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WORLD 12 SAUDIS VOW 'COMPLETE' PROBE OF KHASHOGGI MURDER: MATTIS

SPORT 16 FEDERER WINS SWISS INDOOR TENNIS TOURNAY

LUCKNOW, MONDAY OCTOBER 29, 2018; PAGES 16 ₹3



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KAT SHARES REHEARSAL VIDEO 14 VIVACITY

Shooting deepens Lanka crisis

Sacked Min's bodyguard opens fire at protesters, kills 1; MEA says India 'closely following' developments in Colombo

AGENCIES ■ COLOMBO

One person has been killed and two others injured in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, when the bodyguard of a Cabinet Minister under ousted Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe opened fire at a crowd of protesters. The shooting on Sunday came amid a constitutional crisis triggered by President Maithripala Sirisena's sacking of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

Ruwan Gunasekara, a police spokesperson, told reporters that a bodyguard for Arjuna Ranatunga, Wickremesinghe's Petroleum Minister, fired live rounds at a crowd of people loyal to Sirisena when they attempted to prevent the dismissed Minister from entering his office at the State-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India is "closely following" developments in Colombo. "India is closely following the recent political developments in Sri Lanka. As a democracy and a close friendly neighbour, we hope that democratic values and the constitutional process will be respected. We will continue to extend our developmental assistance to the friendly people of Sri Lanka," said MEA Raveesh Kumar.

A 34-year-old man was



Sri Lankan security forces are deployed near the Petroleum Ministry building in Colombo on Sunday

killed in the incident, according to police. The guard who opened fire was arrested and a probe is now under way, police said. The shooting was the first incident of serious violence since Sirisena's Friday decision to replace Wickremesinghe with Mahinda Rajapaksa, a former president accused of human rights abuses and corruption.

Wickremesinghe, 69, insists his sacking was unconstitutional and has called for an emergency parliament sitting to prove he still commanded a majority in Parliament.

But Sirisena has suspended Parliament until November 16 in an apparent bid to shore up support for Rajapaksa's appointment.

Speaker Karu Jayasuriya recognised Wickremesinghe as the lawful Prime Minister earlier on Sunday, and asked the president to back the sacked leader's request to retain the "rights and privileges" of his office until another candidate could prove a majority in Parliament.

"I consider the said request to be a democratic and fair request," the Parliament

Speaker said in a letter to Sirisena. Jayasuriya, a member of Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP), also urged Sirisena to reconsider his decision to suspend Parliament, saying the decision has "serious and undesirable consequences" for Sri Lanka.

According to the website of Sri Lanka's Parliament, Wickremesinghe's UNP has 106 seats in the 225-member House, while Sirisena's UPFA has 95. In a letter to Sirisena, Speaker Karu Jayasuriya backed the ousted Prime Minister's request to retain his

privileges and security until another candidate could prove a majority, saying it was "democratic and fair".

He also questioned the President's decision to suspend Parliament till November 16, saying it will have "serious and undesirable" consequences on the country.

Sirisena on Friday night sacked Wickremesinghe and appointed former strongman Rajapaksa as the new Prime Minister. Next day, Sirisena suspended Parliament till November 16 after Wickremesinghe, who had termed his sacking as illegal and unconstitutional, sought an emergency session to prove his majority.

The President also withdrew Wickremesinghe's personal security and vehicles in order to accord them to his 72-year-old successor, who staged a dramatic political comeback.

In his first address to the nation after sacking Wickremesinghe, Sirisena said his former ally's political conduct since the victory in 2015 elections was unbecoming.

"He appeared to treat Sri Lanka's future as a joyride for a coterie of people around him who had no sense of the common man's thinking," he said. "He completely destroyed the concept of good governance while corruption and waste became rampant."

Continued on Page 4

ODOP summit focuses on chikan, zardozi industry

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the Bharatiya Janata Party government had kept its promise of promoting traditional cottage and handicraft industry and entrepreneurship by launching the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme.

The Chief Minister said the creation of huge job opportunities with low capital investment was the unique feature of the ODOP scheme.

Addressing a special summit on traditional handicraft of Lucknow 'chikan and zardozi', on Sunday, Yogi said that the BJP during the March 2017 UP Assembly elections, had promised to launch a specific scheme for promoting traditional handicraft and cottage industry as each district of the state had a unique identity in the form of its traditional craft.

The Chief Minister said that so far 11,755 artisans of different crafts had been provided loan amounting to over ₹1,000 crore. The ODOP scheme was launched on January 25 this year.

Yogi said that so far over 1.65 lakh persons had been provided employment by the MSME sector under the ODOP scheme. Yogi also released a catalogue 'Zari-Zardozi' on the occasion. He also distributed tool kits and cheques of loan to 10 entrepreneurs.

The Chief Minister said the future belonged to the MSME (micro, small and medium



CM Yogi Adityanath handing over a loan cheque to an entrepreneur at a programme held in Lucknow on Sunday

enterprises) sector as it was growing at fast pace and was also labour intensive.

Prominent e-commerce companies also made their presentations on the occasion and provided marketing platforms to the small entrepreneurs producing traditional handicraft items and other products.

The Chief Minister said that along with the e-commerce companies, the state government had taken a series of measures to create enabling environment for the marketing of products of the MSME sector in national and international market. He added after the launch of the ODOP scheme in January last, special summit of ODOP was organised in the state capital in August and it was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind.

"Two years ago, UP was nowhere in the priority of investors. The ODOP scheme has changed the profile of the

state. It gives me immense pleasure that the ODOP scheme, launched by the BJP government, is acquiring concrete shape in the state resulting in investments and job creation," the CM said, adding: "Impressed by the success of the ODOP scheme in UP, many states are following our model and implementing this scheme in their states."

The CM assured the entrepreneurs that there would be no dearth of budgetary support for the ODOP scheme.

MSME and Export Promotion Minister Satyadeo Pachauri said that ever since the launch of ODOP scheme, it was steadily surging ahead with special emphasis on capacity and skill enhancement of the entrepreneurs. He said that besides training, modern tools had been provided to a large number of entrepreneurs in all the 75 districts of the state.

CAPSULE

COP, PDP WORKER KILLED IN TERRORIST ATTACKS

Srinagar: A sub-inspector of police and a PDP worker were killed by terrorists in separate incidents in Kashmir on Sunday, officials said. P7

NSG MILITARY OPS POST HEADLESS FOR 6 MONTHS

New Delhi: India's elite counter-terror force NSG has been functioning without a regular military operations commander for the past six months, posing serious questions on the effectiveness of its combat readiness and planning in case of an impending contingency. P5

SC TO HEAR AYODHYA CASE FROM TODAY

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is likely to hear on Monday a batch of pleas challenging the Allahabad High Court's 2010 verdict by which the disputed land on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid area in Ayodhya was divided into three parts.

HAZE ENGULFS NATIONAL CAPITAL

New Delhi: A haze engulfed Delhi, which continued to battle dangerous levels of pollution, as it recorded the worst air quality of this season during the day Sunday, officials said. The overall AQI was recorded at 381 on Sunday morning.

BJP slams Cong over Tharoor's 'scorpion' metaphor against PM

PNS ■ BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister Shashi Tharoor has triggered a major controversy by claiming that an unnamed RSS leader had compared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "a scorpion sitting on a Shivling" and terming it as an extraordinarily striking metaphor. The BJP has slammed Tharoor and asked an apology from the Congress leadership.

In his speech at the Bangalore Literary festival on Sunday, Tharoor said "...There is an extraordinarily striking metaphor expressed by an unnamed RSS source to a journalist which I quote, in which they express their frustration with their inability to curb Mr Modi. The man says Modi is like a scorpion sitting on a Shivling. You cannot remove him with a hand and you cannot hit it with a chappal either," he said.

Suggesting that it was a very profound understanding of the relationship, the Congress leader said, "Because,



if you remove a scorpion with your hand, you will get stung very badly. If you hit Shivling with a chappal, then you have undermined all the sacred tenets of the faith."

This might well be a very interesting clue to the rather complex dynamics that exists "between the Hindutva movement and the Moditva expression..." he added.

Lashing out at Tharoor, Union Law Minister Ravishankar Prasad alleged that Tharoor had disrespected Lord Shiva and sought an apology from Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

Continued on Page 4

Modi, Abe visit robot factory after talks

Indian PM in Japan to attend 13th India-Japan annual summit

PTI ■ YAMANASHI (JAPAN)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe held informal talks at a picturesque resort near Mount Fuji and visited a factory of industrial robot manufacturer on Sunday as they spent about eight hours together on the first-day of a two-day summit.

Modi, who arrived in Japan last evening to attend the 13th India-Japan annual summit, has said the partnership between the two countries has been fundamentally transformed and it has been strengthened as a "special strategic and global partnership".

The two-day summit beginning Sunday will seek to review the progress in ties and deepen strategic dimension of the bilateral relationship.

Modi was affectionately received by Abe on his arrival at the Hotel Mount Fuji in the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe depart for Tokyo by Express Train Kajiki, in Yamanashi, Japan on Sunday

scenic Yamanashi prefecture, west of Tokyo. "Delighted to meet PM @AbeShinzo in the picturesque prefecture of Yamanashi," Modi tweeted.

The two leaders "would be holding talks through the day on deepening India-Japan ties," Prime Minister Modi's office

said.

The two leaders took a stroll in the garden following which Abe hosted a luncheon for Modi at the scenic resort by Mount Fuji.

Modi presented Abe two handcrafted stone bowls and dhurries made from rose

quartz and yellow quartz stone sourced from Rajasthan. A Jodhpuri wooden chest from Rajasthan with traditional work was also presented. The gifts were specially crafted on the occasion of Modi's visit to Japan.

Continued on Page 4

Minor raped, killed in Thakurganj

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Unidentified miscreant(s) killed an eight-year-old girl allegedly after sexually assaulting her in Thakurganj on Saturday night. The incident came to light on Sunday morning and a huge number of residents flocked the scene. Seeing the corpse of the minor girl, who was bleeding through her ear and bore several bruises on her body, the residents took to protest against the police apathy and inaction.

As per reports, the girl of Mohiniapurwa locality of Thakurganj, along with children of her age group, had gone to attend majlis near her house on Saturday night. But she did not return home. Her parents thought she would have stayed at the house of her grandparents who live close to the place where Majlis was held on Saturday and so they waited for her. On Sunday morning, the girl's father went out to search for her but did not find her anywhere including at the house of her grandparents. He later lodged a case on Sunday.

Details on Page 3

Boxing champ-turned gangster held

Vicky had jumped interim bail in a Rohtak student's murder case; was carrying reward of ₹50K

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A junior national boxing champion Vicky (28) — allegedly joined Ashok Pradhan gang to threaten witnesses in a murder case he was involved in — was arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police from Mohan Garden area in Dwarka, police said on Sunday.

After receiving a tip-off that the gang had roped in gangster Vicky, who was involved in the murder of a student at Jat College, Rohtak, a team of Special Cell investigating Pradhan gang's activities turned up at the spot.

"Regular efforts were made to nab Vicky, Pradhan and

their other absconding associates. Finally, on Saturday, at about 4 pm, after getting information that Pradhan and Vicky will arrive at Dwarka, Mohan Garden in West Delhi to meet some of their close aides, a raiding party was rushed to the spot," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said.

In April 2018, during students' election at Jat College in Rohtak, he supported Hardik. Following a quarrel with some people, he along with four associates murdered the student near a Dhaba at Sheela bypass, Rohtak, police said.

"And on Saturday, Vicky was found wandering near the



spot and it appeared that he was waiting for his accomplices to turn up. However, even till 6.10 pm, neither Pradhan nor any other person turned up to

meet him. After seeing police, he started to run away from the spot but was arrested. One loaded semi-automatic country made pistol with two live rounds were recovered from his possession," said the DCP.

During interrogation, the accused told police that he had joined Pradhan gang to terrorise witnesses in the murder case he was involved in. He wanted the witnesses to either turn hostile or reach a compromise, police said.

But Pradhan asked Vicky to help him identify and trace one Sunil Kumar of Najafgarh, whom Pradhan suspected to be a sympathiser of their rival Tullu gang, said police, adding that there is a long history of gang war in Najafgarh, Alipur and adjoining areas of Delhi, said police.

"Gogi gang is one among the desperate gangs having rivalry with Tullu gang. Both

the gang members keep on roping in new recruits and also members of other gangs. It is learnt through sources, that as of now, Pradhan has joined hands with Gogi gang and roped in Vicky," said an officer looking after the case.

According to police, Vicky was previously arrested in nine cases, including a murder case, rioting, and attempt to murder case and more. He was first arrested in 2011, in a murder case and remained in jail for 13 months.

"He was arrested in the case of murder of the student but on July 2018, he obtained four-day interim bail to attend the marriage function of his brother and sister, however, he did not surrender afterwards and jumped the bail. A reward of ₹50,000 was declared by Haryana Police for his arrest," the DCP said.

Ex-ISRO chief Nair joins BJP

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chief G Madhavan Nair joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in the presence of party president Amit Shah.

Several other people including politicians from other parties also joined the saffron bandwagon before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Among those who joined the party were former president of the Travancore Devaswom Board and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee executive committee member G Raman Nair BJP on Saturday inducted five prominent personalities from Kerala into their party.

Nair headed ISRO from 2003 to 2009.

Missing 8-yr-old girl's body found in trolley bag at park

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An eight-year-old girl, who had gone missing from North Delhi district a few days ago, was found murdered on Sunday. Her body stuffed in a trolley bag was recovered from the Yamuna Biodiversity Park, police said on Sunday.

Police officials suspect that the girl was sexually assaulted before being murdered. Police are also scanning through profiles of missing girls and trying to identify the deceased, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Nupur Prasad said.

Once the process is over and body identified parents of the missing girl will be informed with chances high of police getting further lead into the crime to crack the case. According to police, at around 7.30 am, a call was



received about an unclaimed bag lying near the roadside and the body was found stuffed inside the bag. Preliminary reports said the body had strangulation marks on the neck, indicating that she might have been strangled to death.

"A cloth was tied around her neck," the DCP said. The body was taken to the Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital for post-mortem examination. The DCP said a crime team has visited the spot.

8-year-old raped, killed



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Unidentified miscreant(s) killed an eight-year-old girl allegedly after sexually assaulting her in Thakurganj on Saturday night. The incident came to light on Sunday morning and a huge number of residents flocked to the scene. Seeing the corpse of the minor girl, who was bleeding through her ear and bore several bruises on her body, the residents took to protest against the police apathy and inaction. As per reports, the girl of Mohinipurwa locality of Thakurganj, along with children of her age group, had gone to attend majlis near her house on Saturday night. But

WHAT WERE POLICE DOING?

The case came as a who-dunit for the Lucknow police as the Thakurganj police were in the dark about the miscreants till the last report came in. Sources, however, said some person(s), who were well acquainted with the girl, would be behind the crime. "For the children in the locality, it's a routine to attend majlis whenever it takes place in the locality.

The area used to remain abuzz with activities and so there is little threat perception in the mind of parents and they used to allow their children to go all alone. The girl

probably got busy in playing on the way and someone lured her and then executed the crime," the sources said. On the other hand, the residents lambasted the Thakurganj police for failing to put a curb on the crime front. "In the recent past, two brothers — Imran and Arman — were peppered with bullets in full public view. Even as some of the accused in the above mentioned case are yet to be nabbed, another heart-wrenching case was reported. What the police were doing?" they questioned.

she did not return home. Her parents thought she would have stayed at the house of her grandparents who live close to the place where Majlis was held on Saturday and so they waited for her. On Sunday morning, the girl's father went out to search for her but did not find her anywhere including at the house of her grandparents. He later lodged a case with the police at 11.31 am on Sunday.

After a case was registered, the police swung into action and started searching for the missing girl. Around 12.30 pm, some residents informed the police about a girl's body lying in the thickets near Gaughat power house. Later, the girl's father went to the place and he identified the body. Initially, the Thakurganj police assigned sub-inspector Avansh Singh to probe the case. Later, when the girl was

found murdered after sexual assault, the case was assigned to Thakurganj SHO Anjani Kumar Pandey.

"I have asked the police to register a case of murder, rape and also slap provisions of POCSO Act on unidentified miscreant(s). The father of the girl had suspected rape and murder. The circumstantial evidence also indicate the same," SSP Kalanidhi Naithani said. Defending public criticism that the police acted late in the case and that resulted into the murder of the girl, SHO said a case was registered immediately after the girl's father lodged a case with the police. He said the police had obtained the autopsy report and section of murder, rape would be added to the case.

The autopsy report remained inconclusive about the sexual assault. The SHO claimed that the girl was attacked on her head and was smothered to death by miscreants. "The report on sexual assault is inconclusive. We are sending the sample of swab to the forensic lab for further examination. If the report ascertains the sexual assault, the section of rape will be added to the case," he said.

KGMU institutes 3 new awards

Two to be given away at convocation on Thursday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

King George's Medical University has instituted three new awards this year and two will be awarded at the convocation on Thursday. KGMU authorities said that one of them was the late Dr Ram Behari Singh Rathore Gold Medal, which would be awarded to Priyanshi Dudeja who topped in Surgery in the MBBS final professional university examination.

"The other two are in the nursing discipline which include Padma Shri Dr Sabyasachi Sarkar Gold Medal to be awarded to Pallavi Rai, who obtained highest aggregate marks in MSc Nursing (first year and second year) in the university examination for the year 2017. The other new award in nursing which is the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal which will be given to the student who has topped in all the professional years and this will be awarded the next year," a

faculty member said.

The Lifetime Achievement Award for Eminent Faculty Member (past or present) of Medicine and Allied Superspeciality for the year 2018 will be awarded to Dr CG Agarwal. He is credited to have changed the OPD practice of medicine from simply writing a drug prescription to making a small case sheet which is now much more prevalent with my students in practice. Among his several achievements are starting a large diabetes clinic in KGMU 1973, catering to almost 5,000 to 7,000 diabetics per year with facilities for free medical and biochemical check-ups, including ophthalmic and neuro consultations. He started diabetes and hypertension detection camps with free medical and sugar check-ups every month on the outskirts of the city whereby more than 300 patients were not only checked but provided free medicines from collaborating pharmaceuticals.



From these camps the realisation came that diabetes is much more common than thought of since in each camp 08-12 fresh cases were detected. He advocated that infections could be controlled but life style diseases with a genetic background like diabetes had grown into epidemic proportions. He said that state, individuals and professionals together by following preventive measures could contain

this epidemic since non-communicable diseases are great killers and containing them is more important than preparing for wars. He devoted most of his time in research at a bench in CDRI and in his clinics till 1980 when at age 36 he realised that medicine is all about patients and a physician should be patient-centric first. This changed the medical researcher in him into a practising physician.

Hosp manager held hostage; ₹1.5L looted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Law and order touched its nadir when a group of miscreants held a manager and staff of a private hospital hostage at the gun-point and looted Rs 1.5 lakh in Vibhuti Khand police station area on Sunday evening when the entire Lucknow police were on patrolling following instructions from senior officials. ASP (North) Anoop Singh said the findings did not match with the claims made by the hospital manager but the police would register a case as per the complaint. Manager of Rishi Hospital Sohrab Ahmad said he was sitting in his cabin when an unidentified man reached there. "He introduced himself as Anuj Yadav and told me that he had to discuss something. He sat on a chair and trained a pistol at me all of a sudden. His 6-7 aides also reached the hospital and asked the patients and their attendants to leave," Ahmad added. He said the miscreants collected cash from the reception counter and left the scene while brandishing the pistol in the air. The ASP (North) said it surfaced that Ahmad was acquainted with some of the miscreants and most probably with the man who first came to the hospital. "It surfaced that the man, who came first, was in a drunken state and lost his cool when he was asked to leave the hospital. The miscreant later called his friends who reached the scene and broke flower pots and other furniture at the hospital. They apparently had differences with the hospital staff. We will register a case as per the complaint," he said.

Lucknow's air quality index continues to be 'very poor'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The air quality index of the state capital continues to be 'very poor' with the Central Pollution Control Board figures displaying 'AQI 323' on Sunday. A scientist from Indian Institute of Toxicological Research (IITR) said the main reason for the increase in pollution was due to the winter setting in and pollutants caused by the traffic and burning of garbage not dispersing with the velocity of wind being low. "There are other reasons too. There is a lot of dust because of the construction activities and it has increased the pollution levels in the city. Moreover, with the passage of

vehicles through the mud, the scattered pollutants are not dispersed," he added. "It is advisable for joggers not to step out early morning because with deep breathing, they may also inhale the pollutants. The main culprit is the PM 2.5 (particulate matter)," he pointed out. Ankita Jyoti, who is working as an environmentalist at Centre of Energy and Environment (CEE), said though the concern area was said to be New Delhi, the air pollution in Lucknow was also alarming. "Reactionary measures like formulation and implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan are required. It is also essential for the government to issue health advisory to prevent the exposure of pollutants.



It should also be kept in mind that pollution is not a seasonal affair, but a year-round phenomenon. The state government should chalk out an

affirmative 'Clean Air Action Plan' and a targeted action plan to reduce emissions from all sources. It's time to prioritise the fight against air pollution," she added. Lead campaigner of the Climate Agenda Ekta Shekhar said that critical air pollution days were here again with winters approaching.

"It's been a long-pending demand of the Climate Agenda that SPCB must prepare a 'Clean Air Action Plan' and ensure its implementation. One action plan must be in place under National Clean Air Action Plan. The only solution is to work out a long-term action plan," she said. IITR scientists said that air pollution creates a series of significant health problems,

including premature deaths, aggravated asthma, acute respiratory symptoms and decreased lung function in the form of shortness of breath, chronic bronchitis, etc. Particulate matter is also a major cause of visibility impairment enhancing coefficient of haze in many parts of Asian countries and the United States because these particles can scatter and absorb light. "Further fine particles can remain suspended in air and travel long distances across regional and international borders without sinking and settling. Numerous epidemiological studies indicate that an increase in particulate matter concentration is associated with increased mortality, increased hospitalisation for respira-

tory and cardiovascular diseases, increased respiratory symptoms and decreased lung functions. PM 2.5 and PM 10, when inhaled, penetrate beyond the larynx. Small particles penetrate deeply into the lungs and can cause respiratory disease such as emphysema and bronchitis, and aggravate existing heart disease. Ultra fine particles ranging from 0.001 to 0.1 micron in diameter are able to penetrate deep into the lungs and to the alveolar sacs where gaseous exchange occurs. These particles increase the rates of blood flow and vascular permeability to white blood cells, elevating clotting activity, constriction of the airways and fever induction," a scientist explained.

Domestic help found murdered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A 17-year-old domestic help of a jeweller was murdered and his body was dumped in a park near Badi Kaliji Ka Mandir in Chowk on Sunday morning. The parents of the victim accused the employer and his aides of murdering their son and demanded registration of a murder case. As per reports, Amit of Kakori was working with jeweller Akash of Darji Ki Bagia of Saadatganj for the last five years. On Saturday, Amit left his house for his work place and did not return home. Around 8 am on Sunday, his father Suresh got a call from Akash and was told that Amit had gone to take a bath in Gomti river and died of drowning. Akash called up Suresh again and he said that Amit had gone to attend a 'jagran' and later died. "On the information, I went out to search for him and found my son's body lying in



the Jagannath park. I had a gut feeling that Akash and his aides had killed Amit on some dispute and dumped his body in the park to hide their crime," he alleged. "On Suresh's complaint, the police registered a case of murder and also for destroying evidence against Akash and his unidentified aides," the media cell officials told newsmen during the press briefing. They said they had no information regarding the autopsy report and further course of police action. "We are not given that

piece of information," a constable manning the cell said.

Chowk SHO Umesh Srivastava said Amit was not missing. "He was lighting fire-crackers around 12 night on Saturday and was found dead on Sunday morning. Accused Akash is in contact with the police and is helping the police in investigation. He is not absconding and also not under detention," the SHO said.

About the autopsy report, the SHO said Amit had multiple head injuries. "It seems that Amit was repeatedly hit on the head by some heavy object. We are yet to find out the motive for the murder," he said.

Giving a clean chit to prime suspect Akash, the SHO said he was keeping Amit for the last five years as his family member. "Akash had no any motive that he would kill Amit," he said. Sources said the police recovered a whitener and some pouches having a smack or some psychotropic substance.

Complaints will be redressed in 30 days after online submission: CM



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the new building of Sadar Tehsil and also launched the online facility for undisputed

heirship, inheritance and certificates.

In his address, the Chief Minister said that for the general public to benefit from government schemes, it was important that there should be

proper infrastructure facilities. He said such facilities would be available in the new building. The Chief Minister said it was challenging to stop revenue-related disputes but control over the same could be

NEW SADAR TEHSIL BUILDING INAUGURATED

maintained through adoption of technology and inauguration of the online system was for the same purpose. He said that through this, matters would be resolved in a matter of 30 days after e-submissions. Yogi said that good administration means to help the people get benefits of government schemes, to ensure justice and opportunities to people to put forth their views without fear. He said it was with the aim of providing good administration that 'Tehsil Diwas' was observed as 'Sampoorn Samadhan Diwas'.

He said the government had made efforts to improve law and order and it had resulted in the state getting good investments that would give employment to over 10 lakh youths. The occasion also witnessed the presence of senior administration officials.

साफ नीयत-सही विकास

अन्तर्राज्यीय बस सेवाओं को सुगम एवं सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिये उत्तर प्रदेश एवं उत्तराखण्ड राज्यों के मध्य पारस्परिक परिवहन समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर कार्यक्रम

एवं

उत्तर प्रदेश परिवहन निगम की 51 प्रयागराज कुम्भ शटल बसों का शुभारम्भ

मुख्य अतिथि

योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

त्रिवेन्द्र सिंह रावत
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

के कर-कमलों द्वारा
गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

स्वतंत्र देव सिंह
राज्यमंत्री, परिवहन (स्वतंत्र प्रभार),
प्रोटोकाल एवं ऊर्जा (MOS), उत्तर प्रदेश

यशपाल आर्य
परिवहन मंत्री,
उत्तराखण्ड

दिनांक: 29 अक्टूबर, 2018 समय: पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे
स्थान: 5, कालिदास मार्ग, लखनऊ

सड़क सुरक्षा-जीवन रक्षा परिवहन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश सड़क सुरक्षा-जीवन रक्षा

Youngsters throng employment fair

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Thousands of job-seekers thronged the premises of Jai Narain PG College (KKC), Station Road, Charbagh, in Lucknow to participate in the three-day-long Skill India Rozgar Mela, organised from October 26 to 28. One of the largest job fairs in the state, the Rozgar Mela witnessed overwhelming participation from nearly 80+ corporates and registered a footfall of over 15,000 skill seekers and job aspirants. Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma attended the closing ceremony on Sunday.

