi, made it clear that it is not expressing any opinion on the suitability of the Rafale aircraft, but wants to be satisfied about the legitimacy of the decision-making process.

Cacophony on the Rafale deal has cast a cloud on the country's defence preparedness and our enemies are having a hearty laugh over our bickering. The country has already suffered dur ing the past 15 years in defence preparedness. The Congress was in power for 10 years and itself has much explaining to do about its inaction. It is, however, of utmost interest to review

the parameters available in the public domain with a focus on India's defence needs. The Air Force is awfully short of multi-purpose aircraft to meet external threats from two fronts. As against the requirement of 44 Squadrons, it has only 32 Squadrons (half of these squadrons are of vintage Mig 21, Jaguar and Mig 27, which



COMMENT & ANALYSIS

IF OUR LEADERS CONTINUE TO BE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS NO GOVERNMENT CAN FINALISE THE RAFALE DEAL EVEN IN THE **NEXT 50 YEARS** 

are more than 40 to 55 years old) to guard the defence purchases meant that our forces could never get the weapons to its full strength.

First, criticism from the Congress. The very next day after the deal was signed in April 2015, the Congress spokesperson raised the question of its cost and asked for making public the details of the agreement. He also questioned the escalation of cost of a single aircraft from ₹715 crore to ₹1,600 crore. The party blamed the Modi Government for bypassing the procure-ment procedure and smelled a rat over the signing of an agreement between Dassault, the manufacturer of Rafale, and the Anil Ambani-led Reliance defence firm for implementing the 50

French President François Hollande to a French TV, about the Indian Government proposing the name of Reliance Defence for the offset clause, only added fuel to the fire and gave the Opposition another handle to beat the Government with The Government has stoutly rejected the allegations and questioned the rationale of compar-

ng the two different base year prices even as it nsisted that it got significantly better terms than those quoted in the original bid under the UPA, with a total saving of more than 1,600 million Euros (350 million Euros on the cost of aircraft with a further reported saving on weapons, allied maintenance and training package amounting to a around 1,300 million Euros or ₹12,600 crore). However, a cost breakdown of Rafale in the original bid under UPA and in the 36 aircraft

in the Government-to-Government deal will never be available in the public domain due to the secrecy clause between the two Government's . The Government's stand has been strongly supported by the serving Air Chief as well as his predecessor as they said that the two prices cannot be compared as these are being fully loaded with India-specific high-end technology. Former Defence Minister Sharad Pawar, too, has opined that he cannot level accusation unless he gets the proof.

Now let us examine it from the perspective of informed citizens. The Rafale aircraft was

selected by the then UPA Government in 2012 over its other rivals. However, negotiations with Dassault dragged on over disagreements on warranty for aircraft to be produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). India wanted Dassault to ensure the quality of aircraft produced by HAL but Dassault refused to do so. The other cause of difference was HAL demanding three times the manpower days than offered by Dassault. In January 2014, Dassault informed that the

cost of each aircraft had increased by 120 million dollar (₹756 crore). There was no further action by the then UPA Government and in May 2014, the NDA dispensation took over. Soon thereafter, the Air Force seriously flagged the issue of replacing its ageing fleets before new Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar. This ultimately led to the signing of the Rafale deal as the Prime Minister's France visit in April 2015. The deal was thus an emergency response to the demand of the Air Force. The twin-engine Rafale combat jet is designed as a multi-role fighter for air-to-air and air-to-ground attack and is nuclear-capable. Its on-board electronic warfare systems can also perform reconnaissance and radar jamming roles.

If our leaders continue to be at each other's throat then no Government can finalise the deal in Hollande's remarks. When asked by the French media about the conflict of interest involving former President's partner Julie Gave (whose film was funded by Anil Ambani) h took a diversionary tactics to escape. In inter national arms deals, firms do lobbying ar Reliance must have been in touch with Dassau which should be none of our business. The a on this has been cleared by Dassault and the French Government. It is a fact that the cour try's enemies will try to derail this deal throug clandestine planting of false reports directed the doors of opposition leaders and in dinne ssips. Hence, the Government should serious y plan to develop a robust defence industry with private sector participation and encourage fo

eign investment with private players. As for HAL, it has taken almost 33 year to develop 'Tejas'. They will now face compe tition from private sector in the long-tern which in effect is an opportunity for them. Nov Reliance, Tata and Adani, all new in the defence sector, have forged alliances with for eign arms manufacturers and people should welcome this trend. The 50 percent offset clause in this deal should be used to develop the defence infrastructure in the country. Let us end the saga of mathematics of incompetence i defence procurement where incompetence

plus incompetence equals incompetence. (The writer is a retired civil servant

Confidence for

#### POINTCOUNTERPOINT

It is going beyond boundaries and is misusing the #MeToo movement.





Another ex-wife to her ex-husband's thou husbands in the first place?

# KANGANA RANAUT

# Auto sector: Hype over reality

Electric mobility offers a promising long-term solution to reduce dependence on fossil fuel. But clarity of thought must take primacy in policy-making over hype and emotions



India, for the first time, organised the Global Mobility Summit on September 6, 2018. Needless to say, it was a mega show, very well attended by global CEOs which adequately demonstrated the importance of Indian market in the contemporary auto world. Kudos to the event management skill of the NITI Aayog. analysts assessing the outcome of this impres sive show was that there was no policy declaration, leave alone lack of any firm commitment from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to invest in India.

Even the much awaited FAME-II declaration was missing. Instead, debate was dominated by the only concern about subsidies for electric vehicles which presumably can result in import substitution of crude oil; albeit with import of expensive electric vehicle (EV) parts like lithium ion batteries, motors and electronics for the singular objective of reducing pollution. This is really surprising as these imported parts constitute more than 65-70 per cent of the value of an electric vehicle and in 2017, the import of electronic parts alone was around \$47 billion, third highest after oil and gems. The Indian auto industry is competitive in traditional engine and transmission parts that constitute approximately 40 per cent of its turnover.

In 2017-18, India exported auto components worth ₹90,571 crore while imports that included 27 per cent from China stood at ₹106,672 crore. Hence, there is a justified worry that policy push for electric vehicles without addressing the issue of existing auto component industry and the local manufacturing of EV parts may only end up increasing the net to incentivise electric vehicles, thereby resultmport bill, worsening the current account deficit situation in the short to medium term.

However, shift to electric vehicles is a promising long-term solution to reduce dependence of the transport sector in India on fossil fuel. And without initial Government support, there will not be enough demand to justify any investments for manufacturing of EV parts in India. Hence, this seems to be a classic chicken and egg story. It is essential for our policy makers to find a viable approach to overcome this dilemma.



The import implications of advance batteries for EVs is even more serious than electronic parts import as batteries constitute almost 55-60 per cent of the total value of an electric vehicle. Hence, it is obvious that we need to try quickly to facilitate the manufacturing of advance batteries in India. For this, aggregation of demand from other applications such as renewable energy storage, energy back up for telecom towers, defence requirements, and home applications, among others, are needed where Government incentives can help. However, this in itself will not be enough given the fact that China, which has the globally largest and fully integrated battery manufacturing industry, will attain 73 per cent of the global market share by 2021. Hence, at the global stage, access to latest battery and process technology and secured raw materials supply are essential for these investments to be viable. Moreover, even if we start today, it will take at least three to four years for these plants to go on line. So, can India afford to carry on with a business-as-usual approach in the intervening period? The answer is clearly no. Some analysts propose that a cess be levied

on all fossil fuels vehicles which can be used ing in demand generation which will in turn lead to efficient manufacturing eco-system created in the country. To my mind, this is myopic, over simplistic approach and clearly fails to address many fundamental questions.

For instance, what are the costs and ben-

efits of such an approach? Is this the optimal

pathway for creating viable demand for EV

parts manufacturing? Does it not mean tax-

ing the Indian industry to create demand for

imports from China? Does this approach sup-

port other technology options that substantive-

ly help in fossil fuel substitution as well as high er fuel efficiency? It must be clearly under stood that through electric mobility what we are fundamentally attempting to do is to reduce fossil fuel consumption and, hence, reduce pol lution too. Therefore, the answer to these questions warrants that in addition to securing siz able battery manufacturing in the country, a two-pronged approach is needed.

First, all technologies that either help substitute liquid fossil fuel consumption like biofuels, CNG, LNG etc or technologies that give fairly high fuel efficiencies like hybrid electric vehicles, need to be encouraged by a transpar ent policy framework. Taxation policy (GST) based on oil consumed by the vehicle ie carbon taxation is one such powerful transpar ent policy tool that will encourage auto companies to adopt such technologies very quick This has already been adopted by many other countries, including Thailand. Second, full range of electric vehicle tech-

nologies, including electric hybrid technolo gies, should be supported in the transition phase since they use the same parts (batteries, motors, and electronics) and, thus, can help in creating demand for EV parts, thereby lead ing to faster localisation. By being technology agnostic we can rapidly replace millions of petrol/diesel vehicles by these technologies so that the vehicles of today are cleaner and consume lesser fuel for the next 15 odd years as they ply on Indian roads before being replaced by electric vehicles. Hence, clarity of thought with 'India first' approach based on pragmatism must take primacy in policy making over hype and emotional pitch.

