CHINESE ENVOY CALLS

DETENTION CENTRES 'CAMPUSES'

MONEY 8

BANK STAFFERS SEEK OPTION

TO SHIFT TO OTHER PSBS

Many leaders switch

better their prospects

ahead of LS elections

to other parties to



*Late City Vol. 29 Issue 75

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable





USUALSUSPECTS SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Again, arrogance may fail anti-Modi brigade

Over the past fortnight I have had to undertake many long car journeys in West Bengal. Since few of them involved travelling through what the Americans call 'scenic routes', much of the time in the backseat of a car has involved playing with my iPad and scrolling through Twitter.

Predictably, the main topic of conversation these days is the general election. If Twitter is any guide, the world of India seems to be sharply divided between those who want Narendra Modi to secure another five-year term and those who can't wait for counting day to show the Prime Minister the door. When Modi came to power in 2014, perceptions of him were somewhat hazy. Yes he had a significant fan following across the country and, equally, there were people whose 'idea of India' was seriously offended by his mere existence. However, apart from Gujarat where he was a known commodity, the perceptions of Modi varied according to individual tastes. I remember writing in 2014 that Modi was seen very differently — as a modern version of Chhatrapati Shivaji, as a free market enthusiast, as a nononsense administrator, as a poor boy made good and even as just another BJP leader. Despite the Modi-centric quasipresidential election campaign, Modi was moulded to suit individual convenience.

This isn't the case in 2019. Today, after nearly five years of sustained exposure, almost every Indian has a view of their Prime Minister. Some dote on him while others are unrelenting in their hate. Few are indifferent. Whether this awareness will help him or go against him will be tested in the general election, especially if voting becomes a referendum on Modi's leadership.

I don't want to dwell on why many people think that Modi is the best thing that has happened to India since Independence. I think the reasons for his amazing popularity

I don't want to dwell on why many people think that Modi is the best thing that has happened to India since Independence. I think the reasons for his amazing popularity are well known. In any case, they will be debated and

discussed during the

long campaign

are well known. In any case, they will be debated and discussed during the long campaign. It is the perceived negatives I want to focus on — at least as far as they become apparent in social media.

However, before I touch on this theme, I would like to quote extensively from a column in The Spectator by the British writer Rod Liddle talking about an encounter with a well-heeled Indian lady in a pub.

"I was down the pub with my wife last week, out in the tiny smoking section, when a woman with a glass and opened a

conversation. She was from Delhi, she told us, before announcing somewhat grandly that she was an 'academic'. I suppose I should have got the hell out there and then, but I was enjoying my cigarette. Anyway, we chatted briefly about the university at which she worked and shortly after this she said that at the moment she was 'preparing for 29 March' and was aghast at the whole Brexit business.

"Oh, I said, I voted Leave. She responded somewhat acidly: 'And this is where the conversation ends. I cannot talk to irrational people.' I demurred a little... um, you know, I don't think I'm actually irrational and it's a little bit rude to suggest that I am.

"At which point she told me to 'check your privilege — I have brown skin and you are old and white'. I suggested to her that when it came to privilege, holding a university post wasn't too bad, was it, which was when she called me a 'jackass' and the conversation sadly ended.

It seemed to me a bit rich that a woman who came to the UK on a nice scholarship and had landed a good job in a university could be so blithely dismissive of the views of the majority of people in this country, even if it is a small majority. She struck me as being smug and stupid, a fairly lethal combination.

Unlike writers in the UK who can get away by calling people 'smug and stupid', we in India tend to be more circumspect in expressing our displeasure. However, if were to scroll through the posts of the anti-Modi brigade especially those who see themselves as being fairly cosmopolitan, you will realise that the lady from Delhi in the pub, was fairly representative of those who threaten to buy one-way tickets out of the country in the event Modi gets a

It is not the actual policies and performance of the Modi Government that invites ire, although they seem to have reserved a special place in hell for demonetisation. Their main grouse seems to me is that the Government is stupid and the BJP is even more stupid. A Congress spokesman, hardly known for his astonishing erudition and profundity, for example, expressed bewilderment that the BJP has an 'intellectual cell'. Another, thought it unlikely that a BJP spokesman could ever have been employed by a global organisation, except perhaps in their call centre. A young man who is listed as an AAP candidate for one of the Delhi (unless he is left high and dry by a deal with the Congress) even put out a photograph of two cows with the caption: BJP

workers seeking votes The examples can be multiplied but point to unmistakable signs of condescension. Like the Indian lady ir the pub who couldn't countenance the idea that anyone decent could have voted for Brexit, there is incomprehension that anyone can support Modi and vote BJP. During the 2014 election, I encountered foreign journalists who were taken aback by the suggestion that the BJP looked like winning since he hadn't met a single person who was supporting Modi. Of course he didn't since the ecosystem around the foreign press corps tend to be vociferously anti-Modi. Had they been covering the Brexit referendum they

wouldn't have met anyone voting to leave the EU.

It is the sheer arrogance of those who believe that they have a monopoly of the truth that marks the liberal resistance to Modi. This is one reason they failed in 2014 and this will be a reason why they may not succeed in 2019.

Loyalty shifts at full throttle

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Aswitchovers go hand-inhand during the election festival when ideology also goes for a quick toss if political leaders are denied tickets to contest or ignored by their parent parties.
As the Lok Sabha contest

2019 nears and nervous energy is in the air with parties finalising their lists of candidates on the basis of their "winnability", a whole lot of veterans and newbies on Saturday jettisoned their parties unabashedly finding a new cause" to be in the political war field.

JD(S) general secretary Danish Ali joined BSP "with the blessings" of his party chief HD Deve Gowda. Ali's move came as a surprise as he was a go-between Deve Gowda and Congress president Rahul Gandhi in settling Lok Sabha seat sharing between the two parties in Karnataka. Karnataka Minister Kumaraswamy dubbed his move a "political arrangement".

"I never asked for anything even when I was in the JD(S), it was up to Deve Gowdaji to decide what work to assign me. I have come here after taking the blessings and permission of



Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and BJP leader Baijayant Jay Panda at party headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday

Deve Gowdaji. I will work wherever Behenji assigns me", he said. There were more shockwaves as the day progressed. If Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Balabhadra Majhi switched over to BJP, Congress MLA from Salepur (Cuttack district) Prakash Chandra Behera resigned from his party. With a loss of one, the BJD

soon got one back as Harish Chandra Panda, nephew of Odisha BJP president Basant Kumar Panda, joined the party in the presence of Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik.

Similar developments marked Uttarakhand, Assam and Andhra Pradesh. In a real shocker, former Uttarakhand

Chief Minister Maj Gen (retd) BC Khanduri's son Manish, a former journalist, joined

Congress at a rally in Dehradun, addressed by Rahul

Gandhi. The Congress president claimed that the son quit as his father was insulted when he dared to ask a question as the chairman of Standing Committee on Defence. "He (BC Khandur) gave

all his life to Army. But when he asked a question on national security in Parliament & spoke the truth that the way Government should help Army, it is not there, then he was removed from the chairmanship of that Committee", Rahul said after he presented Manish before the public.

On his part Manish spoke of him taking blessings of his father before deciding his cross-over to the Congress. Turn to Page 4

Manifestos can't be released in last 48 hrs before polling, says EC

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India on Saturday fixed a timeline for the release of manifesto by political parties. Manifestos for both single and multi-phase elections cannot be released during the prohibitory period, which is 48 hours before the completion of the polls, as prescribed under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

The provision will, henceforth, be applicable and implemented as a part of the Model Code of Conduct for all future

BJP in huddle to finalise first list of names

RNI No. 53466/91, REGD. No. DL (C)-05/1219/2018-20 Posted at DRMS Delhi 6

Maneka likely to switch seat with Varun, may fight from Sultanpur

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

 $B^{\text{JP Central Election}}_{\text{Committee (CEC) was con-}}$ tinuous in its scrutiny of candidates on Saturday night for the 91 constituencies going to polls in the first phase of Lok Sabha elections on April 11.

With BJP president Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in attendance, the CEC vetted the lists of candidates finalised and sent to the Central leadership by various BJP State units. The meeting was continuing even after four hours of discussions.

According to sources, senior BJP leader and Union Minister Maneka Gandhi could switch constituency with her son Varun Gandhi and may contest from Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, where Congress has fielded Dr Sanjay Singh.

Turn to Page 4



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP national president Amit Shah and other leaders during the BJP Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections at BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

President Ram Nath Kovind being blessed by renowned environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka after she was awarded Padma Shri during 'Padma Awards 2019' in New Delhi on Saturday

MHA clears menu,

Election Specials,

Railways to run 260

Splinter Coaches to

ferry forces on duty

Snubbed MSY unlikely to campaign for party leaders

PNS LUCKNOW

Angry over denial of party ticket to his younger from Sambhal for the Lok Sabha polls, Samajwadi Party patron Mulayam Singh is unlikely to campaign for the party and alliance candidates

during the election. Mulayam is also said to be unhappy with the idea of Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati, along with Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal leaders, campaigning for him in Mainpuri. Mulayam is the SP candidate from Mainpuri.

Since the very beginning, Mulayam has been against the SP-BSP alliance in which the SP had to part with over 40 of the total 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh. Recently, the SP founder had publicly admonished his son and party Chief Akhilesh Yadav for forging an alliance with the BSP, saying, "You have ruined the party... the SP could have won over two dozen seats on its own without the alliance.

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Poll meals on tracks for 2.70L paramilitary forces

Terrorists gun down woman SPO in Shopian

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Terrorists shot dead a cer (SPO) at Vehil area of South Kashmir's Shopian district on Saturday afternoon.

According to official sources, terrorists opened fire at Khushboo Jan at around 2:40 pm outside her home in Vehil village. "In the firing incident, Khushboo suffered serious bullet wounds and was shifted to the nearby hospital where she succumbed to her injuries," they said.

Hunt is on to nab the accused. Before handing over the mortal remains of the SPO to her family a formal wreath laying ceremony was organised where senior police and State Government officials paid rich tributes to the marvred SPO Meanwhile, in Jammu

region Pakistan once again violated ceasefire agreement by resorting to heavy shellings in Mankote sector of Poonch.

According to ground reports, the shelling continued for over three hours in the area. MODI UNLEASHES 'MAIN BHI CHOWKIDAR' PLEDGE New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday

CAPSULE

urged his supporters to take the 'main bhi chowkidar' (I too am watchman) pledge and said he was not alone in the fight against graft and social evils, drawing ridicule from Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

11 DEAD AS SUV FALLS Banihal/Jammu: Eleven people including four women and five children, were killed and four others injured when an SUV skidded off a road and fell into a deep gorge in Ramban district of Jammu & Kashmir on

Saturday, police said. PAK SHOULD HAND OVER DAWOOD, SALAHUDDIN New Delhi: If Pakistan was sincere in tackling terror, then it should at least hand over to India Dawood Ibrahim, Sayeed Salahuddin and other terrorists who are Indian citizens and residing in that country,

Saturday. CONG STAKES CLAIM TO FORM GOVT IN GOA

Government sources said on

Panaji: The Congress on Saturday staked claim to form Govt in Goa claiming that the Manohar Parrikar dispensation has lost its majority in the Assembly following the demise of BJP MLA Francis D'Souza. P4

Indian techie, student killed in New Zealand

mosque attacks
IANS HYDERABAD/THRISSUR

A software engineer from Hyderabad and a woman post-graduate student from Thrissur were among the 49 people killed in Friday's terror attacks on two mosques in New Zealand's Christchurch, while the whereabouts of at least two visitors from Gujarat where not known. The shootings was alleged-

ly carried out by Brenton Tarrant, 28, who was charged with murder at a court in Christchurch on Saturday. Ancy Ali, a 25-year-old married woman from Kerala's Thrissur, was among the victims, the Kerala Police said.

Turn to Page 4

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

As the world's largest democracy goes to polls in 2019, a massive mobilisation of the Central paramilitary forces has been effected with the Railways set to run 260 Election Special Trains and Splinter Coaches with each train carrying 1,000 personnel. Splinter Coaches are additional coaches attached to a regular train on a route to accommodate additional pas-

And, since the uniformed men cannot be on empty stomach while in transit, the Union Home Ministry has directed the IRCTC, the catering arm of the Railways, to arrange meals at a short notice from the caterer's facilities and private vendors when the Mini Ratna's facilities are not available on the routes.

In fact, the MHA itself finalised the menu for the meals. The menu will not only take care of the taste buds of the personnel but also their nutritional requirement and hygiene.

This is the first time that the Government is to provide meals for the paramilitary personnel during transit for electoral duties. Earlier, only trains were booked and the jawans were left to procure food from their own pocket and depending upon the availability of food at railway halts or in some cases the pantry of the the



Punjab Police with paramilitary soldiers during a flag march ahead of general elections in Amritsar on Saturday

The Centre has provided 2.7 lakh paramilitary personnel at the disposal of the Election for the free and fair conduct of

seven-phased

Parliamentary elections commencing on April 11. Lunch and dinner each

let kit comprising soap, shampoo sachet, hair oil sachet, will be worth ₹105 minus GST toothpaste, toothbrush and comb worth ₹15. and breakfast will be of ₹70. In addition to the meals, the

Turn to Page 4

IRCTC will also provide a toi-

SHOW TIME

It is subtle and endearing



PHOTOGRAPH

*ing: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Sanya Malhotra, Vijay Raaz, Jim Sarbh, Abdul Quadir Amin Rated: 6/10

Should *Photograph* be even compared to *The Lunch Box*? The only connection between the two films is that they have the same director. While it is not correct to compare two films because the actors are different and so is the storyline, but as an audience, after a movie has set a benchmark — *The Lunch* Box did it — any project on somewhat similar path will be juxtaposed.

If one were to see Photograph in its entirety, one can sit back and enjoy this slow burner love story with Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Sanya Malhotra as leads. Though the two on the face of make an odd couple, they are perfectly suited here.

That Nawazuddin Siddiqui is brilliant here, would be putting it mildly. It actually looks as if he is is going about doing his what he does best an effortless acting.

Given that Ritesh Batra is the director here, there are bound to be a few things that find their way in the same

platform. First, an unlikely pair who meet by chance and happen to like each other to

the extent that they want to

meet each other and our hero – Nawazuddin — getting a bit possessive when the heroine's coaching instructor touches her — she is studying for CA intermediary. Our hero is a street photographer. In reality the two shall never meet.

But when you fall in love and money and family background seldom matters. That is what most of the Raj Kapoor films were about. A poor boy who falls in love with rich girl. The father raises objections but all is well that ends well.

Does the same hold true for our pair? Batra is known to leave the audience with openended climaxes. Photograph is no different.

If you are a pessimist and want realism, *Photograph* will not disappoint. But if you are an optimist you may take heart from — Mujhe pata hai is (movie) ka kya end hoga... Ladka mechanic, ladki bade ghar ki.... Ma-baap ki narazgi... We also know how most of such films ended back in the 50s and 60s. The hero always

Splendiferous idea

*ing (Voice Over): Brianna Denski, Ken Hudson Campbell, Kenan Thompson, Ken Jeong, Mila Kunis, John Oliver, Jennifer Garner, Matthew Broderick Rated: 7/10

ye all know that nobody make animation better than Hollywood. Some of us would also agree that the genre is no longer associated with kids. We also acknowledge that the present technology allows the filmmakers a free reign to their imagination.

And the makers of Wonder Park have done exactly this. You have a little girl — June who along with her mother create a wonder park where Peanut the monkey can conjure a ride with a magic pen provided it is whispered into the ears of a stuffed toy — a monkey. Confused? Don't be. It is a wonderland inside a magical world of animation.

A magical world can't be all about fun, frolic and splash of colour and cute and cuddly animals. It has to come up with a message. Wonder Park comes

Don't give up hope, don't give up on your dreams and passion whatever the circumstances. Last but not the least, if your intentions are right, you will always be able to defeat the darkness. However, tough it may be, if your heart is pure, there will always be light at the end of the tunnel.

Given that our cinemas get few kid movies, this one will make interest the

- Shalini Saksena





Tale of love and loss

*ing: Rasika Duggal, Sumit Kaul, Vikas Kumar, Talha **Arshad Reshi Rated: 6/10**

ny story that comes from the Valley and talks about humanity over politics is bound to touch the audience. More so, if the story is told with a seven-year-old at the helm.

Aijaz Khan through Hamid (Talha Arshad) tells you the story of love for a father, belief in God that he will make things right, even in the Valley where terror reigns high, the dejection in the system and that you are all alone and how people with vested interest are looking for a weakness in you so that they can take advantage of that and mould you to their way of thinking.

The good is that the film doesn't take sides nor passes any judgement — just tells you a story that despite the gloom

there is a glimmer of hope. Arshad as Hamid is really good as is Rasika Duggal as his mother. It is no wonder that the film got a standing ovation at Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival and Dharamshala International Film Festival.

TELLYTALE =



With the on going story track in Colors' show *Ganthbandhan* Savitri Mai (Sonali Naik) will throw a big function for Dhanak's (Shruti Sharma) Muh Dikhayi rituals and will invite all the Dons of different area to

Gauhar will glam up the function with her sultry dance moves as she will shake a leg to her famous item number Hua Chokra Jawan from the movie Ishaqzade, leaving the viewers awestruck.

Speaking about her entry Gauhar Khan said: "I've had some special memories and some of my biggest moments of life with Colors. Everytime I am associated with a show on Colors it feels like being home. I was a part of a celebration on Gathbandhan and I performed to a medley of famous Bollywood songs. I was happy to be a part of this show as it portrays women in light of confidence.

Meanwhile on Monday it will be Mika who will be making an entry. He will be performing for a grand Holi party. Mika will set the mahol and sing a medley of his songs through which he will also try to bring the couple (Raghu and Dhanak leads) a bit close by playing cupid and try to brew love between with the touch of his music.

Talking about his association Mika said, "My past association with Colors has been a great experience for me. This is my first time that I am part of a fiction show on COLORS, and I am really excited to celebrate Holi with the cast of *Gathbandhan*. I am also here to bring two people fall in love with each other through my music and my songs.'

FARAH'S HOME COOKED TREAT Farah Khan dons many hats and effortlessly manages different roles. Farah is not only known as a dance choreographer and director but also

known as an excellent cook. Farah is

very passionate about cooking and likes to treat her friends.

So, when Farah visited the sets of Super Dancer Chapter 3 for gurushishya special episode, she ensured to treat the super judges with her home cooked food.

Farah is a foodie and so are our judges of Super Dancer. Farah told the Super judges to not carry food and she packed some delicious food. They all enjoyed the meal together. Now we wonder if Farah had got her famous



Yakhani pulao or some other dish.

AVINASH WHIPS UP DRAMA Zee TV's popular fiction show,

Yeh Teri Galiyaan has been keeping the audience on the edge of their seats with many intriguing twists and turns. Recently, the viewers witnessed Hridoy going insane over Asmita missing whereas Shaan tries to calm

him down. As the drama continues to unfold, inspector Aditya informs the entire Mazumdar family that Asmita is on her way to Mumbai. Hearing this news, Shaan blames himself as he was the one to throw Asmita out of the house. To vent out his frustration, he starts hurting and whipping. To make the sequence authentic, Avinash decided to whip himself for real. He even got bruises on his body but he still continued with the scene



Sharing his experience, Avinash said: "It was an intense scene which had to be shot in one go and I was too

nervous to shoot it as this was my first performance where I am doing a stunt and I had to beat myself with a 'whip'. I always prefer to give my sequences a touch of reality. So, instead of using a dupe, I decided to do it myself. I am very thankful to the stunt experts on the set who helped me understand the technicalities and pull it off flawlessly."

A LEAP IN KUMKUM BHAGYA

Zee TV's Kumkum Bhaqya has been ruling the television space as everyone's favourite dinnertime soap for the past five years. Now it is time for vet another journey to begin as the show takes a 20-year leap and introduces viewers to the next generation of the Mehras - Abhi-Pragya's twin daughters. Post the leap, the track will focus on Abhi. Pragya and their young college-going



daughters. Essaying the role of Prachi will be actor Mugdha Chaphekar and on the other hand, Naina Singh has been roped in to play the role of Rhea. Though twins by birth, Rhea and Prachi are two strong personalities who are complete opposites of each other. On one hand, Prachi is a complete replica of Pragva in terms of her simplicity, practicality, and sensitivity, on the other hand, Rhea is born in the lap of luxury making her a somewhat spoilt, pampered daughter of a successful rockstar.

Speaking about being a part of the show, Mugdha said: "I am making a comeback on Zee TV after four years and what better way to start a new journey than the extremely popular show Kumkum Bhagya. I have been an ardent follower of the show and I am glad that I am going to be a part of it. I hope that the audience enjoy the

'Homemakers are not given prominence'

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with NEELIMA AZEEM about her new show Mom & Co on Zoom TV and experiences in the industry

■Tell us about the show Mom & Co.
The show is about a

woman — Suhasini Rao. She is a simple and sincere lady. She has gone through a lot in life. She goes through her own some special moments with her son. The show revolves around mother-son relationship and captures the complexities as well as the beauty of it. ■What attracted you to play

Suhasini?

Women who are not overtly exciting and who are homemakers, they do a lot in life. They are the ones who make their families and keep them together whatever the cost. These women have their identity and emotional issues and face a lot of challenges in life. Homemakers are huge anchors, they steer everything, they nurture their children and support their husbands and families. They create the people that their children become but they are not given enough prominence. I think they are not even given their due respect. In our society a woman like this should be brought out through a well told story and a well-edged out character and Suhasini is a character that brings out all this effortlessly. She is enduring and people will relate to her. comfort or discomfort. Women who have gone through all this in their challenging or difficult. I life will be emotionally attached to her. This is define work based on what attracted me to

Was there something you did going out of your comfort zone?

play this role.

Yes, wearing sarees all the time and wearing them the right way. (laughs) But honestly, I don't see my work as a matter of comfort or discomfort. I see work as challenging or difficult. I define

work based on the complexities

of my character and the kind

of storvline the show follows.

dark areas in my characterin this show

I don't see my

work as a matter of

I see work as

the complexities of

my character

Who do you consider the mother of TV? I don't watch television

much so I am not the right

But thankfully there have been person to say this but yes, I happy to be an actor.

where I would feel afraid of playing it.

have seen many women who have played a mother's role brilliantly in films, like Nargis in Mother India. ■How has your journey been so far?

To say the least, it has been

interesting. There were ups and

downs but, at the end of the

day this is what you love to do

and we get paid for it so I am

■How have you evolved as an It is difficult to talk about

my own evolvement. But when I started I tried to be more spectacular on screen but, now my basic evolvement is that I moment and the graph of the

■How do you define acting and what is your approach towards it?

Acting is what propels you to play different people. And it comes naturally to be an actor. It is what excites and motivates you to live various lives in various worlds, playing different people. ■Who has been your

inspiration? My inspiration has been

Meena Kumari. She was a very versatile actor. ■What does success means to

you?

It is very difficult to define it in just one word but, I think success for me is being able to do what you love to.

One change you would like to see in the industry for actors and other working professionals.

It is important that for actors we pick up subjects where they get to play more realisitic and interesting characters. Also for actors of our age there should be more subjects centred around people who are older because it is interesting to show their life and there is more to their life than just the age brackets. Actors should also be given more workshops and time to prepare for their projects and there should be a proper system for this in our country.

■Apart from acting what else keeps you busy?

Predominantly, my family and dancing. I have learned dance from Pandit Birju Maharaj and I am hugely involved in this dance form. I was the youngest exponent of Kathak which then became so popular. I like reading and munching along with it at night.



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Cong-AAP to form alliance

Seats sharing finalised

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

 $A^{
m midst}$ resistance from former Delhi Chief Minister Shiela Dixit, the Congress and Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will form an alliance in the national Capital for the upcoming general elections in a bid to stop division of votes.

According to party sources in the grand old party, "Seats sharing between both the parties have been done." It is a matter of only time to make it formally announced," said a senior congress leader.

If party sources to be believed, several rounds of talks have been placed between top brass of the two

Highly placed sources in the party high command said that in alliance, Congress will contest election for three pivotal seats which are - New North West Delhi.

However, for the rest four parliamentarians - North East Delhi, East Delhi, West Delhi and South Delhi, AAP will contest to take over Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP).

Party sources also said that an internal survey done by Congress is playing a crucial role in changing the minds of Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) leaders who have been against the

As per the survey reports, BJP is ahead of both AAP and Congress with 35 per cent of the vote share in the Capital.

The survey report has been showed to Congress party president Rahul Gandhi and the Delhi unit chief Sheila

Meanwhile, Delhi State in-charge PC Chacko met DPCC Chief Sheila Dikshit and conveyed her results of the vote bank survey and also shared views of the senior leaders of the party about

Delhi BJP asks EC to appoint special observer at mosques

Legal cell of Delhi BJP unit wrote a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to appoint special observer in the Mosque to prevent hate speech during Lok Sabha elections. According to Delhi BJP office bearers, the step has taken keeping in mind the repeated attempts by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to poison the political atmosphere by resorting to polarize voters on religion and caste lines.

In a letter, legal department convener Neeraj cited a sequence of attempts by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders to polarise voters on religious lines and requested the CEO to appoint special observers at

We are bound to write you this complaint due to recent repeated attempts to polarise voters on religious lines by the convener of the AAP, Arvind Kejriwal, and his party members," Neeraj alleged.

Kejriwal, while addressing events and public gatherings in minorities-dominated areas, had been asking people to beware of vote split between the AAP and the Congress and vote for his party to defeat the BJP in Lok Sabha polls.

There was no immediate reaction was available on the issue from the AAP.

Kejriwal gives statements to polarise voters in Muslim dominated areas," said Neeraj, adding, "I requested the CEÓ to appoint special observers for mosques in Muslim-dominated areas so that the political and religious leaders cannot spread hate among people to

TO WRITE YOU THIS COMPLAINT **DUE TO RECENT REPEATED** ATTEMPTS TO **POLARISE VOTERS** ON RELIGIOUS LINES BY THE AAP'

influence elections."