The job fair provided an opportunity to the job-seekers to learn more about potential employers and various employment opportunities available, including entrepreneurship. It also offered a platform to the organisations to meet potential employees in an informal setting. Some of the leading corporates and organisations which participated in the event were Bajaj Capital, Taj Vivanta, NIIT Ltd, Aarohan Micro Finances, Bharti Telemedia, Muthoot Microfin, G4S



Securities, Naturals and Carnival Films among others. More than 3,000 candidates were selected as customer relations executives, HR junior executives, beauty therapists,

machine operators, sales executives etc. The job fair brought skilled candidates in direct contact with the recruiters, HR managers, admission officers and advisory bodies/train-

ing providers. "We are committed to creating and providing employment opportunities to the youths of UP. The focus of youths should be on honing their skills to get the

jobs of their choice. The government is putting in a lot of efforts in empowering youths with skills and education which can help them to become successful in their lives," Sharma said. More than 5,000 youths were counselled under a new initiative called 'Skill Sathi', where they were informed about various skill development schemes under the Skill India Mission. 'Skill Saathi's aim is to guide the youths to make informed choices for courses and skill training. It gave information on various courses available under fee-based programmes and different government schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Apprenticeship among others.

Apart from this a Kaushal Mela (Skills' Exhibition) was also organised. The Kaushal Mela, represented by various training providers and Sector Skill Councils brought a plethora of skills/trades available for vocational training in various sectors such as Automobile, IT&ITES, Retail, Healthcare, Beauty, Agriculture and many more.

Krishi Kumbh: 'Kadakhnath' the most enquired subject



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

'Kadakhnath' was one of the most enquired subjects during 'Krishi Kumbh', which concluded on Sunday. Director of Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) Shailendra Rajan said they developed mango orchard-based poultry farming technology which had become popular among the farmers, not only for enhancing their income three-fold but also for reducing pest population in the orchards.

"Many farmers from Unnao, Sitapur, Hardoi and Barabanki showed keen interest in adopting this technology developed under 'Farmer FIRST' project by CISH," he pointed out.

Mohammad Shafiq, a

Malihabad farmer, has put up a stall of 'Kadakhnath' poultry developed in mango orchard, creating interest among the community. The egg production capacity of 'Kadakhnath' is low which restricts its large-scale multiplication. CISH has supported farmers to get parental stock of 'Kadakhnath' which is now being maintained by farmers. This will help mango-growers rear 'Kadakhnath' in their orchards.

"Malihabad, known for Dussehri, will also be known for Kadakhnath in days to come," Rajan said.

Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (Varanasi) displayed live samples of many vegetable varieties and also provided kitchen garden kits to the visitors. Technologies developed for vegetable production

were displayed and the farmers sought to know about the newly-developed varieties.

Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR) also exhibited many technologies. Most of the ICAR institutes situated in North India participated in the 'Krishi Kumbh'. Twenty institutes showcased their technologies and provided information to the visiting farmers.

At the CISH stall, the visitors were attracted by the red-coloured varieties of mango and guava. "The information available on the internet is misleading at times and farmers were happy to get first-hand information about rare varieties which they had only heard about. They are interested in purchasing genuine plant material," the CISH director said.

63.5% candidates appear in UP PCS-2018 prelims



Candidates coming out of UPSC Bhawan after appearing in PCS prelims on Sunday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The preliminary examination of UP PCS-2018 passed off without any major glitches on Sunday. Joint secretary of Uttar Pradesh Public Services Commission DS Pandey said no untoward incident was reported from any of the 140 centres across the city. The attendance was the maximum this year with 63.5 per cent candidates appearing in the exam out of the total registered candidates (66,000). "There was a reason for the

good attendance. This time, the Commission allotted the home district to candidates and hence they turned in large numbers. In the past years, the attendance usually normally 50-51 per cent," Pandey said.

He pointed out that they received a positive feedback from the candidates regarding the question paper as well as the arrangements made for the same. He said the results were expected to be declared in 2-3 months. The candidates are also awaiting the results of 2016 and 2017 Mains.

Some of the candidates said they had also qualified the prelims of 2016 and 2017 and were now awaiting the results even as they appeared in the exam on Sunday.

Majority of the student found the exam moderate and balanced in terms of questions asked in General Studies and CSAT. "The questions in General Studies covered all areas such as history, environment and current affairs. However, the negative marking made the examination tougher," a candidate said.

Plumber's body found in orchard

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A 29-year-old plumber was found murdered in a mango grove in Nagram on Sunday. Police sent the body for autopsy and further investigations are underway.

As per reports, some villagers spotted the body lying in an orchard owned by Yogendra of Asaligarhi village of Nagram and informed village pradhan Brahmawati. On the information, Brahmawati reached the place and later she informed the police about the recovery of the body. "Some of the villagers and I identified the man as Rajesh of Asaligarhi locality of the area. Later, his family members were called and they also identified the body. We later called the police," Brahmawati told sub-inspector Arvind who, along with a team, reached the place to conduct investigation.

The police spokesman said the body bore no marks of injuries when examined prima facie. "The victim's body was lying about 350 metres away from his house. The autopsy report will confirm the cause of death," the police spokesman said. The media cell of Lucknow police tried its best to control the damage by propagating the news as natural

death of the victim in the case. However, some villagers shared the information related to the incident to newsmen and the cops had to come up with the real facts related to the incident.

Meanwhile, a two days old body of an unidentified man was recovered from a pond in Kali Bheet locality of Kali Paschim in PGI police station area on Sunday morning. The villagers suspected a foul play saying that the man was done to death and his body was dumped in the water body to hide the crime. The police, however, claimed that the body bore no marks of injuries and claimed that the man had died of drowning.

MISHAP

A bus ferrying passengers knocked a bike and later caught fire at Lohia crossing in Gomti Nagar on Sunday night. The bus hit the bike from behind and due to impact, the rider went flying in the air and his vehicles came under wheels of the bus. The bike, dragged to several feet, caught fire and the flames also engulfed the bus. The biker was admitted to hospital while all the passengers were safe. The person injured was identified as Vinay Sharma (36) of Telibagh.

Motive for firing baffles police

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In the Vibhuti Khand firing incident in which a labourer had suffered firearm injuries on Saturday night, it surfaced that the bullet was fired from a country-made pistol from a construction site.

SSP Kalandidhi Naithani ruled out the possibility of firing by some persons who had checked in hotels around the crime scene and said a team inspected hotels in the area. "The facing sides of some of the hotels in question were found intact. The facing sides are made of glass sheets and fibre and these sheets were found intact," he said.

He said Gomti Nagar CO Avnishwar Srivastava led the

investigation. "In all probability, the firing was made from a construction site close to the one where Raju was working. He was working on the third floor of the under-construction building when suffered the injuries," he said. The SSP added that the police had recovered the bullet shell and were investigating the case.

Sources said no blackening was found on the palm of the victim and so there was no possibility that Raju fired himself and suffered a firearm injury subsequently. "But the lack of motive for the attack has baffled cops. Raju, who is out of danger and still recuperating, denied any enmity with any person," the sources said. They said the police had

detained some persons and were interrogating them. "The persons rounded up included some of the labourers/workers hired by the contractor who is carrying out the work at the construction site," the sources said.

They said it was not the first case when a firing incident occurred in the Gomti Nagar locality. A few months back, a puri vendor had died of firearm injuries at a market (near Patrakarpuram crossing) in Gomti Nagar. The police initially had claimed that the bullet was fired from an air gun but later came up with an explanation that a supervisor on the market had fired when he was shooing away a gang of monkeys.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MODI, ABE VISIT...

After luncheon, both Prime Ministers visited the FANUC industrial facility, which specialises in automation. "Taking our cooperation to modern and advanced technologies. PM @narendramodi and PM @AbeShinzo visited the FANUC Corporation, one of the largest makers of industrial robots in the world in #Yamanashi, and toured the robotics and automation facilities," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted. Prime Minister Modi was briefed on the various robotic and automation capabilities of FANUC, Ministry of External Affairs officials said. Both the leaders observed several illustrations of the working of industrial robots. At the motor assembly facility, they witnessed the assembling of a motor by a robot in 40 seconds, officials added. FANUC contributes to the manufacturing industry in Japan and other countries, including India, by promoting automation and efficiency in manufacturing.

Later in the evening, Abe in a special gesture hosted Modi at his personal villa near Lake Kawaguchi in Yamanashi for a private dinner. It is the first time that Abe has invited a foreign political leader to his holiday home in the village of Narusawa in the prefecture.

"Extremely grateful to PM @AbeShinzo for the warm reception at his home. I am truly honoured by this gesture. PM Abe also taught me the Japanese way of eating food using chopsticks," Modi tweeted. In September

last year, Modi had hosted Abe in his home state of Gujarat.

"Tete-a-tete in front of a fireplace. Japanese PM @AbeShinzo hosted PM @narendramodi at his personal villa near Lake Kawaguchi in #Yamanashi. PM Modi is the first foreign leader to be invited to the villa," Kumar tweeted. After the dinner, the two leaders left for Tokyo by train. The two prime ministers spent about eight hours together, MEA officials said.

Yamanashi, at a distance of around 110 kilometres from Tokyo, is surrounded by several mountains including Mount Fuji - the country's tallest peak at around 3,776 metres.

They will hold a formal summit Monday in Tokyo, during which strengthening bilateral security and economic cooperation is expected to be high on the agenda. Ahead of his departure from New Delhi, Modi described India and Japan as a 'winning combination' and said the island nation was New Delhi's most trusted partner in its economic and technological modernisation.

Modi said it will be his 12th meeting with Abe since he first visited Japan as prime minister in September 2014.

"The India-Japan partnership has been fundamentally transformed and it has been strengthened as a 'special strategic and global partnership'," Modi told the Kyodo News Friday. "There are no negatives but only opportunities in this relationship which are waiting to be seized," he added. During the formal summit Monday,

Modi will engage with Abe on a range of issues including defence and regional security. Besides bilateral issues, the two leaders are expected to deliberate on a range of regional and global issues including the situation in the Indo-Pacific region. It is said the Prime Minister's visit will reaffirm the traditional bonds of friendship between the two countries and strengthen their multi-faceted cooperation in diverse fields.

India is also hoping to have some kind of synergy or integration between Modi's Ayushman Bharat scheme, which is the largest medicare programme of its kind globally, and the Japanese programme which is called Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative. Prime Minister Modi has said projects such as Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail and Dedicated Freight Corridors reflected the high level and "strength of our economic engagement".

"Japan is also at the forefront of engaging in our national initiatives, such as 'Make in India', 'Skill India', 'Digital India', 'Start Up India'... Japanese investors have faith in India's economic future, which is marked with myriad opportunities," Modi said. Modi will also address the Indian community function in Tokyo and will attend a series of business events and address the business forum.

SHOOTING DEEPENS...

He was making arrogant arbitrary decisions making a mockery of collective responsibility," Sirisena charged. "There was a huge gap in policy agreement between the

two of us. I believe the cultural and policy differences between us contributed to this political and economic crisis," he said. Sirisena also accused the United National Party (UNP) leader of treating very lightly the alleged plot to assassinate him. The President last week accused his unity Government partner of Wickremesinghe's UNP of going slow on the investigations after a man named Namal Kumara in mid-September disclosed the alleged plot to assassinate him and former Defence Minister Gotabhaya Rajapaksa. "Having taken into consideration all crisis, the political and economic as well as the assassination plot on me, I was only left with one alternative which was to appoint former President Mahinda Rajapaksa as the Prime Minister," Sirisena said. Rejecting Wickremesinghe's allegation that his sacking was unconstitutional and illegal, he said, "I must make it very clear that the new appointment (of Rajapaksa) was made on expert legal advice in strict accordance with the Constitution." Sirisena's remarks came after the Speaker urged him to restore Wickremesinghe's privileges as the leader of the government who has "obtained a mandate to secure democracy and good governance". Jayasuriya said a prerogative of Parliament should be one in consultation with the Speaker. Sirisena's decision to suspend the Parliament until November 16 was seen as an effort to coerce legislators into supporting Rajapaksa. Wickremesinghe has refused

to vacate the Prime Minister's official residence-cum-office of Temple Trees. The political crisis in the island nation on Sunday triggered violence as one person was killed and two others injured as the bodyguards of Petroleum Minister Arjuna Ranatunga, a Wickremesinghe loyalist, fired live rounds when supporters of Rajapaksa threatened the cabinet member. The political developments, which has thrown the country into a constitutional crisis, unfolded after Sirisena's broader political front United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) announced that it has decided to quit the unity Government with Wickremesinghe's UNP. Sirisena and Wickremesinghe had joined to form a Government of national unity in 2015 to bring in constitutional and governance reforms including a new Constitution to address the long-standing issues of the Tamil minority. Sri Lanka nearly faced economic sanctions from the West over Rajapaksa's brutal military crackdown on the banned LTTE. The LTTE sought a separate Tamil homeland in the northern and eastern provinces of the island nation for nearly 30 years before its collapse in 2009 after the Sri Lankan Army killed its supreme leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

BJP HITS...

"The Congress claims to represent the heritage of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. Today, under the presidency of Rahul Gandhi, it has been reduced to hurling

abuses and the worst form of civil discourse," he told reporters in Delhi. He said while he would not like to comment on Tharoor's remarks "against whom a charge sheet has been filed in a murder case", but want to know where Rahul Gandhi, who claims to be a Shiv Bhakt, stands on the issue. "Gandhi claims to be a Shiv Bhakt now he should make it clear whether he supports Tharoor's remarks which are an insult to Lord Shiva. If he does not support the remarks he should apologise to the Hindus," Prasad said. "The whole nation is watching... While Rahul Gandhi who claims himself to be a Shiv Bhakt, one of his small leaders has almost abused the sanctity of Shivalinga and Lord Mahadev by referring to chappal attack through named sources. Please reply to this very horrific denunciation of Lord Mahadev," he added. As his speech stirred a controversy, Tharoor tweeted, clarifying that the comments were not made by him. In view of the unseemly demonisation of an out of context remark today involving a scorpion metaphor, my book #TheParadoxicalPrimeMinister & footnotes this article. Please see the last paragraph of this article, he said. "This comment (not by me) has been in the public domain for six years. RS Prasad making an issue of a 6-yr old quote shows how little new the BJP has to offer the nation. As for media subservience the BJP's desire for 'controversy', when will this profession develop any self-respect?" he asked in another tweet.

CITYBRIEFS

CONFERENCE ON CJs FROM NOV 16

The 19th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World (ICJJW-2018), organised under the aegis of City Montessori School, will be held from November 16 to 20. Former presidents, prime ministers, speakers of Parliament, ministers of justice, etc from 19 countries, along with over 300 chief justices, judges and legal luminaries from 70 countries, will arrive at Lucknow to pave the way for ensuring a safe and secure future for the 2.5 billion children of the world through their participation in the conference.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Giri Institute is organising the 14th Annual Conference of Uttar Pradesh Uttarakhand Economic Association on Monday. It will be inaugurated by West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi on Monday. Media spokesperson of the institute Anuradha Kakkar said the prime objective of the conference was to

bring together academicians, researchers, NGOs and industry experts on a common platform in the interest of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand's development prerogatives.

VASTU TIPS

A session on Vastu tips for health, wealth and prosperity by Vimal Jhajharia will be organised by FICCI FLO on Monday. Jhajharia, who is renowned for his Vastu expertise and guidance, has widely earned his reputation for consultation in providing remedies without destruction and that is what he will be covering in the session. According to chairperson of FLO Lucknow Renuka Tandon, most believe that Vastu corrections come at a significant cost due to the construction and demolition involved. "This is the myth we want to dispel with the help of Jhajharia's expertise. The timing couldn't have been more appropriate as most people get busy with remodeling or renovating their spaces before Diwali," she said.

SCHOOLSCAN



WORLD UNITY SATSANG

Speaking at World Unity Satsang, organised at City Montessori School's Gomti Nagar auditorium on Sunday, school's founder-director Bharti Gandhi said that world peace and global brotherhood was the supreme thing because the world exists on the foundation of unity, peace, cordiality and compatibility and the welfare of world humanity largely depends on it. Earlier, students presented several educational-cultural items.

India united because of Sardar Patel: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ignoring criticism of the Congress that he was trying to usurp the legacy of freedom fighters and legends like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Subhash Chandra Bose, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday credited Patel with uniting India after partition and said it was his timely intervention which helped save Jammu & Kashmir from "aggression".

Last Sunday, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Azad Hind Government formed by Netaji, Modi had unfurled the National Flag at the Red Fort and targeted the Nehru-Gandhi family for "neglecting" the contribution of nationalist leaders like Bose. In the past also,

Modi had been highly critical of the Congress for allegedly backstabbing "Patel and Netaji". While Congress feels that this was Modi's way of slighting Nehru, the BJP leaders have maintained that the PM was only trying to place the history in true perspective.

In his monthly 'Mann ki



Baat' radio address, Modi also urged the youth to participate in large numbers in the 'run for unity' being organised on October 31 to mark the birth anniversary of Patel.

Modi said, "If we are able to see a united India now, it is entirely on account of the sagacity and strategic wisdom of Sardar Patel."

He said this year, October

31 will be special as the statue of unity will be dedicated to the nation as a "true tribute" to Sardar Patel. Erected on the banks of the River Narmada in Gujarat, the structure is twice the height of the Statue of Liberty in the US.

"This is the world's tallest statue. Every Indian will now be proud to see the world's tallest statue here on Indian soil. Sardar

Patel, a true son of the soil will adorn our skies too," he said.

In his address, the Prime Minister also paid tributes to late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary, which is also on October 31. "October 31 also is the death anniversary of our former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Our respectful tributes to Indira ji too," he said.

The Prime Minister pointed out that Infantry Day is observed every year on October 27 as the first Indian soldiers had set their foot in Jammu and Kashmir to take on intruders from Pakistan.

Quoting late Field Marshal S H F J Manekshaw, he said Patel was "irked" at the delay in initiating military action to evict the aggressors.

He said, in an interview Manekshaw had recalled that as a colonel then he was part of a meeting where Patel was irked on the delay in sending troops to Kashmir.

"During the proceedings, Sardar Patel gave him (Manekshaw) a characteristic glance and reiterated that there

should be no delay in our Army operation and that a solution should be sought swiftly. And immediately after that, our troops flew to Kashmir... We've seen how our Army was successful," Modi said.

He recalled that in January, 1947 the Time magazine had profiled Patel and described him as a person who possessed the capability to unite the country and "heal wounds".

Mahatma Gandhi, the PM said, considered Patel as the only one capable of finding a lasting solution to the vexed issue of the states and asked him to act. "Sardar Patel formulated solutions one by one, weaving the warp and weft of unity on the axis of a single thread. He ensured the merger of all princely states with the Dominion of India. Whether Junagadh, Hyderabad, Travancore, or for that matter the princely states of Rajasthan, if we are able to see a united India now, it was entirely on account of the sagacity and strategic wisdom of Sardar Patel," Modi said.

Keep rotating officers holding key posts: CVC

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Concerned with instances of alleged irregularities in public sector banks, insurance companies and Central Government departments, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has directed to make sure personnel did not stay in sensitive posts for too long. The most recent direction is a reiteration of its earlier order instructing these institutions to implement a rotational transfer policy for officers who have been in sensitive posts more than three years.

The move assumes significance as the CVC while dealing with a case pertaining to a public sector bank and insurance companies recently noticed that a high ranking official, who was associated with procurements etc, was posted in the department for an unduly long period which is against the spirit of the

Commission's guidelines. CVC officials said that its directive also stands for central government departments and public sector units.

The CVC repeated its observation that rotational transfer policies for officials in such posts would mitigate the probability of such scams occurring. Stating that it was the non-implementation of the rotational policy that has led to many frauds, CVC said: "It is once again reiterated that rotational transfers of officers continuing beyond three years may be strictly carried out from sensitive seats/posts," adding however, that this advice was for changes from the sensitive seat/post, and not necessarily from the station, which is to be governed by the policy of respective organisations.

"Analysis of frauds that have taken place in public sector banks as well as other

organisations shows that one of the reasons for such frauds was non-implementation of the rotational policy," the CVC stated in its order. It has also asked heads or Chief Vigilance Officers to strictly ensure that the rotational policy is implemented in their respective organisations.

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), over 23,000 cases of fraud involving a whopping ₹1 lakh crore have been reported in the past five years in various banks. "A total of 5,152 cases of fraud, up from over 5,000 cases in 2016-17, were reported in banks from April, 2017, to March 1, 2018, it had stated. The highest ever amount of ₹28,459 crore is said to have been involved in these cases of fraud reported from April, 2017, to March 1, 2018, the central bank said. In 2016-17, banks had reported 5,076 cases of fraud involving ₹23,933 crore.

Congress banking on old, new faces to regain power in C'garh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress is banking on a combination of new faces and old-timers to end its 15-year wait to rule in Chhattisgarh. Ensuring that representation is given to all sections of society and a large chunk to SC and ST candidates, the party has put out a third list for the 37 Assembly seats going to polls in the second and last phase of voting on November 20.

The grand old party also received a shot in the arm with its former leader and the first Chief Minister of State Ajit Jogi who has formed a different outfit and aligned with Mayawati's BSP, on Sunday said announced he will not target the Gandhi family. He claimed though he will fight the Congress tooth and nail in the upcoming State Assembly polls, he will not speak against the Gandhi family, with whom he

shared warm relations during his long tenure in the grand old party. Jogi left the Congress in 2016.

Congress has renominated 15 sitting MLAs and fielded 11 candidates, who had lost in 2013, besides giving tickets to 11 fresh faces. No sitting MLA was denied ticket in the third list. However, only three women figure in it. With this, the Opposition party has so far announced 55 candidates in the BJP-ruled state, which has a 90-member House.

State Congress chief Bhupesh Baghel (Patan seat), Congress Legislative Party leader T S Singhdeo (Ambikapur), senior Congress leader Satyanarayan Sharma (Raipur Rural) and prominent tribal leader Amarjeet Bhagat (Sitapur) were among the sitting MLAs who were given tickets.

State Congress working president Shiv Kumar

Dahariya, who had lost the previous election from Bilaigarh (SC) seat, has been fielded from Arang (SC) this time. Similarly, Guru Rudra Kumar, who had lost the 2013 election from Arang, has been given ticket from Ahiwara (SC).

Congress on Sunday also charged the Modi dispensation at the Centre and the Raman Singh Government in

Congress to launch manifesto website today

PNS: Seeking to strike a connect with the electorate, the Congress has said it wants to hear their voice and reflect that in the party's manifesto for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The chairman of the Congress Manifesto Committee, P Chidambaram, announced on Twitter that the party will

launch its manifesto website on Monday, where it wants the common people to give their opinion. Chidambaram heads the panel which is working out the party's manifesto for 2019 polls, during which the Congress is seeking to defeat the BJP and oust Modi with the help of like-minded parties.

Chhattisgarh for failing to contain naxal violence, saying the Chief Minister has forfeited his right to continue in power. He claimed that the various schemes launched by the previous UPA Government for naxal-affected and backward districts were discontinued by the present Government at the Centre just because they were implemented by a Congress-led dispensation.

Rly plans aircraft-like pressurised coaches for world's highest railway track in Leh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Centre approving the significant Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line along the Indo-China border making it the world's highest rail track, the Railways are now planning to use aircraft-like pressurised coaches in its trains so that passengers do not have breathing difficulties on board. Aircraft cabins are pressurised because the air is very thin at the altitude planes fly. To prevent complications, the cabins of many aircraft are adjusted to near sea-level pressure, which makes breathing almost the same as at sea level.

At a height of 5,360 metres above the sea level, the 465-km strategically significant line to be built at a cost of Rs 83,360 crore, will see railways' first pressurised coaches which are currently used only in the Quinghai-Tibet Railway Line in China. "Special pressurised rolling stock to deal with lack of oxygen will have to be used in these trains as passengers might feel uneasy because of the high altitude. These will be like the pressurised cabins used by aircraft to maintain the oxygen levels inside," said a senior Railway Ministry official.

The Chinese coaches, manufactured by



Canada's Bombardier Inc, which also makes small planes, are specially designed to carry passengers in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere. In order to do this, the train cars have to be pressurised, to ensure that all of the passengers do not finish their journey with severe cases of altitude sickness.

The official said that in the Tibet train, two kinds of systems are used to maintain oxygen levels — one is through the main controls which maintains standard oxygen levels and gets switched on at high altitude areas and the other is through oxygen ports equipped for each passenger to use when they feel that they lack oxygen.

The Integrated Coach Factory (ICF) which is in expansion mode is already pepping up to produce both metro coaches as well as coaches for the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train and could be roped

in to make coaches for the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line as well.

The line, once completed, will connect important locations between Bilaspur and Leh like Sundernagar, Mandi, Manali, Keylong, Koksar, Darcha, Upshi and Karu and other important towns of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir en route. The project will include 74 tunnels, 124 major bridges and 396 minor bridges, according to the first phase of the survey. Final location survey for the project is currently underway.

Besides this, the railways would spend an amount of ₹20,000 crore towards augmenting rolling stock which includes train coaches during 2019-20. Railway Board member (rolling stock) Rajesh Agrawal said the railways had done strategic planning for the financial rollout and there would be no problem for funds.

"The annual rolling stock production volume is around 6000 to 8000 coaches per year. However, we need to prioritise the requirements of the various railway zones and try to meet their demands," said Agrawal. He shared that some new coaches have come and waiting for CRS (Commission of Railway Safety) permission.

NSG military operations post headless for 6 months; force seeks MHA's intervention

New Delhi: India's elite counter-terror force NSG has been functioning without a regular military operations commander for the past six months, posing serious questions on the effectiveness of its combat readiness and planning in case of an impending contingency.

The special force has recently asked the Ministry of Home Affairs, under which it functions, to intervene and get an officer from the Army on board soon.

The post of Inspector General (Operations) is held by a Major General-rank officer on deputation from the Army, which, sources told PTI, has been vacant since April after incumbent Maj Gen Shashank Mishra moved to his cadre on promotion.

In the NSG hierarchy, the counter-terror and counter-hijack commando units are placed under the overall command of IG (Operations), a post based in the NSG headquarters in Delhi.

The NSG Director General (DG), an officer from the Indian Police Service, is the top commander of the force.

The sources said as no new Maj Gen rank-officer has been posted to the NSG till now, hence another IG of the force (IPS officer) is holding the post in an additional capacity. They said the non-availability of suitable officers from the Army has been the primary reason that the post is vacant.