Government of India and former vice chancellor of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade)

# Indigenous edifice for new education

As we pass through an era that is witnessing weakening of sincere, committed and selfless pursuit of new knowledge, a course correction is needed. Who else can guide us better in this endeavour than Swami Vivekananda?

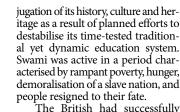


education system is a cause of concern on various fronts. It is very clearly visible in most learned narrations on education. It is indeed intriguing, and even amazing, that the real concern is not new — it is practically the same as it was articulated by Swami Vivekananda over a 100 years ago: "Education which does not help the common mass of people to equip themselves for the struggle for life, which does not bring out strengthen and character, a spirit of philanthropy, and the courage education is that which enables one to stand on one's own legs.' That the current education sys-

tem is weak on this front is univer sally known. It needs new insights and ideas. Every effort undertaken to reform the education sector — be it education policy, programmes, implementation strategy or articulation of outcomes — can derive mmense benefit from the vision and philosophy of Swami Vivekananda. Rabindranath Tagore once told

French writer Romain Rolland: "If you want to know India, study Vivekananda. In him everything is positive and nothing negative." Even today, if someone wishes to understand the Indian tradition of knowledge quest, its systems of creating, generating, disseminating and utilising knowledge, there would be no better resource and support than to read Vivekananda on what all he said about education, its goals, objectives, relationship to the growth of civilisations, human advancement and welfare of the people.

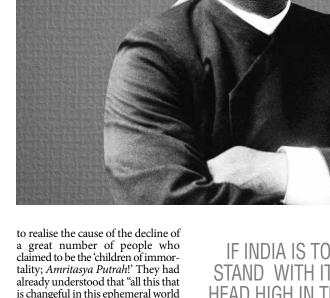
It would also indicate how and why the Indian civilisation advanced far ahead of others in comprehending the basics of human existence on planet Earth; queries on/before life and after life! Their contemplation was deep enough to let them internalise spirituality, human values and what could be the best and satisfying for any human being during his sojourn on earth. No one other than Swami Vivekananda has articulated with such a deep understanding the rise and downfall of India, the sub-



The British had successfully achieved an attitudinal transfor mation amongst the English-educated Indian elite who were overwhelmed by the superiority of the West in every aspect, right from knowledge to culture to social sys tems! When Swami Vivekananda appeared on the scene, people were hesitant to even talk about independence. India needed someone to give a wakeup call; let people realise who they are; what they were miss ing; how they have been deprived not only of their material affluence but also of the sense of pride in their culture and heritage. Most impormade to drift away from their own people, people who were reduced to man conditions, who had lost the will to resist injustice and humiliation. If resurgence was ever conceivable, it needed a messiah

who knew India and Indians! And knowing India was no easy task in view of the country's diversity of every conceivable variety in men and material, spiritual and religious pursuits and systems of governance and delivering justice. Swamiji travelled across the nook and corner of the country, and what he saw, convinced him about the inherent unity of the Indian nation and its people. He also realised how India could play a leading role on the global stage in efforts to create a world of social cohesion and human dignity.

A well-known instance of comrehending and then connecting India is that of Adi Sankaracharva He realised the need to travel around and in his short sojourn on the planet Earth, he established shrines that strengthened the unity of minds of the people and also of the regions and places. One can also recall another example how Gopal Krishna Gokhale had advised Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to 'know India' before beginning work in India after all the name and fame he had already earned in South Africa. He dutifully travelled every nook and corner of the country and developed an understanding that could not be matched by any of his political associates in freedom struggle. Swami Vivekananda was quick



is changeful in this ephemeral world must be enveloped by the lord"! The query, in spite of all this and much more about national degradation, was answered by Swamiji. Attitude to false superiority played the most prominent role in the downfall of the children of god. While on the one hand, India boosted of Taxila, attracting learners from 60 nations, its social structure gradually declined, even a journey on seas was declared sinful

and invited heavy penalties. How can any system, social structure or a civilisation, maintain its dynamism if it isolates itself from the world outside? In 1894, Vivekananda said in his book, The Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda, "To my mind, the one great cause of the downfall and degeneration coming was the building of a wall of custom — whose foundation was hatred of others round the nation, and the real aim of which in ancient times was to prevent the Hindu from coming in con-

STAND WITH ITS HEAD HIGH IN THE COMMUNITY, I HAS TO PREPARE

A YOUNG **GENERATION** WHICH IS CONFIDENT, PROUD OF ITS HERITAGE HISTORY AND MOTHERLAND They are keen ' PROVE THAT THE ARE NOT INFERIOR

TO ANYONE

tact with the surrounding Buddhist nations". In the same piece he offered the solution: "Give and take is the law, and if India wants to raise herself once more, it is absolutely necessary that she brings out her treasures and throws them broadcast among the nations of the earth, and in return be ready to receive what others have to give us. Expansion is life, contraction

exhorted: "We must mix with all the races of the Earth." The lamp that was lit by Swami has spread its light across the nation, across the communities and the entire world now realises and relishes India's global presence. But mere travel around and outside, opening up the sea shores and airports alone is only one initial step. It alone is not sufficient to give Indians their due on the global stage. If India is to stand up with its

Finally, in this very piece he

head high in the global community, it has to prepare its young generations, who are self-assured, confident, proud of their heritage, history and motherland, and are keen to prove that they are not inferior to anyone. It must make them believe that they all have the capa-

# the future

bility and potential to lead a glob-Generational change is now passé. With longevity For a committed researcher and increasing and pace of explorer, knowledge pursuit is a change seeing rapid growth, pious task. Indian culture and tradition links it to the individual's urge learning has new challenges to gain better understanding of the

forces of nature, and utilise that

knowledge for the welfare of the peo-

ple, humanity and that, too, without

any distinction or selfish motive. He

prays for one and all — men and

women of all religions and faiths, of

The rishis and munis, saints and

all colours and creeds. No distinc-

sages — they all created knowledge

and disseminated it for the 'human

welfare. Things have changed in the

modern world and India and Indians

are no longer exceptions. Now,

knowledge quest is often pursued

with the sole commercial consider-

ations getting a patent earlier than

others and takeover the market!

Indian knowledge traditions, and

today, we are just copying the trends

of much-glamourised globalisation.

through an era of weakening of sir

cere, committed and selfless pursuits

of new knowledge, a course correc-

tion is urgently needed. Essentially,

it amounts to broadening of the

vision of knowledge quest that India

How to proceed to comprehend

must articulate in the current-day

this change was so lucidly elaborat-

ed by Swami Vivekananda: "Everyone

born in this world has a bent, a direc-

tion towards which he must go,

through which he must live, and what

is true of the individual equally true

of the race. Each race, similarly, has

a peculiar bent, each race has a pecu-

liar raison d'etre, each race has a pecu-

liar mission to fill in the life of the

world. Each race has to make its own

result, to fulfil its own mission.

Political greatness or military power

is never the mission of our race; it

never was and, mark my word, it

never will be. But there has been the

other mission given to us, which is

late, as it were, into a dynamo, all the

spiritual energy of the race, and that

concentrated energy is to pour forth

in a deluge on the world whenever

India not build the edifice of its new

education for resurgent India on this

(The writer is the Indian

resentative on the Executive Board

outstanding postulate?

to conserve, to preserve, to accumu-

idiom, accept and implement.

tion, every soul being divine.



ny thinking person knows that change is the law of life. There are classes and categories of change. Next to the topic of leadership (perhaps the largest block of time), researching topics of universal interest to human kind is the topic of change. Like leadership, attempts to understand it have taken place from the vantage point of philosophy, sociology, literature, management and more. Clearly, the list can be added to. Yet, the predictive validity of directions, content and speed of change