"If any violation takes place, based on the reports of the special observers, the Election Commission can take immediate cognisance of it and initiate necessary action,"

This is a matter of grave concern to ensure free and fare elections without any violation of the model code of conduct for Lok Sabha Elections 2019, he added.

Polling in seven seats in Delhi will take place May 12.

AAP MLA Alka Lamba wishes to join Congress

in-charge PC Chacko

also said that the party

will always welcome

back AAP leader Alka

Lamba whenever she

wants to return to the

party fold

At political front, Lamba is

feeling left out in Aam Aadmi

"In a larger perspective, the upcoming elections will be

come them," Chacko said.

Party (AAP).

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Viewing Lok Sabha election fight between Congress and Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Chandni Chowk confirmed reports pertaining to her will to join congress ahead of Lok Sabha elections in Delhi. Speaking to *The pioneer*, Lamba said that there is no communication with AAP after a resolution in the Delhi Assembly (December 21) to withdraw the Bharat Ratna conferred on former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for his alleged role in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

Notably, on Friday, Congress party's Delhi in-charge PC Chacko also said that the party will always welcome back AÁP leader Álka Lamba whenever she wants to return to the party fold.

'We' will always welcome her because she is otherwise also a member of the Congress family. She was the president of the NSUI. There are many people, who left the party on different occasions. When they come back, we always wel-

contested between Congress Congress party's Delhi and BJP. AAP stands nowhere, said Lamba.

When asked, why Congress? AAP MLA replied, "I have ideological differences with BJP and Congress has strong base in Delhi.

Lamba also cleared that she has not received any proposal from Congress yet.

"I have given 20 years to Congress out of my 25 years in politics. When Congress and BJP used to fight in Delhi, people stopped BJP from forming a government in the state for 15 years," she said.

Video of SHO punching man goes viral

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Avideo of Delhi Police Station House Officer (SHO) of Sarita Vihar in Delhi South-East district went viral on social media. In the video, the SHO Ajab Singh along with two other police personnel is seeing punching and beating a man with baston.

The man has been identified as Mohammad Ibrahim (44) who is also a dhaba owner in Jasola and a resident of Jaitpur. The incident occurred last month on March 14 at around 11 pm.

"After closing my restau-

rant on March 14, I along with my worker was cleaning dishes in front of his shop when the SHO arrived with two other police personnel and started beating me. First he slapped and punched me and then started beating me with sticks," said Ibrahim. "Thankfully the entire inci-

dent was captured in the CCTV camera installed near the dhaba otherwise I would have not been able to prove myself," said Ibrahim.

"This is not the first time this incident had happened. The SHO takes bribe from shopkeepers in the area and

who ever refuse to give money SHO misbehaves with that person. We had on February 5 given a written complaint against the SHO for asking bribe," said Kishan Bhigudi, who is the shop owner and had given it to Ibrahim on rent.

been initiated against the three police personnel including the the SHO. However, according to a senior police official, police have received several complaints from locals regarding Ibrahim's dhaba operating till late night.

An internal enquiry has

"Police had several times told him to shut his shop on

time after several complaints regarding the shop was received. On 14 March, police had also nabbed three persons under section 40 of the Delhi Excise Act near his shop" said the senior police official. After the recent demolition

drive by the DDA, Krishan, who claimed to be the owner of the shop, had constructed the shop on DDA land.

Krishna claimed that the land belongs to him whereas the land is of DDA and he had got constructed illegal shops on it and has given them on rent, said the senior police

Tiwari to start door-to-door campaign

STAFF REPORTER

Echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign Main Bhi Chowkidaar Hoon, will be launched on March 31, Delhi BJP unit Manoj Tiwari, along with workers, will start door-to-door campaign to convey the Modi's Government achievements in past five years.

Tiwari said that we stand with PM Modi in this campaign and we can say with pride that "Badalte Hue Naye Bharat Ki Mai Bayar Hoon, Mai Garv Se Kehta Hu, Ji Haan Mai Bhi Chowkidaar



Attacking opposition amid the speculations of alliance between ruling Aam Aadmi

Party (AAP) and Congress, BJP leader said, "This is the fear of the Chowkidaar that the

"The corrupt people must understand that AAP and Congress both can do anything but PM Modi will again become the Prime Minister of the country and we are committed for it," Said Tiwari, adding, "Alliance being formed by Arvind Kejriwal and said

of each other are ready for Mahamilawat."

that Kejriwal is entreating the party for alliance which has been rejected by the people. This is quite clear from this that Kejriwal is running himself and will ruin the Congress Party also because the negative politics," Tiwari added.



LoP opposes misuse of 'Agarwal Samaj' by AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Vijender Gupta has objected strongly to the misuse of name of Agarwal Samaj by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for political gains.

achievements of Maharaja Agrasen, Gupta, said that he was a great men of his time, a philanthropist and a socialist but AAP national convener Kejriwal is misusing his legacy for his dirty politics.

Gupta's reaction came when AAP Member of Parliament (MP) Sushil Gupta mentioned about the legacy of Maharaja during a political speech. "Who has authorized him to represent Agarwal Samaj? How can Sushil Gupta, who misused immoral resources to please Kejriwal to get Rajya Sabha membership, can represent Agarwal Samaj?"

"I also belongs to Agarwal Samaj. Maharaja Agrasen



always worked for the Nation and the religion, but Kejriwal acts against National interests," said BJP leader, adding, "AAP's popular base has been falling sharply. Challenging Kejriwal, he asked that Kejriwal should not try to defend his AAP party by misusing Agarwal Samaj as shield for cheep political gain."
"Vaishya Samaj has always

stood by Nationalist forces to strengthen the Nation while CM Kejriwal has been speaking for Pakistan. Similarly he has strengthened anti national forces by supporting Tukde-Tukde Gang," Gupta said confronting AAP MP.

Crime Branch arrests 1 for supplying arms

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The sleuths of Delhi Police Crime Branch have arrested a 62 year-old man, who allegedly used to supply ammunition illegally to gang-Punjab and other States. Police have also recovered 2,000 live cartridges from the possession of the accused.

The man identified as Amarlal a resident of Patel Nagar in Abohar, district Fazilka (Punjab) used to sell cartridges to the criminals for ₹200-250 per cartridge. Police said that the accused had been indulged in this illegal supply of ammunition to the criminals since 2002.

'In the view of recent incidents of use of semi automatic weapons by hardcore criminals, a team of crime branch was directed to trace and apprehend persons who are supplying these arms and

ammunition to the criminals of Delhi. The team went to family, he started to sell Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh to trace and collect the information regarding these arms and ammunition suppli-Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Crime Branch.

"Specific were received by the team regarding Amarlal indulge in supplying ammunition to criminals in Delhi and information was also received that he would be coming to Delhi to supply huge consignment of ammunition following which a trap was laid on March 15 at the Sonia Vihar Pushta road near MCD Khatta and accused was apprehended," said the

"During interrogation accused disclosed that after he suffered huge loss in the business and due to illness in his ammunition illegally to criminals. He was also indulged in getting fake arms licenses. He was first arrested by CBI in fake arms license case in year police in arms act cases," said

"The accused further disclosed that he used to get the ammunition at a cost of Rs. 125-150 per cartridge from a known gun house owner in Shahbad (Haryana) and further used to sell to the criminals for Rs 200-250 per cartridge," said

"A total of 1,000 live cartridges of .32 pistol and 1,000 live cartridges of .315 were recovered from his possession. A case under section 25 of Arms Act has been registered at police station Crime

Branch and further investiga-tion is going on," the DCP added.

Pleasant morning in Capital



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

It was a pleasant morning in the national Capital on Saturday with the minimum temperature settling at 13 degrees Celsius.

The relative humidity was recorded at a very low level of eight per cent in the morning, a weather official said. "The minimum tempera-

ture in the morning was registered at 13 degrees Celsius, three notches below the nor-mal," a MeT Department official said.

The MeT office has forecast partly cloudy skies for the remaining part of the day with the maximum temperature hovering around 26 degrees Celsius.

The day temperature in the national Capital on Friday was 25.8 degrees Celsius, while the minimum had settled at 13 degrees Celsius.

Teen held for killing grandfather HC OK's interim fee hike in

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Saturday arrested a 19 year-old youth in the national Capital, who had allegedly shot dead three persons including his grandfather in last one week. The accused is also a member of Sandeep alias Kala Jhatedia gang which is active in Haryana. Police said the nine cases of murder, attempt to murder and arms act are registered against the accused in Haryana and Delhi.

The accused identified as Vikas alias Vicky a resident of village Gaddi Khedi in district Rohtak (Haryana) along with his associates had shot dead his real grandfather Ram Pal in his village on March 7. On March 9 he along with his four accomplices committed the murder of bus driver in village Nahra of district Sonepat by firing at him and on 14 March he along with his eight accomplices, all armed with deadly weapons, shot dead liquor contractor Narender at Bhalgarh in Sonepat," said Anto Alphonse, the Deputy

nmissioner of Police (DCP),



Dwarka district

"On March 14, during night patrolling by the police team at Ĵharoda Kalan a bike was signaled by the team to stop but the person riding bike turned and tried to escape. He was apprehended by the team after a brief chase," said the DCP.

"During search one country made pistol and five live cartridges were recovered from the possession of the accused. Subsequently the accused was arrested and a case under section 25 arms act was registered,' said the DCP.

"The bike he was riding was

also found stolen. During interrogation the accused disclosed about the three murders he committed in last one week. The accused was produced in local court and was send for two days police custody," said the DCP adding that further investigation is going on.

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has allowed private unaided schools in the national capital to go ahead with an interim hike in fees to implement the recommendations of

the Seventh Central Pay Commission on salaries of teachers and other employees. Justice C Hari Shankar

permitted the interim fee hike by quashing a Delhi government circular of April 13 last, which had prohibited private unaided schools functioning on government land from hiking tuition amounts with-out approval of the Directorate of Education

The government order was selectively applied to private schools which were on government land and as per a 'land clause' in the lease agreement, they needed to seek prior approval of the DoE before hiking fees.

The court, while setting aside the circular, said the

by private schools would be subject to scrutiny by the DoÉ "with a view to ensuring that the schools were not indulging in commercialisation of education by resorting toprofiteering, or charging of capitation fee".

pvt unaided schools in city

"The decision for allowing an interim fee hike, as conained in the order dated October 17, 2017, being that of the DoE, there was no justification for jettisoning the said order, in respect of schools governed by the 'land clause', as was done by the impugned order dated April 13, 2018. The impugned order, dated April 13, 2018, therefore, cannot sustain...And is, accordingly, quashed and set

.The 'interim fee hike' would operate immediately, in favour of all private unaided schools, without the requirement of any prior approval," the court said in its 173-page

of Action Committee Unaided Recognised Private Schools which had challenged the cir-

The court made it clear that "if any school is, in fact, found to be indulging in commercialisation of education, the DoE would be well within its rights in proceeding, against such institution, in accordance with law, and keeping in mind the provisions of the The Action Committee,

in its plea filed through advo-cate Kamal Gupta, had con-tended that the Delhi Schools Education Act equalised all schools, in the matter of pay and allowances to be granted to teachers and employees and therefore, there was no justification to selectively withdraw the October 17, 2017 order which permitted an interim hike of fees to implement the 7th CPC recommendations.

AFTER DEATH OF BJP MLA

Cong stakes claim to form Govt in Goa

Saturday staked claim to form Government in Goa claiming that the Manohar Parrikar dispensation has lost its majority in the Assembly following the demise of BJP MLA Francis D'Souza.

In a letter to Goa Governor Mridula Sinha, Leader of Opposition Chandrakant Kavlekar staked claim to form the government and demanded dismissal of the BJP-led dis-

The strength of Goa Assembly has reduced from 40 to 37 after the death of D'Souza and resignation of two MLAs - Subhash Shirodkar and Dayanand Sopte.

While the Congress currently has 14 MLAs, down from 16 after Sopte and Shirodkar left it to join the BJP, the latter has 13 MLAs.

Three MLAs each of the

Goa Forward Party, MGP and an Independent and the lone NCP legislator are supporting

In a communication to the governor, Kavlekar said, "Consequent upon the sad demise of Francis D'Souza, MLA who was belonging to the BJP, it is humbly submitted that incumbent BIP led state government under the leadership of Manohar Parrikar, which has long lost the trust of the people, has also lost the strength of the House".

Also, we anticipate that numbers of the BJP may further dwindle thus not allowing such a party in minority to continue even for a moment,"

"It is therefore incumbent upon you to dismiss the state government led by the BJP and ensure that the Indian National Congress party, which is the House and is presently enjoying the majority, be called to form government," his letter

His letter warned that "any action in violation of the constitutional mandate to invite the single largest party to form the government and any attempt made to bring the state under President's Rule will be undemocratic, and illegal and will be challenged, as deemed fit".

"We are therefore staking our claim to form the state government and demand that we be called to form the government forthwith by dismissing the incumbent BJP led government," the letter read.

Bypolls to the seats previously held by Sopte, Shirodkar and D'Souza are to be held along with Lok Sabha polls in the state on April 23. *PTI*

YSRC announces first AGP workers clash with list of 9 candidates for Lok Sabha polls

Amaravati: The YSR Congress on Saturday night announced its first list of nine candidates for the April 11 Lok Sabha elections in Andhra Pradesh.

Party president Y S Jaganmohan Reddy is expected to announce the next list of candidates, possibly for all the 175 Assembly seats and the remaining 16 parliamentary constituencies on Sunday.

Only two old faces were

found in the list of nine candidates announced late tonight as the YSRC chose fresh nominees for the Lok Sabha election.

A former inspector of police Gorantla Madhav, who had a feud with Anantapuramu MP J C Diwakar Reddy while in service, was named as YSRC candidate for the Hindupur Lok

Y S Avinash Reddy and P V Midhun Reddy, who quit as MPs in June last protesting the denial of Special Category Status to AP, have been renominated from Kadapa and Rajampet respectively.

The other candidates are Madhavi (Araku-ST), Anuradha (Amalapuram-SC), Talari Rangaiah (Anantapuramu), Nandigam Suresh (Bapatla-SC) Sanjeev Kumar (Kurnool) and Reddappa (Chittoor-SC).

Meanwhile, the Jana Sena Party announced the candidature of economist Pentapati Pulla Rao for the Eluru Lok Sabha seat. "We have chosen Dr Rao as

fight for the cause of tribals and environment protection. He is a noted economist and

our candidate impressed by his

in which a few women protesthis services are required for the ers received minor injuries. country," Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan said in a statement. under control.

Businessman Gedela Srinivas, whom the Jana Sena nominated as its candidate for the Visakhapatnam Lok Sabha the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) seat, joined the YSR Congress has evoked widespread resent-PTI | ment among people, including Saturday evening.

on Saturday between Asom and members, who are opposed Gana Parishad (AGP) workers to the alliance.

protesters in Assam

Party members had locked the AGP office in Jorhat on Friday as protests raged on in various districts across Assam. Former chief minister and

AGP's founding president Prafulla Kumar Mahanta has opposed the alliance with the BJP over the citizenship bill issue.

The decision to realign Several protesters, who with the BJP was made by a claimed were ordinary citizens, handful of leaders of which he had gathered in front of the was not a part, Mahanta had AGP office on Saturday. When claimed.

Mahanta had also said that the saffron party intends to bring in the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill if they return to power after the polls.

The AGP had snapped ties with the BJP in January this year with three of its ministers tendering their resignation when Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh made it clear that the citizenship Bill will be passed in Lok Sabha.

The Bill was, however, not tabled in the Rajya Sabha.

A protester in front of the party headquarters said that people from all over the state belonging to several movement groups are opposing the AGP-BIP ties.

"The AGP had earlier cleared its stand over the contentious Bill and snapped ties with BIP but the recent development is quite confusing," he

A woman protester alleged that the AGP leaders have betrayed the party by taking such a decision for personal

The AGP and BJP sealed their alliance again on March 12 with the three ministers from AGP — Atul Bora, Keshab Mahanta and Phanibhushan Choudhury — resuming their duties the next day. Lok Sabha polls in Assam will be held in three phases on April 11, 18 and 23 in 14 Parliamentary con-

IAF ex-sergeant sentenced to death

Bathinda: A local court here has sentenced a former Indian Air Force sergeant to death for the murder of a 27-yearold corporal in February 2017.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Kanwaljeet Singh Bajwa sentenced Sailesh Kumar to death for the murder of Vipin Shukla of Uttar Pradesh when both were posted at Bhisiana Air Force Station. The verdict was pronounced on Friday, officials

The court also sentenced Kumar's wife to five years rigorous imprisonment for destruction of evidence.

The corporal had gone missing in February 2017. After thirteen days, his body was found chopped and packed in polythene bags, as per the police's investigation.

The sessions judge observed the accused, a member of the armed forces, should have shown courage in some other field, "in place of

Top bureaucrat pens his 4th book

PNS NEW DELHI

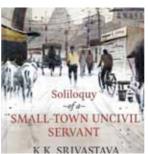
K Srivastava, Additional Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General of India, has brought out his fourth book, "Sililoquy of a Small Town Uncivil Servant", published by Rupa Publications. Srivastava — who has very

humble beginnings, passing out from ordinary colleges in Gorakhpur, ultimately obtaining his Masters in Economics from Gorakhpur University in 1980 --- is a poet writing in English with three poetry collections. His third book "Shadows of the Real" has



been translated into Hindi and

His latest book is a literary non-fiction where the narrator melds facts with fantasies to highlight the conditions under which he grew up in late twen-



tieth century Gorakhpur in eastern Uttar Pradesh. His further ruminations appear to be work of conscious realty merged with thoughtful imagination covering varied themes like his rendezvous with newer

world as he left Gorakhpur, analysis of dreams, suicide, literary books, social niceties, sex, sensuality, social media

and protesters belonging to various outfits over the party's

alliance with the BJP for the

upcoming general elections, police said.

A few people escaped with minor injuries in the incident

that happened in front of the

AGP headquarters at Ambari,

a group of AGP workers came

out of the party office to dis-

perse them, a scuffle followed

Security forces, however,

Protests against the AGP

quickly brought the situation

entering into fresh alliance with

they said.

Written in artistically crisp and veering prose, his introspective vignettes on varied themes reflect on his intellectual honesty, wide reading and deep philosophical bent of mind. The pun in the title will be vaguely clear after one finishes the book.

With this work, this Gorakhpur author has firmed up his position as the first literary figure writing in English from eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Parrikar's health has deteriorated, but he is stable: Goa Minister

Panaji: Goa Minister Vijai Sardesai on Saturday met Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and said his health had "deteriorated", but he was "stable".

Sardesai, along with five Goa MLAs, met Parrikar at his private residence.

The MLAs, all allies in the BJP-led government, are Goa Forward Party's Jayesh Salgaonkar and Vinod Palyekar and Independents Rohan Khaunte, Govind Gawade and Prasad Gaonkar. Emerging from Parrikar's

private residence at Dona Paula,

Sardesai told reporters, "The CMs health has deteriorated, but he is stable." "When cancer was detected and the CM showed willingness to step down, at that time we had asked for a permanent solution and stability. Today, his health has deteriorated, but we are with him. He is stable. I don't know what exactly is his stage (of ailment)," he said.

"He is not on life support. I don't know what medical term we can use for it. The chief minister's office has said he is stable, so we will take it that he is stable," Sardesai said.

च्छा अप्र पावर ट्रान्सिमिशन कारपोरेशन लिंग, <u>निविदा</u> विस्तारिकरण सुवना इस कार्यालय मन्त्रित निविदा संख्या टी-279 / 2018-19 जो दिनांक 16.03.2019 को खोल जानी थी की दिनांक अपरिहार्य कारणों से विस्तारित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा अब दिनांक 23.03.2019 को खोली जायेगी। निविदा के अन्य नियम व शर्ते पूर्ववत रहेगी। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मंडल, उ०प्र०पा०ट्रा० का0लि0, 400 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र, पाली, ग्रेट नोएडा। पत्रांक 569 वि०पा०मं० / ग्रे०नो० / T-279 / 2018-19, दिनांक — 16.03.2019 राष्ट्रहित में कर्जा बचायें, साधारण बल्ब के स्थान पर एल.ई.डी. बल्ब का प्रयोग करे कृपया वेबसाईट www.upptcl.org पर विस्तार में सभी सूचना विवरण / डाउनलोड तथा अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के संशशोधन /विस्तार हेतु निविदा खुलने की तिथि तक

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given on behalf of my client M/s Instakash Technologies Pvt. Ltd. That the flat bearing number 718, BLOCK-P-3, KHELGAON, ASIAD GAMES VILLAGE, NEW DELHI, measuring 1345.06 SQFT. was sold via E- Auction conducted by Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) on 8th March 2019, wherein my client was declared as successful bidder. My client has decided to confirm the aforesaid sale of the abovementioned property.

as succession inder i. My client has deviced to confirm the aforesaid sale of the abovementioned property.

As per OBC the Original Conveyance Deed dated 13.05.2003 and the allotment letter, payment challans are Misplaced/ Lost for the aforesaid flat.

Therefore any person(s) having any claim, interest or right in respect of the above referred property or part thereof by virtue of any sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, lien, hypothecation, will, licensing, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any trust right of prescription or pre-emption or under any Agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order, award or otherwise, are hereby request to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned at their office at 11/7 (gf) Nehru enclave east, Kalkaji New Delbi –110019 within 15 days from the publication hereof, failing which the claim of such person (s) shall be deemed to have been waived and abandoned.

Place – Delhi

Yashraj Singh (Advocate) Date - 15/3/19

PUBLIC NOTICE My Clients Rai Kumar Gandhi S/o J R Gandhi and Veena Gandhi W/o Raj Kumar Gandhi both R/o G-18, S.F., Pushkar Enclave Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063, have severed al relations with his son Punit Gandhi, his wife Nisha Gandhi and their son Rudransh Gandhi also disowned / debarred from all moveable land immoveable properties due to their Immoral attitude, behaviour and misconduct f anybody deals with them, shall do so a his/her own risk, cost and responsibility. My clients shall not be responsible in any manner

HEMANT KUMAR JHA (Advocate CH.No.1104, Rohini Courts, Delhi-85

WESTERN RAILWAY IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIRS TO

OFFICERS CLUB BADHWAR PARK Divisional Railway Manager (WA) Western Railway, 6º floor, Engg. Dept. Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400008 invites E-tender as per details given as follows:- Tender Notice No. & Date BCT/18-19/612 dtd. 14.03.2019. Work and location: Colaba-(Badhwarpark) (i) Improvement and repairs to officer. club Badhwarpark Rly. Colony. (ii) Repairs to swimming pool wall and toilets block in Badhwarpark officers colony. (iii) Extension of Gymnasiums at Badhwarpark officers colony Approx. Cost of work in ₹ 48722361.87. EMD ₹ : 393610.00 Date & Time of submission : Or 09.04.2019 till 15.00 Hrs. Date & Time of opening: On 09.04.2019 at 15.30 Hrs. Regarding detailed tender

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∠oyalty...

From Page 1

"I believe that under Rahul's leadership, Congress will make country stronger. Before coming here, I sought blessings of my father. He asked me if I can walk on path of truth, I said, 'yes", the iunior Khanduri said justifying his move. In neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, BJP got a jolt as its MP from Prayagraj, Shyama Charan Gupta, joined the Samajwadi Party and was given the ticket to conest from Banda.

In Assam, where the BJP is er and State Minister Himanta Biswas Sarma from Tezpur, the sitting BJP MP Ram Prasad Sarma tendered his resignation from the party. Down south, in Hyderabad, former MLA from Pithapuram V Geetha and former TDP leader Adala Prabhakar Reddy join the YSR Congress Party. As the give and take continued during the day between parties, picking cherries for their poll-list, BJP did not comment on Odisha BJP president's nephew joining BJD but welcomed the BJD MP Baldhadra in the party saying as his party left him "he joined Modi*ji*". Union Minister and senior BJP leader from Odisha commented, "Since Balbhadra ji is from railway background he had developed a unique model by bringing together Center and State. You had given him the credit for enabling railway connectivity in Nabarangpur and Malkangiri. His party left him, him". In the ongoing spree of swtichovers, BJP had last week roped in three top Trinamool Congress leaders and MPs from West Bengal, one sitting MP from Haryana and a close former aide of Sonia Gandhi and Congress General Secreary Tom Vadakkan from Kerala.

The BJP is expected to announce the list of more than 100 Lok Sabha candidates which may include candidates from Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, Uttarakhand and other States slated for first phase of polling on April 11.

The party is ready to deny tickets to a substantial number of sitting MPs to beat anti-incumbency. The strategy would be a continuation of party's exercise during the Assembly polls when it did not repeat over 50 per cent of the States.

According to sources, list of 10 candidates from Assam have been finalised with BJP's trouble shooter and State Minister Himanta Bishwas Sarma expected to replace current MP RP Sharma. Assam would go to poll in the first phase on April 11 when 91 LS seats would go to polls across the country. BJP MP Varun Gandhi who

won from Sultanpur, UP, would be shifting to Pilibhit, her mother Maneka Gandhi's constituency. Prime Minister Narendra

Modi is to repeat from Varanasi Lok Sabha seat from Uttar Pradesh and his second seat is yet to be finalised. In 2014 Lok Sabha poll Modi had also won from Vadodara, Gujarat, and contesting a second seat is not ruled out, sources said.

There would be many like Arjun Singh, West Bengal MLA, who crossed over to the BJP from TMC, Arvind Sharma, Haryana, Tom Vaddakan, Congress leader from Kerala who joined BJP recently would also be fielded by the party.

The election for 543 parliamentary seats will be held in seven phases till May 19 and the counting of votes will be taken up on



Congress party supporters during Parivartan Rally in Dehradun on Saturday

Indian techie, student killed...

From Page 1

Ancy, who had migrated to New Zealand with her husband Abdul Nassar last year, lived near the mosques that were attacked, an officer at the Kodungalloor police station in Thrissur told IANS.