While some officers prefer getting promoted in their cadre, in some cases they were not found suitable for the working of the NSG, that remains in combat readiness round-the-clock, they said.

"The IG Operations is the man who analyses the strengths and weaknesses of the counter-terror and counter-hijack teams in consultation with the force commander based at the NSG garrison in Manesar.

"He is responsible for the on-ground planning and execution of operations when the

commandos are deployed for a task," a senior official privy to NSG operations said.

This is the reason that the IG Operations is brought from the military as both the fighting units of the NSG-51 SAG and 52 SAG are manned by officers and jawans from the Special Forces and infantry of the Indian Army and it requires a special bonding and coordination between the two to ensure seamless, precise and successful operational results.

NSG DG Sudeep Lakhtakia told PTI that while it is important to have a full-time IG (Operations) he had "complete faith" in the capabilities of his Deputy IG (Operations) and Force Commander (a Brigadier-rank officer) in keeping a 24x7 readiness of the commandos.

"We are hopeful that a full-time IG (Operations) will join the NSG soon. Till then, the DIG and Force Commander are rendering the task and they are very capable officers," he told the news agency. **PTI**

DeMo: Manmohan Singh did not exercise his power when it was needed, says Puri

New Delhi: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Sunday took a dig at former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for terming demonetisation "organised loot", saying he did not exercise his authority when there was a dire situation.

Speaking at 'India Ideas Conclave' here, Puri also lambasted opposition leaders for joining hands with the Congress despite their lifelong struggle against the "one family" party.

"One worthy (former) prime minister termed demonetisation as organised loot. I don't know where he was getting his facts from," he said.

He accused Manmohan Singh of not exercising his "political power" when there was a need for him to do so.

"There was a group of men around Sonia Gandhi who were more effective decision makers. It (the situation) arose because Prime Minister of India was an appointee. He was an appointee and when he was appointed (as PM), the rules of Congress Parliamentary Party were changed. So it was not that an elected member of Parliament became prime minister but it was the other way

around," Puri said.

He also lashed out at efforts of political parties to cobble up an anti-BJP alliance by joining hands with the Congress.

"Look at the people who are coming together. There are people whose entire life is based on opposition to one family," the Union urban affairs minister said.

He asserted that the discourse for 2019 parliamentary elections will be determined by things like how many gas connections were allotted, how many toilets and PM Awas Yojna houses were built, Ayushman Bharat and not the Rafale deal issue raised by the Congress.

"That's what aspirational India is looking for and not some fictitious thing you do about an airplane whose name you can not pronounce," Puri said. He also differentiated between original and Latin American ways of pronouncing "Rafale".

"I keep telling them, it's Rafale. It's not Rafayale. Rafayale is a Latin American name if you have a connection with Latin America, otherwise it's a different name," he quipped. **PTI**

RBI Guv Urjit Patel to brief Parl panel on note ban on Nov 12

New Delhi: A parliamentary panel, of which former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is a member, has called RBI Governor Urjit Patel for the third-time to brief it on the Government's demonetisation move.

The 31-member Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, headed by Veerappa Moily, has been deliberating on the issue for almost two years.

The Government had scrapped ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes on November 8, 2016 and announced issuance of new ₹500 and ₹2,000 notes.

Patel has been called on November 12 to brief the committee's members on demonetisation of ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes and the "ramifications thereof", according to the panel's meeting notice.

The RBI Governor will also brief the committee on the banning of the Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill and related issues.

"Members wanted some more information and details about demonetisation, especially on its impact. Therefore, the RBI

Governor has been called," Moily said when contacted.

He said perhaps this was for the first time when an RBI Governor has been called by a panel for three times on the same issue.

Prior to this, Patel shared details related to demonetisation with the panel in January and July last year.

The panel could not adopt a draft report on the note-ban in August as BJP MPs in the panel, led by Nishikant Dubey, stalled the process.

However, Moily has repeatedly said no report on demonetisation was tabled before the panel.

So far, the panel has adopted more than 60 reports on various issues, unanimously. **PTI**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe depart for Tokyo by Express Train Kajiji in Japan on Sunday **PTI**

Govt to rope in other countries to popularise AYUSH

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Recognising the popularity of the AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) sector abroad, the Government has intensified its efforts to engage with other countries in a more structured and concrete manner by initiating a slew of measures such as setting up of Academic Chairs, patenting the medicines and focusing on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).

Among several steps to boost Indian Traditional medicines abroad, we are in the process of inking pact with at least 45 countries to undertake research and academic activities in the AYUSH sector. The

Government has already signed agreement with eleven countries like China, Hungary and Germany, Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of AYUSH said on the sidelines of the flagging of first-ever 'Run for Ayurveda' here on Sunday.

The event which saw participation of over 2,000 people, was organised by the Ministry and Delhi-based All India Institute of Ayurveda, the first-ever national institute dedicated for ayurveda which was inaugurated by Prime Minister last year.

Dr Tanuja Manoj Nesari, Director, AIIA said that over 5000 years old, the ancient sciences has faced many challenges in the modern era but we still witness the resurgence of the dis-

cipline as an alternative to western allopathic medicine.

Sanchit Sharma, Executive Director of Aimil Pharma which is engaged in manufacturing herbal drugs like BGR-34 for diabetes treatment felt that signing of MoU with other countries will ensure that Ayurveda and other traditional medicinal systems and AYUSH drugs get recognition abroad. Many herbal drugs here are developed after following due scientific process as per the global norms, he added.

For instance, the anti-diabetic herbal drug BGR-34, widely accepted Saheli contraceptive pills besides other drugs are scientifically validated by the government's top research agency scientific research body, Council for Science and Industrial

Research (CSIR). The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) which has developed drugs for filariasis, hepatitis, ulcer, vitiligo and malaria has filed for patent.

The Ayush Ministry official attributed the growing demand to the cost-effectiveness and minimal side effects of the herbal drugs which are being used to treat diseases like obesity, hypertension, diabetes related to drastic changes in lifestyle, dietetic habits, increased industrialisation, and pollution.

In yet another move aimed at making alternative medicines and formulations to compete in global markets, the Department of Pharmaceuticals has allocated a budget of Rs 144 crore for 2018-2020 under its one of the

schemes wherein at least 250 small and medium scale AYUSH pharmaceutical units—for both bulk drugs and pharmaceutical formulations will be given financial support for upgradation of the plant and machinery to World Health Organization (WHO)/Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) standards.

In fact, the AYUSH Ministry has already signed a project collaboration agreement (PCS) with the WHO for cooperation on promoting the quality, safety and effectiveness of service provision in traditional and complementary medicine.

According to the WHO, the global herbal market is estimated to reach about \$5 trillion by 2050 from the current level of \$6.2 billion.

U.P. Raja Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. Anpara Thermal Power Project.
Anpara, E-Tender Notice 1. E-Tender No: 220/EPD-III/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, [O&M]MMC-VII, 3x210MW, ATPS, Anpara, Supply: Supply of H.T. Fasteners (make : LPS, TVS and unbrako (DFL) only for 3x210MW, ATPS, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 22,000.00 (Rs. Twenty two Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18%, Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 19.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 22.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 19.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 20.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 2. E-Tender No: 13/EPD-III/DTPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC, 2x500MW, DTSP, Anpara, Supply: Supply, Delivery and commissioning of self propelled articulating boom lift with jib for 2x500MW, DTSP, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 1,00,000.00 (Rs. One lac Only), Tender Cost: 5000.00+ 18%, Extended Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 16.11.2018, Extended date of opening of Part-I: 20.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 3. E-Tender No: 07/EPD-III/DTPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC, 2x500MW, DTSP, Anpara, Supply: Supply of hydraulic motorised pipe bender with hinged frame with power pack for 2x500MW, DTSP, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 4,000.00 (Rs. Four Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18%, Extended Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 16.11.2018, Extended date of opening of Part-I: 20.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 4. E-Tender No: 09/EPD-III/DTPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC, 2x500MW, DTSP, Anpara, Supply: Supply of hydraulic jack for 2x500MW, DTSP, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 2,000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18%, Extended Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 5. E-Tender No: 17/EPD-III/DTPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC, 2x500MW, DTSP, Anpara, Supply: Supply of SS globe valve for 2x500MW, DTSP, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 5,000.00 (Rs. Five Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18%, Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 27.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 30.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 6. E-Tender No: 08/EPD-III/DTPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC, 2x500MW, DTSP, Anpara, Work: Overhauling, cleaning & painting of 6.6 KV SP Bus duct at UAT & SAT (as per scope of work) of 2x500MW, BTSP, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 10,100.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand one Hundred Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18% (Non Refundable). Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS or direct in the account of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, BTSP, Anpara., Last date for submission of hard copy of requisite documents : 15.11.2018, date of opening of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 16.11.2018, Extended date of opening of Part-I: 20.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 7. E-Tender No: 09/EMD-II/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&M MMC-VII, ATPS, Anpara, Supply: MS Pipes, bends, valves, wear plate & expansion joints etc. Earnest Money: Rs. 27,000.00 (Rs. Twenty Seven Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 1000.00+ 18%,

Extended Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 14.11.2018, Extended date of opening of Part-I: 15.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 16. E-Tender No: 168/EPD-II/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&M MMC-VII, ATPS, Anpara, Supply: Printing & stationery, Earnest Money: Rs. 2,500.00 (Rs. Two Thousand Five Hundred Only), Tender Cost: 300.00+ 18%, Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 19.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 22.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 10. E-Tender No: 448/EPD-I/DTPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&M MMC-VII, ATPS, Anpara, Supply: CO2 GAS, Earnest Money: Rs. 1,000.00 (Rs. One Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 200.00+ 18%, Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 19.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 22.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 11. E-Tender No: 08/BMD-II/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&M-III, 3x210MW, ATPS, Anpara, Work: Routine maintenance of ID, FD & PA pans & its auxiliary of unit no. 1, 2 & 3 of 3x210MW, ATPS, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 14,000.00 (Rs. Fourteen Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18% (Non Refundable). Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS or direct in the account of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara., Last date for submission of hard copy of requisite documents : 11.12.2018, date of opening of e-bid Part-I: 12.12.2018, Part-II: Shall be intimated later, Period : One Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 12. E-Tender No: 05/ETD/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer (HQ), ATPS, Anpara, Work: Hiring of 03 nos 52 seater buses for carrying the employees children of Anpara thermal power station from Bhagwaan Ram PG college & back to Anpara colony, Earnest Money: Rs. 27,500.00 (Rs. Twenty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18% (Non Refundable). Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS or direct in the account of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara., Last date for submission of hard copy of requisite documents : 11.12.2018, date of opening of e-bid Part-I: 13.12.2018, Part-II: Shall be intimated later, Period : One Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 13. E-Tender No: 03/ETD/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer (HQ), ATPS, Anpara, Work: Hiring of 03 nos 52 seater buses for carry the children of CISF of Anpara thermal power station from their Colony to central school shakti-nagar and central school & one bus will be fixed for singrauli central school, Earnest Money: Rs. 45,000.00 (Rs. Forty Five Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18% (Non Refundable). Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS or direct in the account of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara., Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 10.12.2018, at e-tender procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> date of opening of e-bid Part-I: 12.12.2018, Part-II: Shall be intimated later, Period : One Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 14. E-Tender No: 178/EPD-II/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&M MMC-VII, ATPS, Anpara, Supply: Supply of tyre, flap & tube of make continental, Earnest Money: Rs. 6,000.00 (Rs. Six Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18%, Extended Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 26.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 28.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 21. E-Tender No: 301/EPD-I/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer O&M MMC-VII, ATPS, Anpara, Supply: Spares of actuators for 3x210MW, APTS, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 30,000.00 (Rs. Thirty Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 1000.00+ 18%, Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 26.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 28.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 22. E-Tender No: 302/EPD-I/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer O&M MMC-VII, ATPS, Anpara, Supply: Dome/network IP bullet camera with POE & night (including 18%) GST, Earnest Money: Rs. 2,000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 200.00+ 18%, Extended Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 19.11.2018, Extended date of opening of Part-I: 21.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 23. E-Tender No: 314/EPD-I/ATPS/

2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&M MMC-VII, ATPS, Anpara, Supply: Supply of limit switch with lever for hot air gate for 3x210MW, APTS, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 3,000.00 (Rs. Three Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18%, Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 26.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 28.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 24. E-Tender No: 298/EPD-I/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&M MMC-VII, ATPS, Anpara, Supply: ACSR rabbit conductor for 3x210MW, APTS, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18%, Extended Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 19.11.2018, Extended date of opening of Part-I: 21.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 25. E-Tender No: 12/EMD-II/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&M-IV, ATPS, Anpara, Work: Overhauling of 6.6 KV/0.4 Switchgear, MCC, DC system etc. of unit-I of 3x210MW, ATPS, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 9,000.00 (Rs. Nine Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18% (Non Refundable). Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS or direct in the account of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara., Last date for submission of hard copy of requisite documents : 05.12.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 07.12.2018, Part-II: Shall be intimated later, Period : One Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 26. E-Tender No: 11/EMD-II/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&M-IV, ATPS, Anpara, Work: Overhauling of electrical/electronic system of ESP of unit No.III of 3x210MW, APTS, Anpara as per scope of work, Earnest Money: Rs. 16,000.00 (Rs. Sixteen Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: 1000.00+ 18% (Non Refundable). Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS or direct in the account of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara., Last date for submission of hard copy of requisite documents : 05.12.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 07.12.2018, Part-II: Shall be intimated later, Period : One Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 27. E-Tender No: 10/EMD-II/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&M-IV, ATPS, Anpara, Work: Complete overhauling of electrical system of soot blowers and motor feeder modules of unit #1, 3x210MW, ATPS, Anpara Earnest Money: Rs. 9,000.00 (Rs. Nine Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18% (Non Refundable). Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS or direct in the account of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara., Last date for submission of hard copy of requisite documents : 05.12.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 07.12.2018, Part-II: Shall be intimated later, Period : One Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 28. E-Tender No: 09/EMD-II/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&M-IV, ATPS, Anpara, Work: Overhauling of 0.4KV LT Motors of unit #1, 3x210MW, ATPS, Anpara Earnest Money: Rs. 11,000.00 (Rs. Eleven Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: 1000.00+ 18% (Non Refundable). Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS or direct in the account of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara., Last date for submission of hard copy of requisite documents : 05.12.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 07.12.2018, Part-II: Shall be intimated later, Period : One Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 29. E-Tender No: 10/OG&ChD/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&M-III, ATPS, Anpara, Work: Operation of M/s OTIS make elevator of service house building of ATPS, Earnest Money: Rs. 7,500.00 (Rs. Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18% (Non Refundable). Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS or direct in the account of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara., Last date for submission of hard copy of requisite documents : 03.12.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 04.12.2018, Part-II: Shall be intimated later, Period : One Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 30. E-Tender No: 59/CF-329/EPD-I/DTPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC, DTSP, Anpara, Supply: Procurement of Hydrated lime, Earnest Money: Rs. 3,000.00 (Rs. Three Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18%, Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 16.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 19.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 38. E-Tender No: 57/CF-317/EPD-I/DTPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC, DTSP, Anpara, Supply: Procurement of Silicon oil for HVR transformer, Earnest Money: Rs. 15,000.00 (Rs. Fifteen Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 1000.00+ 18%, Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 16.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 19.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 39. E-Tender No: 54/CF-279(B)/EPD-I/DTPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC, DTSP, Anpara, Supply: Procurement of Spares for wagon tippler & MGR workshop for 2x500MW, DTSP, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 2,000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 1000.00+ 18%, Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 16.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 19.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 40. E-Tender No: 52/CF-98/EPD-I/DTPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC, DTSP, Anpara, Supply: Procurement of oil seal, skirt blade and polyurethane blade, Earnest Money: Rs. 5,000.00 (Rs. Five Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 1000.00+ 18%, Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 16.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 19.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 41. E-Tender No: 51/CF-299/EPD-I/DTPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC, DTSP, Anpara, Supply: Procurement of SS cleaned belt with SS Fasteners, Earnest Money: Rs. 7,000.00 (Rs. Seven Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 1000.00+ 18%, Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 16.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 19.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 42. E-Tender No: 10/MSD/DTSP/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, O&MMC-II, DTSP, Anpara, Work: Breakdown maintenance of 36 inch gravimetric RC feeder & its auxiliaries of unit 6 & 7 of 2x500MW, DTSP, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand Only) (Refundable), Tender Cost: 1000.00+ 18% (Non Refundable). Earnest money deposit & tender cost to be deposited through NEFT/RTGS or direct in the account of D.Y.C.A.O., CFA&BO, ATPS, Anpara., Last date for submission of hard copy of requisite documents : 29.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 30.11.2018, Part-II: Shall be intimated later, Period : One Year. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 43. E-Tender No: 212/EPD-III/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, [O&M] MMC-VII, ATPS, Anpara, Supply: Supply of spares of dryer of I.A.C. (Alumina ball, strainer, filler element etc) of 3x210MW, ATPS, Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 4600.00 (Rs. Four Thousand six hundred Only), Tender Cost: 500.00+ 18%, Extended Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 26.11.2018, Extended date of opening of Part-I: 27.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 44. E-Tender No: 205/EPD-II/ATPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, [O&M] MMC-VII, ATPS, Anpara, Supply: Supply of 50 ton hydraulic rough terrain crane for ATP Anpara, Earnest Money: Rs. 2,53,000.00 (Rs. Two Lac Fifty Three Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 2000.00+ 18%, Extended Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 10.12.2018, Extended date of opening of Part-I: 11.12.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 45. E-Tender No: 59/CF-329/EPD-I/DTPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC, DTSP, Anpara, Supply: Procurement of dry fog dust suppression system for CHP, Earnest Money: Rs. 13,000.00 (Rs. Thirteen Thousand Only), Tender Cost: 1000.00+ 18%, Last date for submission of e-bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 16.11.2018, date of opening of Part-I: 19.11.2018. For participation and detailed information log in to website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 37. E-Tender No: 59/CF-329/EPD-I/DTPS/2018-19, Office: Superintending Engineer, MMC, DTSP, Anpara, Supply:

Kannur airport yet to be opened, but its Govt allowed Shah to land

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A controversy has erupted over BJP president Amit Shah landing in the yet to be opened Kannur airport, with a Kerala Minister slamming him Sunday for threatening to oust the LDF Government despite it allowing him to arrive there as part of state's tradition of hospitality.

State Finance Minister TM Thomas Isaac tweeted that though the state had shown the 'tradition of hospitality' by permitting Shah to land in the airport, which had not been formally inaugurated, the BJP leader had threatened to oust the left ruled Kerala Government.

The official inauguration of the Kannur airport, the fourth in the state, is scheduled to be held on December 9.

But, by arriving in a special flight there yesterday to inaugurate the BJP's new district committee office, Shah has unofficially become the first passenger to land in the airport at Mattanur in Kannur.

Isaac said Shah's "empty threats" were out of frustration as the saffron party is yet to get more members in the state Assembly.

Former Union Minister, O Rajagopal, is the lone MLA of the BJP in the house.

"Amit Shah permitted to land in Kannur airport which is yet to be opened. That is our tradition of hospitality. But he is threatening to oust Kerala Government. Such empty threats do not frighten us. Try to win few seats in Assembly. Your frustration is understandable," Isaac tweeted. Hundreds of party workers had gathered Saturday

KERALA MINISTER SLAMS BJP CHIEF FOR THREATENING TO OUST THE LDF GOVERNMENT DESPITE THE HOSPITALITY IT OFFERED TO HIM

at the airport to welcome Shah who was in Kerala on a day's visit.

After inaugurating the party office located at Thalikkavu, he had made a scathing attack on the CPI(M)-led LDF Government in the state over the Sabarimala women's entry issue and pledged BJP's support for it.

Main Opposition Congress took on the LDF Government for allowing the BJP Chief to use the airport. Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, Mullanji Ramachandran alleged that Shah landed at the airport following an 'understanding' between him and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

"At a time when the Kannur airport is scheduled to be inaugurated on December 9, it was specially opened for Amit Shah. Usually, it is done so during emergency situations," he said in a statement. Amit Shah had arrived in Kannur Saturday on a day's visit to Kerala to attend a party function in that city and the 90th Mahasamadhi observance of saint social reformer Sree Narayana Guru at Varkala near Thiruvananthapuram.

Later, in a hard-hitting speech, Shah had warned Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan that he would have to pay a "heavy price" if the (attack on Ayyappa devotees) continues, as BJP workers "would not hesitate to pull down the Government."

Army distributes bee boxes among 28 women in Doda

PTI ■ BHADARWAH

Over two dozen women in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district were given bee boxes for honey farming as part of the Army's 'Operation Goodwill', an official said.

The women have been trained in beekeeping under a three-week programme organised by the Rashtriya Rifles based here in collaboration with Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) in Jammu.

The programme was conducted under the Prime Minister's Skill India initiative to impart basic skills among rural women in bee rearing, their management and how to make it a profitable business, the Army official said.

Twenty-eight women from various far-off villages of the hilly district participated in the training programme, aimed at encouraging them to develop the required skills to become successful entrepreneurs using local resources with very little or no investment, he said. "I was in a fix over what to do after completing my studies, as in this part of the world, jobs are very hard to find. Luckily for me, the Army took the initiative at

the right time and I enrolled myself for the training programme," Sheetal, a trainee from Rounda-Seri village, told PTI.

She said the training gave her the confidence to start her own business and the bee boxes given by the Army helped her get the equipment to rear bees. The training was held under the technical guidance and supervision of SKUAST, senior scientist, Neeraj Kotwal.

"The Chenab valley is best suited for bee rearing and production of high quality white honey. Traditionally, almost every household used to produce honey here, but since the last one decade production decreased considerably due to changing lifestyle in rural areas," he said. Kotwal said it was heart-warming to see the Army coming to the revival of this ancient trade and "I hope the female brigade will grab this opportunity to empower themselves and become entrepreneurs in the near future".

The official said all the trainees, after successfully completing the training were given certificates beside bee boxes so that they can immediately start their own business to financially empower themselves.

DMK stops short of offering regret for article on Rajinikanth

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Days after lashing out at Rajinikanth for his political aspirations, DMK's official organ "Murasoli" Sunday said its write-up targeting the actor had hurt some "good hearts" and advised its editorial team to be "cautious" in future.

The mouthpiece of the main opposition party in Tamil Nadu had accused Rajinikanth of being a puppet in the hands of "some persons" and being supported by "communal" elements in a recent article.

"It has been brought to (my) notice that an article on superstar Rajinikanth that appeared in Murasoli has hurt some good hearts.

The editorial (team) has been advised to be cautious while publishing such write-ups," Murasoli editor S Selvam said in the Sunday edition of the paper.

However, there was no elaboration on the points that had caused hurt or who were anguished by it.

The daily, in effect, stopped short of offering a formal regret

for the write-up.

The article targeting Rajinikanth appeared in Murasoli on October 26.

It was published in a question-answer format under the pseudonym "Silanthi", meaning spider in Tamil.

"Those who are speaking for you in the media are communal (elements), who want to divide the Tamil community, which exists after transcending caste and religion," it had said.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) daily had also asked Rajinikanth to be cautious, saying "a group" was trying to destabilise his popularity, and added that anyone dancing to the tunes of the group would lose sheen.

If the actor was not eyeing posts, he should have launched an outfit on the lines of rationalist leader, late E V Ramasamy Periyar, it said.

Periyar's Dravidar Kazhagam has stayed out of electoral politics since its inception in the pre-independence era and is confined to propagating rationalism and ideals covering social justice.

Intel cop, PDP worker shot dead in J&K

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Suspected militants shot dead a junior police intelligence officer and a worker of pro-India Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) worker in Kashmir Valley on Sunday.

Police sources said that militants waylaid the private car of Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir, the sub-inspector with counter-intelligence department of (CID) J&K police, at Washibugh village along the banks of Romsh rivulet in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Sunday afternoon.

Mir's body was found with bullet wounds. Sources said that militants abducted him before he was fired upon from a point blank range. He was resident of Tekina village in Pulwama and was on way to his home in his private car. He was posted in Shergarhi police station in summer capital Srinagar.

In the other incident, militants shot at and injured a senior PDP worker Muhammad Amin Dar at Gangbugh village near Hyderpora on the outskirts of Srinagar. He was immediately

rushed to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Suspected militants also attacked an army patrolling party at Poterwal area in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Security sources said the army personnel retaliated in a befitting manner. They said there was no immediate report of any casualties on the forces' side. Security forces launched manhunt to nab the attackers.

Meanwhile, army and intelligence officials foiled militants' attempt to abduct an Army major in north Kashmir area. Security sources did not divulge further details on the abortive attempt.

PTI adds: The desperation to see his parents prompted sub-inspector Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir to shave off his beard and change appearance in his unsuccessful attempt to dodge militants who had laid a death trap for him in his village, his colleagues said on Sunday.

Mir, 30, was shot dead by militants on Sunday when he was on his way home.

Posted in the CID department, Mir had been warned

against venturing into his village as there was a possibility of attack by militant groups, who have been targeting policemen in the state recently.

"I had told him that he should not go as militants could attack. But he was desperate to see his parents who reside at Sontabugh in the interiors of Pulwama district," recalled one of his supervising officers.

This morning as he was preparing to leave for home, he came with a changed appearance. He shaved off his beard and decided to use his personal vehicle to go to his native village, the officer said.

"Now they (militants) will not be able to recognise me" were possibly his last words to his officer before he left for home with a smiling face as he was seeing his parents after a long time. Mir is survived by his father and mother.

Son of a retired police officer, Mir, who was from 2010 batch of sub-inspector, had served in Ganderbal district of South Kashmir for five years before being transferred to Kulgam district last year.

AIADMK offers olive branch to disqualified MLAs

PTI ■ CHENNAI

After labelling them as betrayers, the AIADMK has extended an olive branch to its 18 disqualified MLAs, asking them to jump on to the ruling party bandwagon and fight AMMK leader Thiruvananthapuram for "misleading" them.

Asking the debarred MLAs and other Dhinakaran loyalists who moved away from AIADMK to revert to the parent party, the top leadership Saturday asked them to "understand the reality" of the Madras High Court judgement that upheld their disqualification.

The court's fair judgement has enthused party workers and the people of Tamil Nadu, the party said.

People were confident that the AIADMK government would continue to roll out welfare measures and "the angel of justice has paved a path for us to work together (again)" to meet the aspirations of the people, it said.

"We invite you with love

and affection to again join the massive people's movement nurtured by Puratchi Thalaivar MGR and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma," party coordinator and co-ordinator O Panneerselvam and K Palaniswami respectively said.

In an open letter to cadres, the top duo, refraining from naming Dhinakaran or his loyalists, including the 18 debarred MLAs, said party functionaries had chosen to travel in an "alternative path as a result of being misled and due to some bitterness."