In the context of present times, it is obvious that technology is the biggest variable in the processes of change. Illustratively, those who cannot keep pace with digitisation are likely to be enveloped by the expanding frontiers of the Jurassic Park. The second most significant aspect of change of present times is its speed. People in the generation of this writer have in the four decades, beginning mid-80s of the 20th century, lived

through at least seven generations of changes in desktop computing. Similarly, felicity with numericals and numbers has become exceedingly important. In the late 50s and early 60s, the permission to take a 'log table' into the examination hall of school leaving 'O' level certificate examination of Cambridge University, was considered a revolutionary move. There was heated exchange of opinion amongst those who claimed to know, whether this move strengthened accurate and ethical assessment or weakened it. Six decades down the line, young boys taking the school leaving examination may even find it difficult to under-

stand the content and purpose of a 'log table' Put simply, generational change is now a passé. People undergo three to five significant changes in a life span of say 80 years. Longevity increases, pace of change increases and aid to learning becomes critical. There is as yet no programmed formula to facilitate this. This then becomes one of the core challenges of the present times. What has to change is the selection, content and execution of research themes. Higher education system in most parts of the world seem to have hardly devel-

oped a method of reorienting themselves to respond to this challenge The conflict between the outcomes of learning and the requirements of livelihood, as they stand today, need to be understood if they are to be tackled. The almost endemic spread of digitisation has encumbered learning to a point where video medium of transference of learning seems to become incrementally more important. Obviously, whether in a faceto-face situation with a person or through intermediary of videos, learning content would in many ways remain the same. Variable elements touch delivery of knowledge, the assessment of precision and volume

of transfer of knowledge. It is there that the challenge lies. There is one more area which needs to be flagged. If elements of change are as noted above, the sources of livelihood would also get affected. There was a time where the mason was literally the building block of a physical structure. Today, that profession is not eliminated but has been substantially taken over by prefabricated walls and structures. A skilled person, who can put them together, is now in demand. A clear case of a profession which is receding, and a skill which is expand-

ing in replacing it

When this is the global scene, for like the World Economic Forum cannot be left far behind. They survive on riding the crest of the current interests. They are credited with a report, 'Future of Jobs Report 2018'. It is their estimate that global change will throw up emerging roles. By 2022, there will be 133 million emerging roles. By the same token, by 2022, declining roles would be about 75 million. Hence, the approximate rise in the merging roles will be about 58 million. Like many reports, the derivation of this figure and its methodology is not clearly stated. It may be closer to truth to observe that there may be a likelihood of expanding the number of emerging roles. However, this does not necessarily con-

In the future, the skills of postal service assistants, material record-

letterstopioneer@gmail.com

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR crusader for the Ganga's cause his con- warming. It is high time for countries

### Sir — This refers to the 50-word edit,

passing away of eminent environmentalist-professor GD Agrawal is saddening. He will be remembered for his significant contribution towards rejuvenating the Ganga river, which remained the hallmark of his career. Agrawal, was fasting unto death for the last 111 days to save the holy river. His demands included the closure of all hydel projects that cause irreversible damage to The UN's special report on climate shameful that despite the presence of the river, thereby obstructing its flow. change precisely extols the impending laws aimed at women's security and a

tribution will remain unparalleled. He all over the world to introspect and join has left behind a large number of grass hands together to save our saviour is "Martyr to Ganga" (October 13). The root environmentalist whom he men-mother earth. Otherwise, the day may tored during his life time. They will, not be too far when humanity may have perhaps, carry forward his legacy. Ramesh G Jethwani Bangalore

**GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER** 

"Chronicle of a death foretold"

While Agrawal was not the lone catastrophe in the disguise of global Government at the helm that boasts of

to beg for its own existence.

"#MeToo movement: A spark or fire?"

Sir — This refers to the article. Sir — This refers to the article.

(October 13) by Hiranmay Karlekar. (October 12) by Ajoy Kumar. It is

Sudeepa Gandhe LOGICAL CONCLUSION

reality: Goyal to Rahul" (October 13) Congress president Rahul Gandhi has been misleading the people of the country by branding the Rafale deal as the biggest scandal ever.

Election. Gandhi has, in fact repeatedly

#### his refers to the report, "Rafale row: Repeating lies not going to change

His allegations must be seen in light of the forthcoming elections to five crucial States as well as the 2019 General

**Busting Rahul's myth on the Rafale deal** 

Modi day in and day out on the issue of BTSL, DEFSYS, Kinetic, Mahindra, Maini purchase of fighter planes, accusing him and SAMTEL, while negotiations are onof forcing the French aviation company, going with a hundred-odd other potential

Dassault, to pick up Reliance Defence as partners. While using intemperate language However, Dassault has made it clear him bhrast and chor (corrupt and thief) that it freely chose to get into a partnership Interestingly, Gandhi himself is out on bai with Reliance Group in the joint-venture, in the multi-crore *National Herald* scam. Dassault Reliance Aerospace Ltd (DRAL). Besides, other partnerships have also

against Prime Minister Modi. Gandhi called

they went through. The move must not been targeting Prime Minister Narendra been signed with companies such as end with just naming and shaming. Those accused must pay for their acts. Kshitii

STRENGTHEN JUDICIAL SYSTEM Sir — This refers to the article, "#MeToo

movement: A spark or fire?" (October

12) by Ajoy Kumar. The #MeToo move

ment has been empowering women to

step forward and take a stand against

their oppressors. Shaming the men and

had to take recourse to social media

to make their voices heard about what

are accused on social media, you are Via emai

women empowerment, the women making them a subject of public scruti-

'guilty unless proven innocent', a comaffected is needed.

rehensive system for booking the cul orits and delivering brisk justice to the

ny might be a very effective tool against

cial system has not been effective.

powerful people at a time when the judi-

n't lead to a situation where, once you

However, to ensure that this does-

Lucknow Send your feedback to:

#### vert itself into the actual number of available jobs. And this is the catch Globally, there is talk of recession and the prophets of gloom are talking of the possible repeat experiences of a decade ago, Irrespective, one thing is clear. That one thing is that skills of employability would have completely transformed. This would have rendered escalation of the ability of self-learning and sourcing of information to the top of the list. One needs to wake up to this reality.

ing and stock-keeping assistants would have been rendered obsolete and the requirement of operations and coordinating managers, artificial intelligence and machine learning intermediaries would have gone galloping The question is simple: Is this, above phenomena, widely recognised enough to give confidence to everyone for the future?

(The writer is a well-known management consultant)



There is a need to improve policies which can give fillip to skill development programmes atcolleges, schools, skill centres to produce skilled population forour 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



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

 $T^{he\ Central\ Government}_{has\ invited\ proposals\ from}$ interested air operators for the international version of its 'Udan' (Ude Desk 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 vernment, 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

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

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. İt will be created through the contributions of State 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 fortight ended September 28, while the deposits grew by 8.07 per cent to ₹117.99 lakh crore, according 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 risenby 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, nonfood 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.

Advancesto industry rose by 1.9 per cent in August, against a contraction of 0.3 per cent in August 2017. Bank loans toagriculture 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

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

# 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

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 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 care would be needed at the

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 nonessential imports and increase exports. The commodities of which imports will be cut down will be decided after consultations with concerned ministries and will be WTOcompliant," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had then said.

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

Earlier in the day, a finance

worries, we have strategy in place to tackle situation. We will take action at opportune time on these issues," the offi-

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

74 per cent of all revenues gen-

erated by Indian companies and employ around 59 per cent of this group's total workforce," it said.

excellent infrastructure, favourable R&D and innova-

tion conditions as well as a

comprise top-rated business

environment factors by Indian

investors in the 2018 update.

"In addition, the opportu-

The report noted that

#### 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, broadinvestors 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 30share Sensex gained 356.59 points to close at 34,733.58 on

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $S_{(STC)}^{\rm tate\ Trading\ Corporation}$ from the Government in terms of bank guarantee of ₹2,500 crore to help the company resolve the liquidity problem,

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

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 releas-

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 power houses under the pretext of building coal stocks at these

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 sub-sidiaries like SECL to supply 25 rakes per day of coal to NTPC's Korba, Mouda and Bhilai power plants and such other

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 (24000 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, 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 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

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

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 automotives, metals and metal-processing, chemicals and pharmaceuticals and professional, scientific and technical services. "The top 10 Indian compa-

nity to access European market post Brexit is an important factor for Indian investors," it said. The study noted that Indian nvestors 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 stan-

dards, 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.

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

## 'Continued investment in infra will help industry'

Bangalore-based logistics firm, Abhik Mitra talked to The Pioneer. Here are excerpts of his interview taken by Vikas

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

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 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

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

"Yes, there is a

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



to rising fuel prices? Tell us how hard is it to run operations during such volatile market conditions?

Of course it is hard.. having said that the stability of network  $\bar{k}$ is never compromised, because service is most important thing. We typically get a pass through to our venders 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 operations? 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

Obviously continued

any negatives. These are posi-

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

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 manually it is impossible to do that. The truck which has left that and I don't think there are 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 "The IISF-2018 is expect-

ed 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 var-

in the fair. Artisans from

Jammu & Kashmir and north-

east will showcase their unique

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 ious countries will participate intensive and provides gainful employment to around 8 million artisans and weavers in rural areas.