Ancy was doing her postgraduation in Christchurch where her husband was working, the officer said.

"We received news from the Special Branch that a woman from here was injured in the shooting. We have now received the news that she has passed away," said the officer who did not wish to be named.

Software engineer Farhaj Aslan, who was reported missing following the attacks, was confirmed dead, his family in Hyderabad said on Saturday.

"We have received information that my brother was killed in the attack," his elder brother Kashif Ahsan told

The 31-year-old's father Mohammed Śayeeduddin, who was hoping to hear some good news about his son, was inconsolable.

Grieving family members huddled in a corner at the family's house in Nadeem Colony of Toli Chowki area after the family received the shocking news. Relatives and friends were pouring in to console the family.

Authorities Christchurch informed Ahsan's wife and her uncle, who rushed from Australia, about his death. They were at a hospital in Christchurch, waiting for some information since morning.

Ahsan was at Al Noor mosque for Friday prayers when the terrorist opened indiscriminate fire on worshippers. A father of two, he used to regularly offer Friday prayers at Al Noor mosque as he lives in a nearby neigh-

Like every Sayeeduddin rang up his son, unaware of what was going on at the mosque. "We spoke to him over phone every day around afternoon and today being Friday, I rang him around 8 a.m. but he did not respond,"

he had told IANS.

He then called his daughter-in-law, who informed him that there was an attack at the mosque and that she also tried to reach Ahsan over his mobile phone. She later went to hospital

with a picture of her husband and after a long wait, the authorities told her that he is among 19 people missing. Ahsan, who did his MS

from Auckland University, worked for various companies and had recently completely a project for a firm in Christchurch. Meanwhile, another man

from Hyderabad who was injured in the terror attack was recovering. Ahmed Iqbal Jehangir, who was at the same mosque,

sustained bullet injuries in his chest and shoulder. "Alhamdulillah (grateful to Allah)! He is out of danger and recovering," his brother Mohammed Khursheed Jehangir told IANS here on

According to information received by Khursheed, a surgery was performed on Ahmed at a hospital in Christchurch to remove a bul-

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that original per

Zealand for 15 years, runs a Hyderabadi food restaurant near Al Noor mosque. His wife and children who stay in the same neighbourhood were

for New Zealand to see his brother.

Officials in Gujarat said that there was no word about some people from the state who were understood to be visiting Christchurch and they were awaiting a response from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

According to unconfirmed sources, at least four visitors from Gujarat were present at the two mosques in Christchurch when the shootings took place.

Mehboob Khokhar, a retired employee of the Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) and a resident of Ahmedabad's Juhapura, had gone to one of the mosques to offer Friday "After the attack in the

mosque at Al Noor, my brother-in-law Imran and my mother-in-law Begum Akhtar rushed to the hospitals. But we still don't know whether Khokhar is admitted somewhere or is still missing. We have not received any confirmation from the New Zealand authorities yet," said Hafiz

of Juhapura. It is also believed that a father-son duo from Anand were also present at one of the two mosques when the attack took place.

Poll meals on tracks for 2.70L

one litre of packaged drinking water, mouth freshner and hand sanitiser (1 ml). The charges for the drinking water bottles will be paid separately to the IRCTC.

The nominated Railway catering units for supply of meals include Refreshment Rooms, Cell Kitchen, Jan Aahar, IRCTC Base Kitchen, Food Plaza/Fast Food Units.

rice/pulao/lemon rice/jeera (200 gm), arhar/moong/urad/chana/mas oor dal (200 gm), mix veg-(seasonal/veg korma/potato dry) 150 gm, paneer dish/rajma/chole (150 gm paneer dish with 70 gm paneer or 200 gm of rajma/chole), lassi/buttermilk/tetra pack juice (200 ml), fruit cake/muffin/sweet (50 gm), curd (branded pack)-80-100 gm and a mouth freshner sachet besides one sachet

six puri (150 gm each), sea-

chocolate (10-15 gm) besides one sachet each of mouth freshner and hand sanitiser.

The Emergency Meal (evening snack) will have a tetra pack juice/lassi (200 ml), aloo bonda/samosa/bread pakora/kachori - 2 pieces (50 gm each), namkeen /roasted chana/sattu (50-60 gm), bis-(80 - 100)banana/orange (2 pieces),

gm). The Parliamentary polls will be held in seven phases between April and May in which nearly 90 crore electorate will cast their votes.

upma/poha/veg biryani (200

"Approximately 260 trains will be run across the country...All zones are requested to kindly mobilise all their staff and advise to be in readiness for providing meals on short notice...Each train will have approximate 1,000 personnel. Nominated staff at stations are required to take receiving from the train commandant on IRCTC challans without fail and please do not mention any price on challans...You are requested to take necessary action to provide meals to special trains/splinter coaches," GGM/Ops Ashish Bhatia said in a communication issued on March 13 to all the zonal

heads of the railways.

he campaigned in only two constituencies — Jaswant Nagar in Etawah where his

at Mainpuri on April 19. Mainpuri goes to poll on April 23 in the third phase of election. The rally would be addressed by BSP supremo Mayawati, Akhilesh and RLD chief Ajit Singh. The three parties have plans to hold 11 joint rallies to seek support for

PUBLIC NOTICE It is notified for the information of

It is notified for the information of general public that my cleint Mr. Vinod Sharma has lost the original doc. i.e. Allotment Agreement executed between M/s Agarwal Associates (Promotoers) Ltd. And Mr. Vinod Sharma pertaining to Penthouse bearing No. EPH-2, 13th Floor, Plot No. C/GH-3, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad. Our client has also lodged a FIR on 10.09.2018 for the same. nas also louged a Firk of Fig. 19.2216 or the same. Any person dealing with the said locuments may do so at his/her own risk and our client shall not be

esponsible in any manner whatsoeve owever any claim on the basis of titl ocuments will be entertained withi

conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.

E-Procurement System Tender Notice No. PCMM/EP/2018-19/11 Dt. 15-03-2019 "Suppliers are requested to visit website

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

www.ireps.gov.in on which tenders issued by PCMM office, stores depot, Sr. DMMS of NER Division and Dy. CMM/CON/BG office are published and tender documents are available. The site also permits for submitting the offer online:-Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

petual Sub-Lease Deed, "D" Form, and

Occupancy Certificate of PROP. No. A-11/6, Govt. Servant CHBS Ltd., Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057 has been reported lost/misplaced by my client RANJAN VASISHTHA S/o LATE R.C. VASHISHTHA and lodged NCR LR No. 790747/2019 Dt. 08.03.2019. Finder Call 9810222576

VISHAL KUMAR (Adv. D/5017/2015

on behalf of RANJAN VASISHTHA

Ahmed, settled in New

Khursheed plans to leave

Patni, the son-in-law of Khokhar, who's also a resident

From Page 1 Each meal will also have

Lunch/dinner will have four chapattis/parathas,

of hand sanitiser. The breakfast will include

sonal vegetable (200 gm), two boiled eggs or veg cutlets/samosa/kachori/aloo bonda (100 gm), one fruit bun or two sliced bread (40-50 gm), banana/orange (2 pieces), tea (150 ml), biscuit pack (80-100 gm), caramelized pop corn(20 gm)/

Snubbed MSY...

From Page 1 Earlier, in March 2017, Mulayam had opposed the SP's alliance with the Congress for the UP Assembly elections and had even refused to campaign for party candidates. However,

younger brother Shivpal Yadav was the candidate and Lucknow Cantonment from where his younger daughter-inlaw Aparna Yadav was trying her luck. The BSP-SP-RLD alliance has decided to hold joint rally

the alliance candidates.

documents will be entertained within 15 days of publication, failing which any such right, title, interest, or claim, if any, will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on our Client. C.K. JHA (Advocate) E-524, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032, (M)-9811295674

Pak conducting sham ops to please Int'l community

mid intense international Apressure to act against terror groups operating from its soil post-Pulwama, Pakistan is back at sham operations against terrorists to please the global community.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the unified PR arm of the Pakistani forces, has issued a Press release claiming the security forces there conducted an intelligencebased operation in Mahnshera and arrested "two important terrorists and three of their accomplices.

The ISPR has released photographs of five alleged terrorists but has neither identified them nor their organisation, a pointer to the old tactic of the Pakistan Army which picks up people and brands them terrorists. In many cases, Pakistan army is known to produce missing people in their extralegal custody or those undergoing enforced disappearances.

"Operation Radd ul Fassad: Security Forces along with CTD conducted an intelligence based operation in Mahnshera.



2 Important Terrorists including their 3 accomplices arrested. The apprehended terrorists were involved in sabotage activities in Hazara including targeting police and military convoys, target killing of LEAs and attack on Imambargha," reads the ISPR release issued on March 12.

The photographs of the five alleged terrorists have been appended with the release. However, the ISPR has not even mentioned the offences allegedly committed or any terror case in which they could

According to the European Union Parliament records, Pakistan ranks sixth in the world in the Modern Slavery Index, with an estimated 2.13 million people or 1.13 per cent of its population is living in modern slavery. "Pakistan was one of the leading executioners in the world in 2017, the EU parliament has said in a recent

Pakistan army is known to indulge in human rights violations, custodial killings, enforced disappearances, torture and is the biggest execu-tioner of so called terrorist including even minors and religious minorities in the world besides atrocities against religious and ethnic minorities.

Since Pakistan army runs as many as 150 companies in businesses involving milk production, sugar, construction, property and a host of other areas, the slavery is mostly perpetrated by the uniformed men who are also engaged in human rights excesses. Pakistan is under pressure

to act against terrorist groups operating from its soil after one of its terror outfit-Jaish-e-Mohammad claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing on a CRPF convoy on February 14 in which 40 paramilitary men were killed in Pulwama in Jammu & Kashmir.

India will be patient with China on listing Azhar as terrorist: Sources

sserting that India will show Apatience with China for "as long as it takes" but will neither compromise its position nor cut a deal on terrorism, Government sources said in the wake of Beijing blocking a fresh move at the UN to designate Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a global

They said China has adequate information that certain terror groups are operating from Pakistani soil and they are against Chinese interests as well, government sources said on Saturday even while maintaining that it is for Beijing to resolve the issues with Islamabad.

Sources said New Delhi has shared evidence against Azhar with all the UN Security members including China, which for the fourth time blocked the bid in the UN Security Council to designate

Azhar by putting a technical hold on the proposal. The Chinese move was termed "disappointing"

They said India was "cautiously" confident that eventually Azhar will get listed as it has a solid case against the JeM chief.

India is not going to make any compromise or cut any deal with any member nation of the UN Security Council or UN Sanctions Committee on designating Azhar as global terrorists, sources said, adding New Delhi is ready for a long-haul on the

They said 14 out of the 15 members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) supported India on the issue while seven members were co-sponsoring the resolution to list Azhar. India will not rest until he is proscribed by the UN,

"India continues to work with the UNSC's sanction committee on listing of JeM chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist," official sources said adding the steps taken by Pakistan in the last few days against terror groups are cosmetic in nature. The fresh proposal to desig-

nate Azhar under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council was moved by France, the UK and the US, in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed. JeM had claimed responsibility for the Pulwama attack.

Sources said India was not going to approach the UN Security Council on the issue of Azhar and that if there was any other option to list Azhar, then it was for the members of the powerful body to explore.

They also ruled out the possibility of any mediation by any country to resolve issues between India and Pakistan.

JeM commander releases video, vows to target Guj, **South India in coming days**

The top Jaish-e-Mohammad commander in Jammu & The top Jaish-e-Monailliau communes T Kashmir, Abu Hamas has released a video wherein he has vowed to target Gujarat and South Indian States.

Incidentally, the video was released on March 13, almost a month after the JeM executed the deadliest strike in Jammu & Kashmir's three decades of insurgency on February 14 when a suicide bomber of the Pakistani terror group hit a convoy of the CRPF killing 40 paramil-

Abu Hamas, is the top commander of the JeM in Kashmir Valley and is also a points-person of the Al Qaeda Central and has been coordinating Islamist terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir through the Al Qaeda's arm in Jammu & Kashmir under the banner of Ansar Ghazwatul Hind headed by Zakir Musa.

Hamas has exhorted that the jehadis in the Kashmir Valley to commit their jehad to the Almighty and bring down the secular and democratic rule and put in place a Khilafat or Islamic rule.

Hamas also underscored that the jehadis under the banner of JeM, Ansar Ghazwatul Hind and other such outfits acting as proxies of Pakistani Government and army are not only supposed to carry of jehad in the Kashmir Valley but have to target Gujarat and Hyderabad as also the rest of the world.

Sushma to begin 2-day visit to Maldives today

PNS NEW DELHI

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{n}}$ what will be the first full-fledged bilateral trip from India to the island nation after the Government of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih came to power in November, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will travel to the Maldives on a two-day visit beginning on Sunday. Announcing the visit, the

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it is aimed at further strengthening the "close and friendly" relations between the two countries.

"India attaches the highest importance to its relationship with the Maldives which is marked by trust, transparency, mutual understanding and sensitivity," the MEA said.

In Male, Swaraj will have a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid and delegation-level talks with Defence Minister Mariya Ahmed Didi, Finance Minister Ibrahim Ameer, National Planning and Infrastructure Minister Mohamed Aslam, Transport and Civil Aviation

Minister Aishath Nahula and Economic Development Minister Fayyaz Ismail. The ministers will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discuss future programme of action," the MEA said.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and a number of senior officials will accompany Swaraj during the trip. Swaraj will also call on President Solih on Monday and Speaker of the Parliament Qasim Ibrahim on Sunday. Minister of Home Affairs Sheikh Imran Abdulla will

Officials said it will be the first full-fledged bilateral visit at the political level from India to the Maldives after the new government assumed office.

They said Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Maldives in November only to attend Solih's swearing-in ceremony and no substantive discussion had taken place then.

Sources said the Maldives was aware of Indian government's limitations due to the election code of conduct and that Swaraj's visit will be to

enhance overall ties which came under strain during the presidentship of Abdulla Yameen, who was known to be close to China.

Solih had visited India in December last year during which India announced a USD 1.4 billion financial assistance to the island nation. The two countries had also agreed to remain mindful of each other's concerns and aspirations for the stability of the Indian Ocean region and not allow their respective territories to be used for any activity inimical to their interests.

Relations between India and the Maldives deteriorated after the then President Abdulla Yameen imposed emergency on February 5 last

India had criticised his decision and asked his government to restore the credibility of the electoral and political process by releasing political prisoners. The emergency lasted for 45 days. Solih became president in November after he defeated Yameen in presidential elections

Ayushman Bharat not for common man: Congress

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday The Congress on carry, took up the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme to launch a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The party said the Modi dispensation's flagship scheme is not for common man but actually a "lifesaver" for private insurance companies and hospitals.

Asserting that the Government's claims about the success of the scheme are "fake and false", senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said beneficiaries can avail treatment costing only up to ₹50,000 under this scheme on the premium of ₹1,100 paid by the Government.

It is "not ₹5 lakh promised by Modi, he has exaggerated it 10 times," the Congress leader alleged. "The claim that 'Modicare' has provided each



He further said that 11 crore people across the country are already covered under respective health insurance schemes of various states and the Centre's Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). RSBY was started by the Congress-led UPA Government, he added.

As many as 10 crore people to be benefited under Avushman Bharat are not over and above the 11 crore beneficiaries who are already availing benefits, he said, adding "Modi household insurance cover of is trying to take credit for var₹5 lakh is a huge fraud," he ious health schemes through

Ayushman Bharat."

Stressing that the Ayushman Bharat Yojana or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), which is also described as "Modicare", is conceptually wrong, the Congress leader said, "It doesn't cover diabetes and high blood pressure, the two common ailments in India."

"Patients will not have access to adequate healthcare under PMJAY because it excludes outpatient treatment, which 87 per cent of ailing persons undergo. Outpatient treatment is a serious financial burden that accounted for 63 per cent of the ₹4,955 spent by households out of their pockets on health in 2014," he said.

The country does not need health insurance which benefits private players but health assurance which helps common man, which is possible through Right to Health as promised by Congress chief Rahul Gandhi.

watchman' trends top on twitter PNS ■ NEW DELHI Prime Minister Narendra

'#I too am

Modi on Saturday urged his supporters to take the 'main bhi chowkidar' (I too am watchman) pledge, saying he is not alone in the fight against graft and social evils. And within hours the campaign became Twitter's top worldwide trend.

"Your Ĉhowkidar is standing firm & serving the nation. But, I am not alone. Everyone who is fighting corruption, dirt, social evils is a Chowkidar. Chowkidar. Today, every Indian

He also posted a short video to drive home his message. Modi has often described himself as a "chowkidar" who would neither allow corruption

Congress president Rahul Gandhi has been repeatedly hurling the "chowkidar chor hai"(watchman is the thief) larities and favouritism in the Rafale fighter jet deal, a charge the BJP-led government has rejected. Soon after Modi's tweet, Rahul mocked him and tweeted, "Defensive tweet Mr Modi! You feeling a little guilty today" while a tagging a picture of Modi along with businessmen such as Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, Anil Ambani and Gautam

When 'Mother of Trees' blessed President Kovind

of Rashtrapati Bhavan could not curb the motherly instincts of 106-year-old Saalumarada Thimmakka, who was awarded Padma Shri for planting thousands of trees in Karnataka, as she touched the forehead of President Ram Nath Kovind to

earned the sobriquet of 'Vriksha her forehead, approached the Mathe (Mother of Trees)' for planting 8,000 trees including over 400 banyan trees, was honoured along with other personalities at Rashtrapati Bhavan on

In a ceremony marked by strict protocols, Thimmakka, dressed in a light green sari, with Thimmakka, who has a smiling face and 'tripundra' on

dias to receive the award from President Ram Nath Kovind. As the president, 33 years

younger to Thimmakka, asked her to face the camera, the centenarian touched his forehead to

Her innocuous move brought a smile on the faces of the President, Prime Minister

and all the guests who burst into a rapturous applause for her.

Thimmakka's story is of grit and determination. She reportedly wanted to commit suicide in her 40s as she could not conceive, but with the support of her husband, she found solace in planting trees.

The couple arduously worked in the fields during the

day, planted trees and cared for them. From 10 plants in the first year, they kept planting more saplings in the later years. Sometimes even bringing water from over 4 kilometers for their plants. Born in Hulikal village in Karnataka, Thimmakka has planted over 8,000 trees during a period of 65 years. Her husband passed away in 1991.

Later in the evening, the resident wrote on Twitter, "At the Padma awards ceremony, it is the President's privilege to honour India's best and most deserving. But today I was deeply touched when Saalumarada Thimmakka, an environmentalist from Karnataka, and at 107 the oldest Padma awardee this year,

"Saalumarada Thimmakka

represents the resilience and determination and perseverance of the ordinary Indian citizen, especially of women in our country. May her example, and that of every Padma awardee, inspire our India to greater heights #PresidentKovind," he

CBI files case to probe defence land grab in J&K

PNS NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case I of graft, cheating and criminal conspiracy against two former CEOs and a junior engineer of Badami Bagh Cantonment in Srinagar and three private persons for alleged encroachment of defence land worth crores of rupees by hotel owners in the sensitive cantonment area in the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir.

The agency has booked then Chief Executive Officers of the Cantonment Ajay Kumar Choudhary and B K Kaul, Junior Engineer Tariq Ahmad Khanday, Tramboo Joinery Mills owner Muzaffar Rashid Wani, owner of an under construction hotel Tariq Ahmad Wani and owner of Soloman Heights hotel Muneer Ahmad Bakshi, reads the FIR registered on Friday.

The agency had registered a Preliminary Enquiry in the case on November 27, 2018 which revealed that officials of the cantonment board allegedly facilitated the hotel and mill owners in grabbing defence

The PE established that



Hotel Solomon Heights, underconstruction hotel of Tariq Ahmad Wani and Tramboo Joinery Mills were standing on defence land, reads the FIR.

Their lease deed had expired and further lease deed was executed without permission of defence authorities, which was illegal and unauthorised, according to the findings of the PE. "The concerned JE and

CEOs submitted false report being fully aware about the status of land and facilitated the accused private persons to obtain permission from the board on the defence land by putting the status of land as private in Tramboo Joinery Mills," the CBI alleged.

The FIR accused Kaul (now retired), Chaudhary and Khandey of entering into criminal conspiracy to facilitate illegal occupants, causing huge loss to the defence ministry.

The CBI alleged that land measuring 11 kanals and nine marla was given on a 20-year lease by the defence authority to Indraj Sharma from 1954 to 1974. Sharma allegedly leased out the land to one Abdul Majid Bakshi in 1960 on which Hotel Solomon Heights was constructed.

The value of the said land is in crores as it is on the highway at Sonwar area in Srinagar which is very posh and a secure location in Srinagar. It is presently occupied by Muneer Ahmad Bakshi, son of A M Bakshi, and was constructed on defence land and its lease already stands expired," the FIR alleged.

In the case of the under construction hotel, the agency alleged that Durganag Trust president P N Takoo illegally leased out the land to Tariq Ahmad Wani

The preliminary inquiry found that the lease of the Trust through Takoo had already expired, ruling out any question of further lease to Wani, but the officials did not stop fresh construction, facilitating the illegal occupation.

MICHEL'S TORTURE ALLEGATION Delhi Court

asks Tihar to give CCTV jail footage New Delhi: A Delhi court

directed the Tihar jail authorities on Saturday to produce CCTV footage on allegations of torture levelled by Christian Michel, an alleged middleman arrested in the AgustaWestland choppers

Special judge Arvind Kumar directed the jail authorities to bring the CCTV recording of February 13 to 17 of jail number 7where Michel was kept last month. The court had earlier

sought the CCTV footage of jail number 1 and after going through it, had noted that the premises were clean and that good facilities were provided to Michel. On March 14, the jail authorities had denied the

allegations of torture levelled by Michel. Special public prosecutors D P Singh and N K Matta, appearing for the Bureau Central Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) respectively, had told the court that the accused was a foreigner and was

WHO calls for ban on tobacco promotion at sporting events

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

7 arious tobacco companies' Vattempt to partnership with motor-racing teams has not gone down well with the World Health Organisation (WHO) which has asked the countries to enforce ban on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship at sporting events, including when hosting or receiving broadcasts of Formula 1 and MotoGP events.

The WHO has also urged all sporting bodies, including Formula 1 and MotoGP, to adopt strong tobacco free policies that ensure their events are smoke-free and their activities and participants, including race teams, are not sponsored by tobacco firms.

These calls come in light of tobacco companies like British American Tobacco (BAT) recently announcing "a new global partnership" with the Formula 1 team McLaren using the logo "a better tomorrow." "In making this announce-

ment, BAT indicated that the multi-year partnership will provide a global platform to drive greater resonance of certain products, including glo, a brought to India through heated tobacco product. This statement suggests that the



tobacco use," said the WHO in its statement.

In the case of Philip Morris International (PMI), the company has created a new logo (Mission Winnow) to be carried by Ferrari on cars, and Ducati on motorbikes, that previously carried branding for the cigarette brand Marlboro. The PMI has also registered the Mission Winnow logo as a trademark, including for use with respect to tobacco products. Ducati carried this branding at a recent MotoGP, the statement added

The WHO noted that comprehensive bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship reduce the consumption of tobacco products, including among young people. Article 13 of the WHO Framework Convention on

Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) obliges Parties to the Convention to implement a comprehensive ban (or restrictions) on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship.

The definitions of "tobacco advertising and promotion" and "tobacco sponsorship" are broad and cover activities with the effect or likely effect of promoting a tobacco product or tobacco use either directly or indirectly, said the health

The actions of the companies result in advertisement and promotion of tobacco products and tobacco use to the world at large, including young people. Tobacco product advertising and promotion occurs both in countries that host events and in countries that receive transmissions of these events, the WHO noted.

Besides pitching in for domestic laws banning tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship in the strongest possible ways, the WHO also called the countries to slap penalties applicable under domestic laws and taking preventative action, such as by preventing screening of events that violate domestic legisla-

Everyone working hard for the progress of India is a is saying-#MainBhiChowkidar,' he wrote on Twitter.

nor get corrupted himself.

National Aluminium Company Limited (A Government of India Enterprise)

Bhubaneswar-751013, Odisha, India CIN: L27203OR1981GOI000920

A NAVRATNA COMPANY

GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE NO.NBC/MM/GTN/CSL-02/2019. Date: 08.03.2019 Digitally signed online bids are invited in CPP Portal for supply of Caustic Soda Lve for Alumina Refinery Damanjodi and CPP Angul, Odisha from Indigenous as well as overseas

accredited agents. GM (Materials) **NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

manufacturer/suppliers or their

Online digitally signed offers in two parts in Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) are invited from indigenous manufacturers suppliers for the following: 1.Ref. No.NBC/MM/LP/SYS/SAP Data

Loss Prevention Solution/2019. Dtd 02.03.2019 : SAP Data Loss Prevention 2.Ref. No. NBC/MM/LP/SYS/Tape Library with Expansion Module/2019, Dtd:02.03.2019:**Tape Library with**

Expansion Module. 3.Ref. No. NBC/MM/LP/SYS/VMWare 8 EDB Licenses/201, Dtd: 08.03.2019 VMWare & EDB Licenses

DGM (Materials)

Open Tender through Central Public Procurement e-procure Portal are invited on for the following Works. 1.RFP NO. TNCC-003/2019 : AMC for Computer Equipments & Peripherals of

Digitally signed online bids for Two Part,

AGM (Elect.), T&C Details are available a www.nalcoindia.com and

NALCO.

www.eprocure.gov.in. For any updates / changes on the tenders, bidders are requested to visit above sites.

New Zealand vows gun reforms after massacre

 N^{ew} Zealand's prime minister vowed to toughen the country's gun laws after revealing on Saturday that the man accused of murdering 49 people in two mosques legally purchased the arsenal of firearms used in the mas-

Jacinda Ardern said the gunman, 28-year-old Australian Brenton Tarrant, obtained a "Category A" gun licence in November 2017 and began purchasing the five weapons used in Friday's attacks in the southern city of Christchurch the following

The firearms included two semi-automatic rifles, two shotguns and a lever-action weapon, she said, speaking to reporters in Wellington heading before Christchurch.