Seeking to assuage feathers ruffled by the legal wrangle, the Chief Minister and his deputy quoted a Tamil proverb which says love does not erode, despite quarrels or fights and added that all of them were "children of one mother, bonded by brotherhood and love."

When party workers ignored differences and worked together, the AIADMK would grow manifold and vanquish its political rivals, they said.

Ayyappa Dharma Sena chief held for controversial remark on Sabarimala

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Police Sunday took into custody Rahul Easwar, president of the 'Ayyappa Dharma Sena', for his alleged provocative statement related to the entry of women into the Lord Ayyappa Temple at Sabarimala.

A team of police personnel from Kochi took Easwar into custody from his flat here in connection with a case registered under IPC Sections 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot) and 117 (abetting commission of offence by the public or by more than 10 persons), police said.

The arrest will be recorded in the evening after they reach Kochi, police sources said.

A member of the Thazhamon family of Sabarimala tantris (head priests), Easwar had said during a press meet in Kochi last week that they had a contingency plan to force the closure of the temple by spilling blood on its premises by some devotees in case any woman in the 'barred' age group managed to reach it.

He had also claimed that 20



Lord Ayyappa devotees opposing the entry of women in the age group of 10 and 50 were ready to inflict knife injuries on themselves on the temple premises, which would have forced the priests to close the gates on account of impurity.

"Had their blood fallen on the floor of the temple, that would have forced the priests to shut the shrine for three days for purification rituals," Easwar had said. A case was registered against him later on the basis of a complaint filed by a Thiruvananthapuram native.

Kerala Devaswom Minister Kadakkampally Surendran had claimed that effective police intervention had foiled the protesters' bid to "desecrate" the Ayyappa Temple by spilling blood in the premises if women devotees in the 10-50 age group offered prayers.

He had said the "conspir-

acy" of the devotees was made clear by the statement of Rahul Easwar.

The Minister had also said the disclosure showed that there was a well-conceived plan, similar to that followed by nations to attack their enemies and added that this attempt was not only 'seditious', but also against the interests of devotees.

Easwar was earlier arrested from Sabarimala Sannidhanam (temple complex) on October 17 over the 'save Sabarimala campaign, and later released on bail.

The temple had witnessed high drama with around a dozen women in 10-50 age group being prevented from entering the temple by protesting devotees after the doors were opened for all women, following the Supreme Court verdict.

On September 28, a five-judge Constitution bench of the Apex Court, headed by then Chief Justice Dipak Misra, had lifted the centuries-old ban on the entry of women of menstrual age into the shrine.

BJP state president PS Sreedharan Pillai Sunday lashed out at the police action against Easwar.

Four highly-trained JeM snipers active in Kashmir

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Sniper attack by Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists has emerged as a new source of worry for security agencies in Kashmir Valley with three personnel having been killed since mid-September, prompting the law enforcement agencies to recalibrate their strategy to thwart such strikes by the Pakistan-based group, officials said.

The first such attack took place at Nawa in Pulwama on September 18 when a CRPF personnel was injured. Security officials thought it to be a one-off strike till the recent spate of sniper attacks that claimed the lives of a Sashastra Seema Bal jawan and an Army personnel in Tral, and a CISF jawan in Nowgam.

Based on intelligence inputs, security agencies believe

that at least two separate 'buddy' groups of the proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) comprising two terrorists each have entered Kashmir Valley in early September and have entrenched themselves in South Kashmir's Pulwama district with the help of some underground supporters of the outfit.

These terrorists, according to the officials, have been thoroughly trained by Pakistan's external snooping agency ISI for carrying out sniper attacks in Kashmir Valley and have been armed with M-4 carbines, used by the US-led allied forces in Afghanistan.

There is a possibility that these weapons may be part of the arms and ammunition captured by the Taliban, with whom the JeM cadre were fighting the allied forces in

Afghanistan, security officials in the state said. However, they said that the weapon was also being used by the special forces of Pakistan Army.

In all the instances of sniper attacks, the terrorists used a nearby hillock to carry out strikes on a security force campus when unsuspecting jawans were using their mobile phones to talk to their family or friends.

"These attacks have been precise, even while targeting a personnel inside a sentry post as he uses his mobile phone. They pick up the light of the mobile phone to carry out the attack on jawans," said one of the officials.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has reacted to the rising cases of sniper attacks. "We've dealt with snipers on the

border/LoC regularly and have SOPs to deal with those but never in the hinterland. This will force a rethink of all manner of security and protection procedures."

The M-4 carbine is mounted with a telescope and the terrorists are using night vision devices to locate their potential targets, the officials said. The weapon can fire at its target up to 500-600 metres with precision.

The security agencies, including army, CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir police, have already issued fresh guidelines to their jawans and officers located in camps in the militancy-hit areas.

Maintaining a silence over the change in tactics, the officials said that more combing operations would be carried out around the security camps.

71 tourists saved off Goa coast from rough seas this month

Panaji: Seventy-one tourists have been rescued off the coast of Goa since the first week of October as the state witnesses rough seas and rains, an official of a lifeguard service commissioned by the State Government said Sunday.

A statement from Dristi Lifesaving further said that of the 71 tourists rescued, nine were foreign nationals including three Russians who were saved on October 25.

"A total of 217 Indian tourists and 46 foreigners have been rescued while swimming off the state's beaches from January to Oct this year," Dristi Lifesaving's spokesperson informed. **PTI**



Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Maharashtra Health Minister Girish Mahajan present cheque to beneficiaries during the Atal Arogya Shibir 2018 in Nagpur on Sunday **PTI**



An artisan prepares idols of Goddess Laxmi ahead of Diwali festival celebrations in Kolkata on Sunday **PTI**

Consignment of sleeping pills seized from bus in Gujarat

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

A consignment containing 22,000 sleeping pills and other psychotropic substances was seized from a bus in Ahmedabad Sunday and its sender arrested, an Narcotics Control Bureau official said.

The value of the seized consignment is estimated to be around ₹75 lakh in the international markets, the official said.

"We have arrested Dilip Parihar for sending around 22,000 tablets of prescription drug Alprazolam and other psychotropic substances on a bus from Ahmedabad to Ahmednagar (Maharashtra) and other cities," said NCB zonal unit director Hariom Gandhi.

Alprazolam is most commonly used for treating anxiety disorder as it induces sleep. It cannot be sold without prescription.

Sidda warns BJP against Op Lotus

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday hit out at the BJP for predicting that the JDS-Congress Government would fall and warned it against indulging in 'Operation Lotus' again, saying the saffron party was already in a state of "coma" due to its past deeds.

Siddaramaiah is the head of the Congress-JD(S) coalition co-ordination committee.

'Operation Lotus' is a reference to the BJP allegedly luring several opposition MLAs to defect to ensure stability of its then-government headed by B S Yeddyurappa in 2008.

"Yeddyurappa (now state BJP chief) has once again made a statement that the government would fall. Already due to several rounds of operations, the lotus (BJP symbol) in Karnataka is in coma. Now once again don't try your hands into the wrong adventure of Operation Lotus," he said in a tweet. The Congress leader asserted that the BJP

Guj Cong MLA held for taking bribe from irrigation scam accused

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Congress MLA Parsotam Sabariya was Sunday arrested for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe from persons accused in an irrigation scam in Morbi district, over 60 kilometres from here, a senior official said.

Dhrangadhra MLA Sabariya was arrested by Morbi A Division police for allegedly accepting money through a middleman from some accused in the irrigation scam in return for not raising the issue in the Assembly and with the State Government, said Morbi Superintendent of Police Karanraj Vaghela.

An executive engineer in the Irrigation department, C D Kanani, and three other officials were earlier arrested in connection with a scam pertaining to construction and repair of check dams, digging of ponds and repair and restoration of percolation tanks etc in villages in Morbi district. "MLA Parsotam Sabariya

had demanded ₹40 lakh for not raising the issue in the Assembly or before the Government. He had settled for ₹35 lakh, out of which ₹10 lakh was given to him through a middleman. Another ₹25 lakh was given to the middleman in the form of a cheque," Vaghela said.

Inspector RJ Chaudhary of Morbi A Division police station said that Kanani and others had allegedly offered money to the MLA through a middleman.

Chaudhary said the alleged

middleman, identified as Bharat Vakil, was also arrested Sunday and based on the latter's statement, Sabariya was arrested.

According to police, 334 minor irrigation projects worth ₹20.3 crore were approved by the Gujarat Government in villages in Morbi district for previous and current financial years.

Projects worth ₹10 crore were completed and the probe underway is in connection with the implementation of these projects by village-level co-operative societies, police said. According to police, 27 such village-level societies are under the scanner after it was revealed that the works had either not been carried out or were of poor quality.

Morbi SP Vaghela said that the state government, after receiving complaints, had launched an investigation into the irrigation projects which revealed irregularities and mismanagement of ₹1.12 crore in 51 such projects.



Women perform during a function organised by Dr Ganugabai Hanagal Music Foundation in Hubballi on Sunday **PTI**

Three missing after boat capsizes in Assam

ASSAM ■ HAILAKANDI

Three persons went missing while 12 others were rescued after a country boat capsized in Katakhal river in Assam's Hailakandi district Sunday evening, official sources said here.

The boat carrying 15 people capsized during a thunder-shower near Lalumukh and local people along with State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel rescued 12 people of them.

The three missing persons have been identified as Sumit Pashi, Ajoy Pashi and Ramesh Pashi — all residents of Lalumukh Tea garden, the sources said.

Students tortured, forced into unnatural sex in Bihar, 7 held

PTI ■ BEGUSARAI

A video of four college students being brutally tortured and forced into performing unnatural sex in Bihar's Begusarai district has gone viral leading to the arrest of seven persons, police said on Sunday.

The inmates of Kushwaha hostel, a private students hostel located in Pokhariya area of Town Police Station, were on Wednesday kidnapped by some persons from Kali Asthan chowk, they said.

The victims were taken behind Begusarai divisional jail and assaulted by the miscreants. They were then dis-

robed and forced to indulge in unnatural sexual acts with each other, police added.

The accused also shot at the toes of the boarders, all college students in the age group of 18-21, and made them drink liquor, police said, adding that the shocking act continued the entire day.

The boarders were subjected to the cruelty allegedly due to their refusal to buy water from a plant owned by one of the accused, police said.

The miscreants made a video of the incident and threatened to make it viral if the students lodged a complaint. However, the video was

anyway released on Saturday after which the police arrested some persons.

Those who were arrested following a registration of an FIR by the boarders are-- Golu Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Raja Kumar, Rohit Kumar, Ganesh Kumar and Rahul Kumar, Town Police Station SHO Trilok Kumar Mishra said.

Golu Kumar, who was arrested on Thursday owns the water treatment plant, police said, adding that another six were held on Saturday night. Raids are being conducted to nab their accomplices involved in the case, they said.

Kamal Haasan says his party may contest in TN bypolls

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Actor-politician Kamal Haasan has said his party MNM would take the call on contesting the byelections to 20 Tamil Nadu assembly seats, including the 18 which have fallen vacant following disqualification of MLAs elected from there, after the poll schedule was announced.

Haasan, who has been touring the state as part of his "journey with the people" programme, indicated that a firm decision would be taken when the Election Commission announced the schedule for the polls.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Strongman's return

India has a lot to worry about in its strategic backyard with Mahinda Rajapaksa making a comeback as Lankan PM

The political twist in Sri Lanka may seem like a sudden overnighter but the signs have taken some time coming. The growing strongman clout of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who has surged ahead in relevance as his new outfit created the popular verdict of the local elections, almost left no option for his one-time protégé, current President Maithripala Sirisena, but to pull out of the coalition Union government, coopt his party and name him Prime Minister. With Sirisena joining hands once again with the leader he ousted in 2015, it shows that allegations of autocracy, corruption, nepotism, China tilts and, of course, war crimes while eliminating the Tamil movement from the face of the island, have slid of Rajapaksa's back as easily as a duck's and for the larger Sinhalese identity, he has emerged as a saviour and a doer. So though Sirisena's UPFA is in minority in the ruling coalition (even with Rajapaksa's faction) and, therefore, his sacking of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, whose UNP has the bigger mandate, may seem unconstitutional, the pictures of Rajapaksa addressing crowds have wrested the popular narrative. Besides, there is already talk that though constitutionally he cannot become the President, having served two terms, as Prime Minister and then betting on a comeback giving him a two-thirds majority, he could well attempt amendments to arrogate more powers to himself. At least, he has won the war of perception with his command of the situation.

Rajapaksa's return is a big blow for India although he has been engaging with the Modi government. As President, he had veered away from India and bent towards the Chinese, giving them infrastructural access to strategic ports, allowing them to dock submarines and adding another pearl to China's string of debt-trap colonies around the Indian Ocean. Wickremesinghe has been the most favourable for us and India engineered a profitable coalition with Sirisena in 2015, weaning him away as a moderate opposed to the absolutist Rajapaksa. But he too drifted towards the Chinese axis quite a bit, guaranteeing a 99-year lease on Hambantota port as India has a tough time negotiating contracts. Not as magnetic as Rajapaksa, he was, in a short time, coopted by his one-time mentor. Meanwhile, anti-India sentiment has returned to Lanka's mainstream discourse. In fact, Wickremesinghe's ouster is largely being seen as a result of Sirisena's disagreement with him over the development of a container terminal in Colombo. He also alleged assassination attempts given Wickremesinghe's pro-India tilt and claims that India was disappointed with the pace of its projects in the island. Even Rajapaksa had in 2015 claimed assassination attempts by RAW. So the bitter narrative is somewhat similar. Clearly stitching up rainbow coalitions with Wickremesinghe as the pivot hasn't worked successfully now. So India must engage itself with Lanka very delicately, considering the Chinese inroads into neighbouring Maldives. Though the Modi Government has met all three parties diplomatically and Rajapaksa himself has made some discernible attempts to alter his rules of engagement, there has to be a studied strategic response. And with China's Belt and Road Initiative hitting roadblocks in its own backyard states, it might seek greater manoeuvrability in the island states of Lanka and Maldives, something that India must be up for. Then there's the larger question of the assault on democratic systems and practices but then that has long been a casualty of totalitarian regimes assuming charge across the world.

50 WORD EDIT In the name of Tagore
Culture diplomacy may not make headlines but the Tagore Awards for Cultural Harmony for 2014, 2015 and 2016 prove that our poet laureate's global vision and enveloping citizenry hold good. With a jury helmed by PM Modi, its awardees include a Manipuri dancer, a Bangladeshi organisation and a Gandhian sculptor, who prove civilisational, philosophical and cultural links know no barriers. An avowed, objective acknowledgment.

Equal partners

Uncomfortable they might be but JD(U) and BJP need to stay together for 2019 elections

JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar has proved yet again that when it comes to politics, he is quite the old warhorse, can swerve the trajectory of political discourse on his terms and has a keen ear to the ground. That's the reason why despite being a cropper in the 2014 elections — having won just two of the 40 Lok Sabha seats from Bihar — he has managed to extract much more than his pound of flesh by striking a 50:50 seat-sharing deal with the BJP. This notwithstanding the fact that the BJP, LJP and RLSP won more seats than the JD(U) in 2014. Even the BJP, which was seen to be in the driver's seat until a couple of months ago, seemed to cede territory to a grassroots regional entity in what could be its key battleground state for 2019. The BJP, which had presumptuously appointed a confident tally for itself, is clearly not taking any chances post-Karnataka. And while the *mahagadbandhan* politics is somewhat muted at the moment nationally, in Bihar it has a recognisable face in RJD supremo Lalu Yadav's younger son Tejswi Yadav. He has been consistently shoring up his political stock after the party's stunning victories in three of four bypolls in March and has been spinning an anti-Modi narrative among the sizeable population of Dalits and economically backward castes. Couple that with pictures of him challenging the solidity of the NDA alliance by courting Upendra Kushwaha of the Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP), who can be an obstacle to both Nitish and BJP's hopes of a clean sweep, and you know why the two must stick together. Tejswi has already invited Kushwaha to join the RJD-led alliance and is keen to accommodate BSP chief Mayawati in the state. Enough to give jitters to both Nitish and BJP, who cannot afford a slide in caste-based support base if they are to make good in 2019.

Kushwaha is the strongest leader of the influential Koeri community, which consists around eight per cent of the population in Bihar. The Koeris are double the number of Kurmis (four per cent), whom Nitish represents and can well make or mar the NDA's prospects. No wonder Tejswi has been consistently wooing him, even on the day of the NDA seat-sharing declaration. It would not be a surprise if Kushwaha does an opportunistic swerve. Having nursed a grudge since the Assembly elections three years ago, when his party got a reduced seat share, he may not settle for being given the short shrift a second time. While the BJP and JD(U) have sorted themselves, they have yet to assess the fallout of leaving just six seats for Kushwaha and Ram Vilas Paswan's LJP. Paswan, the leader of eight per cent Dalits, too, seems to be cut up over the BJP-JD(U) deal. BJP's number crunching won't work amid ego battles.



KUSHAN MITRA
Early in October this year, there was a conference held at the exposition ground on the outskirts of Chennai. It was called FISITA and it was for the first time that such a conference was taking place in India. It was a biennial talk-shop for automotive engineers from across the global automotive industry and was quite revealing with talks on suspensions, gearboxes, materials and what not, but the main issue of discussion was invariably the shifting sands of motive technology itself. Besides, several sessions and talks addressed some fundamental issues, one of them on whether the internal combustion engine was on its last leg, given the rush for electric vehicles today.

The answer to that was a resounding no. The internal combustion engine is not going to go away anytime soon. Because as Takashi

Uehara, Chief Engineer, Powertrain Product Planning division of Toyota Motor Corporation explained, we will need some of the basic technologies to move to an electric future that has not yet materialised.

Crucially among them, the energy density of fuels is very high and storage costs are very low. The costs of making a small, affordable petrol-driven car are very low, and for better or for worse, for countries that need affordable mobility, they are possibly the only near-term solution. In an electric car, for example, just the battery pack and the power control unit comprise 60 per cent of the cost of the car, and those costs are fixed, no matter which car you buy. Which is why Uehara believes that hybrids are the best short-term solution, particularly in a cost-conscious market.

The other simple thing that Uehara explained was that solutions can be wildly different in different countries. There is a lifetime 'carbon' cost to a car; something the industry calls 'well to wheel' carbon cost. So, the same cars, driving a similar distance every day in different countries, could have massively different carbon costs. Why? Basically, the source of energy determines how much carbon an electric or hybrid generates. So, in India, where an overwhelming majority of our electricity is thermal, the life-



INDIA SUFFERS FROM A PROBLEM THAT FEW OTHER COUNTRIES FACE. AND IT IS NOT REGARDING MOBILITY FOR OUR POPULATION, WHICH IS A CHALLENGE EVERY COUNTRY AND CITY FACES, BUT OF GETTING ELECTRICITY TO ALL ITS CITIZENS

time carbon cost of a battery-electric vehicle is higher than that of a hybrid car that uses an internal combustion engine. Whereas in a country like Canada, where much of the primary energy sources are from hydroelectric plants, the lifetime carbon costs of a fully-electric car are much, much lower.

India suffers from a problem that few other countries face. And it is not regarding mobility for our population, which is a challenge every country and city faces, but of getting electricity to all its citizens. And while steps are being made to enhance solar and wind energy facilities in our country, indeed on solar we have moved dramatically, taking advantage of our geography and weather.

The fact is that if we are to get power to all Indian households quickly, the only solution is even more thermal plants, and that is a problem given that India's coal is high in sulphur and most of the older thermal power plants do not have effective ways to deal with the exhaust. But India has signed up to the Paris Agreement and wants to become a world leader in solar technology in the long-term. In the short-term, India has little or no choice but to pollute a bit more.

That is not to say that Uehara did not feel that there was still a market for electric vehicles in India. Particularly where battery costs

could be capped, such as in small electric two-wheelers, particularly delivery motorcycles operating in a defined radius and buses in urban areas. But in a country like India, where costs are a concern, as is pollution, hybrids may be the best way forward for now when it comes to cars and commercial vehicles.

Hybrids have a major benefit because they do not need to have huge battery packs, so costs can be kept in check. The average price of one kilowatt hour of battery storage is around \$200 today, and while technical innovations happen in energy density, much of the major drops in cost have already occurred.

China recently, this columnist saw the electric car, featuring a 54 kilowatt-hour battery pack that provides it with a range of 500-plus kilometres, as much as a tankful of fuel would on most cars. Its battery pack alone costs around \$10,000 (\$7.5 lakh). The power control unit, the computer system that drives the entire machine, well that was not cheap either.

You can keep the costs down by installing smaller battery packs but nobody wants to buy cars which have a range of 100-200 kilometres even though those distances are more than enough to cover daily usage. "Range anx-

ity" is a thing and while it might be more of a psychological problem, it does not make electric cars, particularly of the sort that the Government of India has acquired, attractive to users. A massive fleet of electric cars might be the dream of some in this Government but the fact is that India has miles to go, both in terms of affordability and charging infrastructure.

Hybrids offer an advantage of acquisition costs, and if you develop 'plug-in' hybrids, which are more expensive vehicles, you can further reduce emissions. They also offer the huge added benefit of much increased fuel economy. As car electrical systems move towards a 48-volt system from the current 12-volt system, more and more cars will have battery packs.

Hybridisation is occurring because that is where the industry has to head. And as you can clearly see sitting in Delhi right now, air pollution is a massive problem. And while the automotive industry does not like being singled out for the blame, they realise that it is contingent on them to do something about emissions. But one thing is certain, the internal combustion engine, that has moved us around for almost 150 years, is not ready to retire just yet.

(The writer is Managing Editor, The Pioneer)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

The Government has no interest for or against any individual and is keen on maintaining institutional integrity of CBI. —Union Finance Minister
ARUN JAITLEY



No matter how hard the Government tries, it will not be able to cage the truth. Every institution is being ruined in the country. —Congress president
RAHUL GANDHI



Behind the big cat deaths

The death of 23 Asiatic lions in Gir is a reminder that the big cat's management is a gigantic challenge. However, the State's forest department must be complimented for quick action



HARI SHANKER SINGH
The death of 23 Asiatic lions (three lions, 11 lionesses and nine cubs above six months) in just two weeks, starting end of September and beginning of October, set alarm bells ringing for the Gujarat Forest Department. Initially, confusion prevailed but progressive deaths compelled the authorities to go for a prompt scientific investigation. Samples of the dead lions were sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Junagadh, and FSI, Junagadh to find out the possible reason that killed the lions. Samples of five lions confirmed the attack of virus — Canine Distemper Virus (CDV). The Veterinary College, Junagadh, confirmed the presence of *Babesia* protozoa in about a dozen samples. Suspecting an attack of the CDV, all surviving lions from the Sarasia Round in Dalkhanja Range were captured and kept in isolation at the Jasadhur lion care centre to avoid any contact with other lions.

Another 33 lions from the adjoining area of Dalkhanja Range were also captured and sent to Jamnala lion care centre. Of the infected lions kept in Jasadhur, all died but three survived as their immune system was better equipped to tackle the disease. Additionally, deaths of a few lions in August this year in the same region due to a similar disease cannot be ruled out.

The Gir protected area (1,452 sq km) and its surrounding forests cover an expanse of 1,882 sq km, which is distributed in 15 ranges, 60 forest rounds and 152 forest beats. The spread of the CDV disease was confined to 26 lions in Sarasia Round in Dalkhanja Range. Other 33 lions in the adjoining Dalkhanja range were suspected of such an attack, but a laboratory test proved that they were free from the fatal disease. Statistics reveal that only about two per cent of the Gir protected area and about four per cent of the Gir lions were infected by the fatal CDV and *Babesia* protozoa, although the presence of the virus in other lions having immunity



against the virus is not being ruled out.

When the fatal infection by CDV and *Babesia* protozoa attacked the African lion in Serengeti-Masai Mara landscape, it killed about 1,000 lions, almost 40 per cent of the total population of the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania in 1994. The first distressed African lion affected by the disease was detected in the first week of February in 1994. Before authorities could understand the efficiency of the administration. Remember, nothing is perfect and absolute. How can an administration be perfect? More action is expected to ensure the safety of the lion.

During the last five decades, the lion population in India has increased three-fold, from 180 in the early 1970s to over 600 in 2018. Their wild prey population too went up from about 6,400 to 83,000 during the same period. The conservation story of the Asiatic lion in the Gir forests is one of the best wildlife conservation stories in the world and it will continue to be so in the future. But increasing lion and leopard population in the human-dominated landscape is expected to throw a bigger challenge in the future, despite good wildlife management practices.

(This is the first article in a two-part series on Asiatic Lions. The second part will appear in these columns on Tuesday, October 30. The writer is Member, National Board for Wildlife)

For the last decade or so, the Government has been strongly encouraging the Indian firms to come up with indigenous innovations in product manufacturing and services. To promote innovation, the policy-makers have made an attempt lately to increase India's expenditure on Research and Development (R&D). However, India's expenditure on R&D is significantly below. It is just two per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP), which is the benchmark value that most innovative countries spend on R&D.

Furthermore, India never really made a forward-looking strategic plan to distribute this R&D expenditure on emerging issues of the future. As a result, the country is usually a late entrant to new technology. By the time India musters the technological development process and is capable to put its imprint, the world has moved up the technological ladder in the same, or technological space moves in a different direction. Thus, Indian firms find little space to enjoy the gains of innovation.

How is it that in some industries and governments in other countries are able to invest in the right area and at the right time? This is also true of smaller countries in the Far East, like Korea and Taiwan. Do they follow a strategic plan to direct their R&D expenditure? Or is that there is a scientific way to identify the emerging technologies?

Over the years, most countries have used forecasting as an important input in the process of planning future development. Using forecasting techniques, governmental and industrial organisations have made good estimates of various social and economic parameters, such as growth of the labour force, employment levels, population size, demographic distribution, gross national product (GNP), etc. These forecasts were used as inputs for



SANJIB POHIT
The decision-making processes. Incidentally, most innovating nations have effectively attempted to forecast the future of technology and deployed resources accordingly to gain from the first-mover advantage. Technological forecasting (TF) principally deals with the prediction of the future of useful machines, procedures or techniques. Thus, TF can be considered as a system of logical analysis that leads to common quantitative conclusions about technological attributes and parameters, as well as technical and economic attributes. In other words, technology foresight is a process by which one comes to a better understanding of the forces shaping the long-term future that should be taken into account in policy formulation, planning and decision-making. Therefore, it is closely tied to planning but it is not planning but merely a step in the process of planning.

Countries, like Japan, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the United States are the forerunner in this discipline. For instance, TF exercise in Japan involves more than 2,000 top-rated scientists/academia/technologists to map out the evolution of possible technologies in the next 25 years of the time horizon.