R.E.A.L Fund - Growth Fund- Direct

21.5048 Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Growth

OPEN-ENDED		Star Value Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.9545	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	20.0513	Short Term Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option	10.5901	MIRAE ASSET MUTUAL FUN	ND
(GROWTH)		Star Value Fund-Dividend Option Star Value Fund-Growth - Direct	16.68 23.1748	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Dividend Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Growth	10.0013 19.9985	Short Term Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.4269 ELINID	Short Term Bond Fund - Regular - Mly Dividend Option	10.3019
SCHEME AND CONTINUE OF THE PARTY OF THE PART	NAV		21.5681	Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Direct Qtrly Div Payout	10.0085	KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL	FUND	RELIANCE MUTUAL FUND	
HDFC MUTUAL FUND		Super 20 Fund - Dividend - Direct	16.3573	Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	10.0083	Banking and PSU Debt - Annual Dividend	16.1842	Internal French III. Opins d. Direct Direct Once the Opins	10.040
Index Fund Sensex Plus Plan-Direct Plan	469.996	Super 20 Fund - Dividend Option	18.9689	Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Growth Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Dividend	20.7912 10.1854	Banking and PSU Debt - Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.188	Interval Fund - II - Series 1 -Direct Plan -Growth Option Interval Fund - II - Series 1 -Dividend Option	12.842 10
Index Fund-Sensex Plus (FV-Rs32.161)	462.5623	Super 20 Fund - Growth - Direct Super 20 Fund - Growth Option	20.6309 18.9873	Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	17.5014	Banking and PSU Debt - Direct Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.2604	Interval Fund - II - Series 1 - Growth Plan	12.8098
Index Fund Sensex Plan-Direct Plan	309.9354	·	29.4685	Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0061	Banking and PSU Debt - Growth  Banking and PSU Debt - Monthly Dividend	40.0173 10.5059	Interval Fund - II - Series 2 - Direct - Div Plan - Dividend Option	10
Index FundSensex Plan (FV Rs 32.161)  ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL 1	306.5626	Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	41.5708	Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Growth	17.4312	Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Annual Dividend	17.1427	Interval Fund - II - Series 2 - Direct - Growth Plan - Growth Option	
ICICI PRODENTIAL MOTOALI	FUND	Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Dividend Option	28.9942	Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Cumulative	13.9619	Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Growth	40.6285	Reliance Interval Fund - II - Series 2 - Dividend Plan - Div Option	10
Blended Plan A - Dividend	13.5898	Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Growth Option  Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct -Dividend	40.7108 34.8372	Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct - Cumulative Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct Plan - Div		Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Monthly Dividend	10.6102	Interval Fund - II - Series 2 - Growth Plan - Growth Option Interval Fund - II - Series 3 - Direct - Dividend Plan - Dividend Optio	12.7938 ion 10
Blended Plan A - Direct Plan Bonus	10.9152	Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	48.5678	Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	14.9423	Bond - Annual Dividend - Direct	22.0861	Interval Fund - II - Series 3 - Direct - Growth Plan - Growth Option	
Blended Plan A - Growth	22.7587	Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Dividend Option	34.3497	Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	14.9835	Bond - Growth - Direct  Bond - Quaterly Dividend - Direct	50.1636 13.5759	Interval Fund - II - Series 3 - Dividend Plan - Dividend Option	10
Blended Plan A-Direct Plan - Dividend Blended Plan A-Direct Plan - Growth	13.6408 23.0933	Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Growth Option	47.3791	Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Cumulative	14.9023	Bond Regular Plan Annual Dividend	29.391	Interval Fund - II - Series 3 - Growth Plan - Growth Option	12.7519
KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL		SBI MUTUAL FUND		Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct - Cumulative		Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan	30.696	Interval Fund - II - Series 4-Direct - Growth Plan -Growth Option	13.6322
KOTAK MATINDAT MCTOAL I	IOND	MAGNUM NRI FLEXIASSET PLAN-DIMDEND	30.3025	Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct Plan - Di Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	13.774	Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan - Direct	22.7736	Interval Fund - II - Series 4-Dividend Plan -Dividend Option Interval Fund - II - Series 4-Growth Plan-Growth Option	10 13.596
Bluechip Fund - Dividend	31.676	Magnum NRI Flexiasset Plan-Dividend  Magnum NRI Flexiasset Plan-Growth	30.3025	Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulativa		Bond Regular Plan Direct HF dividend	40.4758	Annual Interval Fund - Series I - Direct Plan Growth Plan - Growth	
Bluechip Fund - Dividend - Direct	34.468	ONE INDIA FUND - DIV (PREV CLOSE ENDED UPTO 14/01/2010		Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Dividend	10.8654	Bond Regular Plan Growth  Bond Regular Plan Quaterly Dividend	47.9724 10.7277	Interval Fund Annual Interval Fund Series-I -Dividend Option	10.1839
Bluechip Fund - Growth	210.87 223.999	ONE INDIA FUND - GR (PREV CLOSE ENDED UPTO 14/01/2010	10.43	Interval Fund II - Qtrly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Qtrly Div Payout		Bond-Deposit-Dividend	13.6554	Interval Fund Annual Interval Fund Series-I- Growth Option	18.1541
Bluechip Fund - Growth - Direct Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend	21.286	OPEN-ENDED		Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	10.0016 21.1917	Bond-Deposit-Growth	42.9354	Interval Fund Annual Interval Fund Series-I-Retail Plan Growth Option	
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend - Direct	24.64	(INCOME)		Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Quarterly Div Payout	10.0015	Bond Short Term Plan - Direct Plan - Normal Dividend	10.2716	Interval Fund Annual Interval Fund Series-I-Retail Plan-Div Option Interval Fund-Monthly Interval Fund-Series-I -Dividend Option	10.1839 10.0491
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth	34.688	(		Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0016	Bond Short Term Plan-(Dividend)	10.1317	Interval Fund-Monthly Interval Fund-Series-I- Growth Option	23.8396
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth - Direct	37.015	DHFL PRAMERICA MUTUAL FU	JND	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.6172	Bond Short Term Plan-(Dividend) - Direct	10.9516 33.1652	Interval Fund-Monthly Interval Fund-Series-Hnstl Plan-Div Option	10.0491
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Birnonthly  Equity Arbitrage Fund - Birnonthly Direct	20.0423 20.2378			Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0017	Bond Short Term Plan-(Growth)  Bond Short Term Plan-(Growth) - Direct	34.5907	Monthly Interval Fund - Series I - Direct - Div Plan - Div Payout Option	10.0465
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend	10.7359	FIXED MATURITY PLAN - SERIES 47 - DIRECT PLAN - GROWTH		Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Growth Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Qtrly Div Payout	13.6425 10.224	Bond Short Term Plan-(Half Yearly Dividend)	12.0897	Monthly Interval Fund - Series I - Direct Plan Growth Plan - Growth	
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend - Direct	11.0381	FIXED MATURITY PLAN - SERIES 47 - REGULAR PLAN - GROWTH  ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FO		Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0124	Bond Short Term Plan-(Half Yearly Dividend) - Direct	12.2705	Interval Fund-Monthly Interval Fund-Series-II -Dividend Option Interval Fund-Monthly Interval Fund-Series-II -Growth Option	10.0196 23.8021
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Regular	23.0584	ICICI I RODENTIAL MUTUAL F	OIAD	Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	20.9682	Coporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan-Growth Option	2034.9063	Interval Fund-Monthly Interval Fund-Series-II-Inst! Plan-Div Option	
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth	25.6888	Blended Plan B - Dividend Option - I	15.0425	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0051	Corporate Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Growth Option	2410.4554	Monthly Interval Fund - Series II - Direct - Div Plan - Div Payout Option	
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth - Direct Equity Arbitrage Fund -Fortnightly - Direct	26.4285 23.5305	Blended Plan B - Growth Option - I	23.9631	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	14.1819	Corporate Bond Fund- Direct Plan- Monthly Dividend Option  Corporate Bond Fund- Institutional Plan-Growth Option	1106.9616 2090.4924	•	
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend	23.5305	Blended Plan B - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.266	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Dividend Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	10.0016 14.2363	Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Growth Option	2359.5035	Interval Fund-Quarterly Interval Fund Serie-II-Inst! Plan -Div Option	
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend - Direct	24.696	Blended Plan B - Daily Dividend Option - I Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend Option - I	12.4926 17.7362	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Quarterly Div Payout	10.0016	Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	1052.9376	Interval Fund-Quarterly Interval Fund Series-II-Dividend Option Interval Fund-Quarterly Interval Fund Series-II-Growth Option	10.1599 24.8038
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth	105.988	Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth Option - I	24.0808	Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Dividend	10.0038	Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Quarterly Dividend Option	1066.6837	Quarterly Interval Fund - Series II - Direct - Div Plan - Div Payout Op	
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth - Direct	112.65	Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.3063	Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Growth	22.1759	Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan- Monthly Dividend Option	1040.0538	Quarterly Interval Fund - Series II - Direct - Growth Plan - Growth	
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Growth  Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Monthly Dividend	13.8901 11.3976	Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I	10.0227	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0016	Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan- Weekly Dividend Option  Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan-Daily Dividend Option	1052.3061 1052.6393	Interval Fund - Quarterly Plan - Series I - Direct - Div Plan - Div Payout Op	0 10.0377
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Quarterly Dividend	11.0045	Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Option - I	10.7	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Growth Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	14.0323 10.2204	Corporate Bond Fund- Standard Plan-Daily Dividend Option	1052.7994	Interval Fund - Quarterly Plan - Series I - Direct - Gr Plan - Growth	
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Growth	13.52	Blended Plan B - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I Blended Plan B - option I-Bonus	10.3661 11.9703	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Dividend	10.2204	Corporate Bond Fund- Standard Plan-Weekly Dividend Option	1202.9939	Interval Fund-Quarterly Interval Fund-Series-I - Growth Option Interval Fund-Quarterly Interval Fund-Series-I - Dividend Option	24.3667 10.0372
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Monthly Dividend	11.1333	Blended Plan B-Direct Plan - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.032	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Growth	13.9772	Credit Risk Fund - Annual Dividend	10.527	Interval Fund-Quarterly Interval Fund-Series-Hinstl Plan-Div Option	
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Quarterly Dividend	10.9059	Child Care Plan Study - Cumulative	69.6122	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C- Inst Qtrly Div Payout	10.2061	Credit Risk Fund - Annual Dividend - Direct	15.4705	Interval Fund-Quarterly Interval Fund-Series-III- Dividend Option	10.076
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend - Direct	15.195 15.973	Child Care Plan Study - Direct Plan- Cumulative	72.4243	Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Dividend	10.0799	Credit Risk Fund - Growth	19.5401	Interval Fund-Quarterly Interval Fund-Series-III- Growth Option	24.3316
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth	15.196	Dynamic Bond Fund - Annual Dividend	10.6484	Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Growth	22.795 10.0051	Credit Risk Fund - Growth - Direct Credit Risk Fund - Monthly Dividend	20.597 10.3386	Interval Fund-Quarterly Interval Fund-Series-III-Insti Plan-Div Option	
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth - Direct	15.902	Dynamic Bond Fund - Bonus Dynamic Bond Fund - Daily Dividend	19.6984 10.0171	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Dividend Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.1535	Credit Risk Fund - Monthly Dividend - Direct	10.5703	Interval Fund-Quarterly Interval Fund-Series-III-InstI Plan-Gr Option  Quarterly Interval Fund - Series III - Direct - Div Plan - Div Payout Op	
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend	19.58	Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Daily Dividend	10.5669	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7073	Credit Risk Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.7738	Quarterly Interval Fund - Series III - Direct - Growth Plan - Growth	
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend - Direct	21.698	Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Growth	20.425	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Dividend	10.005	Credit Risk Fund - Quaterly Direct Dividend - Direct	10.1594	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 1 - Direct - Div Plan - Dividend Option	