"The mere fact... That this individual had acquired a gun licence and acquired weapons of that range, then obviously I think people will be seeking change, and I'm committing to

that," she said.
"While work is being done as to the chain of events that led to both the holding of this gun licence, and the possession of these weapons, I can tell you one thing right now our gun laws will change."

She confirmed that the gunman and two suspected

arrested had not been on the radar of any intelligence agencies, even though he had published a manifesto online indicating plans for attacks on Muslims.

'They were not on any watchlists either here or in Australia," she said.

'The individual charged with murder had not come to the attention of the intelligence community, nor the police, for extremism," she

"I have asked our agencies this morning to work swiftly on assessing whether there was any activity on social media or otherwise, that should have triggered a response. That work is already

"Given global indicators around far-right extremism, our intelligence community has been stepping up their investigations in this area."

Relaxed laws -New Zealand tightened its gun laws to restrict access to semi-automatic rifles in 1992, two years after a mentally ill man shot dead 13 people in the southern town of Aramoana.

But firearms laws are lax compared to neighbouring Australia, which enacted a strict gun control regime in the wake of a similar massacre in 1996, and most other developed nations outside of the

Anyone over 16 can apply for a New Zealand firearms licence, valid for 10 years after completing a safety course and a police background

Most guns do not require registration under New Zealand's Arms Act and police do not know "how many legally or illegally owned firearms there are in New Zealand", according to a police statement last year.

In 2014, police estimated there were up to 1.2 million legal firearms in civilian ownership, or around one for every four members of the public — twice the per capita number of guns in Australia.

Separate "endorsements" are required to own semiautomatic weapons like those used in Friday's attack, as well as pistols and other restricted weapons.

But police and firearms experts have pointed to several loopholes allowing owners to bypass registration of semi-automatics.

Ardern noted the failure of several earlier attempts to reform gun laws and said a ban on semi-automatic weapons would be consid-

A 1997 police review of gun laws called for such a ban, but attempts to update the Arms Act since 1992 have stalled in parliament.

Iran's Zarif accuses West of fuelling Islamophobia after Christchurch mosque attack

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani accused Western governments of encouraging Íslamophobia, after the attacks on two mosques in New Zealand that killed 49 worshippers and wounded dozens.

In a statement carried by the official government website on Friday, Rouhani said the shootings showed the need for "all out confrontation against...The Islamophobia pervasive in the West which is unfortunately encouraged by some Western governments."

Rouhani promised Iran's foreign ministry would "diligently" follow the "arrest and trial of the perpetrators of this heinous act."

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also blamed "Western democracies" for the attack.

"Western hypocrisy of defending demonisation of Muslims as 'freedom of expression' MUST end," Zarif tweet-

"Impunity in Western 'democracies' to promote bigotry leads to this," the tweet read. In another tweet Zarif said that while Iranians were "deeply shocked and saddened", they were not surprised by the "Christchurch terror."

"Banned from travel to the US, and not allowed to abide by our faith if attending French schools, we Iranians know too



"WESTERN HYPOCRISY OF **DEFENDING DEMONISATION** OF MUSLIMS AS 'FREEDOM OF **EXPRESSION** MUST END"

well what bigotry and hatred of Islam augur," Zarif said referring to France's tradition of secular education.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi earlier "strongly condemned the... Inhuman and savage" attacks and urged New Zealand's government to punish "the perpetrators... Without any reservations."

'What's next?': Christchurch Muslims struggle with shock, fear

AFP ■ CHRISTCHURCH

A few months ago, Christchurch's Linwood Mosque proudly laid down new carpets in its halls.

On Friday, the light brown carpets were stained red after an gunman stormed the building, spraying bullets at worshippers.

"There was blood every-where. Everything was out of control," Ibrahim AbdelHalim, imam of Linwood Mosque, told AFP. Like the wider Muslim com-munity in Christchurch, Egypt-born AbdelHalim is struggling to come to terms with the violence wrought upon worshippers this week as he waits to bury the dead.

Working together with the local Islamic community, AbdelHalim had sought to refresh the mosque after a trust bought it over in early

Some of the seven worshippers who died at Linwood were among the most enthusiastic contributors, donating their personal time to help in fundraising

One woman, a local Kiwi, fell down beside his wife when she was shot dead, AbdelHalim said. His wife, Falwa El-Shazly, was shot in the arm but survived the attack.

Another man, a Fijian-Indian New Zealander who would regularly bring boxes of food from his restaurant during mosque donation drives, was also killed.
"They are dear to me,

these are people who offer to us work for AbdelHalim said. "It was a very bad day, not just all of us, all of New Zealand."

At Hedley College, the main meeting centre for the survivors and victims' families, local Muslims from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds shared word-less hugs and fought back tears as they exchanged news about their loved ones.

With Muslims making up just one percent of New Zealand's population, some members of the close-knit community raced to the mosques when they heard about the shootings.

"I did not go to the prayer yesterday due to work ... But received a call from my friends and rushed to the spot," Mohammad Kamruzzaman, originally from Bangladesh, told AFP.

"Five of (our Bangladeshi friends) are still missing, only Allah knows where they are. We have lost... A guardian lady for our community, who taught children the Koran for free. It feels like we have lost a parent."

Fiji-born Azan Ali, 43, who was in the Linwood Mosque with his Aucklandbased father when the attack occurred, trembled when he thought back to crack of the gun shots on Friday.

"Will I see my parents, my kids, my loved ones again

or not? All the people you pray with, you see beside you..." he added, his voice

trailing off. "My kids are scared, you know. You just have to work

through it as a community." His father, Sheik Aeshad, who saw a worshipper shot in the neck, said he could not understand how such violence could take part in New Zealand, a small nation better known for its rolling, green hills and snow-capped

"We never thought in New Zealand, this could happen. New Zealand's so friendly a place, you can leave your door open and go. But not now," he added.

mountains.

"I'm thinking what's going to happen the next time... It could be more people targeting somewhere else." It was a sentiment shared

by Sahra Ahmed, a New Zealander of Somali origin and a nurse active in her local community. Sahra said the attacks

island nation could not escape the global wave of right-wing extremism. "This is a global movement, for better or worst, it's

showed the South Pacific

happened in all parts of the world. And some people like to import ideas from everyone else. So we're not immune from what's happening," she told AFP.

"It doesn't matter where

you go, the world is very small."

SCO to hold joint Chinese envoy calls anti-terrorism exercise in 2019

PTI ■ BEIJING

India, Pakistan and the other members states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will take part in a joint anti-terrorism exercise to be held this year by the grouping.

The decision to hold the joint exercise 'Sary-Arka-Antiterror 2019' was Antiterror 2019' was announced during the 34th meeting of the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) council held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Xinhua news agency reported.

The SCO, in which China comprised of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan. India and Pakistan were admitted into the bloc in

Delegations of the compe-

Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the RÁTS Executive Committee

attended the meeting.
Chaired by Russia, the meeting also declared plans to hold the first stage of the joint border operation "Solidarity 2019-2021," the 7th meeting of the heads of the border services, and training workshops on identifying and preventing the use of the Internet for terrorist, separatist and extremist

RATS is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism. It is headquartered in Tashkent.

The next meeting of the Council of the RATS SCO is scheduled to be held in Russia in September 2019.

Muslim detention centres 'campuses'

mat claimed that detention centres for Muslims in China's western province of Xinjiang are "campuses, not camps" and said they are eventually going to be closed as a "training programme" for ethnic Uighurs is downsized. At the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Executive Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng reiterated Friday China's insistence that the detention centres are designed to provide training and fight regional terrorism.

He also claimed that officials from around the world, including from the UN, had visited the region and that the are "actually boarding schools or campuses, not camps" as

reported by critics. The US State Department said this week that China has "significantly intensified" a campaign of mass detentions of minority Uighurs over the last

and 2 million people from the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region interned in camps. The centres have drawn condemnation from across the world.

Le told reporters he had recently visited some Uighur centres in Xinjiang — and played ping pong and ate halal food there. He didn't specify when the detention centers would be closed, other than telling reporters later that would happen "at the appropriate time." He also took aim at a US-led event in Geneva on Xinjiang — calling that "unacceptable" interference in Chinese sovereignty.

came as China was responding to more than 200 recommendations by other countries on ways that Beijing could improve human rights as part of a Human Rights Council process known as the Universal

Azhar listing: US, France, Britain working on compromise with China

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US and two other per-I manent Security Council members, France and Britain, are believed to be in intense "good faith" discussions with China to arrive at a "compromise" on the UN designation of Jaish chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist.

And if that effort does not end up in the formal designation of Azhar, the three permanent members are planning to soon move a resolution for his listing in the most powerful wing of the UN which would be preceded by an open debate on the issue, according to people familiar with the matter.

On Wednesday, China blocked for the fourth consecutive time a resolution at a UN on designating Azhar, head of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad group, as a global terrorist. The proposal was moved by the US, France and India had expressed disap-

pointment over the Chinese

sors of the resolution had warned they will consider "other actions" to achieve their goal.

While the internal consultations of the Security Council committee remain private, this time several Council members, frustrated at China's unreasonable stance to protect a terrorist, privately spoke to the media the negative role being played by Beijing

"If China continues to block this designation, responsible member-states may be forced to pursue other actions at the Security Council. It shouldn't have to come to that," a Security Council diplomat told PTI on Wednesday in an unusual tough warning to Beijing.

In the last 50 hours, it is

believed that the original sponhaving intense "good faith" consultations with China on what many familiar with the matter describe as a "compromise". This probably means Azhar would be designated as a global terrorist by the UN body, but the language of designation

would include a language acceptable to China.

China is believed to have suggested "certain changes" in the language of the terrorist designation. The US, Britain and France are believed to be currently looking at the suggestions. It is understood that

there is back-and-forth exchange of texts on the matter. The three countries have indicated that they are willing to

accommodate Chinese request for changes in the language as long as it does not change the substance of the resolution and it ends up designating Azhar as a UN global terrorist. But unlike in the past, the

US, France, Britain and other members of the Security Council are not willing to wait for long to conclude their dis-

It is learnt that China has been informed by these countries that they are seriously looking for other options, in particular an open debate followed by a vote on a resolution to designate Azhar as a global terrorist,

24 DEAD, DOZENS MISSING IN **ZIMBABWE AFTER** CYCLONE

HARARE AFP

At least 24 people have been killed and dozens are missing in parts of eastern Zimbabwe hit by the peripheral effects of tropical cyclone Idai which lashed neighbouring Mozambique, Government said Saturday.

Zimbabwe's Ministry of Information announced on Twitter that so far the "number of deaths is confirmed at 24 mainly from Chimanimani East," including two students, while at least 40 other people have been injured.

Many houses have been damaged and bridges washed away in parts of the Manicaland province which borders Mozambique.

A group of people who fled on top of a mountain waiting to be rescued, but strong winds were hampering helicopter

flights, the ministry said. Earlier a lawmaker told AFP that thousands of people have been affected, power cut off and major bridges flooded.

Indian students to benefit from improved UK post-study visa offer

Indian students are set to benefit from an improved post-study visa regime as part of a new "International Education Strategy" launched by the UK government on Saturday in preparation for its post-Brexit policies.

The strategy is aimed at increasing the total number of international students from around the world choosing to study in the UK higher education system from the current level of 460,000 to 600,000 each year by 2030.

Indian students, who account for a major chunk of applicants from outside the European Union (EU) after China, are believed to be particularly sensitive to the poststudy work option of being able to gain work experience following their degree courses at UK universities.

The new strategy, set to be rolled out in the coming years, will offer undergraduate and Masters' students the chance to stav in the UK to look for work for six months after graduating.

"We know that our Indian students are ambitious and passionate about their chosen career paths, and we welcome the focus on employability in the international education strategy," said Vivienne Stern, Director of the Universities UK International (UUK), the higher education representative body which worked with the government on

"The target to grow the number of international students in the UK to 600,000 should send a clear message to students around the world: we want you here," she said.

Under the plans being formalised, undergraduate and Masters' students will also have three months before graduating during which they can find work and change from a study visa to a work visa. At present, the process to switch from a student to work visa while in the UK is extremely complex.

Besides, PhD students will be able to stay in the UK for up to a year to find work after graduating and will also have three months before graduating during which they can find work and change from a study visa to a work visa. "During the post-study leave period, students will have unrestricted access to work," the strategy paper notes.

Additionally, international graduates will be given two years after graduating during which they can apply to switch their UK study visa to a UK work visa from outside the UK.

'The withdrawal of the PSW (post-study work) visa was attributed with a decline in international student recruitment in the UK from key markets, notably India. Between 2010-11 and 2016-17, the number of higher education students from India more than halved," noted a report by the

UK's All Party Parliamentary (APPG) International Students in November last year.

"Even Canada attracts more students from India than the UK does," warned Indian-origin peer Lord Karan Bilimoria, who has been lobbying for the return of a poststudy visa option as the cochair of the APPG and President of the UK Council for

International Student Affairs. While Indian student visa numbers for 2018 registered a 35 per cent hike to hit 19,505, that figure is seen as way below the potential applications when compared to China at 99,723 student visas.

'As we prepare to leave the EU it is more important than ever to reach out to our global partners and maximise the potential of our best assets that includes our education offer and the international students this attracts," said UK education secretary Damian Hinds as he unveiled the new strategy, which is also aimed at streamlining the student application procedures for all international students.

ripe for growth, and my international economic department stands ready to engage and support UK providers from across the education sector to grow their global activity as we implement this new International Education Strategy," added UK trade secretary Liam Fox.

"Our education exports are

Russia slams 'hypocrisy' of new Western sanctions

AFP ■ MOSCOW

 $R^{ussia\ on\ Saturday\ slammed}_{the\ "hypocrisy"\ of\ new}$ Western sanctions against its officials over their role in a naval confrontation with Ukraine last year, and vowed to respond to the "unfriendly" move.

The United States, Canada and the European Union Friday slapped new sanctions on more than a dozen Russian officials and businesses in response to Moscow's "continued aggression in Ukraine." "The pretext for including

mate sanctions list of the EU astounds with hypocrisy and cynicism," the Russian foreign ministry said. In a previous statement late on Friday, it said Russia "will not leave the unfriendly act of the EU without a response" and

our countrymen in the illegiti-

Kiev on the eve of its presidential election due on March 31. "It cannot be ignored that the decision came not long before the presidential election in Ukraine," it said.

accused Brussels of siding with

It also accused Washington and Ottawa of "Russophobia" and said the sanctions will "not lead to the results the US and Canada want". A US Treasury statement

Friday said six Russian officials,

six defence firms and two ener-

gy and construction firms had been targeted, either over the seizure of Ukrainian vessels in the Kerch Straight last November, or for their activities in Russian-annexed Crimea or separatist eastern Ukraine. The US sanctions freeze all

property and interests in property belonging to the designated individuals and entities, and prohibit US persons from transacting with them. Four of the individuals are border guard or coast guard offi-

cials, singled out for their role in a November 25, 2018 naval confrontation, in which Russian ships fired on and seized three Ukrainian vessels in the narrow Kerch Strait the two countries The four were targeted

jointly with the EU and Canada according to the State Department. Twenty-four Ukrainian crew members were detained in

In the statement on Saturday, Russia said its border guards were "bravely fulfilling their duty to defend the state borders of our country" and that the confrontation was the result of a "provocation" by the Ukrainian side.

the naval incident.

It said Moscow was acting "within the norms of international law" in arresting the

Italy probes mystery death of Berlusconi sex trial witness

AFP ■ ROME

Italy is investigating the mysterious death of a former model and witness at Silvio Berlusconi's sex trial, with a newspaper suggesting on Saturday she may have been poisoned with a radioactive substance.

Milan prosecutor Francesco Greco said an investigation had been opened following the death on March 1 of Moroccan-born Imane Fadil at one of the city's hospitals. The 33-year-old had been

brought to the hospital on January 29 with unexplained stomach pains. Fadil was one of the witnesses who testified at the trial of the former Italian premier and media mogul on charges of hav-

ing sex with an underage pros-

titute at one of his notoriously hedonistic bunga-bunga parties.

According to Italy's

Corriere della Sera daily, the hospital had run a battery of tests to determine the cause of her failing health, but finding nothing, had sent off samples to a specialised laboratory in the northern town of Pavia.

The results came back on March 6, five days after her death, suggesting the presence of "a mixture of radioactive substances which are not normally available for purchase", the paper said, citing unnamed

New US military budget focused on China despite border talk

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Chinese bombers. Chinese Chypersonic missiles. Chinese cyberattacks. Chinese anti-satellite weapons. To a remarkable degree

the 2020 Pentagon budget proposal is shaped by national security threats that Acting Defence Secretary Patrick Shanahan has summarised in three words: "China, China, The US is still fighting

small wars against Islamic extremists, and Russia remains a serious concern, but Shanahan seeks to shift the military's main focus to what he considers the more pressing security problem of a rapidly growing Chinese military. This theme, which

Shanahan outlined Thursday in presenting the administration's proposed 2020 defence budget to the Senate Armed Services Committee, is competing for attention with narrower, more immediate problems like President Donald Trump's effort to use the military to build a border wall.

The hearing, for example, spent more time on the wall and prospects for using military funds to build parts of it than on any aspect of foreign policy, including the conflict in Syria or military competition with China, Russia or North Korea.

Shanahan is hardly the

first defence chief to worry about China.

sued what the Obama administration called a "pivot" to the Pacific, with China in mind. But Shanahan sees it as an

increasingly urgent problem

that exceeds traditional mea-

sures of military strength and

Several predecessors pur-

transcends partisan priorities.
"We've been ignoring the problem for too long,"

Shanahan told a senator. "China is aggressively modernising its military, systematically stealing science and technology, and seeking military advantage through a strategy of military-civil fusion," he wrote in prepared testimony to the committee, which is considering a USD 718 billion Pentagon budget designed in part to counter

China's momentum. The USD 25 billion the Pentagon is proposing to spend on nuclear weapons in 2020, for example, is meant in part to stay ahead of China's nuclear arsenal, which is much smaller than America's but growing.

Shanahan said China is developing a nuclear-capable long-range bomber that, if successful, would enable China to join the United States and Russia as the only nations with air-, sea- and land-based



Dadar foot over bridge closed for 13 days for repair work TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI down the Dadar south FOB constructed down the Dadar south FOB constructed western Railway press release said. Western Railway press release said. of Justices Ranjit More and Bharati Dangare tion of Gokhale bridge in Andheri collapsed crashing down at 7.35 pm, when nearly 5

a precaution measure taken after AThursday's Foot Over Bridge (FOB) that claimed six persons and left 30 others injured, the Western Railway has decided to close down the Dadar south FOB constructed by the Brihanmuncipal Municipal Corporation (BMC) for 13 days beginning from Sunday to facilitate its repairs and strengthening.

A day after its senior officials inspected the Dadar south FOB, the Western Railway announced that it would close

by the BMC between March 17 and March 29, 2019.

After the FOB inspection, the Western Railway said that the Ramp at Platform number one and Staircase at platforms 2 and 3 and would be closed temporarily for safety of passengers.

"The Staircase will be closed for 13 days for repairing/strengthening of the same from 17th March to 29th March 2019. Likewise, the Ramp of Platform one will be closed for 90 days for rebuilding from March 1 to 16th June 16, 2019," a

"During this period the passengers may use railway south FOB. The main FOB will be available to commuters for crossing over from east to west and vice versa," the release added.

Meanwhile, the Bombay High Court has agreed to hear all PILs relating to the condition of the condition of foot overbridges in Mumbai on March 22.

A day after the Himalaya bridge near Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus collapsed, Pradeep Bhalekar, a resident of Dadar in north-central moved a HC bench

and sought an urgent hearing of a PIL he

had filed in the wake September 29, 2017. Bhalekar had urged the court to order the Maharashtra government, BMC and the Railways to conduct an audit of all bridges in Mumbai.

Another activist Kamlakar Shenoy was mentioned before a division bench of Chief Justice Naresh Patil and Justice Nitin

Alluding to Thursday's mishap, Shenoy said that the latest FOB collapse was the second major bridge collapse. Earlier, a por-

on July 3, 2018. "My concern is for millions of Mumbaikars using such FOBs. The citizens of Mukmbai pay adequate taxes from time to time," Shenoy stated in his plea.

Thursday's was the third FOB mishap during the last one and a half years.

A major portion of the FOB --- also known in knowledgeable circles as Kasab bridge as it was this bridge that Pakistani terrorist Ajmal Kasab had taken after indulging in mayhem to head towards Madam Cama Hospital for second round of strike on the night of November 26, 2008—had comeodd commuters were rushing inside the suburban railway terminus from across the road to take local trains back home.

Thursday's FOB crash had revived the unpleasant memories of first of its kind human tragedy witnessed in the metropolis on September 29, 2017. In that mishap, as many as 23 commuters had been killed and at least 39 others injured in a massive stampede that took place on a narrow foot-over-bridge (FoB) connecting the Parel and Elphinstone Railway stations in south-central Mumbai.



Bank staffers seek option to shift to other PSBs Pollachi traders plan protest,

¬he employees of IDBI Bank have opposed the bank's categorisation as a private lender and are seeking the option to switch to any other nationalised bank with protection of pay and service.

"The All India IDBI Officers' Association (AIID-BIOA) proposes to go on a oneday hunger strike on March 30 seeking options to be given to all officers as on date to switch over to any nationalised bank with protection to pay/salary and service," AIIDBIOA Secretary A.V. Vithal Koteswara Rao said in a letter addressed to Banking Secretary Rajeev Kumar, the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) and the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central).

Expressing concern over the recent re-categorisation of IDBI Bank as a private sector lender by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), AIIDBIOA demanded a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to be signed between the govern-



ment, the IDBI Bank and itself confirming that the existing service conditions and welfare date will be protected till the

In January, the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) completed the process of pick-

2019 consequent upon LIC "IDBI Bank has been cat-

total paid-up equity share capital of the bank," the RBI said in a recent statement. The employees' associa-

tion also demanded a bilateral transfer policy between the IDBI Bank and the AIIDBIOA to be signed keeping in mind the difficulties being faced by the officers in getting transfers.

The association has also

demanded that accountability should be fixed on all those concerned for the burgeoning non-performing assets (NPAs) and huge write-offs.
The IDBI Bank has come

under the prompt corrective action (PCA) framework of the RBI that restricts it from corporate lending, branch expansions, salary hikes and other regular activities.
The bank's gross NPAs

shot up to 29.67 per cent of gross advances as on December 31, 2018 against 24.72 per cent in the year-ago period. For the December quarter of the present fiscal, IDBI Bank reported widening of loss to Rs 4,185.48 crore as bad loans

shutdown on March 19

different

political

parties and

social

organisations

money or for physical submis-

isations hit the roads for the

past several days demanding stringent punishment for the

Students and other organ-

sion for over seven years.

The trading community here I is planning a protest shutdown on Tuesday and a rally demanding a court-monitored probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the Pollachi serial sexual abuse-cum-blackmail case, said a shopkeeper.

Speaking to IANS, the the trader said the shutdown and rally will see participation of different political parties and social organisations.

After days of protests by students, political parties and various other social organisations it was relatively calm on Saturday here.

Four persons — Thirunavukkarasu, Sathish, Sabarirajan, Vasanthakumar all in their 20s, have been accused of sexually assaulting women in Pollachi and filming the act to blackmail them for

culprits.
The Crime Branch-Crime Speaking to Investigation Department (CBCID) has taken one of the IANS, the the trader said the prime Thirunavukkarasu — to an shutdown and undisclosed location for interrogation. rally will see participation of

CBCID The Thirunavukkarasu's custody on Friday. It has already writ-ten to social media organisations requesting them to remove the videos pertaining to the Pollachi abuse case.

accused

On Friday, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court told the central government to remove all videos related to the Pollachi serial sexual assaults from the

In Chennai, a lawyer has filed a public interest litigation in the High Court for a courtmonitored CBI probe. The petition was expected to come

Amazon PVD to pay US jury awards royalty based on show performance

IANS SAN FRANCISCO

To reward content according to performance, Amazon is introducing a new payment structure for its self-publishing programme "Prime Video Direct" (PVD) that would go into effect from April 1, starting with the US. Launched in 2016, PVD

was introduced to offer content suppliers flat rate royalties of 15 cents per hour of video streamed in the US and six cents in other territories for content in Prime Video, Variety reported on Friday.

Based on the "customer engagement ranking" score noted on Amazon's site for PVD users, the new payment scheme would reward the highest performing content with higher royalty rates and reduce the rates for less popular shows.
"Starting April 1, the standard licenses for the little

dard license fee for all titles made available through Amazon's 'Direct for Prime' subscription access in the US will range between four and 10 cents per hour streaming, Variety reported

The ranking on the shows

LAUNCHED IN 2016, PVD WAS INTRODUCED TO OFFER CONTENT SUPPLIERS FLAT RATE ROYALTIES OF 15 CENTS PER HOUR OF VIDEO STREAMED IN

would be evaluated on several points including the number of Prime users who view the content, the time each user spends watching a title, popularity of a title, the IMDb presence and rating, box office performance as well as over all quality of the show, including posters and

THE US

Under its existing royalty payment structure, Amazon has paid PVD content partners opting for Prime Video distribution a base rate of six cents per hour for up to 99,999 ĥours streamed in a 365-day

Qualcomm \$31mn in Apple case

IANS SAN FRANCISCO

US jury has decided that AUS jury has decided that Apple needs to pay chip-maker Qualcomm \$31 mil-lion for violating three of its

According to a report in CNET on Friday, the jury in San Diego, California awarded Qualcomm full amount it had requested at the start of the two-week trial.

Apple violated three Qualcomm patents and should pay the chip-maker \$31 million for infringing on its technology," the jury decided.