The latest exercise has listed over more than 400 technologies and there exists a strong lineage of these identified technologies with fund allocation for R&D by policy-makers.

Today, everyone is amazed at the pace of technology development in China. A lot of it can be ascribed to TF exercises. Technology foresight in China in a broad sense can be traced to the 12 years of scientific development planning made in 1956 when over 1,000 excellent scientists participated in works ranging from technology selection, priority setting, subject arrangement and resource distribution.

In 1983, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) organised a large-scale survey on 15 years (1985-2000) of science and technology development planning with a view to make the discipline development strategy and sponsor policy which promoted the development of forecasting studies in China. In 2003, China launched the project, "Technology

We need a tech zoom lens

Using forecasting techniques, Governments and industrial organisations around the world have made estimates of various social and economic parameters, such as growth of future labour force, population size *et al.* India must not lag behind



obtains largescale use, which is of high intensity and lightweight. (vi) The most secure and cheapest control technologies of largescale electrical network obtain a widespread use; (vii) The technologies about biological processing and mining for crude oil develop successfully.

(viii) The anti-viral medicine with high efficiency applies to clinical medicine widely. (ix) The technologies about biochemistry, immunity and gene apply to food quarantine.

(x) The important character gene, which decides the yield, quality and resistance of crops, obtains comprehensive annotation and gets practical use with biological technology. (xi) The 10nm processing technology obtains widespread usage in the scale production, and integration rate of the integrated circuit achieves the 1,000G transistor.

(xii) The defence and monitoring system of harmful biology will be established for public security. Similarly, the most feasible 10 topics according to the integration

forefront towards 2020 in China', consisting of eight main research fields, comprising 32 sub-fields and around 409 topics from the above 32 subfields. The exercise has laid out emphatically top 10 topics based on the integrated index of importance, which is calculated according to three indicators, such as contribution to the economy, improvement in the quality of life index and girding up the security system. According to the integrated index of importance, the most important topics for China are the following:

(i) The solar cell will be developed successfully, whose transfer efficiency reaches as high as 50 per cent.

(ii) The new technology about biological energy will be developed successfully, which can continuously produce ethanol with straw, biological diesel, hydro-carbon compound and so on.

(iii) The metal material

THIS IS A PROCESS BY WHICH ONE COMES TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE FORCES SHAPING THE LONG-TERM FUTURE WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN POLICY FORMULATION, PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING

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(xii) The defence and monitoring system of harmful biology will be established for public security. Similarly, the most feasible 10 topics according to the integration

of 'technological possibility and commercial feasibility of old technology' topics are listed below:

(i) The important character gene which decides the yield, quality and resistance of crops, obtains comprehensive annotation and gets practical use with biological technology.

(ii) The measure of genome sequence about main economical plant and micro-organism will be completed. (iii) The use of biological technology will speed up the process for breeding, and the crops breeding will use the technologies of molecular design.

(iv) The epidemiology model and the trend analysis technology about main disease will be established. (v) The rules of main metabolism networks and metabolism regulation will be elucidated.

(vi) More than 300 animal models will be established with the technologies of biology model, trans-gene and gene knock-out. (vii) The rubber with high performance obtains large-scale use; (viii) The defence and monitoring system of harmful biology will be established for public security.

(ix) The order to eliminate the anxiety about transgene production, the standardised safe evaluation system, which includes the cheapest control technologies of largescale electrical network obtain a widespread use;

(x) The technology system of plant breeding and fertilisation, which includes nitrogen fixation and high-use efficiency of elements, such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and so on, will obtain widespread use.

(xi) One can see that TF exercise is a serious business in China. Moreover, these have also been seriously debated in various fora. Unfortunately, India has never attempted a serious endeavour of this kind, barring half-hearted attempts made by the Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC). So, it is not surprising that India has not even been able to leapfrog in the technology front.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research)

At the crossroads of a clutter junction

The best hope for future trends is the instinctive direction the human psyche inevitably takes when one is faced with numerous choices



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM
This is an era of technology talk. A police officer can now be endowed with spectacles, which can be used for face recognition. The principle of enhanced images is involved and it makes it easier to detect a person who is wanted by the many in the crowd. The intelligent talk of robots and their pity answers are now a passé. It is being claimed that they can read human emotions. So, it is time for another prime-time debate: Who is more desirable — the machine or the man?

Obviously, it has affected the process issues, and methods of governance and communication have drastically changed. The education regulator in the UAE is credited with having had a new electronic system through which, say, a teacher in one of the cities, can give up his/her job, get absorbed in another school or even seek promotion online.

This has widened the scope of the potential itself. Job search has been brought to the doorstep. Interestingly, the all-pervasive character of technology helps redefine not only entertainment but also sports. Imagine a situation where a human player shoots a basketball into the ring, and has as a competitor, a robot, showing its skills in shooting basketball. The Dubai World Trade Centre has such examples. Put simply, few things are as potent as technology in pushing a frontier. One can now have a robot engineer who can double up as a consultant. The predictive models of Artificial Intelligence (AI) are keys to such competence.

Now for the antithesis, problems of data privacy have been frontline news in the Indian media for some time now. Fears of cyber security have made severe dents into the onrush of digital transformation. In every man's domain, the ingenious ways of seeking passwords and not unflown money, are a common place on the computer screen. Vulnerabilities are many. It raises some basic questions about the real value of engineering. The coming of the era of 5G can almost be as fundamentally evocative as perhaps any other technological revolution. Governments are trying to put it partly because of pressures of international business. However, key proponents of pushing the technological revolution are the IT and the telecom companies which see their businesses in the expanding domain of IT systems.

Put simply, more of the world changes, more the key motivating sentiments remain the same. Many in their 20s or 30s may not know of the 1958 Nobel Prize winner for literature, Boris Pasternak. He was one of the most celebrated dissidents of the Cold War. He was not only hailed in certain parts of the world but feted as a literary genius. Perhaps, if his world-view was not so anti of the contemporary Soviet Union and had he written with equal flair on another topic, this celebration may not have come his way. Equally 2018, the first Iraqi recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize was Nadia Murad. Listed for verbalising her experiences during the three-month captivity with the Daesh group, it fits in well with the version which seeks to make Iraq a nation in need of 'chastisement'. So much for the objectivity and fidelity to the principles of recognition of excellence — in this case the Nobel award(s).

The story does not end there. The cocktail of certain interests of commerce, pushing certain groups of technologies and military/political superiority favouring certain types of creativity, is becoming more pervasive by the day. The sorry tale does not end there. Consider the beauty pageants. The preponderance of winners from Third world countries of the beauty pageants and converting them into icons is one of the most ingenious marketing techniques of beauty products. It does not need a research study to establish that the number of winners in almost all of the many beauty pageants are predominantly from the Third world countries. Vulnerable markets and aspiring individuals, who represent resources in such markets, are obviously a fit target for their marketing strategy. Better and easier returns over shorter periods of time, riding the penetration of marketing drives (which does not need commensurate investment), is every investor's dream. As an upshot, beauty products get more and more common in the prosperous sections of the poorer nations.

Perhaps in the same breath, it needs to be added that there is no need to feel gloomy on this surge. This because there is a parallel surge of celebrating heritage which is also sweeping the world. If Dubai has had a notable display of technology, UAE cultural week in France also made it point to highlight the Emirati heritage. China has drummed up traditional medicine in its unique promotional style. The revival of tribal arts and crafts in India is an equal success story. Perhaps the best hope for future positive trends is the instinctive direction which the human psyche inevitably takes when faced with a crossroad of choices.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EPS SURVIVES

Sir — It was a huge relief for the Palaniswami Government in Tamil Nadu that the disqualification of 18 MLAs of TTV Dinakaran-led Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) by the Speaker was upheld by the Madras High Court. The Government lost no time to claim that it received the judicial sanction to continue with the 'Amma rule'. After the verdict, it faces no imminent threat to continue in power. Like it or not, the state will continue with no major political churning in the foreseeable future. It is only right that

no body even remotely suggested that the judgement could have been coloured by subjectivity despite the difficulty to hold the finer point of law against the petitioners. However, the verdict in the disqualification case was contrary to general expectations.

Dinakaran did not regard the verdict as a 'setback' but called it a 'learning experience'. It would be a travesty of democracy if the people of as many as 20 constituencies go unrepresented in the next assembly election.

possible that the 18 disqualified rebel law makers will go in for appeal on the ground that an anti-defection law cannot be invoked in their case. If so, the appellate court should pronounce the verdict in a time-bound manner to ensure that the voters in these constituencies are not denied their right to be represented in the legislature.

G David Milton
Maruthanchand

SET THE CBI FREE

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Unstage the parrot" (October 26). At a time when

KBC, a big hit, thanks to Bachchan



mat was fresh for the audience, and its roaring success resurrected Bachchan's career. Maybe, as a sense of gratitude, he has never said "no" to host KBC though he still earns a fortune from each episode. He even recently settled debts of farmers with it. When to and when not to take the lifelines, and availing themselves of an appropriate lifeline at an opportune time, is an art many contestants have mastered to win. However, the show is primarily about Bachchan. The Bollywood superstar con-

ducts himself with utmost dignity and humility pepped up with humour and sagacity to take the show to a new level. His show of respect for the elders and women, and brilliant one-on-one with the relatives of the contestants and, of course, in between deliberations with the contestants themselves, have made KBC one of the top television entertainment shows over on Indian television.

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

political parties are adamant on seeking probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) because of its neutral and unbiased way of going about the job, despite its each step being watched and guided by the rulers at the helm, infighting among its top officials, irrespective of whether it is engineered or otherwise, does not bode well for the organisation and the country. While it is the inherent duty of the CBI to go through each and every case that gets referred to it on the basis of merit, it often gets halted even when

upright officers pursue the same diligently.

In a welcome gesture, the Supreme Court intervened on the right time and ordered for a timely supervised inquiry into the charges against the sidelined CBI Director, Akolk Verma. Nevertheless, 'caged parrot' that the apex court had once described the CBI as, should be made to 'fly free' so that it functions independently.

VS Jayaraman
Chennai

Send your feedback to:
letters@pioneer@gmail.com



The negotiations (with USA) are ongoing. Of course, at this stage they have given an offer and we have also given a counter-offer and we are working on it

Suresh Prabhu, Union Commerce Minister

BUZZ FROM GOVT

We (to Media People) have to think from a legal perspective ... Other aspect of remedy is to educate people, educate voters, educate citizens so that they are not taken in by fake narratives and untruths that people peddle in the garb of actually being the truth. We as the Executive are more than willing to be accountable

Jayant Sinha, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation



Use Aadhaar eKYC for DBT users: UIDAI to banks

VOLUNTARY OFFLINE AADHAAR FOR OTHER CUSTOMERS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The UIDAI has clarified to banks that Aadhaar eKYC can be used to authenticate beneficiaries of Government subsidies and welfare schemes while for other customers physical Aadhaar card can be used for verification, a source said.

The Aadhaar-issuing authority Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) wrote to the banks last week clarifying the instances and modes in which Aadhaar can be used, and a copy of the same was also sent to the Reserve Bank of India, a senior UIDAI said.

The UIDAI wrote to banks after it received legal opinion on the matter, in the wake of a recent Supreme Court verdict that restricted the use of Aadhaar by private entities but cleared it for welfare schemes.

The UIDAI informed the banks that they can use Aadhaar authentication for beneficiaries of Government subsidies and welfare schemes, and listed various 'options' for the use of Aadhaar (such as Quick Response or QR code and offline Aadhaar) for other banking customers in the light of Supreme Court judgement in the Aadhaar case, said the official who did not wish to be named.

Physical Aadhaar card can be used for verification in an offline mode if produced voluntarily, it clarified.

When contacted UIDAI CEO, Ajay Bhushan Pandey told PTI, "There are viable and completely paperless and digital options available through digitally signed electronic form of Aadhaar which allows identity to be verified online without ping-pong on the server. And through such methods the services can be seamlessly and digitally offered by banks for non-DBT customers". He also confirmed that UIDAI's views have been sent to banks but did not elaborate on details.

UIDAI has said that banks will be entitled to seek authentication of the beneficiaries availing subsidies, benefits, services under Aadhaar Act, for transfer of any subsidy or benefit to the bank account of the beneficiary, as well as for facilitating the withdrawal of money through Aadhaar based micro-ATM machines.

This means Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) and BHIM Aadhaar Pay shall remain operative and bank can continue to maintain and provide these facilities so that Direct Benefit Transfer or DBT beneficiaries can withdraw their money through the micro-ATMs, AePS, BHIM Aadhaar Pay.

In its circular to banks, the UIDAI said that for customers giving declaration that they want to receive entitled benefits or subsidies of welfare schemes funded from the Consolidated Fund of India in their account directly, banks can perform Aadhaar-based authentication using e-KYC for opening bank accounts too.

For all other customers, banks cannot use Aadhaar electronic know your customer (e-KYC) authentication for opening bank accounts.

Petrol, diesel price cut for 11th time

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol price was cut by 40 paise a litre and diesel by 33 paise a litre on Sunday, the 11th straight reduction in rates on softening international oil prices.

Petrol in Delhi now costs ₹80.05 a litre and diesel is priced at ₹74.05 per litre, according to a price notification issued by state-owned oil firms.

In 11 straight cuts, petrol price has been reduced by ₹2.78 per litre and diesel by ₹1.64 a litre.

The rates are off their record high of ₹84 per litre for petrol and ₹75.45 a litre for diesel touched on October 4. On that day, the government decided to cut excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹1.50 per litre each and asked state-owned fuel retailers to subsidise by another ₹1 a litre by reducing their margins.

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



GST Council met 30 times, took 918 decisions in 2 years: FinMin

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The all-powerful GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, has met 30 times and taken 918 decisions related to laws, rules and rates for the new tax regime within a span of just over two years, the Finance Ministry said on Sunday.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, which comprises state finance ministers and Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue as members, was set up on September 15, 2016, as the country's first 'federal institution'.

"Till date, GST Council has taken 918 decisions related to GST laws, rules, rates, compensation, taxation threshold etc. More than 96 per cent of the decisions have already been implemented through 294 notifications issued by the Central Government," the Ministry said in a statement.

The remaining decisions are under various stages of implementation. Almost equal number of corresponding notifications have been issued by each state, it added.

The working of GST Council has ushered in a new phase of cooperative federalism where the Central and state Governments work together to take collective decisions on all issues relating to indirect tax regime of the country, it said.

Besides, tax officers of the Centre and states met ahead of the GST Council meetings to enable the council members to fully discuss the issues under consideration.

The Council has held discussions in a "harmonious and collaborative spirit" in the 30 meetings that have taken place so far, it added.

The detailed agenda notes for the 30 GST Council meetings ran into 4,730 pages, while the minutes of the meetings ran into 1,394 pages, the statement said.

After 17 tumultuous years, a nationwide GST was rolled out at the stroke of the midnight hour on July 1, 2017, overhauling India's convoluted indirect taxation system.

The GST, which replaced 17 central and state levies including factory-gate, excise duty, service tax and local sales tax or VAT, is India's biggest tax reform in 70 years of independence and will help modernise Asia's third largest economy.



India, US talks ongoing to resolve trade issues: Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu has said India and the US have exchanged offers for a possible trade deal with a view to resolving issues related to bilateral commerce.

"The negotiations are ongoing. Of course, at this stage they have given an offer and we have also given a counter-offer and we are working on it," he said at an event here Saturday.

The statement assumes significance as India has deferred a notification for hiking import duties on as many as 29 US products.

India had announced hiking customs duty on 29 products, including pulses and iron and steel items, imported from the US as a retaliatory action against the tariff hike by Washington. The duty hike would come into effect from November 2.

India is pressing for exemption from high duty imposed by the US on certain steel and aluminium products, resumption of export benefits to certain domestic goods under their Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) as well as greater market access for its products from sectors, including agriculture, automobile, auto components and engineering.

As many as 3,500 Indian products from sectors such as chemicals and engineering get duty-free access to the US market under the GSP, introduced in 1976.

On the other hand, the US is demanding greater market access for its agriculture goods, manufacturing products and medical devices.

India's exports to the US in 2017-18 stood at \$47.9 billion, while imports were \$26.7 billion. The trade balance is in favour of India.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani has won oil regulator PNGRB's approval for selling his loss-making east-west natural gas pipeline to Canadian investor Brookfield, a top official said.

Ambani's Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Ltd, which later changed the name to East West Pipeline Ltd (EWPL), a decade back built a 1,400-kilometer pipeline from Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh to Bharuch in Gujarat to transport natural gas discovered in a KG basin block operated by his flagship firm Reliance Industries.

However, the pipeline which had a capacity to transport 80 million standard cubic metres per day of natural gas is currently operating at less than 5 per cent of its capacity as output from KG-D6 block of RIL fell sooner than expected.

While the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had in September approved the transaction where Brookfield is sponsoring an Infrastructure Investment Trust (IIT) called India Infrastructure Trust as the acquisition vehicle, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) gave its nod a few weeks back.

"Yes, the approval has been accorded," PNGRB Chairman Dinesh K Sarraf said.

This will be Brookfield's first investment in the energy sector in India.

However, the acquisition price has not been disclosed.

According to September 11 approval of the CCI, the pipeline housed under EWPL will be transferred to an entity called Pipeline Infrastructure Pvt Ltd (PIPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Holding Pvt Ltd (RIHPL).

"RIHPL would sell its entire issued and paid up equity share capital of PIPL to IIT," the CCI order said. "Further, IIT will also subscribe to the non-convertible debentures to be issued by PIPL."

Asset Management Inc's affiliate Rapid Holdings Pte Ltd and PenBrook Capital Advisors Pvt Ltd (PCAPL) had executed a framework agreement to buy the pipeline on August 28.

PCAPL is a joint venture between Peninsula Investment Management Co Ltd and Brookfield Capital Partners (Bermuda) Ltd.

"By way of the proposed combination, the entire equity share capital and voting rights of PIPL is proposed to be acquired by India Infrastructure Trust (IIT), a trust to be established/sponsored by Rapid and registered under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014," the CCI order said.

PCAPL would be appointed as the investment manager of IIT.

EWPL had operating revenue of ₹884 crore and posted a net loss of ₹715 crore in the year ended March.

The loss was mainly because of the pipeline operating at less than its capacity.

KG-D6 fields, which began production in April 2009, had hit a peak of 69.43 mmscmd in March 2010 before water and sand ingress forced the shut-down of wells. This peak output comprised 66.35 mmscmd from D1 and D3, the largest of the 18 gas discoveries on the KG-D6 block, and 3.07 mmscmd from MA field, the only oil discovery on the block.

Currently, the fields produce less than 4 mmscmd of gas, which EWPL transports to customers.

EWPL had a total outstanding debt of ₹13,715 crore as of March while its plant, property and equipment had an asset value of around ₹11,000 crore, according to its last annual balance sheet.

Oil regulator approves sale of Ambani's pipeline to Brookfield

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Flipkart Internet narrows losses to ₹1,160.6 cr for FY18

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce major Flipkart Internet has trimmed its consolidated losses to ₹1,160.6 crore for the financial year ended March 2018, as per regulatory documents.

The company had registered a total loss of ₹1,640.2 crore in the previous fiscal, according to the documents filed with the Corporate Affairs Ministry.

Flipkart's revenue from operations was at ₹2,790.2 crore for 2017-18 as against ₹1,882.4 in the previous financial year, a growth of 48.2 per cent, it added.

When contacted, Flipkart declined to comment.

On standalone basis, the total loss narrowed to ₹1,157 crore, while revenue was higher at ₹2,790.2 crore for 2017-18 as against the previous year.

Flipkart, which operates different entities for various functions, provides e-commerce and support services through Flipkart Internet. The revenue of Flipkart Internet is mainly generated from services like collection, marketplace, storage and logistics.

Earlier in the year, Flipkart inked a blockbuster deal with Walmart under which the American retailer picked up about 77 per cent stake for about \$16 billion. The deal gave handsome return to investors like SoftBank who sold their complete shareholding.

In India, Flipkart is locked in an intense battle with US-based e-tailing giant Amazon with both entities pumping in millions of dollars towards promotions, building infrastructure and logistics as they woo customers to shop online.

Studies indicate the Indian e-commerce market is set to cross \$200 billion over the next few years.



FinMin seeks input from Ministries for Jaitley's Budget speech

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Finance Ministry has sought inputs from different central ministries for Arun Jaitley's Budget Speech, which would be the last budget of the current BJP-led NDA Government before the 2019 general polls.

Earlier this month, the Ministry began the budgetary exercise for 2019-20. During the process, meetings will be held with ministries of steel, power, and housing and urban development to finalise revised expenditure for the current fiscal and projections for the next financial year.

The meetings are scheduled to continue till November 16.

The finance ministry has requested the ministries to send material related with their departments that may merit inclusion in the finance minister's budget speech for 2019-20 by November 15, according to a communication by the Finance Ministry to all secretaries.

In view of the upcoming General Elections, the Government is likely to come out with an interim budget also referred to as Vote-on-Account.

The General Budget is presented on February 1.

Finance Minister Jaitley is scheduled to present his 6th consecutive Budget with 2019 being Vote-on-Account.

As per practice, a Vote-on-Account or approval for essential Government spending for a limited period is taken in an election year and a full-fledged budget presented by the new Government.

While P Chidambaram had presented the previous UPA Government's Vote-on-Account in February 2014,



Jaitley presented a full budget in July that year. Narendra Modi-led Government scrapped a colonial-era tradition of presenting the budget at the end of February.

With the pre-emption of budget, ministries are now allocated their budgeted funds from the start of the financial year beginning April.

This gives Government departments more leeway to spend as well as allow companies time to adapt to business and taxation plans.

Previously, when the budget was presented at the end of February, the three-stage Parliament approval process used to get completed some time in mid-May, weeks ahead of the onset of monsoon rains.

This meant Government departments would start spending on projects only from August-end or September after the monsoon season ended.

Venkaiah Naidu felicitates 'RBS Earth Heroes'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

RBS India, the innovation and operations hub of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), announced the winners of the RBS 'Earth Heroes' Awards for 2018. The eight winners were felicitated by the Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu, for going beyond their call of duty to save the planet's ecological assets.

RBS set up the RBS Foundation India in 2007, and has since been strengthening communities, improving livelihoods and promoting conservation in over 1100 villages. The Foundation's 22 projects, across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Odisha, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttar Pradesh, are benefitting over 124,475 families.

MediaTek plans to collaborate with India firms to develop AI based applications

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Taiwanese chipset firm MediaTek plans to collaborate with Indian software companies to develop artificial intelligence-based applications which would in high demand with the adoption of emerging 5G technologies, a senior company official said.

Artificial intelligence (AI) based solutions are expected to be in demand when 5G services would start rolling out across the world. Next generation technologies like AI, machine learning etc help devices customise on their own as per the habit or usage pattern of customers.

"So far, for AI applications, MediaTek's partners have been big international companies like Google and Facebook. But for the next step we want to collaborate with local startups who want to develop AI-based applications for Indian market," MediaTek's Wireless Communication General Manager T L Lee told PTI.

"In 2018, we developed AI specific features function and application for global usage but as we move into 2019 we want to be part of the Indian community," Lee said.

The company at the India Mobile Congress launched its AI-based Helio P70 with inbuilt central processing unit for computing functions and graphical processing unit for multimedia applications.

India is the second largest market for MediaTek after China which accounts for 20-25 per cent of total smart devices business in MediaTek's global revenue.

AI-based solutions are expected to be widely in demand for 5g services specially for autonomous cars, agriculture and health solutions.

"We expect to have MediaTek's 5G solutions to come in market next year. We will start working with telecom carriers first for 5G solutions. Our priority for 2019 is to have field trials on 5G technology in India, US, China and Europe," Lee said.

Lee said that MediaTek is now expanding business in India in area of telecom networks, Internet of Things, consumer electronics etc.

"We will also set up labs and other resources to do research and development jobs. We have around 700 people. MediaTek will invest more in India in development on new technology in India," Lee said.