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth India EQ Contra Fund - Growth - Direct	48.034 51.667	Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2129	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Growth	13.469	Credit Risk Fund - Weekly Dividend	10.0071	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 1 - Direct - Growth Plan - Growth Opti	tion 15.72
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Div	16.193	Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend  Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Annual Dividend	10.4618	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Quarterly Div Payout	10.2309	Credit Risk Fund - Weekly Dividend - Direct  Debt Hybrid - Growth	10.4321 28.9067	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 1 - Dividend Plan - Dividend Option	10.4823
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Grow	vth 17.774	Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Auritial Dividend  Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Bonus Option	10.6164 20.23	Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Dividend Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Growth	10.0742 20.25	Debt Hybrid - Growth - Direct	30.6746	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 1 - Growth Plan - Growth Option  Voorly Interval Fund - Series 2 - Direct - Div Plan - Dividend Option	15.6463 n 10
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund- Direct Plan- Div Option		Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend	10.4779	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0168	Debt Hybrid - Monthly Dividend	11.666	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 2 - Direct - Div Plan - Dividend Option Yearly Interval Fund - Series 2 - Direct - Growth Plan - Growth Option	
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund- Direct - Growth Option		Dynamic Bond Fund - Growth	19.6985	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7138	Debt Hybrid - Monthly Dividend - Direct	12.1075	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 2 - Dividend Plan - Dividend Option	10
Small Cap Fund - Dividend  Small Cap Fund - Dividend - Direct	34.375 37.134	Dynamic Bond Fund - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2388	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.0095	Debt Hybrid - Quarterly Dividend	12.892	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 2 - Growth Plan - Growth Option	15.0408
Small Cap Fund - Growth	66.567	Dynamic Bond Fund - Monthly Dividend  Dynamic Bond Fund - Premium Plus Growth	10.9656 20.7632	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Dividend	10.1825	Debt Hybrid - Quarterly Dividend - Direct  Dynamic Bond Fund - Daily Dividend - Direct	13.4873 10.1362	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 5 - Direct - Growth Plan - Growth Op	
Small Cap Fund - Growth - Direct	71.434	Dynamic Bond Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.408	Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Growth Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F Retail Othy Dividend Payout	17.716 # 10.0046	Dynamic Bond Fund - Growth - Direct	23.5727	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 5 - Growth Plan - Growth Option  Yearly Interval Fund - Series 8 - Direct - Div Plan - Dividend Option	13.8388 n 10
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend	21.113	Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.7894	Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0009	Dynamic Bond Fund - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	10.7721	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 8 - Direct - Growth Plan - Growth Option	
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend - Direct	22.587	Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	22.5035	Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	19.7164	Dynamic Bond Fund - Weekly Dividend Direct	12.8673	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 8 - Dividend Plan - Dividend Option	10.0005
Standard Multicap Fund - Growth Standard Multicap Fund - Growth - Direct	31.609 33.437	Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan - I - Direct Plan Bonus	12.628	Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.001	Dynamic Bond Fund -Regular Plan- Monthly Dividend Option	21.911	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 8 - Growth Plan - Growth Option	13.7436
SAHARA MUTUAL FUND		Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Growth Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	17.983 N.A.	Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	18.1794	Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Daily Dividend	10.0364	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 9 - Direct - Growth Plan - Growth Option	
		Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	18.0131	Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Qtrly Div Payout Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	t 10.2084 18.1012	Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Growth  Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Quarterly Dividend	22.7649 10.9789	Yearly Interval Fund - Series 9 - Dividend Plan - Dividend Option  Yearly Interval Fund - Series 9 - Growth Plan - Growth Option	10.0001 13.7202
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH - Direct		Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.8172	Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Dividend	10.1688	Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Weekly Dividend	10.5335	SBI MUTUAL FUND	10.1 £0£
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH OPTION BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND - Direct		Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	11.9883	Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan - II Retail Quarterly Div Payout	10.234	Dynamic Bond Fund-Direct Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	22.5876	Manual karan Di E. J. C. J. E. T.	44 400-
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND - DIRECT		Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Growth Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Direct Plan - Growth	22.6497 23.4449	Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0033	Rexi-Debt - Regular Plan - Dividend	10.7268	Magnum Income Plus Fund - Savings Plan (D)  Magnum Income Plus Fund - Savings Plan (G)	11.1062 12.5326
Growth Fund-Dividend	37.8643	Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Dividend	11.8549	Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend	20.0008	Rexi-Debt - Regular Plan - Growth  Rexi-Debt - Regular Plan - Daily Dividend	25.1289 14.3817	SUNDARAM MUTUAL FUN	
Growth Fund-Dividend- Direct	38.5599	Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Growth	23.3622	Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	10.0033 13.9183	Flexi-Debt- Regular Plan - Daily Dividend Flexi Debt - Regular Plan- Weekly Dividend	14.3817 10.035	Owner D. 15 / St. 15	44055
Growth Fund-Growth	130.3965	Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	11.7874	Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0033	Low Duration - Regular Plan-Weekly Dividend	1014.7392	Corporate Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Option  Corporate Bond Fund Annual Dividend Option	14.2599 13.247
Growth Fund-Growth- Direct Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING -Direct-Dividend	145.5617 20.328	Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Growth Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Direct Plan - Growth	21.8977	Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.8735	Low Duration Fund - Direct Plan- Monthly Dividend Option	1072.2043	Corporate Bond Fund Annual Dividend Option  BANKING AND PSU DEBT FUND RETAIL MONTHLY DIVIDEND	
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	25.4496	Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Direct Plan - Growth Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Dividend	17.7978 10.8352	MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Half Yearly	13.6318	Low Duration Fund - Regular Plan - Normal Dividend	1070.089	BANKING AND PSU DEBT FUND - Bonus Option	13.9506
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option	17.2523	Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Growth	17.7495	MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Monthly MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Quarterly	12.7914 13.8562	Low Duration Fund Direct Plan-Bonus Option  Low Duration Fund- Direct Plan- Growth Option	1321.4208 2272.8887	BANKING AND PSU DEBT FUND - DIRECT PLAN MONTHLY DIV	N 10.9265
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	23.6255	Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Dividend	11.6845	MIP - Direct Plan - Growth	49.7829	Low Duration Fund- Direct Plan- Weekly Dividend Option	1199.3047	BANKING AND PSU DEBT FUND - Regular Weekly Dividend	10.9423
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Dividend		Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Growth	21.7637	MIP - Direct Plan Bonus	13.7171	Low Duration Fund- Regular Plan-Growth Option	2193.9018	BANKING AND PSU DEBT - DIRECT BONUS - DIRECT BONUS  BANKING AND PSU DEBT - DIRECT - DIV REINVESTMENT OP	
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option		Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Dividend Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Direct Plan - Growth	11.7708 20.4818	MIP - Dividend Half Yearly	12.8248	Low Duration Fund- Regular Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	1023.0124	BANKING AND PSU DEBT DIRECT - DIV REINVESTIVIENT OP  BANKING AND PSU DEBT DIRECT - WEEKLY DIV REINVESTIVIENT OP	
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Growth Option		Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Growth	20.4018	MIP - Dividend Monthly	12.3602	Low Duration Fund-Retail Plan-Growth Option	1971.7193	BANKING AND PSU DEBT - REGULAR DAILY REINVESTMENT	
Midcap Fund-Auto Payout	71.5549	Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0016	MIP - Dividend Quarterly MIP - Growth	13.5226 48.1366	Low Duration Fund-Retail Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	1020.796	BANKING AND PSU DEBT FUND REGULAR GROWTH	27.6647
Midcap Fund-Auto Payout- Direct	76.4255	Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.1844	JM FINANCIAL MUTUAL FUN	48.1366 <b>VD</b>	Low Duration Fund-Retail Plan-Weekly Dividend Option  Medium Term Fund - Annual Dividend	1021.1728 10.7205	BANKING AND PSU DEBT - REGULAR MNTLY DIV RE INVESTMENT	
Midcap Fund-Bonus Midcap Fund-Bonus - Direct	71.5549	Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0692	JITE LITALINGIAL WIGITUAL FUN	W.	Medium Term Fund - Direct - Annual Dividend	15.284	BANKING AND PSU DEBT FUND Retail - Growth  BANKING AND PSU DEBT FUND- Direct Plan - Growth Option	24.9391 27.7888
Midcap Fund-Bonus- Direct Midcap Fund-Dividend -Direct	76.4255 32.0292	Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Dividend	13.4735 10.0015	Income Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	19.5701	Medium Term Fund - Direct - Quarterly Dividend	10.6256	Corporate Bond - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend Option	0
Midcap Fund-Dividend Plan	31.5581	Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Growth	13.4637	MIP Fund (Direct) - Bonus Option - Principal Units	25.9834	Medium Term Fund - Direct Growth	15.247	Corporate Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Growth Option	24.8963
Midcap Fund-Growth Option - Direct	76.4255	Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0025	MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Annual Dividend	20.9404	Medium Term Fund - Growth	14.6262	Corporate Bond Fund -Institutional - Quarterly Dividend	0
Midcap Fund-Growth Plan	71.5549	Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.9999	MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Quarterly Dividend MIP Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	19.5151 25.7788	Medium Term Fund - Quarterly Dividend  Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Annual Dividend	10.6094 12.0699	Corporate Bond Fund Direct Plan - Bonus Option  Corporate Bond Fund Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option	121432
Power & Natural Resources Fund - Dividend Option  Power & Natural resources Fund - Growth - Direct	16.5529 20.8981	Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan - 1 Retail Othy Div Payout Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Direct Plan - Growth	10.0022 17.6211	MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Monthly Dividend	12.6302	Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Annual Dividend - Direct	12.891	Corporate Bond Fund Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option  Corporate Bond Fund Institutional - Growth	12.1432 0
Power & Natural resources Fund - Growth - Direct Power & Natural resources Fund - Growth Option	19.4074	Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Direct Plan - Growth Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Direct Plan - Dividend	17.6211	MIP Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	24.5085	Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Growth	17.0712	Corporate Bond Fund Institutional - Monthly Dividend	10.5417
Power & Natural Resources Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.0357	Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Growth	17.5944	MIP FUND-Annual Dividend	19.4034	Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Growth - Direct	18.0715	Corporate Bond Fund Regular - Annual Dividend	13.0829
R.E.A.L Fund - Dividend Option	19.5224	Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 -Dividend	10.0017	MIP FUND-Growth	24.1503	Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Monthly Dividend	14.3128	Corporate Bond Fund Regular - Growth	24.4531
R.E.A.L. Fund - Dividend Option- Direct	19.9131	•		MIP FUND-Monthly Dividend MIP FUND-Quarterly Dividend	11.4362 18.1976	Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Monthly Dividend - Direct  Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Quarterly Dividend	13.1358 12.3879	Corporate Bond Fund Regular - Half Yearly Dividend  Corporate Bond Fund Regular - Monthly Dividend	13.1208 11.6939
R.E.A.L Fund - Growth Fund  R.E.A.L Fund - Growth Fund- Direct	19.5192 21.5048	Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	10.0271 22.0296	Short Term Fund (Direct) - Daily Dividend Option		Multi Asset Allocation Fund-Quarterly Dividend - Direct		Corporate Bond Fund Regular - Quarterly Dividend	14.0787