Oné Qualcomm patent allows a smartphone to quickly connect to the Internet once the device is turned on. Another one deals with graphics processing and battery life, while the third lets apps on smartphone download data more easily

The verdict sets the stage for a bigger trial in April between the two companies next month in San Diego. The dispute over Qualcomm's patent royalties with Apple

"Apple violated three Qualcomm patents and should pay the chip-maker \$31 million for infringing on its technology"

bank' for regulatory purposes

by the Reserve Bank of India

with effect from January 21,

involves billions of dollars.

"Today's unanimous jury verdict is the latest victory in our worldwide patent litigation directed at holding Apple accountable for using our valuable technologies without paying for them," Qualcomm General Counsel Don Rosenberg said in a statement. Apple said it was "disappointed".

"Qualcomm's ongoing campaign of patent infringement claims is nothing more than an attempt to distract from the larger issues they face with investigations into their business practices in US federal court, and around the world," an Apple spokesperson

was quoted as saying.

OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Apartments, 1st Floor, Amravati Road, Duttawadi, Nagpur,

Maharashtra and Office at - A-4, Mahipalpur Extn., Main Vasant

Kunj Road, Opp. Jagnnath Complex, New Delhi, has committed

(or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.

434/13 u/s 420/406/34 IPC P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi and his

warrant of arrest there upon issued has been return with the

report that the said Sachin Pandey has absconded (or is evading

Proclamation is hereby made that said Sachin Pandey

accused in FIR No. 434/13 u/s 420/406/34 IPC P.S. Kirti Nagar,

Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said

Sh. Ajay Singh Shekhawat, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,

West Distt., Room No. 146, 1st Floor,

SURETY/IES : 1. Mr. Rahul Parikh

Mrs. Deep Parikh

R/o B-3/52, 2nd Floor,

Mrs. Gurmeet Verma

R/o B-3/52, 2nd Floor

New Delhi-110029

S-12, Green Park Extn. Branch, New Delhi-110016

Tel.: 011-26564471, 26963168, Fax.: 011-26568582

RTGS/IFSC: Synb0009048 E-mail: Br.9048@syndicatebank.co.in

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

S/o Late Mr. Antu Bhai Parikh

R/o B-3/52, 2nd Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029

himself to avoid the service of the warrant.)

complaint on or before 29/04/2019.

DP/8154/WD/19-(Court Matter)

Ref. No. 101/9048/GPE/SN/125/2019

71/4, Shivaji Marg, Najafgarh Road

Industrial Area, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, also at

Premises Co-operative Society Ltd. 23 Avadh Narayan, Tiwari Marg, Mogre Lane, Old Nagardas Road

Unit No. 310-311. 3rd Floor, Hub Towan Viva Akruti

Highway, Joheshwari (East) Mumbai-400060

Kailash Building, Shankar Nagar Western Expressway

Property No. 31-B, 3rd Floor, Khsra No. 174, Village Mohammadpur, Munirka, New Delhi-110066

Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029, also at,

Property No. 52, Block No. B-3, 2nd Floor,

Gala No. 105, 1st Floor, New Apolo Estate

Behind Hanuman Hotel Andheri (East),

Mumbai-400069, also at

To. BORROWERS:

Through its Directors

US: Door open for India to bring serious trade proposal to table

PTI WASHINGTON

Observing that trade has been an area of frustration in bilateral ties, the US has said that the door is open if India is prepared to bring a serious proposal to the table to address the issues related to trade and market access. The US in November last year revoked

duty-free concessions on import of at least 50 Indian products, mostly from handloom and agriculture sectors, reflecting the Trump administration's tough stand on trade-related issues with New Delhi.

A senior State Department official said Friday that the US is proud to be India's largest export market and most important economic partner.

"But we have struggled with regulatory issues that get in the way of the ease of doing business and market access for American companies and products," said "Trade has frankly been an area of

is open if India is prepared to bring a serious proposal to the table," he said. Despite intensive engagement with the Government of India for nearly a year, India did not assure the US that it would

provide equitable and reasonable access to

frustration in the relationship, but the door

its market, which led to its termination from the Generalised System of Preferences programme, the official said. 'While we were pleased that the growing US exports to India, largely

crude oil and LNG, led to a 7.1 per cent

The US in November last vear revoked dutyfree concessions on import of at least 50 Indian products, mostly from handloom and agriculture sectors, reflecting the Trump **Administration's tough** stand on trade-related

reduction in our bilateral goods trade deficit last year, many structural challenges in our trade relationship have yet to be resolved," said the senior State Department

issues with New Delhi

During the just concluded visit of the Foreign Secretary, while the focus was on strategic, defence and regional issues, in particular Pakistan and Afghanistan, but the visiting diplomat is believed to have been conveyed that the ball is in India's court on resolving the trade related issues.

The US is understood to have told India that the Trump administration is willing to review its decision to revoke its GSP privileges to India, if New Delhi comes with a credible proposal to address the market access issues that America has

been talking about for nearly a year.
The GSP notification is still within the

60 days period, after which the benefits would formally be withdrawn, it is reliably learnt that the US has told India that it is not too late. But it is unlikely to happen, given that India is now into an election campaign mode, officials on both sides said.

While India argues that it is difficult to take any policy decision at this point of time because of the elections and the model code of conduct, American points out that it has decided to take its decision on revoking GSP privileges only after it exhausted all its options with India.

During talks with India, America is believed to have said that there are creative ways of solving all the trade related issues that addressed concerns of both the coun-

For instance, there are creative ways of certifying that the dairy products meet Indian standards, and have believed to have talked about creative solutions to certifying vegetarian cows. Similarly access to high end cell phones can be addressed in a way that does not open up the market to China, Americans are believed to have pointed out.

The United States, it is learnt, had been extraordinarily clear since April last year on addressing certain market access issues in the absence of which it reportedly told India that it risked losing GŜP privileges.

The US still hopes that the issue can still be resolved before the election and cer-

tainly after the elections.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE **APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

See Section 82 Cr. P. C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Shafi S/o Idris R/o T3/A, Ward No. 8 Mehrauli, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under Case FIR No. 1864/14 u/s, 376/34 IPC has been registered at P.S. Mehrauli, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said Shafi S/o Idris cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, Shafi S/o Idris has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Shafi S/o Idris accused of FIR No.1864/14 u/s, 376/34 IPC required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 24.04.2019.

DP/5315/SD/19- Sh. Vaibhav Mehta, MM-05 (South) Court matter Room No. 210 Saket Court, New Delhi

Retail Asset Centre, Delhi: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Himalaya House, K.G. Marg, Delhi-110001., Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jappee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301, Retail Asset Centre, Ghaziabad: BF-1A,23, 1st Floor, Aditya City Centre, Niti Khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201012., Retail Asset Centre Faridabad: Axis Bank Ltd. SCO-8, Huda Shopping Centre, Sec. 16, Faridabad, Haryana-121002, Retails Asset Centre Gurgaon: Axis Bank Ltd - ASC Gurgaon, SG-107, DLF Galleria Complex, Near Post Office, DLF City Phase 4, Gurgaon-122009 Corporate Office: 'Axis House,' Block-8, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025 Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite

swar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006 POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation. Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issue demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in gener

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general and ereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sult

that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power

conferred on him/ here under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the belo

section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets Name of Borrower / Co-borrower 1. A.R Enterprises, At - Shop No -C-101, All that piece and parcel of land being a Residential

First Floor, Vyapar Kendra Palam Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 **Also At**: A.R Enterprises, At -H.No-1752, Sector -23, Carterpuri, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122001 2. Mr.Krishan Mohan Rai , R/o -H.No-1752 Sector -23, Carterpuri, Gurgaon, Haryana -122001 Also At -: Mr. Krishan Mohan Rai

(Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: 17-03-2019, Place: Haryana

R/o – H.No -3449, 2nd Floor, Sector -23, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122017 3. Mr. Shiv Murat Rai, R/o – House number -1577, Desraj Colony Panipat, Haryana-132103 **Also At** -: Mr. Shiv Murat Rai R/o – Plot no. E-56 Phase-1 TDI City Panipat Haryana 4. Bindu Rai. R/o - House number -1578.

Description of Property 1. Date of Demand Notice 3. Amount in Block No- E, admeasuring 372,9730 Sq. vards . In (Rs.) 'TDI City' Panipat Haryana situated in an around Faridpur, Kabri, Ratipur & Fanopui, rassi, Mohamadpur, all falling in Haryana and bounded as

East - Plot No. E-19

South - Plot No. E - 55

14-Dec-18 13-Mar-19 . Rs. 2070564.85/ Interest, incidenta expenses and cos

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 3d days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interes

Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

a) Property at entire 2nd Floor with terrace right of property no. 52, B-3 Block Safdarjung Enclave New Delhi Standing in the name of Mr. Rahul Parikh S/o Late Sh. Antu Bhai Parikh Property at gala no 105, 1st Floor New Appollo Estate Premises Co-operative Society Ltd. 23, Avadh Narayan Tiwari Marg Lane Old Nagardas Road Behind Hanuman East, Mumbai 69 in the joint name of Mr. Rahul Parikh and Mrs. Deep Parikh Property at unit No 310-311, 3rd Floor, Hub Town Viva, Akruti Kailash Building, Shankar Nagar Western Express Highway, Jogeshwari Mumbai-400093 measuring 771 sq. ft. Carpet area in the name of M/s Fucon Technologies Limited

n respect of loans availed by you which have become NPA with balance outstanding of

Rs.15,57,74,003.67 (Rupees Fifteen Crore Fifty Seven Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Three and

Paise Sixty Seven Only) as on 05.02.2019, we have already issued detailed demand Notice dated

05.02.2019 under Sec. 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

We have indicated our intention of taking possession of Securities owned by you as per Sec 13(4) of the Act in case of your failure to pay the amount mentioned above within 60 days.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SECURITY

Enforcement of Security interest Act 2002 by Courier/ Registered post with acknowledge

due to you which has been returned undelivered with the remarks, left without address.

Your are advised (1) to collect the original notice/cover addressed to you and returned by Courier/Postal Authorities from the undersigned for more and complete details and (2) to pay the balance outstanding amount with interest and costs etc, within 60 days from the date of notice Authorised Officer

Notice is given on behalf of my client M/S A.G. Apprels Pvt Ltd. that the flat bearing number 708, BLOCK-P-5, KHELGAON, ASIAD GAMES VILLAGE, NEW DELHI, measuring 1887.88 SQFT. was sold via E-Auction conducted by Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) on 8th March 2019, Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Sachin Pandey, S/o Sh. Shatrughan Pandey, R/o Pooja

wherein my client was declared as successful bidder. My client has decided to confirm the aforesaid sale of the abovementioned property.
As per OBC the Original Conveyance Deed dated 03.04.2003 and the allotment letter. payment challans & etc. are misplaced/ lost for the aforesaid flat.

payment chanians & etc. are mispiaceur lost for the aforesaid flat. Therefore any person(s) having any claim, interest or right in respect of the above referred property or part thereof by virtue of any sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, lien, hypothecation, will, licensing, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any trust right of prescription or pre-emption or under any Agreement or other disposition or under any Agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order, award or otherwise, are hereby request to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned at their office at 117 (gf) Nehru enclave east, Kalkaji New Delh-110019 within 15 days from the publication hereof, failing which the claim of such person (s) shall be deemed to have been waived and abandoned.

Place Delhi Sdf-

Place - Delhi Date – 15/3/19 Yashraj Singh (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Barnali
Basumatry W/o Mr. Bijender who is purchasing the Second Floor, Flat No. 13, area measuring 765 sq. ft., Part of Property bearing No. 156, area measuring 330 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 322, Situated at Lal Dora Village in the revenue estate of Village Neb Sarai, Tehsil Hauz Khas, New Delhi, from Mrs. Aruna Joshi and further will be mortgaging against the financial assistance from VASTU HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD. To comply the requirements of bank/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/ or creating mortgage of the said property is/arc hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 08 days from the date of this notice, at below address. Lucem Legal LLP

269 Rama House, Ground Floor, Masiid Mot

Public Notice

Known to all that my client Jitender Kumar S/o Late Sh. Darshan Lal R/o A-53/54, Shish Ram Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi 110059 has purchased Shop No. 4 (9.32 Sq. Mtrs.), GF, Part of Property (Municipal) No. 2215-2216 (New), Ward III, Gali Hinga Beg, Phatak Habash Khan, Tilak Bazar, Delhi 110006 from Smt. Archana W/o Kamal Kishore Sahu R/o 1246, TF, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi 110009. If any person/s has any claim / interest charge etc. in aforesaid subject property, he may contact to Sh. Rajiv Kumar Advocate (D/1699/05) with relevant documents at Office No. 302, Aditya Complex, Plot No. 6, Sector 10 Dwarka, New Delhi 110075 within 15 working days from the date of publication

of present public notice. Rajiv Kumar Advocate (D/1699/05)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE PUBLIC NOTICE NO dilution on USFDA classifies Grasim gets Feb 12 circular over stressed assets: RBI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India ■ Saturday maintained that there is no dilution in its stand with regard to February 12 circular on stressed assets recognition and resolution.

"It is reiterated that the Reserve Bank maintains its stand on all aspects of the Framework as has been consistently articulated in its communications, including the clarification given during the post-monetary policy press conference on February 7, 2019," the central bank said in a statement.

The statement comes amid reports that the RBI seems to be toeing the government line and considering relaxation of some of the aspects of the Revised Framework on Resolution of Stressed Assets issued on February 12, 2018.

As the matter is sub-judice and the Supreme Court has reserved its orders on the matter, the Reserve Bank will not comment on the specific details, it said.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das last month had said there would be no changes in the circular. The circular directed

lenders to refer any loan account over Rs 2,000 crore under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) if it is not resolved within 180 days of default. It also underscored IBC's

status as the cornerstone of the bad loan resolution framework, scrapping all previous mechanisms. The circular imposed a one-day default rule. Banks have to treat a company as a defaulter even if it misses repayment schedule by a day.

Lupin's Somerset facility as **'Official Action Indicated**'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Drug major Lupin on Saturday said it has been cautioned by the US health regulator that its Somerset (New Jersey) facility may be subject to regulatory or administrative action and that it may withhold approval of any pending applications or supplements in which this facility is listed.

The company's subsidiary Novel Laboratories Inc has received a letter from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) classifying the inspection conducted at its Somerset (New Jersey) facility in December 2018, as Official Action Indicated (OAI), Lupin said in a regulatory filing.

Facility may be subject to regulatory or administrative action 'Official Action Indicated',

means approvals of pending applications or supplements from this site maybe withheld. The USFDA has stated that

this facility may be subject to regulatory or administrative action and that it may withhold approval of any pending applications or supplements in which this facility is listed, the company added. Lupin said the company

does not believe that this classification will have an impact on disruption of supplies or the existing revenues from operations of this facility. "The company is in the process of sending further

updates of its corrective actions to the USFDA and is hopeful of a positive outcome," Lupin

₹5,872 cr tax demand on its mega merger

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Aditya Birla Group firm Grasim Industries Saturday said it has received Rs 5,872.13 crore tax demand from the Income Tax department with respect to its merger with Aditya Birla Nuvo and Aditya Birla Financial Services.

"The company has, on March 15, 2019, received an order dated March 14, 2019, issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax (DCIT) raising a demand of Rs 5,872.13 crore on account of dividend distribution tax (including interest)," Grasim Industries said in regulatory filing.

DCIT held that as the demerger of the demerged undertaking is not in compliance with Section 2(19 AA) of the Act, the value of shares allotted by Aditya Birla Capital Ltd (ABCL) to the shareholders Grasim Industries, in consideration of the transfer and vesting of the Demerged Undertaking into ABCL, amounted to dividend, within the meaning of the Act, the fil-

The company said, it is of view that, the aforesaid order is not tenable in law. "The necessary action(s)

against the order is being taken by the company," Grasim Industries added. The company said, DCIT had issued a show cause notice

on February 11, 2019, subsequently revised on March 1, 2019, as to why the provisions of section 115-0 read with section 115-Q of the Income Tax Act, 1961 should not be applied on the allotment of equity shares by ABCL to the shareholders Grasim Industries, pursuant to the mega merger between the three entities.



WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

SHALINI SAKSENA caught up with three women who have chosen to dream & follow their passion

'Action to speak rather than word

he is the first Indian to win any title at Miss Deaf World Pageant. She won Miss Deaf Asia title at the 18th edition of Miss and Mister Deaf World-Europe — Asia Beauty Pageant 2018 that was held at Prague, Czech Republic. Prior to this title, the she won the Miss Deaf at title on February 26, 2018, in Linux India title on February 26, 2018, in Jaipur.

She has also been awarded the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Award (Divyangjan) by Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu in the 'role model category for her overall achievement and excellence in the fields of education, sports as well as art and culture. Meet the 23-yearold Nishtha Dudeja, a Delhi girl who is a Commerce graduate from Sri Venketeswara College, Delhi University.

Nishtha was born with severe-profound hearing loss in both ears. But that didn't deter her to pursue whatever took her fancy. It started with judo at the age seven and won many medals. At the age of 12, she started playing lawn tennis and has been an International Lawn Tennis player, having played many AITA, Asian Tour Tennis and İTF tournaments. She represented India thrice at the international games — Deaflympic-2013 held in Sofia, Bulgaria, World Deaf Tennis Championship-2015 held

in Nottingham, UK and Deaflympics-2017 held in Samsun, Turkey. On the night of finale at Prague, after completion of all rounds, when the judges announced the winner of Miss Deaf Asia 2018 is..... India, and she came forward to be crowned and looked towards her parents, the pride on

their faces is something that she can never forget.

"I had won the first title for my country in this prestigious pageant since its inception 18 years back. Before going for the pageant, I was well aware that this was going to be a very tough pageant in the past. I prepared well. I was always positive. Even on the night of finale, I was not nervous," Nishtha says and tells you that she never let her handicap come in the way. She got the freedom to do whatever she wanted to do

There is an interesting story on how the student of MA in Economics from Mithibai College, University of Mumbai decided to enter the pageant. "I was a tennis player for around 10 years. However, in 2016, a physical injury forced me to retire from professional tennis. At that time, I thought of trying something new. I always wanted to learn new things. I read about about Miss Deaf India and decided to participate. The idea to begin with, was to learn many things at the same time," Nishtha recounts.

Unlike many differently-able people who say that society hampers their progress, Nishtha doesn't subscribe to this thought.

"It all depends on the parents of differently-abled people. How they raise their children? How they treat them? How they teach them? My parents — father (Ved Prakash Dudeja) is a Chief Engineer in Northern Railways and my

mother (Punam Dudeja) is a homemaker — always treated me as a normal child. They

always encouraged and supported in all my pursuits. However, it is a fact that a lot is yet to be done for inclusive growth of differently-abled persons as all are not lucky," Nishtha says. However, this didn't mean that many people whom she inter-

acted with in life didn't think that deaf people are stupid. People $\,$ who treat the differently-abled persons with pity or they make fun of them are not a desirable situation. Society needs to be sensitive towards the special needs of such persons. What they need are equal opportunities to prove themselves. "As far as my family is concerned, they never let me feel

that I was a differently-abled. However, society in general treats such persons with pity or sympathy. I feel the differently-abled persons deserve equal opportunities to prove themselves rather than pity. I hate the word bechari," she says and had to work very hard with speech therapy in her childhood. Nishtha's parents have played an important role

in getting her where she is today and never made her feel that was any different. "They made me a strong person and they taught me to never give up. They supported me like a rock. I consider myself lucky to have born in such a family where every member made it a mission to bring me at par with others," she says. Even her brother and has been very patient with her since childhood. Her parents taught him to be sensitive towards her.

"He has never complaint for the less attention he got from my parents due to my special needs. My friends too, in school and college have been very encouraging. They would give me their classnotes when I was not able to attend classes due to my tennis coaching or matches. I got some really wonderful friends," Nishtha says who besides having a positive frame of mind during the competition had to undergo

training for the pageant. walk, posing before camera, dance and many other aspects of beauty pageant. These were not available for her under one roof. She had to get training from different experts.

She tells you that the exposure has changed her as a person. The pageant has made her more confident, yet humble. It

they are drawing inspi-

ration from her life and

has empowered her. Family Never Let Earlier, she used to ME FEEL THAT I WAS think that her life DIFFERENT. HOWEVER was simple and nor-SOCIETY TREATS SUCH PEOPLE mal, but now after winning the Miss <u>WITH SYMPATHY. DIFFERENTLY</u> Deaf Asia pageant, ABLED DESERVE EQUAL many people including parents of differently-abled people OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVE THEMSELVES RATHER THAN children tell her that

PITY. I HATE THE WORD

BECHARI

and culture.

achievements "I'm getting a lot of affection from people wherever I go. Pageant has surely given me a lot of exposure to the world but there is a still a long way to go," she tells you and her work for the empowerment of persons with disabilities in the fields of education, sports, arts

I"t is about creating awareness about the need for early detection of hearing loss in new born babies and, use of hearing aids and speech therapy," Nishtha says and insists that she wants her actions to speak rather than her words.

Investing in her passion

he is a grandmother, a professional teacher with VR Manohar Institute of Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology, Nagpur for the last 37 years. After an MA in English she pursued her PhD in sericulture. Even though she is teaching full-time, it didn't deter her passion to open a school — Shanti Vidya Bhawan, back in 1987, in a village, Digdoh, near MIDC, Nagpur. Meet Dr Sushma Pankule.

Her journey began with seven girls. The aim was to provide free education to the girl child especially those families their daughter. "My focus was the girl child. This was because back then the only thought parents had to put their child to work as soon as they were ready so that they could add to the family income. I had to go from house to house to convince the parents to sent their girls to the school which provided free education — from uniform to books- everything was provided to them," Pankule says.

In 1992, she got the school registered with the Maharashtra Government. This meant that her school started getting a grant. Though this sum is not very large, it pays the salaries of the 25 faculty that the school employs which starts from Nursery to Class XII. However, it was Pankule who paid for the land and had the school building constructed in an acre-and-ahalf of land. She bought this land by selling the jewellery that her parents had given her.

It was her dream to open a school and hence she doesn't mind when 50 per cent of her salary goes towards the school. There are companies as well who contribute and provide transportation for the students. Family and friends help too The problem, she tells you that since the school is in a rural area, there are always antisocial elements that have to be dealt with. Then there is electricity bills, the maintenance of the building and other sundry expenses that go into running a school.

Therefore in 2015, when the strength of the students fell from 2,000 to 1,000 Pankule had no option but to make it a co-ed. She attributes this fall to the skewed girl child ratio in doesn't agree that because the school is co-ed, parents of the girls are reluctant to send their ward to school. She tells you that today,

parents understand the importance of education. "There is more awareness. From the times when we started off, we have come a long way. Back then, more children meant more hands to earn. When we would tell them that if the girl is educated, the coming generation would be educated too. This was a point that was difficult to drive home? Now, parents want to better the future of their children," Pankule says and tell you that most of the children in her school come from very low income families where the father spends most of the money drinking.

It is not just education that Pankule is involved with. After the girl finishes school, she guides them towards vocational courses that they can pursue so that they can get jobs where they can earn up to ₹10,000 a month. However, this earning can go up depend-

Today, parents understand the importance of education. There is more awareness. We have come a long way from the time when we started. Back then. parents wanted their child to earn

as soon as

possible

ing on their efficiency.

'The financial condition of some of the students is such that they are forced to look for jobs after Class X. While the salary may not be much, it does give these girls dignity of labour and confidence that they are not just mere maids. If such girls drop out, we insist that they join a distance learning course. There are several scholarships that are available for the girl child. The problem is that most people are not aware of them," Pankule tells you and says that the challenge today is to find the right career path for these students given the fact that there are so many colleges and courses that are out there.

"Our job is to ensure that they find the right course so that they can start earning as soon as possible. There are so many fake degrees. These students need a job to add to the family income and not get

caught in a trap where they end up spending money and a degree that has no job viability," Pankule explains and tells you that her faculty plays an important role in guiding these students on the right path.

Most of the teachers have been with the school for years since the State pays their salaries. The principal is a PhD as are a couple of more teachers. But, like with all schools, there is always a teacher who is indifferent.

But this doesn't deter Pankule from doing her job. She has weekly meeting to ensure that everything is runafter her full-time job, she goes to the school to oversee things.

She plans to superannuates in 2020 and make the school eco-friendly and teach the students the importance of Nature since the school is in a agribased region. "I want the students to know how to grow vegetables, how a seed grows and the role that soil plays in our lives," Pankule says.

This is not all. Pankule is also India's Vice President for the The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. It is an international non-governmental organisation.

"Since our establishment in 1915, we have brought together women from around the world who are united in working for peace by non-violent means and promoting political, economic and social justice for all. Our approach is always non-violent, and we use existing international legal and political frameworks to achieve fundamental change in the way states conceptualise and address issues of gender, militarism, peace and security," Pankule says.

People who have pets will tell you the problems they face from neighbours and RWAs - from designated areas where pets can poop to not allowing them inside the elevators are some common issues that pet owners face. Then there is the usual—your dog barks and creates a nuisance—comment.

Founder of Pet Parents Association, Iti Tvagi tells vou that her work involves creating awareness among people and sensitising them about the animals. "When I was staying in Gurugram, there were many issues related to the animals. I stood by them and fought for their rights. Animals can't speak. The same has now spilt over to where I stay now — West End Greens. The area has a green belt — Rangpuri — New Delhi," Tyagi says.

Her fight began when she got her first dog eight years back. "To begin with, I was very afraid of pets. But this changed when I came in contact with Romeo, a Lab. It changed her path. More than my fight for pets, it was my work with stray animals. We see kids tie cracks on their tail, kids thrown colour on them during Holi and some would even beat them up. I ensured that they were taken care and fed. One should take care of everything around them," Tyagi tells you and hates the word nuisance that is associated with strays.