OPEN-ENDED (GROWTH)

SCHEME NAV

HDFC MUTUAL FUND

Index Fund Sensex Plus Plan-Direct Plan	469.996
Index Fund-Sensex Plus(FV-Rs32.161)	462.5623
Index Fund Sensex Plan-Direct Plan	297.916
Index Fund-Sensex Plan(FV Rs 32.161)	294.6582

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

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

KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND

Bluechip Fund - Dividend	30.212
Bluechip Fund - Dividend - Direct	32.889
Bluechip Fund - Growth	201.125
Bluechip Fund - Growth - Direct	213.736
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend	20.694
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend - Direct	23.965
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth	33.724
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth - Direct	36.001
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly	20.1217
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly Direct	20.3219
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend	10.71
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend - Direct	11.0094
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Regular	23.0636
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth	25.7906
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth - Direct	26.5383
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Direct	23.5358
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend	22.115
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend - Direct	23.788
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth	102.047
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth - Direct	108.507
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Growth	13.7629
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Monthly Dividend	11.2381
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Quarterly Dividend	10.9037
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Growth	13.393
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Monthly Dividend	10.9792
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Quarterly Dividend	10.8034
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend	14.281
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend - Direct	15.016
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth	14.281
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth - Direct	14.949
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend	18.794
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend - Direct	20.836
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth	46.105
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth - Direct	49.615
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Dividend	15.765
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Growth	17.303
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Direct Plan - Dividend Option	18.456
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Direct Plan - Growth Option	18.669
Small Cap Fund - Dividend	33.187
Small Cap Fund - Dividend - Direct	35.863
Small Cap Fund - Growth	64.277
Small Cap Fund - Growth - Direct	68.997
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend	20.249
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend - Direct	21.672
Standard Multicap Fund - Growth	30.316
Standard Multicap Fund - Growth - Direct	32.082

SAHARA MUTUAL FUND

BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH - Direct	62.6288
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH OPTION	59.0254
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND - Direct	21.2572
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND OPTION	20.8665
Growth Fund-Dividend	36.6325
Growth Fund-Dividend- Direct	37.31
Growth Fund-Growth	126.1545
Growth Fund-Growth- Direct	140.9698
Infrastructure Fund -FIXED PRICING -Direct-Dividend	20.328
Infrastructure Fund -FIXED PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	24.862
Infrastructure Fund -FIXED PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option	16.8111
Infrastructure Fund -FIXED PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	23.0213
Infrastructure Fund -VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Dividend	22.3093
Infrastructure Fund -VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	27.3297
Infrastructure Fund -VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option	19.6405
Infrastructure Fund -VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	26.6988
Micap Fund-Auto Payout	70.6968
Micap Fund-Auto Payout- Direct	75.5708
Micap Fund-Bonus	70.6968
Micap Fund-Bonus- Direct	75.5708
Micap Fund-Dividend -Direct	31.6487
Micap Fund-Dividend Plan	31.1796
Micap Fund-Growth Option - Direct	75.5708
Micap Fund-Growth Plan	70.6968
Power & Natural Resources Fund - Dividend Option	16.1703
Power & Natural resources Fund - Growth - Direct	20.4355
Power & Natural resources Fund - Growth Option	18.9587
Power & Natural Resources Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.0357
R.E.A.L Fund - Dividend Option	19.0338
R.E.A.L Fund - Dividend Option- Direct	19.4172
R.E.A.L Fund - Growth Fund	19.0307
R.E.A.L Fund - Growth Fund- Direct	20.9868

Star Value Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.7033
Star Value Fund-Dividend Option	16.431
Star Value Fund-Growth - Direct	22.8314
Star Value Fund-Growth Option	21.2477
Super 20 Fund - Dividend - Direct	16.3573
Super 20 Fund - Dividend Option	18.1645
Super 20 Fund - Growth - Direct	19.7759
Super 20 Fund - Growth Option	18.1822
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Dividend Option	28.6581
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	40.4312
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Dividend Option	28.1934
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Growth Option	39.5865
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct -Dividend	33.9007
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	47.2721
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Dividend Option	33.4226
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Growth Option	46.1003

SBI MUTUAL FUND

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

OPEN-ENDED (INCOME)

DHFL PRAMERICA MUTUAL FUND

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

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

Blended Plan B - Dividend Option - I	15.0425
Blended Plan B - Growth Option - I	23.9631
Blended Plan B - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.266
Blended Plan B - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.4926
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend Option - I	17.7362
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth Option - I	24.0808
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.3063
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I	10.0227
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Option - I	10.7
Blended Plan B - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I	10.3661
Blended Plan B - option I-Bonus	11.9703
Blended Plan B-Direct Plan - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.032
Child Care Plan Study - Cumulative	69.6122
Child Care Plan Study - Direct Plan - Cumulative	72.4243
Dynamic Bond Fund - Annual Dividend	10.6484
Dynamic Bond Fund - Bonus	19.6984
Dynamic Bond Fund - Daily Dividend	10.0171
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Daily Dividend	10.5669
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Growth	20.425
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2129
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend	10.4618
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Annual Dividend	10.6164
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Bonus Option	20.23
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend	10.4779
Dynamic Bond Fund - Growth	19.6985
Dynamic Bond Fund - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2388
Dynamic Bond Fund - Monthly Dividend	10.9656
Dynamic Bond Fund - Premium Plus Growth	20.7632
Dynamic Bond Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.408
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.7894
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	22.5035
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan - I - Direct Plan Bonus	12.628
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Growth	17.983
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	N.A.
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	18.0131
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.8172
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	11.9883
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.6497
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Direct Plan - Growth	23.4449
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Dividend	11.8549
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Growth	23.3622
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	11.7874
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	21.8977
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7978
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Dividend	10.8352
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Growth	17.7495
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Dividend	11.6845
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Growth	21.7637
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Dividend	11.7708
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Direct Plan - Growth	20.4818
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Growth	20.4088
Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.1844
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0692
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	13.4735
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.0015
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Growth	13.4637
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0025
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.9999
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan - I Retail Quarterly Div Payout	10.0022
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	17.6211
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Growth	17.5944
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Qtrly Div Payout	10.0023
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	10.0271

Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.0296
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	20.0513
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0013
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Growth	19.9985
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Direct Qtrly Div Payout	10.0085
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	10.0083
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	20.7912
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.1854
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	17.5014
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0061
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Growth	17.4312
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Cumulative	13.9619
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct - Cumulative	13.9796
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct - Dividend	10.9291
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	14.9423
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	14.9835
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Cumulative	14.9023
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct - Cumulative	14.9454
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct - Dividend	10.441
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	13.774
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	13.7979
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Dividend	10.8654
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.2479
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	21.1917
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Quarterly Dividend Payout	10.0015
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.6172
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.6425
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Quarterly Div Payout	10.224
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0124
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	20.9682
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0051
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	14.1819
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	14.2363
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Quarterly Dividend Payout	10.0016
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Dividend	10.0038
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Growth	22.1759
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Growth	14.0323
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Qtrly Div Payout	10.2204
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Dividend	10.0039
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Growth	13.9772
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Insl Quarterly Div Payout	10.2061
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Dividend	10.0799
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Growth	22.795
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0051
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Qtrly Div Payout	10.1535
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7073
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Dividend	10.005
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Growth	13.469
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Quarterly Dividend Payout	10.2309
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Dividend	10.0742
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Growth	20.25
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0168
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7138
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Qtrly Div Payout	10.0095
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Dividend	10.1825
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Growth	17.716
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F Retail Qtrly Dividend Payout	10.0046
Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0009
Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	19.7164
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.001
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	18.1794
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.2084
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	18.1012
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Dividend	10.1688
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan - II Retail Quarterly Div Payout	10.234
Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	20.0008
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.9183
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.8735
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Half Yearly	13.6318
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Monthly	12.7914
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Quarterly	13.8562
MIP - Direct Plan - Growth	49.7829
MIP - Direct Plan Bonus	13.7171
MIP - Dividend Half Yearly	12.8248
MIP - Dividend Monthly	12.3602
MIP - Dividend Quarterly	13.5226
MIP - Growth	48.1366

JM FINANCIAL MUTUAL FUND

Income Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	19.6551
MIP Fund (Direct) - Bonus Option - Principal Units	25.9834
MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Annual Dividend	20.9404
MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Quarterly Dividend	19.5151
MIP Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.7788
MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Monthly Dividend	12.6302
MIP Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	24.5085
MIP FUND-Annual Dividend	19.4034
MIP FUND-Growth	24.1503
MIP FUND-Monthly Dividend	11.4362
MIP FUND-Quarterly Dividend	18.1976

Short Term Fund (Direct) - Daily Dividend Option	13.7978
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option	10.5788
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.485

KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND

Banking and PSU Debt - Annual Dividend	16.1842
Banking and PSU Debt - Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.188
Banking and PSU Debt - Direct Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.2604
Banking and PSU Debt - Growth	40.1443
Banking and PSU Debt - Monthly Dividend	10.4872
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Annual Dividend	17.1427
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Growth	40.7629
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Monthly Dividend	10.5893
Bond - Annual Dividend - Direct	22.1687
Bond - Growth - Direct	50.3512
Bond - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	13.6267
Bond Regular Plan Annual Dividend	29.4907
Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan	30.696
Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan - Direct	22.7736
Bond Regular Plan Direct HF dividend	40.4758
Bond Regular Plan Growth	48.1351
Bond Regular Plan Quaterly Dividend	10.7641
Bond-Deposit-Dividend	13.6554
Bond-Deposit-Growth	42.9354
Bond Short Term Plan - Direct Plan - Normal Dividend	10.3029
Bond Short Term Plan-(Dividend)	10.1054
Bond Short Term Plan-(Dividend) - Direct	10.9853
Bond Short Term Plan-(Growth)	33.2564
Bond Short Term Plan-(Growth) - Direct	34.6972
Bond Short Term Plan-(Half Yearly Dividend)	12.123
Bond Short Term Plan-(Half Yearly Dividend) - Direct	12.3083
Corporate Bond Fund - Retail Plan-Growth Option	2034.9063
Corporate Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Growth Option	2417.8765
Corporate Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option	1103.3382
Corporate Bond Fund - Institutional Plan-Growth Option	2090.4924
Corporate Bond Fund - Regular Plan-Growth Option	2366.4954
Corporate Bond Fund - Regular Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	1049.6293
Corporate Bond Fund - Regular Plan-Quarterly Dividend Option	1066.6837
Corporate Bond Fund - Retail Plan - Monthly Dividend Option	1040.0538
Corporate Bond Fund - Retail Plan - Weekly Dividend Option	1052.3061
Corporate Bond Fund - Retail Plan-Daily Dividend Option	1052.6393
Corporate Bond Fund - Standard Plan-Daily Dividend Option	1052.7994
Corporate Bond Fund - Standard Plan-Weekly Dividend Option	1202.9939
Credit Risk Fund - Annual Dividend	10.549
Credit Risk Fund - Annual Dividend - Direct	15.5089
Credit Risk Fund - Growth	19.5808
Credit Risk Fund - Growth - Direct	20.6482
Credit Risk Fund - Monthly Dividend	10.3187
Credit Risk Fund - Monthly Dividend - Direct	10.5464
Credit Risk Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.7963
Credit Risk Fund - Quarterly Direct Dividend - Direct	10.1847
Credit Risk Fund - Weekly Dividend	10.0043
Credit Risk Fund - Weekly Dividend - Direct	10.4293
Debt Hybrid - Growth	28.6837
Debt Hybrid - Growth - Direct	30.4513
Debt Hybrid - Monthly Dividend	11.4781
Debt Hybrid - Monthly Dividend - Direct	11.9127
Debt Hybrid - Quarterly Dividend	12.7925
Debt Hybrid - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	13.3892
Dynamic Bond Fund - Daily Dividend - Direct	10.1362
Dynamic Bond Fund - Growth - Direct	23.6642
Dynamic Bond Fund - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	10.8139
Dynamic Bond Fund - Weekly Dividend Direct	12.8673
Dynamic Bond Fund - Regular Plan - Monthly Dividend Option	21.8503
Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Daily Dividend	10.0364
Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Growth	22.8485
Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Quarterly Dividend	11.0191
Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Weekly Dividend	10.5335
Dynamic Bond Fund-Direct Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	22.5093
Flexi-Debt - Regular Plan - Dividend	10.7268
Flexi-Debt - Regular Plan - Growth	25.1289
Flexi-Debt - Regular Plan - Daily Dividend	14.3817
Flexi Debt - Regular Plan - Weekly Dividend	10.035
Low Duration - Regular Plan-Weekly Dividend	1014.8289
Low Duration Fund - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option	1069.2162
Low Duration Fund - Regular Plan - Normal Dividend	1070.089
Low Duration Fund Direct Plan- Bonus Option	1321.4208
Low Duration Fund - Direct Plan - Growth Option	2279.5855
Low Duration Fund - Direct Plan - Weekly Dividend Option	1199.4133
Low Duration Fund - Regular Plan-Growth Option	2199.7269
Low Duration Fund - Regular Plan-Monthly Dividend Option</	

Americans mourn death of 11 people at Pittsburgh synagogue

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

An armed man stormed a synagogue and shot worshippers in the US city of Pittsburgh, killing at least 11 people and injuring six others, including four policemen, in the deadliest attack on Jews in the history of America.

The shooter, identified as 46-year-old Robert Bowers, surrendered after he was injured during an exchange of fire with the police at 'Tree of Life' Congregation Synagogue at Squirrel Hill in Pittsburgh, where a large number of people had gathered for a baby naming ceremony.

Pittsburgh Public Safety Director Wendell Hissrich said that 11 people were killed and six others injured including four policemen. He added that there were no children among fatalities or injured.

Bowers, whose social media account reflected his hatred against the Jews, was charged with 29 counts of federal crimes of violence and firearms offenses, federal prosecutors said.

The charges include 11 counts of obstruction of exercise of religious beliefs resulting in death; and 11 counts of use of a firearm to commit murder during a crime of violence. "The crimes of violence are based upon the federal civil rights laws prohibiting hate crimes," US Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania Scott W Brady said. The FBI is investigating this as a "hate crime". Before opening fire, Bowers reportedly yelled, "All Jews must die!"

FBI Pittsburgh Special Agent in Charge Bob Jones said the investigation was in its early stages and there was no knowledge if the shooter was known to the law enforcement till this date. "Gunman targeted (people) because of their faith. At this time, we believe that he was acting alone," he said.

Describing the mass shooting as an "anti-semitic act", President Donald Trump called for death penalty for such shooters. "This wicked act of mass murder is pure evil, hard



People stand on the stairs of Sixth Presbyterian Church as the crowd spills up the hill and down the street for a vigil blocks from where an active shooter shot multiple people at Tree of Life Congregation synagogue on Saturday

to believe, and frankly something that is unimaginable. Our nation and the world are shocked and stunned by the grief. This was an anti-semitic act," he said.

President Trump ordered that American flags be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, and all military bases till October 31 as a mark of "solemn respect" for the victims. Despite his earlier reservations, Trump continued with his days programme and addressed a well-attended election rally in Illinois arguing that one cannot let their schedules or lives change.

"It's just the way it is. No matter how you look at it, you just can't let them get away with it. They're evil, they're bad, this was an anti-Semitic act which is incredible in this day and age that something like that can happen, but it happened," he told reporters in Murphysboro, Illinois, where is addressed a massive election rally.

The US goes to mid-term polls on November 6 wherein people would be electing members of the House of Representatives, one-third of the Senate and several State Governors.

US synagogue attack 'inhuman act of violence': Pope

AFP ■ VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis on Sunday called a deadly attack on a synagogue in the United States "an inhuman act of violence", expressing his "closeness to the Jewish community".

A man suspected of bursting into the synagogue in Pittsburgh on Saturday during a baby-naming ceremony and gunning down 11 people has been charged with murder, in the deadliest anti-Semitic attack in recent US history.

"We are all, in truth, wounded by this inhuman act of violence," Francis said at the end of the Angelus prayer in Saint Peter's Square.

"May the Lord help us put out the flames of hate that develop in our societies, strengthening the sense of humanity, respect for life, moral and civil values and holy fear of

God". Suspect Robert Bowers, 46, reportedly yelled "All Jews must die" as he sprayed bullets into the Tree of Life synagogue during Sabbath services before exchanging fire with police, in an attack that also wounded six people.

The United States is witnessing a sharp spike in anti-Semitic incidents, surging 57 percent from 2016 to 2017, to 1,986 from 1,267, according to the Anti-Defamation League, a civil rights group which has tracked anti-Semitism there since the 1970s.

Saturday's attack comes at a time of heightened tensions — a day after a supporter of President Donald Trump was arrested for mailing explosive devices to Democrats and liberals, setting the country on edge ahead of close-fought elections.

Saudis vow 'complete' probe of Khashoggi murder: Mattis

AFP ■ PRAGUE

Saudi Arabia has promised a "full" investigation into the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said on Sunday following talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir in Bahrain.

"We discussed it... The need of transparency, full and complete investigation. Full agreement from FM Jubeir, no reservations at all," Mattis told reporters following the talks, during which he warned the Saudi kingdom that the murder attributed to the Saudi authorities risked destabilising the region.

"No reservations at all. He (Jubeir) said we need to know what happened and it was very collaborative, in agreement," the Pentagon chief told reporters on a flight from Manama to Prague where he will mark the centenary of Czechoslovakia.

Saudi journalist Khashoggi, 59, who had criticised the kingdom's powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, had lived in self-imposed exile in the United States since 2017.

He was murdered after entering his country's Istanbul consulate on October 2 to



Manama Dial

obtain paperwork to marry his Turkish fiancée. Gruesome reports have alleged that the Washington Post columnist was killed and dismembered by a team sent from Saudi Arabia to silence him.

After weeks of denials, Riyadh has sought to draw a line under the crisis with an investigation.

Prince Mohammed, heir to the oil-rich nation's throne, publicly denounced the murder as "repulsive", while the Saudi prosecutor acknowledged for the first time this week that based on the evidence of a Turkish investigation the killing had been "premeditated".

But Riyadh on Saturday dismissed Ankara's calls to extradite 18 Saudis being held over Khashoggi's murder, as Washington warned the crisis risked destabilising the Middle East.

Addressing a forum in Manama on Saturday, Mattis warned that "the murder of Jamal Khashoggi in a diplomatic facility must concern us all greatly".

"Failure of any nation to adhere to international norms and the rule of law undermines regional stability at a time when it is needed most," he stressed.

The murder, which has tarnished the image of Crown Prince Mohammed, has sparked a wave of international criticism and affected Washington's relations with the kingdom.

The United States relies heavily on Saudi Arabia to counter Iran's influence in the region and to defend the security of Israel.

Mattis did not have a formal bilateral meeting with Jubeir on the sidelines of the Manama forum, where he met with several Arab and European leaders.

The two men spoke at a dinner gathering all the ministers.

Pak Prez rules out establishing any kind of ties with Israel

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan President Arif Alvi on Sunday ruled out establishing any kind of relations with Israel as he strongly rejected reports that an Israeli aircraft carrying some officials secretly landed in Islamabad and flew away after several hours at the airport here.

"Islamabad is not establishing any kind of relations with Israel," Alvi told the media before his departure for Turkey on a three-day official visit in the wee hours of Sunday.

It all started when an Israeli

journalist Avi Scharf tweeted on October 25 that an Israeli business jet flew from Tel Aviv to Islamabad where it was on the ground for 10 hours, before flying back to Tel Aviv.

Social media users took note and flayed the Pakistan Government with the Opposition also joining in to demand an explanation about the "secret Israeli mission".

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi also dismissed reports of an Israeli aircraft landing in Pakistan as fake and baseless.

Qureshi said that some-

thing which is not even real does not warrant a response.

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry has also rejected the reports and said the "government would not negotiate in secret with either Israel or India".

He regretted such reports despite the fact that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) had also denied reports of the presence of any Israeli aircraft in Pakistani airspace or at its airports.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Ahsan Iqbal, who earlier led the

GLOBE TROTTER

5.8 EARTHQUAKE RATTLES ROMANIA
Bucharest (Romania): An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.8 rattled central and eastern Romania early on Sunday and was also felt in Ukraine, Moldova and Bulgaria. No significant damage was reported.

HIGGINS RE-ELECTED IRISH PRESIDENT AGAIN
Dublin: Michael D. Higgins was on Sunday re-elected as the Irish President after receiving 56 per cent of the election vote. Businessman Peter Casey came second in the polls on Saturday with 23.1 per cent, while none of the other four candidates polled more than 10 per cent, reports the BBC.

TRANSPORT STRIKE CRIPPLES BANGLADESH
Dhaka: A 48-hour nationwide strike in Bangladesh called by transport workers demanding amendments to the "Road Transport Act 2018" threw normal life out of gear across the country on Sunday.

CHINA COAL MINE MISHAP TOLL REACHES 13
Beijing: The death toll in a coal mine accident in Shandong province increased to 13 while eight miners still remain trapped, authorities said on Sunday. The 74-metre-deep tunnel is blocked by a falling coal seam at both ends.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi also dismissed reports of an Israeli aircraft landing in Pakistan as fake and baseless

Opposition's barrage, said Chaudhry's reaction showed the government was trying to hide something.

"The parliament should be taken into confidence over the issue," he demanded.

BBC Urdu reported that the aircraft in question was a Canadian-manufactured Bombardier Global Express with the serial number 9394. It was registered on February 22, 2017 in the Isle of Man in the UK by a company called Multibird Overseas Ltd.

Almost 2m Iranian pilgrims head into Iraq for Arbaeen

AFP ■ MEHRAN (IRAN)

At the border town of Mehran between Iran and Iraq, a sea of pilgrims surges forwards, en route to one of the biggest religious pilgrimages on the planet.

Iranian organisers say more than 1.8 million Iraqi visas have been issued for Iranians this year for the Arbaeen pilgrimage which culminates on Tuesday as the devout head, many by foot, to Karbala and one of the holiest sites of Shiite Islam, the shrine of Imam Hussein.

Men and women, young and old, toddlers in prams and elderly pushed in wheelchairs -- they converge from all over the Islamic republic.

"I go because my heart demands it of me, I go because of my love for Imam Hussein," said Morteza Taghikhani, a 39-year-old auto worker, who had already been on the pilgrimage five times before.

His wife and young children were accompanying him for the first time. "They insisted on coming. Though it is a difficult trip, they've enjoyed it so much." The pilgrims stream



past tents, called "mokebs", which hand out free food ranging from scrambled eggs to boiled turnips. Full meals are served at midday and in the evenings.

The crossing stays open around the clock, but blankets and tents are provided for anyone needing a rest.

Every few metres there is a free shoeshine, and when the pilgrims take off their shoes the attendant kisses their feet as a sign of respect: for Shiites the Arbaeen march is so holy that just serving the pilgrims is

key part of Iran's religious and political self-image, and even as modernity has transformed much of the country, the huge scale of the Arbaeen pilgrimage is a reminder of how significant the symbolism remains.

"This march shows world imperialism that the Muslim nation cannot be defeated, whether by economic or military or political means," said Sajjad Entezar, a 23-year-old cleric from the Iranian holy centre of Qom.

Arbaeen marks the 40th day after Imam Hussein's martyrdom, with the devout marching on foot for all or part of the way to Karbala.

Khadijeh Mehrjoo, a 36-year-old city council member from a small town in central Iran, said she was not concerned by the long days and nights -- or even Iraq's security issues.

"There is no need to worry, Imam Hussein himself looks after us," she said.

State institutions offer free services and food to pilgrims alongside those of the public, while the national broadcaster gives wall-to-wall coverage for a fortnight before Arbaeen,

which falls on October 30 this year.

The march was forbidden for many years, under former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, who fought a devastating war with Iran in the 1980s. Restrictions were only lifted after his downfall in 2003.

With the formation of a new Iraqi state, where the post of prime minister is held by a Shiite, the march quickly became one of the most popular religious pilgrimages in the world. Even the Islamic State group's emergence and its ruthless campaign against Shiites, which it considers infidels, did not deter the pilgrims.

If anything, the Sunni extremists' seizure of vast swathes of Iraqi territory in 2014 - reaching within 70 kilometres (45 miles) of Karbala - only invigorated the faithful, pushing the number of pilgrims into the millions.

For Mehrjoo the pilgrimage is itself a means to defeat the threats against it.

"The march creates unity, solidarity," she said.

"If we join hands we can overcome. We can defeat the enemies of Islam.

Georgians choose new President directly for last time

AP ■ TBILISI (GEORGIA)

Voters in Georgia are choosing a new President for the former Soviet republic on the Black Sea, the last time the president will be elected by direct ballot.

Opinion polls ahead of Sunday's election suggested that none of the 25 candidates is likely to receive the absolute majority need for a first-round win. If no one wins 50 per cent support, a runoff between the top two candidates is to be held by December 1.

After the new president's six-year term in completed, future presidents are to be chosen by a delegate system, part of constitutional changes that make the Prime Minister the most powerful political figure in Georgia.

The president functions as head of state and commander in chief but is otherwise largely ceremonial. Incumbent Giorgi

Margvelashvili is not running.

The three top contenders are all former foreign ministers — Salome Zurbishvili, Grigol Vashadze and David Bakradze — who served during the presidency of now-exiled Mikheil Saakashvili.

Zurbishvili was sacked in 2005 amid disagreements with parliament.

She is running as an independent but is backed by the powerful Georgian Dream party, which is funded by controversial billionaire Bidzina Ivanishvili, a Saakashvili foe.

Georgian Dream holds an overwhelming majority in the parliament.

Zurbishvili, however, has been heavily criticised for her contention that Georgia started the 2008 war with Russia.

Some Georgians look with suspicion at her foreign background: born in France, she did not visit Georgia until she was in her 30s and she once served as a French diplomat.

China's private satellite-carrying rocket fails after launch

AP ■ BEIJING

China's first attempt to deploy a privately developed rocket capable of carrying a satellite has failed.

Beijing-based Landpace said that the first and second stage of its ZQ-1 rocket worked normally on Saturday but something went wrong with the third stage. The ZQ-1 was the first three-stage rocket built by a private company in China. A smaller private rocket was launched in May.

Video posted by a Chinese news site showed Landpace's 19-metre- (62-foot-) tall red-and-white rocket lifting off against clear blue skies.

The company said that "cowering separation was normal but something abnormal happened after the second stage." The statement on its Weibo social media account did not elaborate. Chinese media reports said the rocket was carrying a satellite for state broadcaster CCTV.

Fans in shock after Leicester City helicopter crash

AFP ■ LEICESTER

Fans laid flowers outside Leicester City's King Power stadium on Sunday, a day after a helicopter belonging to the club's Thai owner crashed outside the grounds.

"I was really upset, I can't get to sleep over it," Kanti Patel, a Leicester City fan, told AFP as emergency workers pored over the crash site.

There was no confirmation whether 60-year-old billionaire Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, who frequently flies to and from Leicester's home games by helicopter, was on board the aircraft. But many in the city in central England and in Vichai's homeland already feared the worst for the man they credit



with the club's against-all-odds Premier League title victory in 2016.

"It means a lot to me, he did a lot for the club. To be honest I don't know what to say but I can't get over it. Since him being with the club has done well, and I don't know what's going to happen now," Patel said.

Another fan, Tom Lievers, arrived with a "Champions" scarf to pay tribute to Vichai.

"Well you know where we were when he bought the club -- we were absolutely nowhere. So I brought down my 'Champions' scarf because he made us champions."

Andrew Aldwinckle said: "He was more like he was a supporter, a proper supporter, rather than a money man. He was one of the crowd. As far as we're concerned, that's it."

Steve Walton, who wore the club's blue hat, said: "I think there's a lot of Leicester fans around the world -- not just in Leicester, but around the world -- who I think will be devastated and he meant a lot to the fans."

Pak's 'penniless billionaires' expose money laundering frenzy

AFP ■ KARACHI

It took rickshaw driver Mohammad Rasheed a year to save 300 rupees to buy his daughter a bike, so when he found three billion rupees (USD 22.5 million) had passed through an unused bank account in his name, he was stunned ... And scared.

"I started sweating and shivering," said the 43-year-old -- just the latest victim of a money laundering scheme that Pakistan's new prime minister, Imran Khan, has vowed to crush.

When he got a call from the Federal Investigation Agency, Rasheed's first inclination was to go into hiding, but friends and family members finally convinced him to cooperate with officials. His case mirrors dozens of



similar stories in recent weeks that have filled newspapers in Pakistan and riled a populace long accustomed to extravagant tales of corruption and theft.

The incidents follow a similar arc -- bank accounts in poor residents' names are flooded with cash, then sud-

denly emptied in a laundering scheme that has likely seen hundreds of millions of dollars moved out of the country.

Rasheed's name was eventually cleared, but his anxiety remained.

"I stopped driving my rented rickshaw on the roads

because of the fear that some other investigating agencies might pick me up," he said.

"My wife fell sick because of the tension."

Only weeks before the fiasco he had finally been able to buy a 300-rupee bike with worn tyres for his daughter -- the fruit of a year's careful saving.

The revelation of the laundering frenzy comes as the newly elected Khan has vowed to squash rampant corruption and recover billions siphoned from the country as his government scrambles to shore up Pakistan's deteriorating finances.

"This is your stolen money," said the former cricketer during a televised address to the nation Wednesday.