# Saudi rejects threats as stocks plunge after Trump remarks

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 vis-

iting 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 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

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 far less volatility Sunday. US markets have been rattled 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 Rivadh.

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 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

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

Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor whose writings have been critical of powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, left the building safely but has yet to offer visual evidence of this.

The outcry surrounding his disappearance threatens to not just harm brittle Turkey-Saudi relations but also alarm the kingdom's supporters in the West and tarnish the reform drive spearheaded by the crown prince.

"We're going to get to the bottom of it and there will be severe punishment," Trump told CBS's "60 Minutes," according to an extract of an interview that was released on Saturday.

"As of this moment, they (Saudi) deny it and they deny it vehemently. Could it be them? Yes," Trump said in the interview, which was conducted on Thursday.

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 Mohamed bin Salman to promote his reform agenda.

## Trump wants people to come to US on basis of merit

**PTI** ■ WASHINGTON

 $P^{\text{resident Donald Trump has}}_{\text{said he wants people with}}$ 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,"

"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 IME. Finance Minister Asad Umar has said while rejecting the US' view that China-funded projects were to blame for the cashstrapped country's current economic woes.

Speaking to the media here on his return from Indonesia 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



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

the country's debt position. "We understand that Pakistan has formally requested assistance from the IMF. In

Pakistan, adding it will review

Islamabad's bailout plea to the

IMF from all angles, including

all cases, we examine that closely from all angles of it, includ-ing 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

#### 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 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.



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"

### Mattis 'could be' leaving as US Defence chief: Trump

view airing on Sunday that Defence Secretary Jim Mattis
"could be" leaving, referring to

The exchange on Mattis him as "sort of a Democrat."

steadiest but also more inde- inet, which last week saw the cabinet, has served as a lowprofile 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

**Washington:** US President with Mattis two days earlier Donald Trump said in an interand Mattis, a retired Marine four-star general, had not told

came after Trump alluded to Mattis, seen as one of the upcoming changes in his cab-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

#### 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 tment 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

fairly closely. Responding to a question. Nauert said; "The 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."

#### **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 Fli Dapas, Fl 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-yearold bicyclist 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 "Tiangin" by the end of 2019. The programme Tiangin, meaning "harp in sky," was initiated by Sun Yat-sen University in south China's Guangdong province in 2015.

#### 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.

#### VEHICLE CRASH IN TURKEY Istanbul: Nineteen people,

including children, died on Sunday when a vehicle carrying migrants reportedly heading for EU member Greece plunged 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.

### **US** is loser by abandoning Iran N deal: Rouhani

Tehran: Iran's President boasted Sunday the US has lost against the Islamic republic's "righteousness and wisdom" by walking out of the landmark nuclear deal. "Everyone knows that America has lost legally and politically by giving up on its international obligations and that we have achieved victory,"

said President Hassan Rouhani in a speech at the University of Tehran to mark the beginning of the school year.

"There are but a few countries in the world that would call the US withdrawal from the JCPOA a good move," he added. "Those that are cautious express disappointment, those

a mistake, and the outspoken say it was illegal." Washington pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers in May and is reimposing punishing sanctions on the country, hoping to pressure Tehran into what Trump calls a "better deal".

Arctic waters from lease sales,

but President Donald Trump in

that are more frank say it was

# As sea ice melts, some say walruses need better protection

AP ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

iven a choice between giv-Ging 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 cen-

tury progresses, there's going to

be far less ice around.

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

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 walruses.

However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded in October 2017 that walruses are adapting and no one has proven that they "need" sea ice.

"It is unknown whether Pacific walruses can give birth, conduct their nursing during immediate post-natal care period, or complete courtship on land," said Justice Department lawyers in defending the deci-

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

kilograms) — more than an average midsize sedan. Females reach half that weight. Walruses 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,

to 12 feet (3.7 meters) long and

up to 4,000 pounds (1,815

walruses 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 walruses and plan for their recovery. Federal agencies, before issuing permits for development such as offshore drilling, would be required to ensure walruses and their habiInaccessibility protected walruses for decades, but a rapid decline in summer sea ice has made them vulnerable.

tat would not be jeopardized.

In the Chukchi Sea between Alaska and Russia, where Pacific walrus females and juveniles spend their summer, ice could 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 walruses and their calves face a



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.

April 2017 announced he was reversing Obama, a decision More open water already being challenged in court. The has meant more ship traffic. administration's proposed five-Walruses also could find more year offshore leasing plan humans in their habitat with a includes sales in the Chukchi reversal of U.S. policy on Arctic

# Trend

#### 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.

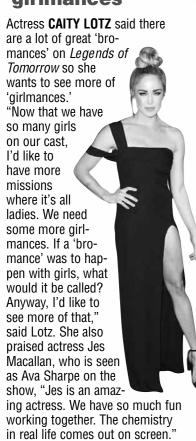
'I have a lot of friends. I do not believe in having 'best friends' because I am a social person. I get along well with a lot of people and establish a good relationship with each of them. I met Erica (Fernandes) for the first time on set. We hit it off right away.' —Parth Samthaan

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



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.