'This is a perception in our minds. It is not necessary that the person is creating a nuisance. If I believe that he is creating a nuisance, we think that he is. The same holds true for strays. Do we think of what happens to these animals when it is cold outside? Do we think of them when the temperature is 45 degrees outside? Do we think that we should give them water? We are the ones who have invades their space, not the other way round. We have created homes in their

habitat. These animals are roaming in their territory. How do we know why they are where they are? Do we think why a cow is where it is? May be it is looking for food. When we see two dogs fighting, we think that they are creating nuisance. May be they are just playing," Tyagi says and is open about the fact that This was her mindset as well. But it all changed when she had a pet of her own.

She tells you that the problem is that people are insensitive to the environment and things around them. According to her, the first step beings at home. "I have a toddler. I teach him to be senator not just the pets that we have but the animals outside as well. Just the other day, we were sitting at a cafe when my son just picked up a piece of bread and went to the door and gave it the the dog sitting outside. My job, as a parent is to make sure that my son keeps a safe distance yet be kind and



respect the animal's boundary. Then next step is education in schools. We don't have animal sensitivity chapters. Who is reading books on animals," Tyagi tells you.

She gives you and example of Mowgli. 'How did Rudyard Kipling come up with the story of *The Jungle Book*? Mowgli is a story of a Bondi boy, a tribe from Madhya Pradesh. When Kipling wrote this story he must have been inspired by a little boy," Tyagi says and tells you that she does face challenges due to her work with animals. People come up to her and tell her that the pigeons have been creating problems by pooping all over the bal-

"What does one even say to something like this," Tyagi asks who is also the founder of Craft Village in the Capital and has been awarded the Nari Shakti Puraskar given by the President for her work to promote craft.

inspiration from the environment. The village is a community living for the craftsmen and pets are allowed when we hold workshops. The award is for the work that I do for the craft club. But animal welfare is a passion for me," Tyagi tells you and that is how she started working with the Bondi tribe and promote their work.

"I am a product designer and take

"I promote a lot of their work. The craftsmen come and teach their art through workshops that we hold. There is need to bring their work to the fore. But synchronisation is needed. Art is all about a piece of work that a person can relate to. This art form is close to my heart because it is all about my culture. Bond art is about trees, animals, the community and Nature," Tyagi says and tells you that she will continue to work to promote craft but her dream is to set up an animal shelter once she retires.

ROGER, RAFA SET SEMIS DATE Binaca to face Kerber in final

Record chasing Federer secures easy win to fix 39th career battle against familiar foe Nadal

AFP ■ INDIAN WELLS

afael Nadal withstood the Richallenge of Russian Karen Khachanov to set up a blockbuster semi-final with Roger Federer at the ATP Indian Wells Masters on Friday despite a flare-up of right knee trouble that required midmatch treatment.

World number two Nadal, the highest seed left in the draw after the early ouster of No 1 Novak Djokovic, dominated both tiebreakers to beat the towering Russian 7-6 (7/2), 7-

He booked a 39th career meeting with Federer, a fivetime champion at Indian Wells who breezed past 67th-ranked Hubert Hurkacz of Poland 6-4,

"Hopefully I will be ready for it," said Nadal, who recovered an early break in the opening set and powered through the tiebreaker, but called for the trainer to have supportive tape applied below his right knee three games into the second.

Although he wasn't moving as well, Nadal gained the first break of the second set to lead 3-2, but was immediately broken himself.

He saved a set point in a fierce 10th game that went to deuce three times before Nadal held to make it 5-5. He could-n't convert a break chance in the 11th game as they went to another tiebreaker which the Spaniard again controlled.

"I just had to give my best



Roger Federer prepares for a return shot during his Indian Wells quarter final game against Hubert Hurkacz; (right) Rafael Nadal acknowledges crowd after win

and that's what I did," said Nadal, who has battled tendinitis in his knees throughout his career. "I'm very happy to be in the semi-finals.

Khachanov, who peppered Nadal with 17 aces in the twohour, 17-minute match, has now lost all six of his career meetings with the Spaniard.

He'll be gunning for a chance to claim a fourth Indian Wells title while Federer is seeking to break out of a tie with Djokovic with a record sixth.

Nadal leads the head-to-

head rivalry with Federer 23-15, but Federer has won 11 of their 20 hard-court meetings, including their last five.

However, they haven't met since October of 2017, when Federer triumphed in straight sets in the final of the Shanghai

EXTRA ENERGY

Federer said he might not feel quite the same tingle of anticipation as fans at the prospect of facing Nadal, but he acknowledged that their clashes always raise the stakes. "If Í play Rafa there's extra energy in the building there's always a lot on the line," said Federer, who added

that so much time has passed since their last meeting that his own current five-match win-ning streak is of little signifi-"I don't think those five matches matter that much, to

be honest," he said. "A lot of time has gone by. Federer, a 20-time Grand

Slam champion who captured

his 100th career title at Dubai last month, overcame breezy conditions on stadium court and a hungry Hurkacz - a 22-year-old ranked

67th in the world who was playing in his first Masters 1000 quarter-final and just the second quarter-final of his career. One break in each set was

all Federer needed to seal the win after an hour and 14 min-

anadian sensation Bianca Andreescu toppled sixthranked Elina Svitolina 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 on Friday and will face Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber for the WTA title in Indian Wells.

Germany's Kerber, ranked eighth in the world, ended Belinda Bencic's 12match winning streak with a 6-4, 6-2 victory to reach the final in the California desert for the first time in her third semi-final appearance.

Kerber won the last four games of the opening set and the last three games of the second to subdue Bencic, who was coming off her first WTA title in four years in

The 22-year-old Swiss, whose career was disrupted by a string of back and wrist injuries, had beaten six top-10 players in her winning streak, including world number one and defending Indian Wells champion Naomi Osaka in the fourth round.

But she couldn't find a way past Kerber, who broke Bencic from 30-0 down in the final game of the

opening set.
"It's always tough to play against Belinda," Kerber said.

"She played so great in the past few weeks. "I was trying to focus only on my side

of the court. I was trying to play concentrated, and going for it when I had the chance. "I really enjoy the semifinals here — it was already twice here, and I'm really happy to be in the final for

the first time now." Kerber,

31, will be playing 18-yearold Andreescu for the first "I'm really looking forward to a really tough battle.

She's here as a wild card, and she beat a lot of good players," Kerber said. "She has nothing to lose,

she enjoys her tennis and she's a great player." Andreescu, ranked 60th in the world after starting the year at 152, continued a stellar run that included a quarter-final victory over former world number one Garbine Muguruza.

She's the first wild card to reach the women's final at Indian Wells.

MAKING HISTORY
"It's incredible," she beamed when told of the achievement. "Another goal of mine was to make history and I just did." "I really need a moment to soak this all in. This is just so incred-

ible," an Andreescu told the crowd.

This past week has been dream come true.' Andreescu, who came through qualifying to reach the final at Auckland and made the semi-finals in Acapulco in February, had to dig deep to close it out against Svitolina, who saved on match point against her serve in the penultimate game to force Andreescu to serve it out.

It would take three more match points for a weary-looking Andreescu to succeed, when another baseline rally ended with Svitolina firing a forehand into the

net.
"I really need a moment to soak all this in," said an emotional Andreescu, who was battling cramp in the closing games.

'It was a roller coaster," she said. "I'm really happy I



Hamilton snatches Australian pole

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Mercedes' world champion Lewis Hamilton picked up where he left off last year to reassert his authority and snatch a record-extending eighth pole position at the season-opening Australian Grand Prix on Saturday. The Briton clocked a fastest lap of one minute

20.486 to narrowly pip team-mate Valtteri Bottas, with Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel third, but a massive 0.704 seconds behind his arch-rival. The German will start on the second row with

Red Bull's Max Verstappen while Ferrari newcomer Charles Leclerc and Haas' Romain Grosjean make Fellow Haas driver Kevin Magnussen is behind

them alongside British young gun Lando Norris, who steered his McLaren to an admirable eighth in his debut qualifying session. Hamilton, 34, is the pole master in Melbourne,

claiming it eight times and every year since 2014, although he has only twice won a race at Albert Park, in 2008 and 2015.

He knocked out his rivals with a blistering lap at the death to claim an 84th career grid-leading time and said afterwards he was "shaking, it was so close

Hamilton, who is bidding for a sixth world title to move within one of Michael Schumacher's record seven, had complained after pre-season testing in Barcelona that Ferrari was much quicker. But this has proved to be a fallacy with the Briton

fastest in all three free practice sessions.

'BETTER THAN THIS'

Vettel, who has won the last two races in Melbourne, admitted he too was surprised at the size of the gap with Mercedes. "I think everybody is, probably even themselves,"

he said. "For sure there is some homework for us to understand, but I still think we have a great car, we should be better than this. We have 58 laps tomorrow to get a proper read on where we are.

"We have got to live with it today, but tomorrow is a new day," he added.

Mercedes and Hamilton have been dominant in

Formula One in recent years, winning the drivers' and constructors' titles five years in a row and Ferrari and Vettel — are desperate to catch up.

While the German won in Melbourne last year and backed it up with victory at the next race in Bahrain, Hamilton roared back to sweep 11 of the remaining 19 to be crowned champion.

Dipa's Olympic hopes suffer massive jolt

Karmakar aggravates knee injury during vault final at Artistic Gymnastics WC

PTI BAKU

Ace Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar's hopes of qual-ifying for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics suffered a jolt after aggravating her knee injury during the vault final at the Artistic Gymnastics World Cup on Saturday, forcing her to withdraw from next week's Doha World Cup.

The 25-year-old from Tripura had performed a highvault, scoring 14.466 and 14.133 points in the two qualifying round for an average of 14.299 to qualify for the vault final at the third position.

But she was left crestfallen after aggravating a knee injury while landing during the first

"She had some problems in her knee before today's final. She was feeling some pain yesterday but felt better after working with physio. She attempted the vault finals today but fell on her first vault, aggravating the injury due to undesired landing," Gymnastic Federation of India (GFI) vice

president Riyaz Bhati said. "She did not attempt the second vault due to the injury and finished her campaign at the Baku World Cup. She will now skip the World Cup in



Doha and come back to India for rehabilitation and aim for Asian and Wo Championships this year."

The two World Cups are ing system for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, under which the gymnasts will make the cut based on their top three scores.

The Asian Championship is scheduled to be held in Mongolia from June 13-16, while the World Championship is slated for October 4-13 in Germany later this year.

"Dipa can still qualify by doing well at World Championship this year," Bhati

Dipa had claimed the bronze at the vault event of the Artistic Gymnastics World Cup in Cottbus, Germany, in November last year to fuel her Olympic dream. It was her first appearance after recovering from a knee strain, which had forced her to miss the vault final in the Jakarta Asian



FIFA backs 48-team World Cup in 2022

 $F^{\text{IFA moved a step closer on Friday to expanding}} \ \, \text{the 2022 World Cup in Qatar to 48 teams and hopes}$ to confirm the plans in June if a suitable co-host can

An internal feasibility study supporting the expansion, which is being strongly pushed by presi-FIFA council in Miami. A final decision will now be taken in Paris on June

6 after FIFA and Qatar jointly submit the names of potential co-host nations to the governing body's Infantino, who also confirmed a new Club

the Confederations Cup, told a press conference: "You have in front of you a happy FİFA president. "I am always happy but especially today because we have taken some important decisions.

World Cup with 24 teams will begin in 2021 to replace

"We came to conclusion, yes it's feasible to move from 32 to 48 teams at the World Cup provided cer-

tain conditions are met. We have the duty to look into it, 90 percent are in favour of an increase but it's not as easy as that. We have to analyse matters carefully and we are working

The move away from the traditional 32 teams which will see 80 matches instead of 64 — the notion was originally slated to come into effect for the 2026 tournament in North America — means one or more other countries will be asked to help Qatar stage the shortened 28-day event which is scheduled to kick off in November 2022



Tndia will host the U-17 Women's World LCup in 2020, International Football Federation (FIFA) President Gianni Infantino announced on Friday.

"We are delighted to announce that India has been confirmed as the host of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in 2020," Infantino said after the FIFA Council meeting in Miami.

This will be the second FIFA tournament India will be hosting, after the U-17 Men's World Cup in 2017.

Confirming the development, All India Football Federation General Secretary Kushal Das said: "We are thankful to FIFA for giving the right to host the U-17 Women's World Cup. This will raise the profile of women's football in the coun-

"We have been giving a lot of emphasis on the development of women's football in the country. So we bid for the U-17 Women's World Cup and now we have

The bidding process for the tournament started last year. France had also expressed interest to host the tournament. Das said the venues to host the mega event will be decided soon.

"We have four-five venues in mind and we will finalise them soon."

As host country, India automatically qualifies for the 16-team showpiece event. The six continental qualifying tournaments is yet to begin.

Besides the U-17 Women's WC, India had also expressed interest in hosting the U-20 Women's World Cup.

The U-17 women's tournament began in 2008, when New Zealand hosted it. Spain are the current champions and they had beaten Mexico 2-1 in the final in



'Bigger challenge lies ahead

NEW DELHI: All India Football Federation president Praful Patel on Saturday hosting the tournament, but said the bigger challenge lies ahead.

"I would like to thank FIFA for keeping their trust in us and granting us the rights to host the tournament," he said.

time it will also galvanise the girls of the country, making it more popular," he added "However, winning the bid was a lesser challenge. The bigger challenge of hosting the showpiece actually lies ahead, especially after the standards which we have set for ourselves in the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017," the AIFF chief said.

Uruguay last year. The tournament in India will be the seventh edition.

Asian teams are the most successful teams in the tournament, with North Korea (2008 and 2016) having won it twice while Japan (2014) and South Korea (2010) had won it once each.

France (2012) and Spain (2018) are the only non-Asian teams to have won the

Mary opts out of Asian C'ship | Dharun betters 400m hurdles Nat'l record

PNS NEW DELHI

egendary MC Mary Kom Lhas decided to skip the Asian Women's Championship to prepare for the bigger events ahead and in her absence, world championship Silver medallist Sonia Chahal will lead the 20member Indian contingent at the event, to be held in Bangkok from April 16 to 27.

Six-time world champion Mary Kom, who won India's solitary Gold medal at the 2017 edition in Vietnam, wants to focus on the World Championships to be held later this year.

Ín Mary Kom's absence, Sonia and former Gold medallist Sarita Devi and ex-world junior champion Nikhat Zareen will spearhead the Indian con-

A lot of talented youngsters made it to the team on the basis of the three-day trials held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium.

Strandja Memorial boxing tournament Gold medallist



Nikhat defeated Pinki Rani 4-1 to secure the pole position in the final of the trial in the 51kg.

The 54kg challenge will be led by World Championship quarter-finalist, Manisha. While Sonia will represent in 57kg following a decisive 5-0 win over Sakshi in the final trial.

In 60kg, veteran Sarita will make her comeback after losing narrowly in the pre-quarterfinals at last year's World Championships. India's hopes in 64kg will rest on Punjab's Simranjit Kaur

Borgohain, Bronze medallist in

Assam's Lovlina

closely with Oatar."

2017, will be the one to watch out for in 69kg. Haryana boxers Nupur and Pooja Rani secured their berths in the 75kg and 81kg respectively.

and

Experienced boxer, Seema Poonia will be vying for the title in the 81+kg category following a 4-1 victory over Kavita Chahal. After seven successful edi-

will be held simultaneously along side the men at the Asian Championships for the very first time. In the last edition, the Indian women grabbed a total of seven medals, including one

Gold, one Silver and five

tions, the women's competition

PTI PATIALA

Dharun Ayyasamy bettered his own national record to claim Gold medal in the men's 400m hurdles at the 23rd Federation Cup even as eight athletes qualified for the Doha Asian Athletics Championships on the second day of the competition on Saturday.

Ayyasamy clocked 48.80 seconds to erase his own national mark of 48.96, which he had set at the 2018 Asian Games in Iakarta.

Ayyasamy's effort was more than enough to meet the qualification standard of 50.00 for the Asian Championships, set by the Athletics Federation of

"I can go even faster. My goal is to record a time of 48.50. Maybe I will do it at the Asian Championships," said



Ayyasamy after the race. Saritaben Gayakwad

set a new meet record in the women's 400m hurdles with a timing of 57.21. The previous meet record of 57.39 stood in the name of Anu Rani who had recorded that mark in the 2017 edition of the tournament.

Arpitha M closely followed Gayakwad, stopping the clock at 57.45. With the qualifying guideline standing at 57.50, both booked their ticket to Doha.

Two more runners

Gomathi Marimuthu and Twinkle Chaudhary qualified for the Doha

> A surprise was in store in the men's triple jump competition with Youth Olympics Bronze medalist Praveen Chitravel upsetting Asian Games Gold medalist Arpinder Singh. Chitravel recorded a per-

> event in the women's

800m. Marimuthu clocked

2.03.21 while Chaudhary

followed her with a time of

2.03.67. Both times were

well under the qualification

standard of 2.05.00.

and also qualify for the Asian Championships. While Chitravel claimed his first Gold, Arpinder finished outside the medal bracket. Singh who was training in Chula

sonal best jump of 16.51m

to both claim Gold medal

in fourth place with a best jump of 16.34m. While jumps were not of the highest standard in the men's triple jump, the men's javelin throw saw several throws of the highest quality.

The competition was

Vista, California, finished

won by Shivpal Singh who threw the spear to 82.56m. He was followed by Vipin Kasana (81.23m). While Singh had already qualified for the tourney with a throw of 81.48m in the qualifying round, Kasana reserved ticket to Doha with his throw which exceeded the AFI qualification standard of 80.75m.

"The tournament will be massive as this

PERCEPTIONS HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN MY EXCLUSION FROM ONE DAY SET-UP: ISHANT

onsidered as the future of country's pace attack in his early days of International cricket, India's most experienced pacer in the current set up, Ishant Sharma who is set to play for his home franchise Delhi Capitals for the first time in his career feels that perception of him being only good enough to be Test bowler has halted his chances of making into the limited over side, even when the 30-year old chap, who comes with a dozen year of international experience in his bag feels has a lot more to give and contribute in white ball format.

""Yes I think it's a big part, perception is something players have been dealing with and to be honest I don't know where these perceptions come from, that they get a tag like he is a T20 bowler or he is Test bowler or he is only a white ball bowler,"

The Delhi lad who last featured in the 50-over game back in January 2016 against Australia says that if one can perform well in red ball cricket, he is capable enough of doing it in every format of the game.

"I think if one can do well in red ball cricket, he can do well in any format because that's the basic of Cricket, red ball cricket. All you need to do is back your varieties that you have and do well with the white ball," he added.

Ishant had a stellar 2018 season, where he played a big part in India's historic triumph Down Under and productive in England too, though the side failed to get desired results.

And because of that impressive outing only, he finds a way back into the Indian Premier League (IPL) mix with Delhi franchise roped him for the season a year after he was left unsold in the Players auction.

Reflecting on his mindset ahead of this season, which is set to start from March 23. The 6 feet 4-inch tall pacer said that he is keen to keep aside the perceptions of him being good enough only for one format and look to start positive and make a strong case for the World Cup-bound squad which will be announced during the IPL

"I don't know where these perceptions come from but I don't really think about too many things, I just take it as an opportunity. If I do well in this format, I am sure I will be the fourth seamer to go to the World Cup.'

"I am pretty positive about myself, I had good Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy



(domestic T20), had a good Test series, wherever I played so I am pretty confident about myself to do good if get a chance,"

The veteran of 90 Tests with 267 scalps in his name also supported the idea of the use of Duke ball in Test matches by saying that Duke ball has a lot to offer for bowlers as compared toKookabura ball, which isn't of much help to pacers after initial few overs.

"I think it's a good thing, playing with Duke ball is always there something for the bowler, if you play with Kookaburra and there is no help with the wicket then the batsman is always in a dominating position and bowlers go down in a motion which is why Test cricket is going

He supported the idea by adding that "If you have a Duke ball in India or England or anywhere else too, there is at least something for the bowlers, which leads to a proper contest between bat and

He said that if cricket is only supposed to be a batsman dominating game then the concept of bowlers should be replaced with bowling machines.

"If it is always a batsman dominating the game then why not use bowling machine instead of bowlers.

On being asked about the difference between Duke and Kookaburra balls, the enior speedster explains by saying that

"Duke ball swings late till 40 overs and then after 60 over it starts swinging again, so the bowlers are always in the game. But in case of Kookaburra if there is no grass then after 20 overs there is nothing much left for the bowlers."

"You can't make things happen with Kookaburra, but with the Duke, one can try to make it happen and remain alive in the game.'

On being asked about how relaxing is it to have the best bunch of pacers the country has ever produced in the current

The Delhi lad said that it's good to have such talented players in the armory who possess the ability to turn things around by themselves at any moment but at the same at the time it also keeps every-

"It keeps us on the toes, because if you have such a good bowling attack so you will always be on your toes to do well. Whoever is taking wickets will get the chance to play in the eleven."

"So I think it keeps us on the toes, it's a healthy competition between us, which is a good thing for the side," he conclud-

'Ready to bat at 4 if team demands'



A tter his sensational decad in Acricket against West Indies, India's Under-19 World Cup winning skipper Prithvi Shaw says that he is ready to play down the order if considered for the still to figure out number four spot in the World Cup-bound squad.

He has been a specialist opener but has no issues if he required to bat in the middle order for India in the limited

For India, it is all about whatever number in any format they want me to bat. It's going to be my job not the other way round," he said.

However, he did speak about how the mindset changes.

"When I open the innings in limited overs, my mindset is different. Two men outside 30-yard circle, powerplay overs but when I am going down the order, it will obviously change. I watch a lot of experienced players. I watch if I go at No 5, what will I do there. It's all about mindset, how you approach that situation."

He has been with the Indian team only during two series but felt comfortable after coach Ravi Shastri and skipper Virat Kohli made it clear that there is nothing called senior or junior

'I have learned a lot. I mean I was a bit nervous when I first entered that (Indian) dressing room with players having 10 years of experience sitting in front of me. When the skipper and coach said that there are no seniors or juniors, you then kind of open up and irritate them with your questions," said the World Cup-winning former India U-19 captain.

PNS

Praneeth stuns Olympic champion, enter Swiss Open final

▼ndian shuttler B Sai Praneeth and reigning Olympic champion Chen Long to breeze into the final of the men's singles event of the Swiss Open, here World number 22

Praneeth initially faced stiff resistance from the former Chinese world number one and Rio Olympic Gold medallist before prevailing 21-18, 21-13 in the semifinal clash. While the first game was

tight, the Indian shuttler completely dominated the second, ending the match in 46 min-It was Praneeth's first win

over Long in three attempts. He had lost to him at the Indonesian Master early this and Asian Championship last year in

Praneeth will now fight it out with top seed Chinese Shi



Yuki in the final, which will be his first since the Thailand Open victory in June 2017.

P Kashyap, Ajay Jayaram, Sameer Verma and Shubankar Dey also featured in the men's singles but none could go beyond the second round.

Zizou gets Real back on track

Zinedine Zidane brought Real Madrid's outcasts in from the cold and they repaid him with a win in his first game back as Isco 2-0 victory over Celta Vigo on

Isco had not started a single La Liga game under Santiago Šolari but opened the scoring here shortly after the hour, before Bale got the goal his own committed display deserved to put sorry Celta out of sight.

Bale was teed up by Marcelo, who was also dropped by Solari but recalled, while Keylor Navas pulled off a superb save in the first half, having been brought back ahead of Thibaut Courtois.

Even Marco Asensio has been almost anonymous through Madrid's troubles this season and he seemed rejuvenated too, his weaving run leading to the opener from Isco, who was otherwise the quietest of Zidane's recovering

The victory ends a run of four consecutive home defeats and means Madrid reduce the gap to



nine points behind Barcelona, who play away at Real Betis on Sunday.

That deficit will surely prove too big to close but Zidane's job is to restore LaLiga morale in the 11 league

what, and who, needs changing in the summer.

At times, this felt like a pre-



because of the baking hot sun but the relaxed atmosphere and the sense this is now a team on trial.

Bale, whose relationship with Zidane deteriogames that are left and to find out rated to breaking point last season, was arguably the biggest winner, his performance proving there

compatriot Edu Bedia, Bengaluru vs FC Goa

season fixture, not just

could yet be a place for him in

what the club's president Florentino Perez has dubbed "the glorious new era". Marcelo impressed too while

Courtois might well wonder what his next couple of months hold, Židane, looks to be back in favour. Bale came closest to scoring in

the first half with an acrobatic scissor-kick that crashed against the crossbar and later teed up Karim Benzema to tap in, only for the referee to book the Welshman for a foul in the build-up.

Benzema's goal was ruled out just before half-time and Luka Modric had one chalked off just after, this time VAR intervening to show Raphael Varane offside and close enough to be deemed active.

Isco's influence had diminished and Dani Ceballos was ready to replace him just before he scored the opening goal. Asensio made it, a superb run allowing Benzema to cross and Isco to bun-

There was still time for Bale to add a second, his touch making space for the shot after Marcelo had slipped him clear. The ball clipped the post and rolled in.

ily dependent on their

foreigners, especially

Corominas, Ahmed

Jahouh and Bedia and if



power hitter at top but I trust my methods: Rahane

ndia's Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane on Saturday said that there is a misconception that only power hitters are successful at the top-order as players have their own methods to keep the scoreboard ticking.

It's been more than a year that Rahane is out of Indian ODI team but he still will like to stick to his own method.

"People always talk about power at the top but it is important to believe in your abilities and your own methods. It's not all about power-hitting, someone has to play an anchoring role and guys around him can play power-hitting shots," the diminutive right-handed batsman told ESPN

"I always believed in my abilities and it's important to stick to your game. Ás long as you are focusing your game that's what matters.

Out-of-favour Rahane last played an ODI for India in February 16, 2018 against South Africa. Talking about the upcoming World Cup, Rahane said despite the loss to Australia in the fivematch ODI series at home, India are still a strong

contender to lift the Cup. He, however, feels New Zealand, England and an "unpredictable" West Indies will pose serious threats to India's title chances in the World Cup.

"I think personally we (India) have a very strong side. The cricket which we are playing recently is magnificent. The challenge in the World Cup will be to gather that momentum early and continue that. But I feel in ICC tournaments, it is important to give your best in each and every game," Rahane said.