"It was stolen on public contracts... And transferred

into these accounts, then laundered abroad.

"I will spare no corrupt man in this country," he promised. But for victims like Mohammad Qadir the damage has already been done.

"I have never even seen a bank from the inside," said the 52-year-old ice cream vendor.

Transactions were nevertheless made in his name for 2.25 billion rupees.

Since news of the incident spread Qadir says he is regularly mocked by his neighbours and also fears being kidnapped by criminal elements who believe he has billions of rupees to spare for hefty ransoms. "He is a penniless billionaire," one of Qadir's acquaintances laughed while driving past his ice cream cart in the Karachi slum of Orangi town.

Empowered by different schemes, the families on the margins of society are gradually improving their lot in Jharkhand, says SHAILENDRA SINHA



ON THE DEVELOPMENT ELEVATOR

The success of a democracy can be mapped by whether those sections of society which are poor and deprived and have suffered from neglect and exploitation for centuries, have been given justice and equal opportunities by the society. After independence, the governments of almost all the states along with the Centre have made efforts in this direction. The Welfare Department of Jharkhand government is giving free assistance to the poor families, so that they can stand on their feet and become self-reliant. Dr. Lewis Marandi, welfare minister, Jharkhand, says, "The government has linked the tribal families to this scheme whose homes do not have any earning member due to which they are facing a troubled life." The welfare department has identified 2,000 such families where the woman is the head of the family in two districts of Chaibasa and Dumka and have no one to else to support them. In order to raise their living standards and provide them with a respectable life, these families are being given material according to their needs. The Jharkhand government is determined to provide a fresh start to the lives of the poor tribals, through an organisation called Bandhan Kangar.

Santhal (Adivasi tribe) women work hard to raise two square meals for their family. In such a situation, this scheme has started increasing self-reliance now among the poorest of poor families. With the aim of making this scheme a collective success, these women have now formed their own groups and are now self-employed. Women's groups are supporting their families by doing small businesses, including goat rearing, piggery, poultry and more. For the smooth running of this scheme, a budget provision of ₹2.35 crores has been made by the Department of Welfare, Government of Jharkhand. Under this scheme a goal of two years has been set for making such ultra-poor families economically stable. Women's groups meet each week, where government assistance is provided according to their needs. On behalf of the organisation, women groups are taught how to save money from their profits as well as the benefits of self-employment. Along with this, those who do good work for the organisation also receive encouragement. Paku Tudu of Haripur Panchayat of Dumka district is supporting her family by running a grocery store. Dozens of women, including Parvati Mohali of Vijayapura, Putul Mohali, Chandravati Devi of Bedia, Prasima Mandradi of Gidhani



WOMEN'S GROUPS ARE SUPPORTING THEIR FAMILIES BY DOING SMALL BUSINESSES, INCLUDING GOAT REARING, PIGGERY, POULTRY AND MORE

Pahadi, Pramila Mandradi of Siddhartha village and Fulunai Hembram of Saruwa said that they earn approximately ₹4,000 per month through self-employment. Team leader of the Mosalia Block, Sanjeev Pal said that other women of the village also get motivated when they see the ones who are successful. He said that through this self-employment, many women, including Surajmuni Murmu of Manradihah, Khurja of Murshidabad of Jharkhand, Joshua Hansasda of Haroraidih, Sarita Tudu of Kathalia, and many women have improved their lives.

Women from several villages including Haripur, Saruwa, Bandarjori, Kaharabil, Ranidinda, Gadi, Koraiya, Rampur, Berebank, Ghasipur, Dalahi, Sampadhar, Suggapahadi, Amagachhi, Belialozore of Dumka district took advantage of this scheme and learned how to earn their living through self-employment. The goal of eliminating poverty among extremely marginalised families is being implemented by the government. The government's plan is not limited to making women self-reliant but also sending the children of these poor families to schools. Special attention is also given to the health of these women. Efforts are also being made in the direction of their capacity building with the economic advancement of the women's group. This scheme is working as a 'Sanjivani Booti' (magical herb) for the families of these poor tribal ladies. It is not only that the women are becoming self-reliant, but a positive change can be seen even in the villages. Women have now stopped borrowing money from the money lenders for their purchases. In the field of sustainable development, this scheme is proving to be a meaningful and historical step.

—Charkha Features

VALUES, MEDITATION CAN CLEANSE THE SYSTEM

As the nation gets plagued by more corrupt politicians, only trust and self-contentment can bring about peace in the country. By RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

In today's democracies, we, the citizens, elect some individuals to represent us, to talk on our behalf. In this way, political leaders embody the beliefs, wishes, and will of populations and act as citizen's representatives.

However, nowadays we see a crisis of confidence between citizens and politicians, as a result of which there is mass discontent and a lack of trust in many countries. Undoubtedly, the role of politicians in conducting the affairs of the state, for running the government and for ministering the polity is crucial. In fact, there is no alternative to it in a democracy. Democracy in India, as Pandit Nehru said, in early 1950s, while addressing college students and the intelligentsia, is not the best form of government but the best available form of government. Here, the representatives of the people have to do so many things — make laws, run the internal affairs of a state according to the will of the people, devise and enact the state policy for education, human resource development, social welfare, commerce, trade & industry, environment, rural and urban development, transportation, communications, health, multi-media, arts and culture, science and technology, agriculture, natural resources, national economy or finance, accounts, excise and taxation and so on. They also plan and assure defence of the country against external aggression and security against internal criminal elements and insurgency, safeguard the interests of the country, vis-à-vis other countries, regulate the relationships of the state with other states, maintain law and order, national solidarity and public peace. They have to resolve the conflicts between diverse or antagonistic interest of different communities and sectional demands of various groups and classes, provide relief in the case of natural calamities and govern all the internal and external affairs of the state. All of these show the importance of the work of politicians and their responsibilities.

All these are inter-connected and require co-ordination, mutual consultation and team work. If there is mutual bickering and there is lack of team spirit, then the affairs of the state and the people are bound to suffer. If the ministerial seats are constantly shaking and the game of musical chairs is always on the nation, it will certainly lag behind other countries on all indexes. These are precisely the reasons why even after seven decades of independence, India has been left far behind by nations like Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea and even Japan which had to rebuild its shattered economy after the Second World War. Now it has become one among a dozen affluent nations whereas India still remains way behind. It is because of disunity, dishonesty, lack of sense of responsibility, poor management of our resources, utter selfishness and lack of a spirit of service for the nation that has led our country to its present plight.

There are two kinds of politicians. One — genuine, patriotic, self-sacrificing or a saintly politician, who has an inner drive to plunge into politics because he is tired with a vision. He wants to work for the poor, the exploited and the neglected. He may work for noble causes such as freedom, human rights, justice and dignity of women. Two — there may be politicians who stealthily enter the portals of politics or gate-crash into it for power, position, prestige, privileges or for amassing wealth without any moral scruples. The latter are over-ambitious and make all attempts to capture levers of power for selfish goals or for narrow interests of a class, community, party or coterie.

Many reports have been published about the links of some politicians with the mafia, the underworld, criminals and musclemen. One finds that charge-sheets have been filed alleging not only economic offences by front-rank politicians but legal proceedings for such heinous crimes like mass killings are



also going on in courts. Also, there have been reports of booth-capturing, abductions and even killings during the elections to State Assemblies or Parliament. Thus, there has been an all round degeneration of moral standards and the wrong doings of some have done a great damage to the whole party and nation as a whole.

Since politicians hold prominent positions and are in the eye of the general public, the scandals and scams in which they are involved and the strictures passed against them set a bad trend among the people. Common people then also begin to think of making money by shortcuts. As film stars set trends for new fashions in dress and sportspersons set in vogue new styles in their game, politicians, because of their power and position, sway the minds of the masses either the right or the wrong way. So, if politicians are persons of upright conduct, they can do a lot of good to the people and can help mobilise public opinion in the right direction but, to-day, we find that people are demoralised and disappointed and feel that they have been let down by their leaders.

Today we see that so many trees are cut so as to produce paper and so much is spent on the electronic media and the politicians get lot of publicity. But what is this publicity about? Much of the publicity is about the in-party squabbles, intra-party defections, manipulations for capturing seats of power, pandemoniums in parliament, cases in courts, constant in-fights and instabil-



ity. So, very little time and energy are left with the politicians to do solid and constructive work and to fulfil the promises made in their respective manifestos. Much of their time is lost in party conflicts rather than doing good for the public and the country.

There are also leaders who are not in active politics but have remote-controls over their parties. There are some power-brokers also who remain in the background but work through their agents. Just as a guided nuclear missile in the hands of misguided people can spell doom so also powers in the hands of those politicians (however few) who don't observe certain essential principles, can wreck a nation. It is time for politicians, as for anyone else, to have a change in their outlook, lifestyle and work-culture. This is possible only through India's powerful system of values and yoga meditation, its unique contribution to the world-culture. Remember, there is no other method of cleansing the public life except through values and meditation.

Working or networking?

Start-ups and co-working spaces are evolving into community-building centres, presenting a lively picture of offices

The co-working revolution has swept across the global business environment and announced itself as the future of work. While 2017 witnessed the absorption of more than 1.5 million sq ft by co-working spaces, CBRE group, the world's largest commercial real-estate services and investment firm, reported that the estimated space acquisition by 2020 is 10 million sq ft. With start-ups looking to cut down on operational costs and professionals opting to work out of places of convenience, the co-working space offers a win-win situation for everybody. However, there is another salient yet integral aspect which makes co-working spaces so popular among modern professionals. It is the sense of community generated by working with professionals of various organisations under one roof. A typical co-working space always presents a lively picture -- conversations, games, networking opportunities, performative or group discussion sessions and a camaraderie that is unmissable. While interactions with colleagues from the same organisation often evoke apprehensions, co-working spaces offer employees an opportunity to interact with fellow professionals from different organisations under the same roof. Minus the apprehension or an environment of formality, the discussions are enriching and



include a free exchange of ideas without any hidden intentions. It also breeds healthy competition. Under a single roof, the achievements of a colleague in the same department but at a different organisation do not remain unknown. Hence, employees are spurred to achieve similar feats as they are impacted powerfully due to the immediacy of the other's performance. It also helps to build the skill sets of interns and those starting out on their professional journeys as they

get to interact with veterans from interdisciplinary professions. The wisdom imparted in impromptu meetings near the coffee machine often prove to be extremely useful in boosting one's career. Additionally, co-working spaces help professionals build their social circle by identifying like-minded individuals in other organisations and interacting with them post work hours. Modern professionals spent more than eight-10 hours a day working with the same set of individuals

and communications over the weekend often do not materialise into long-term relationships. In such a scenario, co-working spaces allow modern professionals to interact with a number of individuals on a daily basis and identify like-minded individuals. Based on their love for various activities such as trekking, love for movies or cooking, many professionals end up making groups comprising individuals from different organisations who develop strong friendships. Most importantly, co-working spaces provide the necessary collaborative environment for businesses and individuals to grow together, feeding off each other's strength. Exchange of ideas, resources, experience and opportunities are always essential for the business ecosystem to grow to its optimum and Indian businesses lacked such a scope working in conventional, cluttered workspaces all this while. Co-working spaces, with their quirky designs, modern aesthetics, huge workspaces and a free-wheeling culture of conversations over coffee, monopoly and Playstations, have made work fun, highly productive and emotionally strengthening, all the while realising that building a community is the key to get the most out an individual and the workforce at large.

—IANS

Tough times never last, but tough people do.
—Robert H. Schuller

EXERCISE MAY CUT STROKE RISK IN WOMEN

Mid-aged menopausal women may be able to lower their risk of developing stroke, heart disease and Type-2 diabetes if they exercise more or eat a low-calorie diet, as per a study. It showed that physically active women were less likely to get incidents of metabolic syndrome than inactive women. The syndrome shows a cluster of risk factors that increase the chances of developing heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Genetic factors, excess body fat, and lack of exercise can add. For the study, published in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, researchers examined 3,003 mid-life menopausal women, identifying patterns of cardiometabolic risk. They found central obesity as the most common factor for causing metabolic syndrome. "Discovering modifiable factors like exercise and low-calorie diet could help with preventive strategies that women can follow earlier," said Jennifer Lee, Professor, Stanford Health Care, US.



PROCESSED MEAT UPS KIDNEY FAILURE RISK

If your diet consists of pro-inflammatory foods such as processed meat, carbonated beverages and vegetables other than green leaves and dark yellow variety, you may be at a higher risk of developing kidney failure, researchers suggest. The findings showed that diets that contribute to inflammation are linked to a higher risk of chronic kidney disease (CKD) progression. "These findings have implications for the prevention of kidney failure using dietary approaches with low inflammatory potential," said author Tanushree Banerjee, from the University of California-San Francisco. For the study, shown at ASN Kidney Week 2018 at San Diego Convention Center, the team studied a national sample of 1,084 adults with CKD. They found that 11.1 per cent of participants developed kidney failure over 14 years of follow-up.



CANNABIS AFFECTS WOMEN DIFFERENTLY

Hormones could be the reason why cannabis affects women differently than men, brain studies on animals and humans suggest. The studies showed that sex differences in response to cannabis are not just socio-cultural, but biological too. The findings showed that men are up to four times more likely to try cannabis and use higher doses, more frequently. "Male sex steroids increase risk-taking behaviour and suppress the brain's reward system which explains why males are more likely to try drugs including cannabis," said Liana Fattore, Senior Researcher, National Research Council, Italy. "This is true for both natural male sex steroids and synthetic steroids like nandrolone." But despite lower average cannabis use, women go to habit faster than men. Men and women differ not only in the prevalence and frequency of cannabis use, pattern and reasons of use, but also in the vulnerability to develop cannabis use disorder.



WEIGHT-LOSS PREVENTS WOMB CANCER

Undergoing bariatric surgery to combat obesity can prevent women from developing womb cancer (also known as uterine or endometrial cancer), claims a study. The study, led by University of Manchester, showed that women who had gastric sleeve or bypass surgery for obesity found that precancerous tissue in their womb reverted to normal tissue when they lost weight. "For super obese women, quick access to weight loss surgery has benefits beyond improving diabetes and risk of heart disease. It can also reduce womb cancer risk," said Emma Crosbie, clinical senior lecturer from Manchester. "Losing weight through dieting is also likely to be effective, but we know that it is very hard to do and the weight lost is often re-gained," she said. In the study, published in International Journal of Cancer, the team examined nearly 100 women with an average BMI of over 50 — considered to be super obese — had biopsies taken from their wombs during gastric or bypass surgery.



TOOTH LOSS IN OLD LINKED TO MALNUTRITION

Older adults with just 10 to 19 teeth are at a higher risk of malnutrition, warns a study. These patients also had higher rates of weight loss, lower appetite and were at increased risk for dementia and/or depression as well as severe illnesses than those who had a normal nutrition status. They were also found to be at risk for impaired oral health, the study showed. "The mouth is the entry way for food and fluid intake. If its integrity is impaired, the functional ability of an individual to consume an adequate diet may be adversely impacted," said Rena Zelig, lead author at Rutgers University, US. The study, published in Journal of Ageing Research and Clinical Practice, analysed the health records of 107 senior citizens treated aged 65 and above. The results showed that 20.6 per cent of participants were at risk for malnutrition and 4.7 per cent were malnourished. In addition, greater than 87 per cent of them partially or completely lacked teeth.



Trend Slazer

Swara's serious about new role

Actress **SWARA BHASKER**, who has been a supporter of India's #MeToo movement, said that sexual harassment cases at the workplace are like an epidemic. She hopes to bring awareness about it via film and television industry. The CINTA Association recently announced that it will be setting up committees to tackle sexual harassment in the industry and will have actors Swara Bhasker, Renuka Shahane and Raveena Tandon among others as members. Swara added, "It is like an epidemic, like a disease so, awareness regarding that is really important so through this sub-committee, we will generate awareness among our members."



'It's (Uri) going to be one of the most special films of my career. Vicky (Kausal) and the cast has put in a lot of hard work. It is based on a true event which is important for me not just as an actor but even as a citizen. It's something which had to be shown.'



—Yami Gautam

As #MeToo movement rises in India, actor **SAIF ALI KHAN**, whose daughter **Sara Ali Khan** is gearing up for her Bollywood debut, feels no one has the guts to mess with his family members. "It is a very unequal society. I don't think anyone will misbehave with my people... I don't know why I feel like this, but be it my mother, sister or wife, I feel people will not have the guts to do that with them. It might be because they have certain protection around them. So, we have to protect the ladies who don't have that protection around them or that aura that protects them," said Saif.



Kat shares rehearsing video

Katrina Kaif has shared a behind-the-scenes video from the rehearsal sessions for *Suraiyya*, her dance number from *Thugs of Hindostan*. With the song going crazy viral, you must have seen Katrina's signature step — she pulls of the "unique" steps with effortless ease and the BTS video is testament to the rigorous rehearsals she went through under Prabhu Deva's watch. "When I first saw the choreo for *Suraiyya*, I was like is it jazz, is it ballet, is it folk... but that's dancing with Prabhu Deva. You cannot define his style it's so unique, he gives the song such a unique personality with his choreography," Katrina wrote in the caption. However, even for Katrina Kaif, who has a reputation for setting the dance floor on fire every time she puts on her dancing shoes, there were "moments of tears".



Fragile future

Various artists from different states of India gather to contemporise the long forgotten art of pottery and terracotta. By TEAM VIVA

From community festivals to harvest seasons, wedding rituals and religious ceremonies, cooking and dining, storage and even down to house decor, earthenware is the only artform that threads us to our origins as a people and gets seared over fire on our collective imagination. But creativity is a game of talent. So artists at Terrafest — who have come a long way from Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Manipur — showed how the earth could still be moulded to changing destinies at the Triveni Kala Sangam.

Trustee Ravi Batra of Delhi Blue Pottery Trust, who organises Terrafest every year says, "Pottery is extremely important, potters use their bare hands to transform, almost magically, a lump of clay into products that are functional as well as decorative. If you see the process, you'll instantly fall for the art form's innate ability to reinvent and transform itself. It's one of the traditional crafts which has been alive for hundreds and thousands of years. Yet it too can now die in the next 15-20 years if it doesn't make economic sense for the young generation to continue their family profession. And for that we do showcases to push new markets, upgrade skills and diversify into new bouquets."

Batra strongly feels that the competition from plastic and metal ware has pushed terracotta to the edge of survival. He adds, "We must go back to it even in terms of environment as pottery is the most purest form that uses sand and clay."

One of the artists, Anil Kumar Prajapati from Alwar, says that tradi-



tional artisans are finding it more and more difficult to live above subsistence level. Neither the money nor the recognition comes close to balance the hard work, that goes into the making. "Fests like these helps the artists like us and provide a platform for us where we can showcase our skills," he adds.

He also explains the procedure of how the products are made. Says he, "First of all we collect the sand or clay by digging it from mountains and forests that has been decomposed from rock within the earth's crust for millions of years. The clay is kept for 20-25 days so that it tightens a bit. It is then divided in different ratios because the uses vary. The clay is modelled, dried, and fired, usually with a glaze. We also knead it like dough

before glazing it. It is important to note that a clay body is not the same thing as clay. Clay bodies are clay mixed with additives that give the clay different properties when worked and fired; thus pottery is not made from raw clay but a mixture of clay and other materials. There are different ways of making the product, it completely depends on the artisans who create it. Clay may be modeled by hand or with potter's wheel, may be jiggered using a tool or cut or stamped into squares or slabs."

Batra says that they started organising the festival in 2015, and this is the fourth edition of the event. "We do not claim a penny of what the artisans make. We look forward to protecting this purest art form in any manner that we can."

Ranging from earthen *diyas* and clay cookware to cut-work pieces of smoke-fired ceramics, the festival displays traditional, cottage pottery, and as per Ravindranath, is timely for the festive season.

Behind the scenes

Designers reveal how actor **AAMIR KHAN's firangi** look is stolen from the many people he comes across

In creating the look for actor **Aamir Khan's** character **Firangi** in *Thugs of Hindostan* — a flamboyant, wily, deceptive, smooth talking thug — the actor was minutely involved in the research and design. "For *Firangi*, what we figured is that other than the *dhoti* that he wears, everything else is robbed from someone. Whether it's his hat, sunglasses, shoes, jacket, everything has been flicked,"

said the designers **Rushi and Manoshi**.

"*Firangi* is a potpourri of different elements and identities stolen from the myriad people he meets. He loves his name and lives up to it with his top hat and his choice of foreign booze, which also are incidentally stolen from people. He wears an English leather tail coat in a jade colour, the colour of a chameleon," they add.



"Like a magpie, he loves collecting things that shine to his eyes. He has a chatelaine belt from which he hangs his

favorite glinting belongings. A rose-tinted sun-glass, an ornate leather canteen of water, a mismatched pair of boots and a *potli* full of tricks, beware of the charmer, *Firangi Mallah!*" they said.

The film is a fictional story set during the British East India Company's rule over India. Given its setting and larger-than-life scale, designing the looks and costumes of the film's characters were of great importance as it required audiences to go back in time.

Directed by **Vijay Krishna Acharya**, it also stars **Amitabh Bachchan, Katrina Kaif** and **Fatima Sana Sheikh**. It is set to release on November 8 in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

'Star-driven films will continue to work'

Director **ASHWINI CHAUDHARY** feels the industry will swing healthy between bigness and rich content. By **ASMITA SARKAR**



India has been hit by some of the worst scandals related to education and employment in the past decade. The *Vyapam* scandal and Bihar school examination cheating in 2016 were only a few that caught the attention of the national imagination. Every day there are multiple students and parents who are scammed by "setters" or agents who assure a seat in exchange of lakhs of rupees. National award winning writer-director **Ashwini Chaudhary's** next film *Setters*, starring **Aftab Shivdasani, Shreyas Talpade**, and a large ensemble cast, based on true life events, will expose the networks that work behind the scenes in India.

"I was a journalist before coming into films. For a while I had been thinking of making a film about the education and employment scenario in our country. I met the people who were producing the film, **Lovely Films**, and they had done their research and had ideas about the subject. The chapters in the film are in public domain and its based on real life. They deal with both education and employment mafia across the country," he said, keeping the particular cases under wraps since the film is still in the process of being made.

"It's a socio-political film because of the subject. It concerns the people of the country and nothing is detached from politics. In that sense, we're not trying to make a political statement but raise an issue, which concerns an entire generation like students who are appearing for competitive exams," he said.

The film will try to be an eye-opener but the director believes that people are aware of the problem though it is brushed under the carpet because of how desperate lakhs of people for getting a government job or become a doctor or an engineer. "This subject has not been explored before on the screen. Students and parents are in touch with the mafia some way or the other. When we were students we also knew about them. Times have changed and technology has come in and their method of working has changed. While people know about the issue nobody has talked about it before the way we are trying to do. We're trying to expose the mafia and their modus operandi and their whole chain," he said.

They met victims, who are students and parents, investigative agencies who are trying to track down such mafia, and the mafia as well, while doing research for the film.

Surprisingly, coaching centres all fall into the ambit and the film will touch upon the role of these coaching centres in the chain of events. **Shivdasani** had added, "The biggest curse the country has been facing for the last two decades is commercialisation of education. Examinations have virtually become a multi-crore industry today. The malpractice has grown to gigantic proportions. While India needs to combat the prevailing malpractices in education system on its own, it will do no harm to glance around, observe as to how education has improved globally. India, too, like fellow educationally-advanced nations must put into practice the adage that investment in education pays the highest returns."

Shreyas Talpade added, "Today the mafia has extended its tentacles everywhere. From establishing new universities, framing the curriculum to control examinations to pilfering with coaching systems and fudging grades, the mafia strikes at the very roots of talent creation. The burgeoning power of the mafia poses a petrifying threat to New India who have flooded the country with bogus doctors, illiterate teachers, crippled sanitation and a degraded environment. Unless the establishment is freed from its noxious grip by backing honest officials and eliminating the loopholes, the very soul of the nation will be endangered."

Chaudhary believes that print media has been instrumental in exposing the mafia but nobody in the film space has explored this topic so far so as a director I found it exciting. The film will be a realistic thriller on the lines of *Catch me if you can*, according to the versatile director, who's also made lighthearted films like *Jodi Breakers*.

"These days content has become important and for filmmakers like us, who are not big in the perception of the industry, the set-up has been difficult lately. But in the last 4-5 years, the audience doesn't care if there is not **Salman** or **Shah Rukh**, if the content excites them they will watch it. So we chose an ensemble cast with 18 interesting and fine actors," he said. "Earlier, multiplexes in cities had engineered this push towards better content, but now good cinema in smaller cities is being equally appreciated," he said. "It's a good sign and shows the change in taste of the audience. Star-driven films will work in the future as well though but content driven cinema has carved out a space for itself and will continue to do so," said the director.

WEBBED

HOME COMING

GOOD INTENTIONS. Erratic bosses. Mounting paranoia. Unforeseen consequences spiraling out of control. **Heidi Bergman**, played by **Julia Roberts**, works at *Homecoming*, a facility helping soldiers transition to civilian life. Years later when she starts a new life, the department of Defence questions her as to why she left *Homecoming*. **Heidi** realises there's a whole other story behind the one she's been



telling herself.

The show stars **Stephan James, Bobby Cannavale, Jeremy Allen White, Alex Karpovsky**, and **Dermot Mulroney**. The series, which received a two-season straight-to-series order, will debut on Amazon this fall.

The series is based on the popular podcast of the same name from **Gimlet Media**.

Homecoming is slated to air on Amazon Prime Video from November 2.

MIRZAPUR

KARAN ANSHUMAN and **Puneet Krishna's Mirzapur** will soon be on air presenting an all-new hinterland gangster drama. The iron-fisted **Akhandanand Tripathi** (Pankaj Tripathi) is a millionaire carpet exporter and the mafia don of *Mirzapur*. His son, **Munna**, is an unworthy, power-hungry heir, who will stop at nothing to inherit his father's legacy. An incident at a wedding procession forces him to cross paths with **Ramakant Pandit** (Rajesh Tailang), an upstanding lawyer, and his sons, **Guddu** (Ali Fazal) and **Bablu**.

The series stars **Divyendu** and

Vikrant Massey, Rasika Dugal, Rajesh Tailang, Harshita Gaur, Shweta Tripathi, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Amit Sial and **Kulbhushan Kharbanda**.

The show is produced by **Excel's Ritesh Sidhwani** and **Farhan Akhtar**. The reaction to the trailer has been tremendous as it has garnered over two million organic hits in 48 hours with positive reactions all around.

With heart-pounding action, violence at an operatic scale, gangsters with sharp minds and dry humour, *Mirzapur* is a hinterland story that is as raw as it proceeds. The series releases on November 16 on Amazon Prime Video.