#### **Caity wants** 'girlmances'



# 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 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 (LBGTQ) 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 says 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

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 which has finally put an end to all the worthless conversations. Now is the time to have a conversation about how to move forward, become more inclusive and equal because one thing is to change the law and the other is to change what's in people's

Advocate Saurabh Kripal says, "Once this judgement stands the test of time and people accept the homosexual relationships, I think it'll become a new normal and once it becomes normal then we can ask for something a bit more abnormal which will then again become a normal. Don't push the pace of change because everyone knows slow and steady always wins the race. I think there's a inherent human desire to push as much they possibly can but remember we must distinguish between the political space and the judicial space. We need to give time in order to get what we desire."

"I strongly feel employment and medical are the major issue which we have to fight for. If your partner falls ill and you aren't married you might not be able to take a combined medical policy. For this you need to have a positive action which will happen but will take time. Nevertheless you need extra rights to bring everyone up, equal and in power. The only solution is to go back to court, and I think the court is ready to face it. The court has laid down the judgement which is a very broad in framework. Now it will think beyond 377," adds he.

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 get improve in the Indian context. The foun-



dation 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 mainof 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 normal people 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. It got better when I was exposed to this different world (LGBTQ community). When there were 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, "Its 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

As the fourth

edition of the

film festival

begin in three

major cities

Mumbai and

Russian

actresses

and Russian

**Ambassador** 

to India

inaugrated

Pune -

- Delhi,

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 strength-

en 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

inauguration. Among the others at the ture and wants to keep coming back to 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 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 qual-

ity, 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 others, who were also present at the and that he "loved coming here, its cul-

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

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.)

# Amitabh and



ce choreographer Prabhudeva directed A 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

The film is releasing this Diwali.

# Streets of nostalgia



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 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

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

ripes. "Gossamer is also the very thin thread that spi-

blue checks and white

He applauded the crafts-manship, "The Maheshwari textiles in the collection with

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

ders produce to make their

wanted to elevate them to luxury fashion. Because memory is a luxury, after all."

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

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

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



### t a time when India has managed to increase its for-est 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 degradaried 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

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

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,"

# Technology can save India's forests

he said. "The new study will provide critical inputs for the preparation of Government of India's National Action Plan on Forest Fire Prevention and Management," he added. Just 20 districts (mostly added. Just 20 districts (mostly located in the Northeast) accounts for over 40 per cent of all forest fires detected between 2003 and 2016. Similarly, the top-20 districts (mainly in Central India) account for about 48 per cent of the total fire-affected area, while having just 12 per cent of the country's forest cover in the year 2000 and 7 per est cover in the year 2000 and 7 per cent of its land area.

"Forest fires are a challenge across many countries. They lead to the loss of lives and livelihoods for people directly dependent on forest produce. This report discusses policies on forest fire prevention and management and underscores the need for better fire prevention practices and a well-equipped and trained workforce to fight fires," said Junaid Ahmad, World Bank Country Director in India. "We are delighted to have this opportuni-ty to work with the MoEFCC on this important agenda, and to contribute towards informing its National Action Plan on Forest Fire



Prevention and Management in

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 environ-mental 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 fight fires. Investments in modern technologies for fire detection, investing in adequate fire sup-pression 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 fireprone areas, and to make adequate and reliable funding available, the

report adds.

## PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITIES AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Recognizing the fact that peo-ple will continue to use forest fire, and that some fire is desirable, engaging with the communities that depend on forests and involv-ing 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

#### 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 pro-vision of funding opportunities for scientific research would help to establish formal cooperation between members of the research community and the forest depart-

# **BE A KARMA YOGI**

#### Fight the urges of vices with a spiritual war within. By Rajyogi Brahmakumar Nikunj Ji

 $\mathbf{p}$  hagavad 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, attach-

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 lim-

its of perfection, it is only then that man attains the highest and purest heaven. Hence, the war is symbolic of the spiritual endeavsymbolic of the spiritual endeav-our 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 knowlthe weapons of spiritual knowledge and yoga. A yogi is the one who stabilises his mind on God 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 knowlds. edge, 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

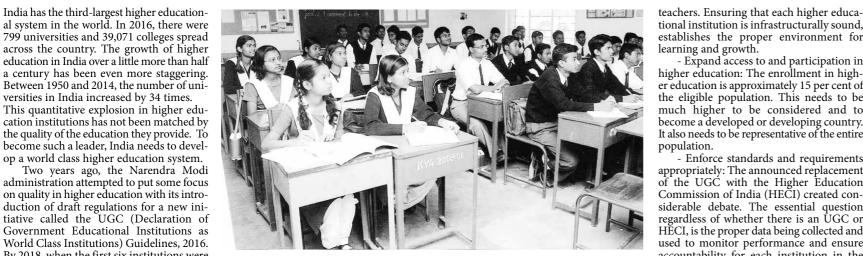
#### The growth in the sector has been phenomenal but the focus has been on quantity over quality

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 edu-

cation 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

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 compris-



es 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

ion is infrastructurall 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

- Enforce standards and requirements appropriately: The announced replacement of the UGC with the Higher Education Commission of India (HEČI) 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.

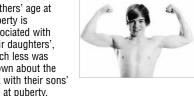
There are many other steps that must be taken, such as addressing politicians controlling many educational institutions but there must be only one mindset. That mindset must be that the country's higher education system must be restructured, redesigned, and renewed to benefit all Indians.

#### 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

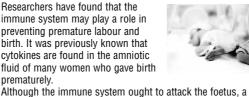
Lazy eye, known as amblyopia, is a loss of vision that originates in the brain, typically

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

#### **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



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 antiinflammatory mechanisms that prevent the foetus from being rejected. So we thought maybe dangerous inflammation, that can break down the tolerance barrier, could mediate the startup 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 pe 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

**⊣**he "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 sometimetraining 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 sce-

nario," 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

Djokovic, who has been particularly dominant on his serve, not dropping one service game in Shanghai, "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 suc-

"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 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

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

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

#### 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 Reyyes-



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

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 runnersup at Montrrey 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

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



### **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 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

#### **DANYA WINS WTA TITLE**

HONG KONG: Ukrainian teen Dayana Yastremska won her maiden WTA title by upsetting sixthseeded 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. Yastremska is the sixth teenag-

er 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 vear.

Prior to arriving in Hong Kong, Yastermska 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 102ndranked Yastremska to a new career high ranking in the top 80 when the next rankings are released on Monday. Yastremska'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

# Dutch embarrass Germany 3-0

**AFP AMSTERDAM** 

iverpool defender Virgil van Dijk led the Liverpool detender viight van 2.,....
Netherlands to a crushing 3-0 win over Germany in the Nations League to ramp up the pressure on German coach Joachim

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 golden night for the Oranje at Amsterdam's Johan Cruyff Arena on Saturday. This is the first time the Dutch have beat-

en 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

Van Dijk opened the scoring with a welltaken 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



afford another heavy defeat. Earlier Saturday, Munich-based news-

aper, 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

ionel Messi "is not a leader," said Lionel Messi is not a comment.

Diego Maradona of the current Argentina talisman in an interview in

"It's useless to try and make a leader out of someone who goes to the bathroom 20 times before a game," "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 stumbling 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 sav never." "You have to take the leadership

away for him to be the Messi we want



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

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

"Thierry's ready," Deschamps told TF1. "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

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 win-

ner, 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 rel-

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

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 "It is with great pride that I am delighted to announce that I have accepted the posi-

tion 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

he said, wishing Henry "lots of courage and

# INDIA ENTER HOCKEY 5s FINAL

**PTI** ■ BUENOS AIRES

rhe Indian men's and women's hockey 5s competition in the Youth Olympics after registering emphatic wins over their respective opponents here. India defeated

Argentina 3-1 in the men's semifinal 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

Argentina in the final. This is the first time India is taking part in a hockey competition in the Youth Olympics.

their women counterparts take on hosts

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-play

er game and it was introduced in



In the men's semifinal 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

4th minute. In the second period, India maintained pressure and bene-

fited 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

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

chances and were successful again

opponents with goals coming from Mumtaz Khan (1st minute), Reet (5th) and Lalremsiami

# **Wrestler Simran wins Silver**

**PTI** ■ BUENOS AIRES

him to be," Maradona said.

Indian wrestler Simran settled for a Silver in women's freestyle 43 kg cat-Legory competition after she lost to Emily Shilson of United States in the 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

tually 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 medallist 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 Simran poses with Silver medal counted in the country's total medal tally as they had paired with athletes of other countries.

a 'victory by fall' decision.