"Apart from India, New Zealand is a very good ODI side and can do well in ICC tournaments. West Indies is unpredictable but dangerous team and also England. Playing England in England is

going to be challenging.

"It is important to focus on our strengths and be positive all the time," he added.

Past record gives Bengaluru edge against in-from Goa

PTI MUMBAI

Pipped at the post by a common nemesis in the root P nemesis in the past, Bengaluru FC and FC Goa will take another shot at glory when they square off in the final of Indian Super League on Sunday.

Both the teams made it to the summit clash, to be played at the Mumbai Football Arean, in rather contrasting

Bengaluru had sealed their place in the final for the second successive year with a 3-0 win against NorthÉast United FC in the second leg of the playoff, recovering from a 2-1 defeat in the

Goa, despite a 1-0 loss to Mumbai City FC in the second leg semi-final, made it to the final on better aggregate, having won the first leg 5-1.

Goa were the runners up in 2015, while Bengaluru ended up second best last season. Coincidentally, both the teams had lost to Chennaiyin FC in their respective summit clashes.

Going by history, Bengaluru have edge against Goa. In four meetings between the two teams, Bengaluru



have won thrice while Goa's only MSUPERIE win came in a tight clash (4-3) last season, in which Bengaluru goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu was sent off

The in-form Goa will pin their hopes on 36-year-old star striker Ferran Corominas of Spain, who is the leading scorer this season,

Corominas has only got better as the tournament pro-

gressed and is in line for his second successive Golden Boot award. A good outing on Sunday will only help his cause. Apart from the strikes, Corominas has seven assists to his

who has seven goals to his credit and six assists. The duo form a lethal pair and can breach any defence on their day, and Bengaluru's could be no excep-

Two other important cogs in Goa's wheel are mid-fielders — Moroccon Hugo Boumous, who has five assists to his name, and 26-year old Manipur-

born Jackichand Singh. Added to these names, the likes of Brandon Fernandes, Zaid Krouch and Mandar Rao Dessai make Goa a formidable outfit and the Bengaluru defence could come under immense pressure.

Goa's defence would be manned by Mourtada Fall, Mohamed Ali, Carlos Pena, Seriton Fernandes and Lalhmangaih.

It would be also interesting to see whether Goa use the services of experienced custodian Laxmikant Kattimani or opt for Naveen Kumar, who also has been quite impressive this season.

While Bengaluru's Indian players credit. He will be a key player along with are in better form, Goa's game is heav-

STAR SPORTS 1 & 2 they don't play well, Goa tend to suffer.

For Bengaluru, two important players who have the ability to change the course of a game anytime are Miku and the charismatic Sunil Chhetri. Chhetri has so far netted nine

goals and Bengaluru head coach Carles Cuadrat would want him to be at his best and will expect the same from Miku, who has scored five times.

Bengaluru will also have high expectations from speedy winger Udanta Singh, who has so far struck five

They also have an array of strong mid-fielders and defenders, who will have to be on their toes against an impressive FC Goa forwardline.

The southern outfit also has in its ranks India's vastly experienced custodian Gurpreet, who has made 59 saves this season. He would be more than keen to maintain a clean sheet, but considering Goa's form it won't be an easy



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Known for his roles in Dangal, Stree, Badrinath Ki Dulhania and the most recent Luka Chuppi, Khurana has effortlessly carried off all the roles. He talks to Musba Hashmi about his role, experiences and upcoming

'I owe my career to my seniors'

■What attracted you to play Abbas in Luka

This is the first time I am playing this character. There was quirkiness and relevance in it which I liked the most. You always need to be a part of relevant scripts, relevant

world with relevant people so that you will be more often accepted by the audience and Kartik and Kriti are the most relevant people to be with. Here, even the subject is relevant because live-in relationships is a thing which is still not accepted by or known. Also people

concept — may be good or bad. But after watching this film they will have a different perspective altogether. Therefore, I had to say yes to the film and also I have already done Stree with the same mak-

have a perception of this

ers and this project was confirmed while I was shooting for Stree.

■How hard was it for you to get into the shoe of the character?

It wasn't that hard because the character is not from a Muslim dominated area because that is when you need to get deeply into the skin of the character and you need to know skin of the character and you need to know the area and their language. I am not even wearing *mazhabi kapde* in the film. If this would have been the case then obviously it would be more interesting and would require a lot of hard work but playing Abbas was not so difficult because *aap kisi bhi* background *se aao*, *sabki baatein sabka andaaz toh ek jaisa hi* hota hai.

How was the experience sharing the screen with Kartik Aryan and Kriti Sanon?

I have known both of them for sometime. Kartik and I were in the same football team from All Star Football Club and I know Kriti through my brother Ayushmann. So it was lovely to have worked with both.

■Would you like to share some anecdotes

While we were preparing for the first shot and everyone was busy reading their scripts. The moment I started practicing my first dialogue, Kriti turned and said: 'Oh I thought it was Ayushmann'. That was the first reaction to my voice and the first thing that happened on day one. Kartik is from Gwalior so when we saw the city with him. It was my first visit and he made me eat Bahadura ke laddoo, they were so delicious. I can never forget the taste even now, they just melt in your mouth. I am a big foodie so I can only share anecdotes

related to food.

How have things changed for you after Dangal?

From the inside, my life hasn't changed much. I am still the same small town boy. But professionally it has become easier to approach people. Earlier it was difficult. Even if I had a brother working in the industry, it was difficult to call someone and say that I am Ayushmann's brother because you are not qualified to call a senior filmmaker until you have some work to show. Now, there is a certain amount of respect that comes my way and

I don't have to stand in queue to get work. ■How did acting happen?

I never wanted to become an actor. I always wanted to be a sportsperson but gradually when I failed in a couple of fields, and saw what Ayush *bhaiyya* was doing, I got inspired by him. But it was not the case *ki chalo bhai* kar raha hai toh main bhi karta hoon. Since I had failed in other fields, I prepared myself for acting through radio and theatre. Homework is important, y. You just can't get up and say chalo acting karney chalte hain.

I also owe my gratitude to my seniors from radio and theatre who taught me and brought creativity in me to the fore. I owe my career to these people because when I started doing radio I was not even half creative as I am today. You can learn a lot just by seeing the work of certain people from the fraternity like RJ Naved, RJ Sarthak from Red FM or Abish without even knowing them personally. ■What else is keeping you busy?

I just got back from London, I was shooting for Street Dancer. I am also working on a film titled Kanpur. Both will release this year.

Say Hello Zindagi

After a successful run with Wrong Number staged in 2018, director Raman Kumar is all set to mesmerise Delhiites with yet another play — Hello Zindagi. SHALINI SAKSENA speaks to the actors and the scriptwriter who talk about what makes this a must watch

Tive gorgeous actresses' are all set to mesmerise Delhiites with the latest stage show — Hello Zindagil.

The play marks a debut for actor Smills Baneal as a conjutivitien (along Public Parks). Bansal as a scriptwriter (plays Rukhsar in Aladdin:Naam Toh Suna Hoga on SAB TV) and has been directed by Raman Kumar, who has been bestowed with the Dada Saheb Phalke Award (2015) for Contribution in Television. The vivacious Minissha Lamba,

plays Pammi. Lamba recently debuted on stage with her solo performance in Mirror Mirror where she plays multiple roles. Kishwer Merchant plays Sheena. Delnaaz Irani plays Bakula. Chitrashi Rawat plays Shivani. The man among the five women — Rahul Nayyar — plays Vicky. Guddi Maruti plays Bijoya di, a Bengali.

The theatrical revolves around women who come from different backgrounds and characteristics but are grounds and characteristics but are staying together in a posh flat in Mumbai. Be prepared for drama as these strong, sharp witty women lead you on an unforgettable journey filled with intrigue, comedy, confusion and presignate tides. passionate tides.

The harmony in the home gets tan-gled when Vicky falls in love with Pammi, wants to marry her and take her to the US and Bakula decides to move with them too. The plot thickens when she decides to give her business organised by Vicky.

Talking about her character, Guddi tells you that she plays a Bengali maid. "Though my character is that of a maid, I am more of a friend. Since I am elder to the five women, I scold them and even bestow love. I participate in their fun as well," Guddi shares, who makes a debut on theatre with this play.

She tells you that she was apprehensive in doing theatre. "I was scared because I had never done theatre. I was not sure whether I would be able to adjust to the concept that there are no retakes and do it at a stretch. My dear friend Rakesh Bedi ji and Ramanji convinced me to at least read the script. Once I read it, I was so taken in with the characterisation and how five women come together even though they have a back story. Also, after 38 years in the industry, I can say that I have done theatre as well," Guddi says.

Playing a Bengali came with its share of preparation. Besides getting the attire correct, she had to get the accent



Chitrashi Rawat, Delnaaz Irani, Guddi Maruti, Minissha Lamba, Kishwer Merchant with Smita Bansal (scriptwriter)

"I had to learn a few Bengali sentences. Accent had to be right as well. I did a bit of research myself. I also had to get used to whole sentences like 'jal khabey'. I had to work on these nuances," Guddi says and tells you that the reason why she is not doing films being made today.

When I started off in movies, it was a different era. Today, while one does have movies like Badhai Ho, it is no longer the kinds that were made with Govinda. I am busy doing TV. Even with this play, I agreed because I had just finished Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai where she played Principal Ma'am VJN College. The timing was perfect. You have to give theatre full attention. More so, since the stage was new for me," Guddi says.

She recounts how they had a blast not just of the stage but off the stage too. There was so much fun with Kishwer, Delnaaz and Chitrashi," she says whose favourite scene in the play is between Kishwer and Delnaaz.

"Kishwer has done such a brilliant job. It reduced me to tears," Guddi says who tells you that doing theatre has changed her.

"I am glad that I said yes. I had a mental block before. I have grown as an actor. The stage has helped me to be sharper. In films and TV, you have to

back in 2017 in San Francisco.

Bringing together rhythm, sto-

rytelling, poetry and dance

BEAUTIFUL. BUT IT'S THE PEOPLE WHO **CREATE PROBLEMS** THIS RESULTS IN MISERY. THE SIMPLER THE LIFE, THE HAPPIER YOU WILL BE. MAKE THE

GOD HAS MADE LIFE

MOST OF THE HAND

THAT YOU HAVE BEEN

DEALT WITH. THIS IS

THE THEME OF THE **PLAY** - RAMAN KUMAR, DIRECTOR OF HELLO ZINDAGI!

learn a few lines and then there is a cut. Stage is different. I have cues and then make an entry. I have to be alert all the time," Guddi says and the whole experience has made her open to doing

Rahul Bhuchar, producer and MD, entertainment to unwind the monotonous daily grind and the play is definitely one answer to that conundrum. "The quality of the production, the powerful script and brilliant performances by these talented actresses' promises to keep the audiences glued to their seats till the very last minute," Bhuchar shares.

Kumar, tells you that through Hello Zindagi! they want to say that God has made life beautiful, but it's the people, who create problems for themselves. "This results in misery and problems. There are no short cuts in life. The simpler your life is, the happier you will be. Live the life fully and love the life you have been given. While people may not be able to live the life as they have wanted to that doesn't mean we can't make the best of what we have. This the theme of the play," Kumar says who has been busy with the play after the success of Wrong Number that was staged in 2018.

"The original story by Bansal was in English. I got to read the story, I loved the characters and decided to adopt it into Hindi. This is because in Hindi the whole gamut changes — be it language, dialogues or the fun quotient which is so different from English," Kumar shares and tells you that the inspiration came from the emotions and the treatment that *Hello Zindagi!* has — dealing with a serious

He tells you that the reason for the growing popularity of live performance is the result of increased demand in good content.

"With the spurt in the digital platform, people are now looking for entertainment that will take them out of their homes. Film is an alternative. Also most movies find their way into the digital space. Theatre gives them live entertainment. Then there is star power too. People come to watch their favourite stars like Anupam Kher and Naseeruddin Shah who are active," Kumar says and tells you that in Mumbai alone, there are 20-25 theatre performances every weekend in dif-

ferent languages.

Bansal tells you that the inspiration for the story came after her 14-year-old daughter's book got published. "That got me thinking and I started penning some characters which became related. Slowly, the story took shape. While it was not a TV or a film script, stage coming alive. Once I approached Ramanji, we sat and translated it into Hindi. I have been involved from day one," Bansal says and tells you that the essence and the spirit has remained the

Whether scriptwriting will turn into a full-fledged career is sometime that requires more thought. "The only reason why I was able to pen this down was because I was between shows. If I have to write, it won't be while I am shooting for a show because TV is very consuming," Bansal tells you.

The message Hello Zindagi wants to send is what women go through, but not in a morose manner. "Even though the woman is working, the home responsibilities still rest with us. I wanted to talk about this — how despite challenges, women are happy juggling work and home," Bansal says.

The tickets:₹300-₹2,000 bought at

www.bookmyshow.com Date & Time: March 23, Saturday 3:30pm and 6:30pm; March 24, Sunday at 5pm Venue: Kamani Auditorium, Delhi



'What I see, around reflects in my work'

Director SHILPA RANADE's Goopi Gawaiya Bagha Bajaiya which premiered at Toronto Film Festival in 2013 has now released in India. She tells SHALINI SAKSENA why she chooses animation to tell stories

■How has your journey been thus far?

is not really big in India. it has been tough since there are not many options to the kind of work that I want to do. There isn't much funding, not many platforms where one can showcases one's work and not many like-minded animators. There are very few animators who are experimenting with their work or their storytelling or are invested in doing things that are local. It is still a very niche area.

■Why choose animation to tell your stories?

I was always interested in visual arts. I studied Applied Arts and went to Sir JJ College of Architecture. From my early days at JJ I was part of film clubs and societies and saw some interesting work from Europe. Animation, I thought was a powerful medium. It brought image making, moving images and stortelling together. For me, this was important because I wanted to make such moving stuff. So it started way back and then went on to study animation.

■Where does India stand when it comes to animation?

Technically, we are decent since a lot of back-end work is out-soureced to the country. People are trained on the job and the quality is good. Where we lack is storytelling and making original content.

■ Is that why some of animation that is made in India is not at par with what we see abroad?

I would not say that it is not lack of imagination as much but that not many people are investing in animation. Even if there are some, where do they get the funding, if they get that, who will show that work? It is a chain. You don't create an audience, you don't create a culture that views these films other than animation from Disney or any other production house. ■ Are you a designer, illustrator, a filmmaker or an acade-

I think that design encompasses all. For me, illustration and animation comes under design. Designer is not different from an illustrator. My focus is book illustration and animation. I teach because I enjoy it.

■What is Goopi Gawaiya Bagha Bajaiya about?

I am an book illustrator and got this book from Scholastic which is a classic story by Upendra Kishore Roychowdhury back in 1915. It has been retold by many people. The version I got is from Gulzar. I drew for the book and while I was doing it,m I thought it was perfect material for animation — the original work. I had seen Satyajit Ray's work on the book as well. He was Roychowdhury's grandson, there was this amazing lineage. I wanted to make a film that would resonate with kids today. Animation is perfect.

■ Does the animation have a message to tell?

Yes. It is important that everything that I do is just for entertainment. It is important to have good content for children since we don't do a lot of things for them. This film has a anti-war message, a peace loving film, which is relevant today.

So there lack of films for children?

Definitely. We have so many films coming out from the

industry. Where do we have kids film? Except for CFSI, I don't

Il you need is rhythm divine

Shalini Saksena ■ NEW DELHI

7hat if somebody were to say that jazz music and kathak are a perfect pairing? The reaction would be $\frac{1}{2}$ how is that even possible? Over the last five years, there have been a lot of fusion that the country has been, be it food, music or even Indian classical dance. All this has been possible due to Speak-Rhythm in Feet — a platform that brings together Kathak and Tap dance together to use a distinctive vocabulary and speak a common language - that of

rhythm. The platform carries forward the legacy of artists like Pandit Chitresh Das, Dr Jimmy Slyde and James Buster Brown and brings to the fore voices of powerful women artists and becoming a bridge between tradition, innovation, history



fuelled by jazz and Indian classical music by Jayanta Banerjee and Allison Miller, the show and Rachna Nivas, Dormeshia and Michelle Dorrance (tap kick started in Mumbai, then dancer and choreographer) cretravel led to Kolkata and before ated magic on the stage. The their scintillating performance first collaboration was held in Gurugram.

Mehta tells you that this art form is a perfect improvisation of dance and music which has

Indian classical music. "Nivas is extremely talented and I was really excited to be working with her on this journey. There were seven performers from US with us and we we hope that this gave people a great mix to watch," Mehta says.

India is a diverse nation

with different art forms, the platform was definitely a great way to bring together the cultures. "Dance and music can tell stories like none other. Michelle and I have loved the way that the audiences have reacted to our collaboration. The response has overwhleming," Dormeshia says.

Omer Haidar, MD, Showhouse Events tells you that the aim was to bring some of audience loved what we had to show," Haidar says.

the best art forms to India.

'Speak-Rhythm in Feet has been on our list and we are proud that have been able to

bring the collaboration. The

think anybody is making films for kids? ■Where do you get your ideas for animation?

I see what is happening around me or what I read, or music I listen to. All this reflects in my subject.

Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi hated marigold flower, although in death it was strewn all over her body. Many such hitherto unknown aspects of 11 'newsmakers' have been unravelled by Kumkum Chadha in her book, *The Marigold Story.* This is not a gushing account of their accomplishments; rather it captures their weaknesses. An edited excerpt:

WHEN THE HEROES HEROES

ndira Priyadarshini Gandhi, India's third Prime Minister, was allergic to marigolds. Throughout her life, her lieutenants stopped people from taking the gold-flower near her. While no one could stop her admirers from bringing them in bunches, the garlands were immediately taken away, and the petals were swiftly brushed aside. If someone still managed to smuggle the flower in, Indira Gandhi would frown to show her displeasure. Her silence was signal enough that she hadn't taken well to the transgression.

But her anger was never directed at people who spent days, often weeks, to meet her. It was her staff who had to face her ire, for they were trained rigorously to handle her likes and dislikes. It was incumbent upon them to ensure that things went the way she wanted: Perfectly, with clockwork precision. A slip-up may not have cost them their jobs, but it did earn her indignation. For the faithful, including the man who routinely carried an umbrella over her head, it was worse than being booted out.

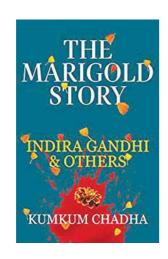
It was, therefore, ironic that in her death, several such details were missed out. Were Indira Gandhi to have her way, she would have never allowed for what she may have described as 'violations'. But she lay still and lifeless: Her bullet-ridden body bedecked in marigolds. The gold-flower that was kept away during her entire life, clung to her in death. But the shock of her sudden and violent death was so intense that even for her coterie, the issue of her allergy to the flower may have seemed trivial. Death numbs everyone, but for someone like Indira Gandhi to die the way she did, it was nothing short of a catastrophe. For India, it was like hitting a dead end, or at least that is what it had seemed like at that point in time.

She had ruled with an iron hand for almost 16 years and for most parts, turned around the country when few had the grit and determination to steer the fortunes of hundreds and thousands of deprived Indians. Equally it was true that she did not encourage a second line of leadership, making it clear that none other than a Nehru-Gandhi was fit to rule India.

Indira Gandhi's death had decidedly created a vacuum. For people like me, who were a generation apart, it had also posed the 'who next' question. Sanjay Gandhi, the obvious heir-apparent, had died before his mother, and Rajiv Gandhi, the reluctant one. More than Indira Gandhi's death and the sorrow that came with it, what was worrying was India's future and the lonely road that lay ahead.

On some lonely, dark nights, Alfred Tennyson and William Butler Yeats are my companions. I can't explain the how and why of it, but I have often read and re-read their verses and liberally quoted and often misquoted them while churning a story in my head. But in the context of 'India without Indira', I'd failed to evoke Tennyson's optimism about the old order changing, yielding place to the new or like the Victorian poet, comfort myself. His lines simply did not fit in the turbulent times India was facing. Introspect what I'd felt was more in sync with Yeats' *The Second Coming*:

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world. Like millions of Indians, I was unsure if the Second Coming was at hand; whether another messiah would descend from the heavens to bail out a country that had more problems than solutions. Of course, Indira Gandhi was no messiah. She was more of a cross between a goddess and the poet's vision of a rough beast. Among the uninitiated, she was worshipped; in the politics she practiced, her opponents likened her to a





IT WAS HER STAFF WHO HAD TO FACE HER IRE, FOR THEY WERE **TRAINED** RIGOROUSLY TO HANDLE HER LIKES AND DISLIKES. IT WAS INCUMBENT UPON THEM TO ENSURE THAT THINGS WENT THE WAY SHE WANTED: PERFECTLY, WITH **CLOCKWORK PRECISION**



typhoon which destroyed at will. At one level, she had built India; at another, perhaps, destroyed its core. But as I had felt then, and do so even now, I believe that she did more good than harm.

From a distance, I watched Mrs Gandhi's body lie in state. It was in New Delhi's Teen Murti House, where she had spent several years as a young woman with her father, Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister. It was the late Vasant Sathe, the Congress leader from Maharashtra and once Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting in Mrs Gandhi's Cabinet, who had taken me along to Teen Murti House. All through the drive, I don't recall how long it was, but Vasant Sathe had sobbed like child. For him, it was like losing his mother, as his wife later told me. We entered from the ante-room and stood near where her head lay: Bereft of the uneasy crown that she had symbolically and willingly worn. Her head was covered with the *pallu* of her sari. Her face was swollen and looked nothing like it once had. It was difficult to see her the way she was. Silent and still.

It was equally tough to see people bring in marigolds and add to the lay-

ers over her body. I wanted to step over and remove each one... specially those which touched her face. That I thought would be my tribute to a woman who had allowed me easy access into her home.

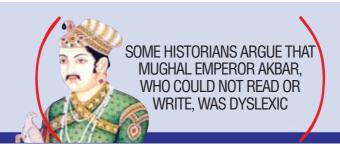
There was no special bond between us, except as journalist, I would often hover around her for offbeat stories, and Mrs Gandhi cooperated to the extent that I usually went back with one. "Marigolds," Indira Gandhi often told me, "are not for me". Her words came back as I helplessly watched hundreds of people

come in and heap them over her. Her marigold allergy seemed to have skipped RK Dhawan's mind too. He was in a daze. It was too much to expect him to worry about such details; it really didn't matter anymore. But Mrs Gandhi was a woman who had a keen eye for detail. Had this happened to anyone else, she sure would have stepped in to correct it.

RK Dhawan was Indira Gandhi's closest aide. As long as she lived, he was forever by her side, ensuring that nothing went amiss. There are, however, no easy answers for how things had gone so horribly wrong on the last day of a nippy October morning in 1984.

Excerpted with permission from *The Marigold Story* by Kumkum Chadha; Westland, ₹699





AN ARCHEOLOGICAL MARVEL

Fatehpur Sikri might not have fully enjoyed its position as the capital of Mughal empire, but its architectural grandeur still mesmerises all. There's something about this place that doesn't allow time to rob it of its magic, writes SOMEN SENGUPTA

f one goes through the detailed chronology of Islamic rule in India, he/she will come across several archeological marvels, each more astounding than the other. In this rich archeological heritage, there is one 450-year-old magnum opus that still stands tall. Fatehpur Sikri refers to a town in the Agra District. It was founded by Mughal emperor Akbar as the capital city of his empire. The monument that is metonymously referred to by the same name is so beautiful that it still manages to amaze tourists.

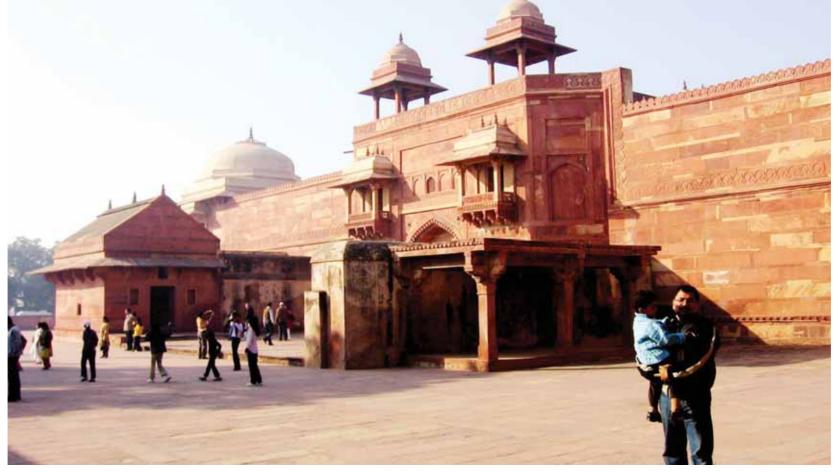
Even though Fatehpur Sikri is largely associated with Akbar, this place was first named by his grandfather Babur. Babur had named a village Shukhria. This name transformed into Sikri in common parlance and around the 16th common parlance and around the 16th century, it gained popularity as the place where Salim Chisti, a Sufi saint, used to stay. Legend has it that Akbar sought this saint's blessing in order to have a male child. The emperor had been childless for a long time. The prophecy of Salim Chishti worked like magic and Akbar's third wife, who was a Raiput princess. third wife, who was a Rajput princess, became pregnant. The grateful king took his pregnant wife to the village of Sikri. The royal couple had a son on in logust 30, 1569. Akbar named the child Salim after the saint who had made his birth possible. Soon, Akbar was blessed with two more sons from his two other wives. One son was born in 1570 and another in 1572. As a gesture of his gratitude, Akbar decided to set up his new capital in the village of Sikri. So, a huge construction project

was undertaken on the rocky ridge of a dusty village in 1569. The material used for this was high quality red sand stone that still shines on every wall. The design of this Indo-Islamic masterpiece included a royal court, pavilions, gardens, palaces, entertainment arena, mosque, majestic gates, zone for games and amusement, residential apartments and, needless to say, provision for religious activities. Researchers argue this was the first planned city of Mughal India. It was imagined and executed at a phenomenal speed. And the result turned out be the perfect combination of intense emotion and effort.