TECH TALK

Apple's all-new dual SIM feature

As the company releases its **iOS 12.1**, iPhone users can now enjoy group **Facetime** and the other new additions

Apple has reportedly updated its "iPhone User Guide" for the upcoming release of **iOS 12.1**, indicating that the latest version of the mobile operating system (OS) will include **Group FaceTime** and **dual-SIM** support for its newly-launched iPhones.

The e-book, which serves as a digital manual for new iPhone users, now lists **Group FaceTime** as an **iOS 12.1** feature.

It allows users to conduct **FaceTime** video conference calls with up to 32 participants.

"Available for free through **Apple Books**, the revised **iPhone User Guide for iOS 12.1**" is largely unchanged from a previous version created for **iOS 12**," reported **Apple Insider**.

"There are, however, two major additions that confirm upcoming availability of features teased at **Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) 2018** in June and **Apple's iPhone unveiling last month**," the report added. In addition to group



FaceTime, the user guide also notes **dual-SIM** functionality for **iPhone XR, XS** and **XS Max** will go live when the **iOS** point update sees release.

A tentpole feature of **Apple's** latest smartphones, **dual-SIM** support allows iPhone users to utilise two cellular plans on a single device without constant **SIM** card swapping.

Apple's solution relies on "Dual **SIM-Dual Standby** technology," which keeps both a physical **SIM** and an embedded

eSIM — or a second physical **SIM** card in **China** — addressable simultaneously.

Apple has not specified a release date for **iOS 12.1**, though beta versions have been in testing since mid-September.

The update could coincide with a media event next week, where the company is expected to unveil new **iPad Pro** and **Mac** hardware.

Apple's "iPhone User Guide" for **iOS 12.1** is a free download from **iTunes**. —IANS

PALACE HALT GUNNERS RUN

Emery's side fail to win 12th successive match in all competitions after Milivojevic's late penalty rescues Crystal Palace

AFP ■ LONDON

Arsenal's 11-match winning run came to a dramatic end as Luka Milivojevic's late penalty rescued Crystal Palace in a contentious 2-2 draw on Sunday.

Unai Emery's side failed to win a 12th successive match in all competitions as they fell short of the club's record of 14 victories in a row.

Arsenal fell behind to the first of two Milivojevic penalties just before half-time at Selhurst Park.

Granit Xhaka equalised with a sublime free-kick before Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang poked in his ninth goal of the season in controversial circumstances.

Arsenal striker Alexandre Lacazette flicked the ball to Aubameyang with his hand, but officials failed to spot the offence.

Angered by that blow, Palace felt justice was done when Wilfried Zaha won a second penalty with seven minutes left and Milivojevic slotted home again.

It was a frustrating afternoon for Emery, whose captain Mesut Ozil reacted angrily when he was substituted in the 68th minute, the German throwing his gloves to the floor after stomping past the Arsenal manager.

It was the latest flare-up between the pair after Ozil was reportedly angered by Emery's demand that he work harder in matches earlier this season.

Arsenal remain fourth in the Premier League, but missed the chance to keep pace with leaders Liverpool, who are four points clear of the north Londoners.

"I'm disappointed with the result but our work is good. We drew, it's not bad, it's better to win but looking at the game in 90 minutes it is a deserved result," Emery said.

"After the second goal, we were on a good result, but I knew we needed another goal for calm."

Palace boss Roy Hodgson was furious with Arsenal's dubious second goal, saying: "I'm not even happy to end up



Ros Barkley celebrates with Alvaro Morata after scoring his side's second goal against Burnley

with one point especially when you see how clear the handball was. Most people will have sympathy with us."

NO HAZARD, NO PROBLEM

Chelsea proved their Premier League title credentials even without the injured Eden Hazard as goals from Alvaro

Morata, Ross Barkley, Willian and Ruben Loftus-Cheek sealed a comfortable 4-0 victory at struggling Burnley to climb into second, two points behind leaders Liverpool.

Hazard, who was ruled out by a back problem sustained in a 2-2 draw with Manchester United last weekend, has



Arsenal, Crystal Palace players battles for ball possession in PL clash

been Chelsea's main source of goals in an unbeaten start to the season under Maurizio Sarri.

However, the visitors were stronger than their relegation-threatened hosts in every department and perhaps the only disappointment for Sarri was that they failed to underline their dominance with further goals.

There should have been more to show for their first-half efforts than just Morata's 22nd-minute opener, expertly guided past an exposed Joe Hart after the Spaniard was put through by a lovely slide-rule pass from midfielder Barkley in a move instigated by the ever-impressive N'Golo Kante.

After conceding five goals against his former club Manchester City last time out, Hart excelled with a fine early save from Morata's deft glancing header, while also denying the Chelsea forward from close range.

When Sarri's side eventually found a way past the former England goal-

keeper, the woodwork came to their rescue as a low curled effort from Willian struck the upright.

Scorer of midweek Europa League hat-trick, Loftus-Cheek was introduced after just half an hour due to an injury to Pedro Rodriguez.

Morata wasted a good chance to double Chelsea's advantage after the restart when heading over at the near post from Willian's cross, but the visitors didn't have long to wait before Barkley put the game to bed by surging forward from Kante's pass to find the bottom corner past Hart from 20 yards.

That soon became three when Willian was rewarded for his efforts by cutting in from the left to find the bottom corner.

France international Olivier Giroud remains without a goal this season as he blazed a good late chance narrowly wide.

But Loftus-Cheek showed him the route to goal with a composed finish deep into injury time.



Atletico Madrid players celebrate after Diego Godin scores

Atletico win to top La Liga

AFP ■ MADRID

Defenders Diego Godin and Filipe Luis scored as Atletico Madrid bounced back from their midweek thrashing by Borussia Dortmund with a 2-0 victory over Real Sociedad to move top of La Liga on Saturday.

Despite a stuttering start to the campaign, the poor form of both Barcelona and Real Madrid have allowed Diego Simeone's side to drag themselves to the summit after a seven-game unbeaten run in the league.

Wednesday's 4-0 thumping at Signal Iduna Park was the heaviest defeat of Simeone's seven years in charge, but Atletico put in a commanding display at the Wanda Metropolitano.

"I was convinced that they would respond in the best way," Simeone told Movistar. "Today was 90 minutes that showed good togetherness and creates enthusiasm and calmness."

After a frustrating first 44 minutes which saw Ruben Pardo twice go close for the visitors, Godin struck on the stroke of half-time, latching onto a loose ball to sweep home his first league goal since March 2017.

Atletico dominated after the restart and left-back Luis put the game to bed on the hour mark with a brilliant curling effort after cutting inside onto his less-favoured right foot.

Elsewhere, Valencia were held to their 10th draw of the season and fifth in a row with a goalless stalemate at Athletic Bilbao.

Marcelino's men, who finished fourth last term to qualify for the Champions League, are now just three points above the relegation zone despite having only lost one of their 10 top-flight matches so far.

Spain striker Iago Aspas scored a hat-trick as Celta Vigo thrashed Eibar 4-0 to move into the top half of the table, while Levante clinched a fourth successive league victory by beating Leganes 2-0.

SINGLES

CELTIC BREAK HEARTS TO REACH LEAGUE CUP FINAL

EDINBURGH: Celtic stormed into a fifth straight domestic Cup final under manager Brendan Rodgers as three second-half goals beat Scottish Premiership leaders Hearts 3-0. Scott Sinclair's penalty and two goals in six minutes from James Forrest and Ryan Christie set up a potential Old Firm final showdown with Steven Gerrard's Rangers or Aberdeen. Hearts have been in fine form so far this season, opening up a five-point lead at the top of the league table. But an early injury to top scorer Steven Naismith robbed the Edinburgh side of their most potent weapon and they were unable to contain the Scottish champions after the break. Celtic marched on into another Cup final after back-to-back domestic trebles of Premiership, League Cup and Scottish Cup in Rodgers' first two seasons in charge.

HENRY DENIED AGAIN AS MONACO DRAW

MONACO: Thierry Henry is still searching for his first victory as Monaco coach after the Ligue 1 strugglers drew 2-2 with Dijon on Saturday, while second-place Lille extended their winning run to four matches. Henry, who took over from the sacked Leonardo Jardim earlier this month, needed a powerful header from centre-back Kamil Glik on 78 minutes to prevent Monaco crashing to a fifth straight league loss. Germany full-back Benjamin Henrichs opened the scoring for Monaco on 30 minutes, but the 2017 French champions fell behind at home after Dijon responded with goals from Mickael Alphonse and Mehdi Abedi. Glik rescued a point for Monaco although they are now winless in 13 outings in all competitions.

ANAND HELD BY ARTEMIEV AS INDIAN CHALLENGE ENDS

ISLE OF MAN: Former world champion Viswanathan Anand was held to a draw by Vladimir Artemiev of Russia in the eighth and penultimate round, ending the Indian challenge in the Isle of Man International Chess tournament here Sunday. Up against the Sicilian Najdorf, Anand went for a full blooded battle by pushing his king side pawns early in the game, but the Russian seemed familiar with the setup as he broke through in the centre leading to positions akin to French defense. The typical structure gave ample counter play to black and once the Queens got traded there was little chance for either players. The game lasted 32 moves. S P Sethuraman continued with his fine form and drew with last world championship finalist Sergey Karjakin of Russia but this result only helped him reach 5.5 points along with Anand.

KHALIN JOSHI WINS MAIDEN ASIAN TOUR TITLE

NEW DELHI: Indian golfer Khalin Joshi clinched his maiden Asian Tour title, claiming the Panasonic Open India at the Delhi Golf Club here on Sunday. Overnight joint leader Joshi carded four under 68 on the final day to win the title by one stroke with a four day aggregate of 17-under. Bangladesh's Siddikur Rahman finished second best after finishing with a par on the 18th even as Joshi birdied the final hole. Joshi thus became the seventh Indian to win the Panasonic Open India in the last eight editions of the tournament. "I have no words. Huge monkey off my back. Last few holes were tricky for me. I am really relieved and happy to win. I made some poor decisions. Starting with two bogeys but I remained patient and it was rewarded," Joshi said.

PRANJALA ENTERS MAIDEN WTA MAIN DRAW

MUMBAI: India number three Pranjala Yadlapalli qualified for the main draw of a WTA tennis event for the first time in her fledgling career here on Sunday. Pranjala outclassed her Georgian opponent Oksana Kalashnikova in straight sets in the second and final qualifying round match of the L&T Mumbai Open. The 19-year-old, seeded third in the qualifiers aided by her ranking of 280 on the WTA circuit, needed one hour and 15 minutes to carve out a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Oksana, who is ranked a distant 9,999. Still, it was a satisfying day for the Guntur-born Pranjala as she joined her Indian compatriots India number one Anika Raina (direct entrant) and wild cards Karman Kaur Thandi and Rutuja Bhosale in the main draw of 32.

PANKAJ ADVANCES TO K/O STAGE OF ASIAN SNOOKER TOUR

NEW DELHI: Multiple time world champion Pankaj Advani on Sunday won both his league matches to move into the knockout stages of the second leg of Asian Snooker Tour in Jinan, China. In his first match, Pankaj overcame a local Chinese challenger Pang Junxu 4-2. Later in the day, the reigning world billiards and snooker champion played exceptional snooker to whitewash Qatar's Ahmed Saif 4-0. Among other Indians in the fray, Manan Chandra and Varun Madan lost their first matches 1-4 and 0-4 respectively while Kamal Chawla registered a narrow 4-3 win. Their final group ties will take place on Monday.

Agencies

Goa see off Pune 4-2 in six goal thriller

PTI ■ MARGAO

FC Goa beat FC Pune City 4-2 in a high-scoring match to climb back to the top of the Indian Super League football standings here on Sunday.

The match saw six goals being scored in the first 35 minutes and teams reduced to 10 men towards the final whistle.

Ferran Corominas (5th and 35th) struck twice and goals from Hugo Boumous and Jackichand Singh gave the home side their third win. Marcelinho (8th) and Emiliano Alfaro (23rd) scored for the visitors who remain winless.

Diego Carlos and Corominas were sent off late in the match as both teams finished the game with just 10 men.

Just like he had done against Mumbai, Corominas gave the Gaurs an early lead. A well-worked Goa move in the fifth minute saw Ahmed Jahouh release the Spaniard behind the Pune defence and the striker held off Gurtej Singh before making a smart finish past Vishal Kaith.

The Stallions hit back immediately though, as Marcelinho beat an outstretched Mohammad Nawaz with a brilliant chipped finish into the top-right corner.

FC Goa retook the lead in the 12th minute through another well-worked move as Coro turning provider this time. Boumous delivered an inch-perfect cross back to the midfielder to head past Kaith.



FC Goa players celebrate after scoring goal against FC Pune City in ISL clash

Coro had a second assist to his name just minutes later after he sprung the off-side trap before laying the ball for Jackichand to smash into an empty net.

It was a game of shaky defences as Pune once again responded in kind, this time due to an error by Mohammad Nawaz. The young goal-keeper was at fault after he was beaten at his near post by a fierce Alfaro shot.

A frantic first period saw attacks from both sides thrive as chances kept coming with regularity at each end but it was the home side who extended the lead with Coro bagging his second of the night following a goalmouth melee.

The second half started just as frantically as the first with Alfaro and Marko Stankovic coming close to reducing Pune's arrears on separate occasions.

The Gaurs frustrated the visitors by keeping a stranglehold on the ball and starving them of goal-scoring chances.

The visitors finished the game with 10 men after Diego Carlos was shown a straight red for his knee-high challenge on Seriton Fernandes.

Goa's night would be marred towards the end as Coro was also shown a straight red card after he slid into a tackle on Stankovic with his studs raised.

Jamshedpur FC, Kerala Blasters lock horns in ISL

PTI ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Two unbeaten sides will square up against each other when Jamshedpur FC host Kerala Blasters at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in the Hero Indian Super League here on Monday.

The teams are yet to lose a game this season but have just a win to show for their efforts. While the home team have played out three successive draws after their win over Mumbai City in the opener, the visitors have been involved in two draws after winning their opener against ATK.

Jamshedpur FC, with a possession-based style of play, have dominated games but their failure to convert chances and a lack of accuracy in shooting has contributed to their plight.

The fact that star striker Tim Cahill is yet to attain complete match fitness could be an issue for coach Cesar Ferrando.

The Australian will play a part at some point against Kerala and the Men of Steel will look to him to provide some inspiration up front.

Defensively, they have looked good with Tiri marshalling the backline commendably. Mario Arques and Memo will be looking to dominate Kerala in midfield and set the tempo for Ferrando's side.

Youngster Mobashir Rahman is still injured for Jamshedpur and Ferrando will have to make do without him.

Kerala Blasters have played only



Jamshedpur FC players during training session ISL

three games so far but have not impressed since their 2-0 win over ATK in the season opener. Like their Monday's opponents, Kerala paid for their profligacy in the subsequent matches and conceded late equalisers.

While he will want the strikers to score more, maintaining the team's concentration levels throughout the 90 minutes will be high on coach David James' mind.

The Englishman has never gone in with a full quota of foreign players this season, instead opting to give youngsters like Mohammed Rakip and Sahal Abdul Samad opportunities. They have done well so far and the former England goalkeeper will be hoping their encouraging performances continue against Jamshedpur as well.

The good news for James is that Anas Edathodika is back in contention for a start after serving his three game suspension.

Naorem's brace ensures Shillong win in Northeast derby

PTI ■ PANCHKULA

Naorem Mahesh Singh did the star turn for Shillong Lajong, helping the hosts prevail over Aizawl FC 2-1 in the season's first northeast derby of the I-League.

At the near-packed JLN stadium, Mahesh scored two brilliant goals in either half to clinch full three points for his side.

Aizawl's Liberian striker Ansumanah Kromah got one back for the visitors but it was not enough.

The young Shillong Lajong side, not fielding any foreigners this season and playing as many as nine U-22 players in the starting XI, ensured that the fans had enough to rejoice.

Expectedly, given the fitness levels and young players in both sides, the game began on a high tempo and continued till the very end.

Talented right winger Mahesh Singh, who had an excellent first half, turned the game on its head with a sensational strike in the 20th minute.

In the 51st minute, after an interchange of passes inside the Aizawl half, Lajong defender Rakesh Pradhan received a ball on the overlap on the left flank. His wonderful cross took out the Aizawl defense completely. Mahesh was following everything including the ball



Shillong Lajong player heads ball during I League game

and met it with perfect timing to lob it over Gurpreet in the Aizawl goal to double the lead.

Aizawl finally got one back after a 1-2 between Paul and Remsanga outside the Shillong box.

Meanwhile, Defending champions Minerva Punjab kicked off their campaign by playing out a goal-less draw with Churchill Brothers in the I-League here on Sunday.

The two sides split points at the end of 90 minutes, in a match characterised by many missed chances and a lack of imagination in attack.

Churchill Brothers gave a good account of themselves while Minerva showed glimpses of what they are capable of in the second half, but both teams failed to break the deadlock at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium.

U-19 EVES BEAT THAILAND

PTI ■ CHONBURI

The Indian women's team registered a 1-0 upset win over Thailand but failed to advance to the next round of the AFC U-19 Championship Qualifiers here on Sunday.

Grace Lalrampari scored the lone goal in the 36th minute to put India on level points with both Thailand and Nepal. But, India could not make it to the Round 2 of the Qualifiers courtesy their head-to-head result against Nepal.

When the goal difference of these three teams were counted, Thailand secured the top spot with a plus 2, while India and Nepal were tied at minus 1. Due to this, the head-to-head result between India and Nepal came into play again, and the Himalayan nation went through.

Although Thailand dominated possession, the Indian players worked hard to close down the gaps in the middle of the park.

The tactic almost paid off in the third minute, when Roja stole the ball on the left flank and played a give-and-go with Renu, before pulling the trigger from the edge of the area. However, her shot was weak and rolled wide of the goal.

Around the half-hour mark, Thailand started to get better con-



Indian player battles for ball against Thai opponent during the AFC U19 C'ship qualifiers clash

trol of the game, using the flanks well to put crosses across the Indian goal. However, India managed to negotiate these attacks.

India's dream moment came in the 36th minute, when Manisha powered her way down the left flank and sent in an inch-perfect cross for Grace to tap it in.

India soon had another good chance around the half-time mark. Renu hustled her way past two defenders to create a one-on-one chance out of a clearance from Sanathokpi. However, her low shot

was saved by Thai keeper Ponpimom. The match continued much in the same vein in the second half, as India closed down the gaps, not allowing Thailand much space in the attacking third.

The home side's first real chance in the second half came in the 69th minute, when Chatchawan made a wonderful run and sent in a low cross. However, Ratchaphan's shot went over the bar.

In the end, however, India held on to the slender lead, with Archana making a couple of frantic saves.

INDIA SEEK PERFECT BALANCE

After shocking defeat in third game, Men in Blue look to fix woes and maintain lead

We have proved our doubters wrong: Nurse



Former Indian skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni walks to bat during the optional practice session at Cricket Club of India ahead of 4th ODI of 5-match series. PTI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India will look to find the 'perfect' balance in their playing eleven when they take on a resurgent West Indies in the fourth One-day International here on Monday.

Going with five specialist bowlers in Pune on Saturday did not work for India, who ended up as the losing side for the first time in the home series against the West Indies.

With the series surprisingly tied at 1-1 and two matches to go, Virati Kohli's team finds itself in a must-win situation. Credit must be given to the West Indies, who have not only moved on from a dismal Test series but have given the formidable hosts a run for their money in the one-day format.

As Kohli pointed out after the 43-run loss in the third ODI, the return of Kedar Jadhav from injury will give the team a much needed depth in both the batting and bowling department.

"You will always drift to one side when you don't have the balance. We have to think about the perfect balance we need," said the skipper after the defeat.

An unstable middle-order and lack of runs from M S Dhoni's bat are another issues facing India, not just for Monday's fixture but also in the long run with 15 games remaining before the World Cup in England next year.

Having lost his place in the T20 team, Dhoni is in desperate need of runs in the limited opportunities that are left ahead of the 50-over showpiece event.

Ambati Rayudu (22) did get a start in Pune but if the right-hander wants to hold on to the number four spot, he will have to keep scoring consistently.

Rishabh Pant, who batted at five



Windies wicketkeeper batsman Shai Hope bats during third ODI against India at Pune. PTI

another hundred at the CCI, the skipper would be expecting a much improved performance from his team.

On the bowling front, Jasprit Bumrah made a stunning comeback, clinching four wickets on Saturday. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, however, conceded runs in the death overs but trust him to bounce back.

The role of both the spinners — Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav — will be crucial in restricting the opposition batsmen.

For the West Indies, their biggest asset has been wicket-keeper Shai Hope, who has played two key innings, a 123 in Visakhapatnam followed by a crucial 95 in Pune.

He would be hoping for another big knock on Monday and so will Shimron Hetmyer, who failed to convert his start in the third game.

The 21-year-old southpaw, who had scores of 106 and 94 before the Pune game, would be the one watch out for again.

Apart from these two star players, Windies would be hoping that the likes of Kieron Powell, Chanderpaul Hemraj, Rovman Powell fire in the crucial contest.

The experienced Marlon Samuels shone with the ball on Saturday with three wickets but his bat has not done the talking so far. Skipper Jason Holder would also be itching to make a match-winning contribution.

The bowlers would have taken confidence from bundling out India in Pune. Pacer Obed McCoy and off-spinner Ashley Nurse will be high on confidence as the West Indies aim to take the series lead.

With the encounter on Monday, international cricket returns to the CCI, which last hosted a Test in 2009 and an ODI back in 2006.

SQUADS

India: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Ambati Rayudu, Rishabh Pant, MS Dhoni (wicket-keeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Khaleel Ahmed, Umesh Yadav, KL Rahul, Manish Pandey and Kedar Jadhav.

West Indies: Jason Holder (Captain), Fabian Allen, Sunil Ambris, Devendra Bishoo, Chanderpaul Hemraj, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Alzarri Joseph, Evin Lewis, Ashley Nurse, Keemo Paul, Rovman Powell, Kemar Roach, Marlon Samuels.

FOR THE WEST INDIES, THEIR BIGGEST ASSET HAS BEEN WICKET-KEEPER SHAI HOPE, WHO HAS PLAYED TWO KEY INNINGS, A 123 IN VISAKHAPATNAM FOLLOWED BY A CRUCIAL 95 IN PUNE

ahead of Dhoni in the previous game, has been his usual aggressive self but a significant score in his debut ODI series is still awaited.

Amid all the uncertainty, Jadhav's return in the middle-order is more than welcome. His fitness has been a concern in the recent past but he looked good in his first competitive game, played during the Deodhar Trophy, after recovering from a hamstring injury.

Besides his powerful hitting, his off-spin could also come handy.

Opens Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma, who have had twin failures, are due for a big partnership.

The biggest positive for the hosts has been the form of skipper Kohli, who struck his third hundred in a row during the third ODI, becoming the first Indian to do so. While most will back Kohli to get



PTI ■ PUNE

West Indies all-rounder Ashley Nurse says his team was written-off before the start of India tour but it has proved his critics wrong with a solid showing in the ongoing ODI series. Nurse played a key role with both bat and ball in his side's 43-run over India in the third ODI on Saturday.

Nurse's 22-ball 40 helped the visitors post a competitive 283/9 and his two wickets in the middle overs with his off-spin, including that of the opener Shikhar Dhawan, helped them successfully defend the total. "It was a very good performance by the boys. No one gave us a chance when we came but I think we're showing the public out here that we are here to play," said Nurse at the post-match media conference. "It's just good to see the boys play consistent cricket and giving India a run for their money," he said. Nurse said the wicket in Pune was "pretty good". "It was a

good wicket but a bit on the slower side. Don't think the wicket had any devils in it. I just thought from our side Shai got a nice 95 and Virat got a hundred for India. It wasn't a belter. You had to work for your runs but it was a pretty good wicket," he added. Nurse also said that he does not care about critics. "Every day is fishing day but every day is not catching day. So I just go and put the ball in the right areas, try to create as much chances as possible. And just try to do my job, not really care about the critics, just go and do my job for the team each and every day," the 29-year-old signed off. West Indies have improved their standard of game very well in the ODI series after going tamely in the two Tests which finished in three days.

Shimron Hetmyer and Shai Hope have contributed well in the two games to boost batting while bowlers played their part in the third ODI to hand Caribbean team their first victory of the tour.

MSD SLUGS IT OUT IN THE NETS

MUMBAI: Under pressure to deliver, a determined Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Sunday slugged it out at the Cricket Club of India ahead of the fourth One-Day International between India and West Indies. Despite it being an 'optional' session, the veteran wicket-keeper batsman, who was dropped for the T20 series against West Indies and Australia, batted in the nets for over

45 minutes, facing local bowlers. Dhoni, who has of late, struggled to get big scores in ODIs, was also seen having a brief chat with the team's assistant coach Sanjay Bangar. Opener Rohit Sharma, Ambati Rayudu, who is looking to consolidate the number four spot, young K L Rahul, Manish Pandey and spin all-rounder Ravindra

Jadeja also practised during the session. Before padding up, Jadeja also bowled to his teammates. Maharashtra player Kedar Jadhav, who has recovered from a hamstring injury and is likely to feature in Monday's match, also honed his skills. The West Indies did not have any practice session on Sunday. PTI

Federer wins 99th title, beats Copil in Swiss final



AP ■ BASEL

Roger Federer won his 99th career ATP Tour title on Sunday, beating qualifier Marius Copil 7-6 (5), 6-4 in the Swiss Indoors final.

A ninth title at Federer's hometown event in Basel, where he was once a ball boy,

matched the nine he won at the Halle grass-court event in Germany.

Federer rallied from trailing by a service break in each set against the 93rd-ranked Romanian, whose serve was measured at 243 kph (151 mph) in his opening service

game. The top-seeded Swiss clinched when Copil sent a backhand into the net.

Federer's title was his first in more than four months since winning on grass at Stuttgart in June.

He closed the gap on the all-time singles titles list to

Jimmy Connors, who leads with 109.

KEVIN WINS IN VIENNA

VIENNA: Kevin Anderson won his second title of the season at the Erste Bank Open on Sunday, sealing his place at next month's ATP finals.

The eighth-ranked Anderson defeated Kei Nishikori 6-3, 7-6 (3), handing his opponent his ninth straight defeat in a final.

Anderson, who also won in New York in February and reached the final at Wimbledon, earned a fifth

career title but first at a higher-level ATP 500 event.

He became the sixth player to qualify for the eight-man, season-ending event in London, joining Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Juan Martin del Potro, Roger Federer, and Alexander Zverev.

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