The other Indian in the wrestling competition, Mansi finished eighth after losing her classification match to Imbabi Ahmed of Egypt who received



team featuring Henry that won the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000, also started his coaching career at Monaco, back in 2001. 'The first season was very complicated,"

# DOUBLE DONE & DUSTED

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

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 200run 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

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

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

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



PAYTM INDIA - WEST INDIES TEST SERIES 201

#### **MOST CONSECUTIVE TESTS VS** AN OPPOSITION WITHOUT A LOSS

**Time Period** (1930-75)New Zealand England England Pakistan (1961-82)West Indies England (1976-88)Australia South Africa (1911-52)West Indies India (1948-71)Pakistan India (1980-99)Australia New Zealand (1993-11) $(2002-18)^{-1}$ 

Faisel Features

Rishabh Pant (92) and Ajinkya 10 (1994/95-2000/01) Australia (2004-2008/09) Australia (2012/13-present)

move from a comfortable 314 for 4 to 339 (5/56 in 23 overs) used the second new ball to good effect as he completed his fifth five-wicket haul in Test cricket. West Indies captain Jason Holder 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 vicecaptain was caught at gully for 80 off 183 balls to give the opposition captain his third wicket. His innings had seven bound-

Rahane-Pant duo added 152 runs for the fifth wicket and once the visitors got the breakthrough, the floodgates open.

Pant (92), who added seven more runs to his overnight score, got a short ball from Shannon Gabriel, which he pushed at only to be caught by Shimron Hetmeyer at cover point.

In two consecutive Tests, Pant has been dismissed for identical scores of 92. This time he played 134 balls hitting 11 boundaries and two sixes.



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

For the record, during the West Indies second innings, the new SG Test ball had to be changed twice inside 12

On Saturday, Mohammed Siraj and Hanuma Vihari were released to play Vijay Hazare quarter-finals for their respective teams Hyderabad and Andhra.

### 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 in lings

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 Shanon Gabriel. India were put under a lit-

tle bit of pressure in their first innings before Rishabh Pant and Ajinkya Rahane steadied the ship with a 152run 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

grabbed their opportunities. I think all these things are a big positive. But from this Test I want to single out West Indies captain Jason Holder conceded that the embarrassing back-to-back three-day defeats against

England, Shaw and Pant) who've come in, they've

India is "difficult to digest", considering pitches were batsman-friendly.
"Honestly, it's hard to take it. I am trying to under-

stand 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

"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. They're 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.

#### 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 the front. Along with her there 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. The 50-overs series will be followed by a T20 series and the BCCI will announce the squad for it later. The visitors will be also looking to begin the series on a winning note, but will have a tough task at hand in adapting to the wicket and weather conditions

#### 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 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. Leishman ended five shots ahead of second placed trio — first round leader, Bronson Burgoon (68), Emiliano Grillo (66) and Chesson Hadley (66) — who finished T-2 with 21-under 267.

#### 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

# 'Shaw has bit of Sachin, Sehwag and Lara'

**PTI** HYDERABAD

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

day slowly disappeared.

chances of match going to fourth

started off well by dismissing India

for 367, keeping the first innings

Rahane (80) from reaching their

lost five wickets for 25 runs to

lead down to a mere 56 runs.

However, West Indies had

In the process, they denied

In a space of 16.1 overs, India

for 9 before Ravichandran Ashwin (35,

83 balls) made a useful contribution.

Tndia coach Ravi Shastri saw in Prithvi ■Shaw's batting, glimpses of two of the greatest batsmen of modern era and a nonconformist who redefined batsmanship.

one breath, mentioned the names of three legends — Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara and Virender Sehwag — while trying to describe the 18-year-old Shaw who accumulated big runs in his first brush with topflight international cricket. "He (Shaw) is born to play cricket. He's

been playing since the age of eight in the maidans of Mumbai. You can see all that hardwork showing. He's a spectator's delight. There's

a bit of Sachin there, a bit of Viru in him and when he walks - there's a bit of Lara as well," Shastri said. "If he can keep his head on his shoulders and keep the work ethic, he has a bright future."

Shastri was speaking after India completed a

2-0 series sweep over the West Indies with a 10wicket victory here.

# MAN OF THE SERIES ON DEBUT SERIES

S Ganguly	India	England	1996
J Rudolph	South Africa	Bangladesh	2003
S Clark	Australia	South Africa	2006
A Mendis	Sri Lanka	India	2008
R Ashwin	India	West Indies	2011
V Philander	South Africa	Australia	2011
J Pattinson	Australia	New Zealand	2011
R Sharma	India	West Indies	2013
M Hasan	Bangladesh	England	2016
P Shaw	India	West Indies	2018
		Faisel F	eatures

Opener Shaw flayed 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

Even skipper Virat Kohli gushed about the 18-

"The guy (has) grabbed his chance beautifully. He looks like someone who can get you off to a kind of start you require. Making a mark in the



first series that you play, from that point of view, it is great to have a guy who is so fearless. And he is not reckless, he is very confident about his

"You might feel that he will nick one now and then but he hardly nicks the ball. That we saw in England as well. He was batting in the nets, really attacking but was in control. But that kind of rare control against new ball is a great thing to have. Any of us weren't even 10 percent of what when he is at 18 or 19," added the captain.

Senior batsman Azhar Ali Sadmitted Pakistan will be

under pressure of expectations in

and so there is pressure," said

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

Azhar on Sunday.

#### Gambhir takes Delhi into semis Pakistan under pressure to beat Australia: Azhar **PTI** ■ BENGALURU

Paptain Gautam Gambhir smashed 104 off 72 **AFP** ■ ABU DHABI

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 Batting first, Haryana were all out for 229 with

Khejroliya collecting six wickets for 31 runs in 10 overs, his career-best performance in List A cricket. Navdeep Saini, with figures of three for 39, was a good foil for Khejroliya. Birthday boy Gambhir then ensured his team cantered with a whirlwind knock compris-

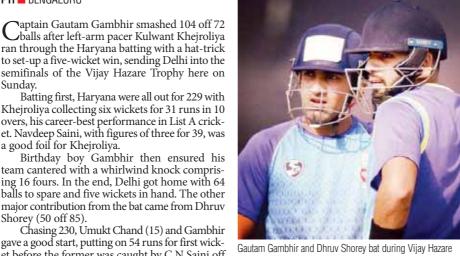
major contribution from the bat came from Dhruv Shorey (50 off 85). Chasing 230, Umukt Chand (15) and Gambhir gave a good start, putting on 54 runs for first wicket before the former was caught by C N Saini off Arun Chaprana.

The skipper was at his furious best against Yuzuvendra Chahal, smashing him for three consecutive boundaries in the 16th over. Gambhir and Shorey then put together a 118-

run partnership as Delhi cruised towards the tar-After Gambhir was caught by Nitin Saini off Rahul Tewatia, Nitish Rana (37 off 28) nearly fer-

ried the team to victory post, before getting out. Earlier, Chaitnaya Bishnoi top-scored for Haryana with 85 off 117 balls with six boundaries

and two sixes, while Pramod Chandila struck 59 off 88 balls with three boundaries and a six. In the other quarterfinal, Mumbai sailed into the semifinals after comprehensively beating Bihar by nine wickets.



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. No Bihar batsmen reached double figures, except M D Rahmatullah (18) and Babul Kumar

(16). Mumbai chased down a paltry 70-run tar-

get in 12.3 overs as openers Akhil Herwadkar (24)

and star India player Rohit Sharma (33 not out)

shared a 53-run stand.

the second Test against Australia starting in Abu Dhabi from Pakistan dominated much of the first Test in Dubai but failed to get the last two wickets as Australia finished at 362-8. Set a daunting 462 runs Australia's fightback was led by opener Usman Khawaja's 141, ably assisted by Travis Head (72) and skipper Tim Paine (61 not "I can't say if the pressure will be more on Pakistan or Australia Usman Khwaja returns to pavililon after but we are the home side and playing match saving innings against obviously people expect us to win

Pakistan in 1st Test at Dubai

Pakistan will be forced to "However, having said that make a change after regular openthese are favourable conditions for er Imam-ul-Haq fractured his us and we have to make the most finger in the first Test and was ruled out, opening an option to bring Azhar as opener. "Pressure is always different in every match and obviously this is

The 33-year-old held the opening spot since the Oval Test in England in August 2016 and struck a triple century against the West Indies in Dubai and a double hundred against Australia in Melbourne — both in 2016.

He went to his customary number three position for the two Tests against Ŝri Lanka last year and in last week's first Test against Australia. Pakistan can also bring in limited over specialist Fakhar Zaman to play his first Test, despite a poor form in the Asia

Cup scoring only 56 runs in five matches with two ducks. Azhar said he will do it

against for his team. "When playing for Pakistan one has to be ready for every-

thing," said Azhar. "I have always believed in that and whatever the team management decides or the captain decides, I will be ready to do that." Azhar admitted Pakistan players were disappointed at not winning the first Test.

"We are not disheartened but, yes, disappointed, obviously after dominating the Test match throughout and then not winning it," said Azhar, a veteran of 66

"Unfortunately we couldn't win but I think we also have to give credit to the Australians as well as they showed resilience and kept fighting till the end." Azhar said he remains focused despite not in the best of form, managing only 95 runs in the last four Tests.