What we today know as the monument of Fatehpur Sikri can be divided into three parts — section for religious practices, administrative section, and km-long and one-km-wide city is surrounded by a six-km wall on three sides. The entry passage is decorated with several majestic gates named as Delhi Gate, Lal Gate, Chandanpal Gate, Gwalior Gate, Ajmer Gate, and Tehra Gate.

It all started with construction of a massive mosque which was completed between 1571 to 1572. Known as Jama Masjid, this 540-ft-long mosque is one of the biggest mosques in India. Still in use, the mosque houses a massive congregational space and a central courtyard. The domes are made of marble with a *chhatri* (umbrella-like structure) decorated over sanctuary. Like most of the other monument in Fatehpur Sikri, this too reflects strong Hindu influence in its design, especially the domes.

At the courtyard of the mosque stands the grave of Salim Chishti (1478-1572) which is a pure marble tomb deeply influenced by the 15th century Gujarat sultanate school of architecture. The marvellous work on marble with serpentine brackets that covers the entire tomb is breathtaking. The brackets looks like English alphabet "S". They have been decorated with floral design that hold the running marble canopy. Even the rain water drainage system of



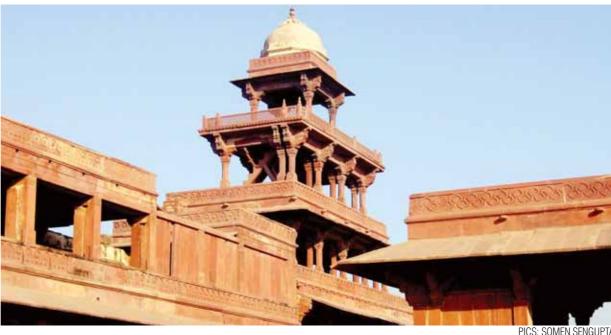
the tomb is so modern that it has the provision of passing water directly from the roof to the underground level through a hollow pillar. The tomb is still counted a sacred place for childless couples who come here for blessings.

In 1573, Akbar's conquest of Gujarat gave a new gem to this city. Akbar added the word Fatehpur meaning the "city of the word Fatehpur meaning the "city of victory" to the word Sikri. To commemorate the victory, a 176-ft-high Buland Darwaza was added to the structure. It replaced an existing gate on the south of the courtyard of the mosque.

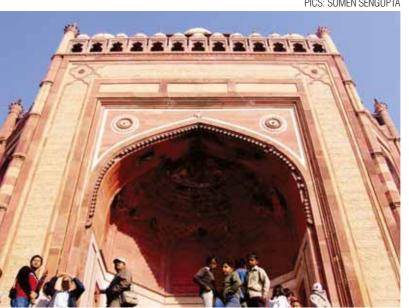
The idea behind this was to make the structure accessible through a grand number of stairs from a lower slope.

number of stairs from a lower slope. Upon climbing them, one would see a gate so massive that it will leave a lasting impression. The intention was that ent rasas or themes. These included the Bhayanak Rasa that would generate a sense of fear — at a glance, the front of the gate looks like a demon with its mouth wide open. Veer Rasa was supposed to be the second theme — parts of the gate are designed like a regal crown. Shanta Rasa was supposed to be third theme as one idea behind such a grand gate was to remind human beings of the massiveness of almighty. The side and top panels the gate are embellished with quotes from the *Quran*.

Fatehpur Sikri also houses Diwani-Khas and Diwan-i-Am. The former boosts of a rather unique architectur-al design where a central pillar made of red sand stone is very richly designed in a blending of Hindu and Islamic motifs. The design expands on top to make a provision of a royal seat which is reachable from four elevated pathways. The pillar is square at the base. The crowning of the pillar is expanded with several layers of decorated brackets. It seems that the members of court had their seats on the ground floor. There is a hanging balcony on the second floor. The multi-religious influence has led certain groups of historians to believe that Akbar used to dis-



EVEN THOUGH FATEHPUR SIKRI IS ASSOCIATED WITH AKBAR, IT WAS FIRST NAMED BY HIS GRANDFATHER BABUR. BABUR HAD NAMED A VILLAGE SHUKHRIA. THIS NAME TRANSFORMED INTO 'SIKRI' IN COMMON PARLANCE, AND AROUND THE 16TH CENTURY, IT **GAINED POPULARITY** AS THE PLACE WHERE SALIM CHISTI, A SUFI SAINT, USED TO STAY



Diwan-i-Am is a simple, squareshaped, double-storied building in a garden. There are five rooms on the second floor and a hanging chamber in Rajasthani jharokha style which was the seat of Emperor. From this royal seat he used to address his subjects. At the North-West corner of this chamber, a big iron ring can still be seen. It is believed that a royal elephant would be tied up here when the court was in session. The elephant would be assigned the task of executing death penalty.

Badshahi Hammam and Anup Talao are two closely situated monuments in this area. The former is nothing but the royal bath with a unique system for the supply of hot and cold water circulation.

supply of hot and cold water circulation. This place also includes oil massage room, changing room, toilets, and water tubs. A unique system for capturing natural light was also used here.

Anup Talao is a water reservoir that has an open, decorated seat at its centre. The seat is bridged with a narrow walkway. It is encircled with a beautiful stone railing on all four sides. It is believed that two legendary musicians believed that two legendary musicians from Akbar's court — Tansen and Baiju Bawra — used to perform here.

The royal bedroom is known as Khwabdaha. This special room houses a high legged big stone bed which used to be climbed with a flight of stairs. There was a provision to fill the floor with cold water that used to keep the room cool. The room had secret connectivity with the Begum Mahal and that path was once covered with especially designed stone curtains.

Several other majestic palaces in this part of Fatehpur Sikri are mingled with legend, folklore and history. Often, it becomes difficult from people to differentiate between these and authentic history. One such palace is Jodha Bai Mahal, the palace of Akbar's chief queen Jodha Bai. Interestingly, historians argue that Akbar was never married to any such Rajput lady who bore him a son. Another such disputed palace here is Birbal palace — home of Akbar's favourite Hindu court royal. It is located inside the zone where Akbar's harem is located. But again, historians argue, why would a Hindu male be allowed to live in the emperor's harem?

Moving on, another such palace is called Sunehra Makan. This palace is mother Hamida Banu, also known as Mariam Makani. But other versions suggest rear this was in fact the palace of Akbar's Goan wife, Mariam.

Nauroz Bagicha or the royal garden was once the place for a weekly bazaar organised by female members of royal family. Some even argue that this was where Jahangir and Noor Jahan had first met.Other minor monuments of Fatehpur Sikri include Rang Mahal, Kabutar Khana, Hathi Pole, Sangin Burj, Hiran Minar, and Karawan Sarai.

Political upheaval after 1585 kept Akbar busy in Lahore of Punjab. Around 1599, when he did come back to Fatehpur Sikri, it was suffering from acute crisis of water and its population had declined. Eventually, Akbar shifted his power centre to Agra.
Soon after that, Fatehpur Sikri

became a ghost town. By end of the 17th century, it was completely abandoned and banished into oblivion. It was Lord Curzon who took the initiative to restore and salvage the place. In 1986, the place was declared a UNESCO world heritage site. Clearly, there is something about this place that doesn't allow even time to rob the monument of its magic.

Infertile women more likely to develop cancer

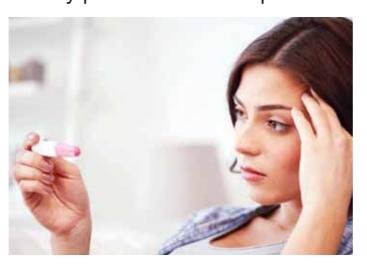
A recent study found that women with fertility problems were 18 per cent more likely to develop cancer, writes LAURA DONNELLY

nfertility could increase the chance of cancer in mid-life by almost a fifth, research suggests. The study of more than three million women of childbearing age found that those with fertility problems were 18 per cent more likely to develop the disease. Scientists from Stanford University said it was not possible to show whether infertility — or treatment for it — was a cause of cancer.

The explanation could be an underlying mechanism which increased the risk of cancer and infertility, they said. But the fouryear study of women who were in their 30s when monitoring began, found that those who suffered infertility problems were 18 per

cent more likely to develop any type of cancer during the period. Researchers stressed that the overall risk of cancer at this stage in life remained low. Overall, those with fertility problems had an absolute risk of 2 per cent, compared with that of 1.7 per cent among other women.

The findings were published in the journal Human Reproduction. Study leader Dr Gayathree Murugappan, a fellow in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Stanford University School of Medicine in California, said: "We do not know the causes of the increase in cancer that we found in this study, whether it might be the infertili-



RESEARCHERS ANALYSED DATA FROM 64,345 WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS BEING INFERTILE BY DIAGNOSIS, TESTING OR **TREATMENT** BETWEEN 2003 AND 2016

ty itself, the causes of the infertility, or the infertility treatment.

We can only show there is an association between them. In the future, we hope that we will be able to understand why infertile women are at higher risk of cancer; for example, by identifying a common, underlying mechanism that can cause cancer and infertility."

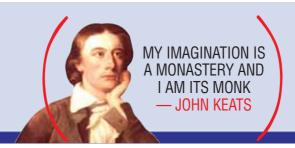
Researchers analysed data from 64,345 women who had been identified as being infertile by diagnosis, testing or treatment between 2003 and 2016. The researchers compared them with more than 3.1 million women who were not infertile and who were seeking routine gynaecological care.

During the follow-up period

nosed among the infertile women and 53,116 among the control group of women who were not infertile. Breast cancer was the most common cancer in both groups. Study senior author Associate Professor Michael Eisenberg, of Stanford University School of Medicine, said: "Although the absolute increase in cancer risk among infertile women was small, this increase was seen in only a short period of four years of follow-up. "We need to carry out further research with longer follow-up to determine what factors may be influencing the long-term risk of cancer for infertile women." The Daily Telegraph

there were 1,310 cancers diag-





OF CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

This book uses a combination of theory and real-life case studies of marketers to analyse the state of businesses in the midst of climate change and technological disruption. It shows how some have managed to find the balance, says GAUTAM MUKHERJEE

his book, Balance, seeks to tell the story via a tour of the main markers. There are externalities and their implications" meaning the impact of a given commercial or industrial activity on others. The "Social return on investment (SROI)" is a formula for measuring the social profits against the investments made, controversial as it may be in terms of accounting principles adopted. But it does set up an index for comparing scores. One of the most interesting explorations in this book are on the "frictionless" uses of Blockchain technology. It could, say the authors, "support green supply chains, measuring water use, emissions management," and can support the "sharing economy". Cryptocurrencies are already legal tender in Japan.

There is an urgent need to understand climate change better. The World Economic Forum projects that by 2020, which is almost upon us, "about \$5.7 trillion will need to be invested annually in green infrastructure". This is definitely a tall order, given that most of the investment has to come from a concept called "climate financing," a kind of World Bank for climate change mitigation by adopting projects and programmes. Again, there are controversies of what kind of project qualifies. There is a need for instruments like "Green bonds" and "Catastrophe bonds" and qualification on the basis of "impact testing". The whole caboodle is commonsensically very difficult to get started and flourishing, as the tangible short term returns are negligible. However, the importance of doing something,

almost anything, cannot be denied.

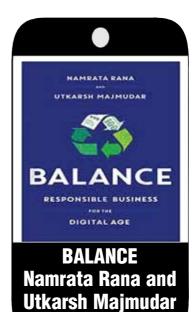
There are UN developed Sustainable Development goals (SDGs), some 17 in number, and extremely macroeconomic in scale. They list, for example, "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and pro-



ductive employment, and decent work for all" and "End poverty in all its forms everywhere". And then there is corporate social responsibility to do things in an ecologically friendly way that makes for sustainability. Broad Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) norms are increasingly mandatory, but is this enforced around the country and the globe? India only mandates 2 per cent of turnover spend on CSR, but a survey of its top 166 companies in 2016-17 clocked just 1.88 per cent. And about 45 per cent of this was used on health and education, while the list includes poverty alleviation, water, energy, capacity building and many other heads. Still, the CSR spend has risen from about 1 per cent before it was made mandatory. Of course, this CSR approach is

going to stay largely cosmetic, given the size of the problem and its overhang that threatens to engulf us all. However, to get the largest economies to take on extra here-and-now costs, which are far from negligible, to fuel a cleaner, more sustainable future, is a difficult task.

Much of the clean-up therefore has to be undertaken at Government expense, as in the sewage processing



stations and other effluent management infrastructure being developed in the Namami Gange projects. However, these are showing good results in short order, after years of trying to tell municipalities and industry to do something about it failed. The book lays out case studies taken from a number of companies in different fields such as Kirloskar Motors, Toyota Motor Corporation, Yes Bank, Ambuja Cement, ITC and Dr Reddy's.

Westland, **₹799**

It reviews the challenges faced by various and diverse sectors such as cement, automobiles, oil and gas, telecom, mining and metals, banking and financial services, information technology, towards not only controlling and sanitising effluents and emissions, but even toxic electronic waste. Laws play their part, as does enforcement or lack of it. India has quite a few laws in this

space — Waste Management Laws, Environmental Protection Acts, Bio-Medical Waste Management and Handling Rules, Batteries Management and Handling Rules, Hazardous Wastes Management and Handling and Transboundary Movement Rules, Plastic Waste Management and Handling Rules, E-waste Management and Handling Rules, Solid Waste Management Rules.

Data is another great frontier that has got its European law even as India is starting to enact its own. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is applied in the EU and the European Economic Area (EEA) towards data protection and privacy for individuals. How privacy of personal data impacts sustainable development, however, is unclear. The authors of this book are Namrata Rana, who works in the area of strategy and brands at Futurescape and is visiting faculty at IIM Udaipur, and Utkarsh Majmudar, who teaches at leading business schools and writes on sustainability and business responsibility. This volume covers a lot of ground, but the authors are probably most comfortable with the growth and improvement matrix for a responsible corporate sector, where both authors display the confidence of domain knowledge.

Many of the global initiatives described, however, have failed to touch many lives, even as they have underscored that efforts are indeed underway. But will the answer to a cleaner world eventually come from inexpensive new technology adoption that renders older, polluting ways obsolete, and too expensive to carry on with? The history of the industrial revolution, now apparently in its 4th wave, as well as the socio-political advancements we have seen over the last century, seem to suggest as much.

The reviewer is an entrepreneur and former corporate executive

NEW ARRIVALS

THE CONFIDENCE PROJECT Dr Rob Yeung John Murray Learning, ₹399



Follow the practical advice within the book and undertake *The Confidence Project*; a complete plan for helping you make better decisions and take action in order to fulfill your true potential. Often the only thing separating successful people from the crowd is the self-belief they have running around inside their heads and their innate self-confidence. This book isn't about promoting unrealistic positive thinking — it will help you understand the complex psychology of your beliefs.



HOW TO GET TO GREAT IDEAS Dave Birss Nicholas Brealey Publishing, ₹399

The highly practical lessons in *How to Get to Great Ideas* are based on neuroscience, psychology and sociology. Written by former advertising creative director Dave Birss, this book offers a brilliant new system for conceiving original and valuable ideas. It looks at how to frame a problem, how to push your thinking, how to sell the idea, how to build support for it and how to inspire others to have great ideas. It proves that any organisation— and any individual— can create a fertile environment for ideas.

OUR START-UP AFFAIR Sheila Kumar Speaking Tiger, ₹299

A romance about modern

lives as lived in India's tech capital and city of youth,
Bangalore. He opened his mouth to say something, then seemed to think the better of it. Their eyes met in the rear-view mirror and Aditi raised her well-shaped eyebrows in query. 'I prefer start-ups,' he said flatly. Aditi Pillai is an entrepreneur—part-owner of the Snack Team, a food start-up. Sitting in her shared cab one day, in Bangalore's gridlocked traffic, she suddenly notices that her cab driver is extraordinarily good-looking. Turns out he is Aditya Shenoy, owner of cab aggregator start-up Caboyea.

Tales of love and loss in Newfoundland

In this novel, each character is looking for his/her own place in the world — whether it is a house of their own, their identity, a place in the school peer group, or a permanent place in the arms of a lover, writes SANYA DANG

hort stories are sometimes more difficult to write than novels. They also sometimes showcase a writer's talent more visibly. That is the case with this particular collection — the stories not only have a deep impact on the reader but also ring true with a profundity that is impressive. The cover design is very interesting - simple yet layered, the many shades of brown speak about the different and multifarious experiences of Indian immigrants in USA. The blocks of colour remind us of wall paint shade cards with their funny specific names — burnt sienna, brick rust, dark tan. Some of them are like Crayola shades — peach , yellow, brown, black. On these colorful boxes are the words that have a strange, universal appeal — If You See Me Don't Say Hi.

This anthology contains stories on many different themes — on deception, class discrepancy, society's negative effects on the psyche, arranged marriages, mixed marriages, unrequited love, childhood crushes, same sex relationships, adultery and the power of love. Neel Patel tries to go beyond the obvious, he doesn't write of Indians in the typical way — his characters rise from being mere caricatures and stereotypes to having a unique identity and even more unique problems. His characters are Indians, but not the 'super achievers' or the "good kids". They have different expectations from themselves even though their parents' pressures weigh heavily on their psyches. They are modern cosmopolitan individuals with a liberated sexual identity, with a hitherto unseen problem of alcohol or drug abuse. This hidden side is a revelation — Indians can't always be reduced to people who get good grades and win Spell Bees. The characters deal with the pain of not fitting in, the feeling of not belonging to any peer group or community, the sense of alienation that comes with growing up in a country where they do not have their roots.

There are 11 stories in all — 11 narrators with as many similarities as differences, intricate, realistic modern plots with abrupt and bow tie endings. It is an incredible debut



collection, thoughtful and poignant with unique stories and perceptive people. The title of the stories refer to Indian gods, monuments and popular American slangs.

The power of perspective is very significant here as seen in the last two stories. They are the same stories with the same characters but from two different perspectives. This is a very new way of dealing with 'perspective' and 'voice'. The stories are full of many motifs and symbols that define the Indian immigrant experience in America — sacrifice, success, expectation, identity, sense of belonging. Each story contains wonderful insights into human nature, culture and relationships, especially in the Indian context. Some stories are believable, some leave a bad taste in the mouth

This book takes you on a journey where you not only realise the power of perspective but also the power of community. The power of love is not If You See Me,

Don't Say

Hi Neel Patel

Penguin,

given a very high status. Love not only tests endurance, tolerance but is also tested time and again by external factors — society, norms, personal circumstances. Lust is a very important part of the narratives, sometimes given as much importance as love.

The Epigraph is a quotation from The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri and the author acknowledges his debt to her in terms of characterisation. He says that her books showed him for the first time how Indian immigrants are like and how they are depicted. He dedicates this book to his parents. The over-arching theme in many of the stories is the power of society and how community gossip can break bonds, sour relationships and ruin lives in the process. This particular trope is known in the Indian context as — "log kya kaheinge?" We are all familiar with this hiding of face and showing off at community gatherings, suffering the taunts and being party to the cruel rumours that float.

The writing style is classic, fresh, beautiful, languid, fluid, visual, sensuous and poetic. The language is simple enough for anyone to understand yet the simplicity does not take away from the ornate beauty of the overall effect it creates. This is a novel where each of the characters is looking for his/her own place in the world — whether it is a house of their own, their identity, a place in the school peer group or a permanent place in the arms of the man/woman they love.

Each story has its own irresistible trait — some have a very interesting plot, some end in a way that make us ponder about the fate of those characters, some deal with homosexual relationships and some have characters we have never met before. Women characters here have been given a lot of agency where they are calling the shots, managing their lives well yet we see women characters trapped in loveless marriages, forced into arranged marriages and also dealing with husbands committing adultery.

Even though many characters are aware of their behaviour, what they should or should not do, what is 'expected' of them, yet there are many who are rebellious, troubled and indulge in things that any parent would disapprove of. Thus, Patel does not stick to a few good people, he shows us a range of characters who break hearts, try to come out of the closet, care a damn about their parents, are selfish to the core, embarrassed about 'everything Indian' and there are others who listen to their parents, try to fulfill their expectations, achieve success by getting into Ivy Leagues and marrying within their community.

Patel doesn't put his characters on pedestal, he shows their weaknesses, failures, inner thoughts and emotions, however flawed and tragic they maybe. His characters face moments of truth and need to make split second decisions with significant consequences. Their dilemmas make the story deep and profound. In the words of Emily Smith Gilbert, "These characters struggle to break away from the confines of their parents' home and stifling suburbs."



China IP theft: A Herculean task for Trump

The trade war between the US and China is taking an ugly turn. At the centre of the trade war between the two economy giants is the stealing of massive Intellectual Property (IP) of the US enterprises by the Chinese business firms and other dubious entities.

It is to be noted that irrespective of the current standoff between Washington and Beijing — starting from the Huawei to an incessant trade war to blocking of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist at the UN — UŠ President Trump needs to be careful about the immediate consequences of falling apart with the \$14trn worth Chinese economy at the moment.

Amid claims and counterclaims by both Washington and Beijing, it is worth noting how both are veering around the IP issue and defending one another. For Trump Administration, making China listen and take necessary steps to curb sheer violations of IP rights that amounts to some good billions each year is the aim for now.

For President Trump, what is good for him is that a large business and political community in his country agree that China can spoil the global trading system in the long run. China's steroidal State capitalist regime poses a serious threat to the current international business system.

But then, China strongly refuses such claims constantly made by both the American Chamber of Commerce in China (AmCham China) and



In this Feb 15, 2019, file photo, Chinese Vice Premier Liu He talks with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, while they line up for a group photo at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing

China (European Chamber). Last year, China's Vice-Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen publicly declared that accusations that China steals IPRs and forces technology transfers are sheer fabrications out of nothing and groundless.

The Xi regime has outrightly rejected US and EU alle-

Indeed, the Chinese Government says that it is keen on protecting IPRs and has already taken serious steps in doing so. Ironically, the AmCham China and European the European Union of Chamber in their China busi-Chamber of Commerce in ness climate survey, ranked

the IPR issue as the 12th and the 11th last year. But this has given fresh ammunition to Beijing to reclaim that if China had forced technological transfers, failed in IPR protection or even stolen IPRs, the concerned enterprises would have complained directly.

It has been constantly aired by the Government that in terms of IPR legislation, China has enacted adequate laws and regulations which are truly compliant to WTO directives.

Meanwhile China has set up three IPR courts in Shanghai, Beijing and in Guanghou and special judicial

branches in more than 15 cities to handle cross regional IP cases. This all is fine on official records. What makes foreign enterprises fighting IP issues see it is as a herculean task is to fight China's opaque judicial system. And moreover, all these organs are party-controlled and cases are always bias either towards the locals or state owned enterprises.

Now the question is how the Trump Administration will wade through this crisis and find a way out wherein; first, the interests of American enterprises are served, and second, most of the European and

other corporate houses are well protected from the clutches of Xi's new-found market socialism. Besides, as the presidential election fever is about to grip America, the President must bring an end to the current trade war between the US and China. Again, his team demands a robust public relations campaign to respond to the Opposition and special interest groups.

Many in the US argue that President Trump has done right to unsettle the global behemoth China. The 2016 Report of the US Trade Representative (USTR) to

Compliance rightly noted: "Many of the problems that arise in the US-China trade and investment relationship can be traced to the Chinese Government's interventionist policies and practices and the large role of state-owned enterprises and other national champions in China's economy, which continue to generate significant trade distortions that inevitably give rise to trade frictions. The United States notes that China's current leadership, in place since 2013, has highlighted the need to pursue further economic reforms in China, but to date not much progress is evident."

Contrary to what Xi proclaimed, he is turning all his efforts to mount a nationalist fervour so as to drum up continued support for strengthening the Communist Party at home and expansion of China's shady deals abroad.

It must be noted here that when China joined the WTO in 2001, it clearly pledged not to demand technology transfer from the MNCs coming to operate inside as one of the prime conditions for market entry. Global experts say it is really difficult to make a case against China because it has generally observed by the letter of its WTO commitments.

In reality, what makes running business tricky in China is the indispensable role of the local partners that play on the global corporate houses. It has been noticed that from car manufacturing to cloud computing, only with the aid of the local agents and partners, the MNCs can make their business

When it comes to the project implementation level, the Chinese regulators demand methods of product testing and approval procedures which results in compelling the foreign companies to divulge their IP secrets in the process. Various global trade experts say the unstated goal behind the entire process is to help the Chinese companies getting easy access to foreign technol-

But then the Beijing smartly replies quite often that these business regulations and verification procedures are completely voluntary and are purey commercial agreements made between concerned MNCs and the Chinese Government.

Another serious problem that directly hits the foreign MNCs in China is the issue of "quojin mintui" (the State advances, the private sector retreats), particularly under the Xi Government. The Government and its banks systematically funnels cheap capitals towards these state owned firms at times at the cost of the advancement of the big corporate houses.

Simply speaking, economic reforms if at all carried out by Xi, it would be a win-win situation for both China and America. However, looking at China's poor global compliance records so far, Trump requires more manoeuvring tactics to encounter a recalcitrant Beijing administration either through tariffs or with the help of arbitration to save the treasured IPs of global giants.

(The writer is an expert on internatinal affairs)

China's opaque judicial system makes foreign enterprises' fight to secure IP rights a formidable task. Looking at China's poor global trade compliance records so far, President Trump requires more manoeuvring tactics to encounter a recalcitrant Beijing administration either through tariffs or with the help of arbitration to save the treasured IPs of global giants



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

How not to do Defence forces a great disservice

The root cause of all problems with our 'fauj eclipse' has been that a former Prime Minister allowed the Ministry of Defence to be infested with non-military Government servants



throughout the history of India's democracy more than the department of Agriculture or the department of Health, thanks to all the controversial occurrences often orchestrated by politicians and their side-

Even as there can be no two opinions about the courage, valour and dedication of our men and women in uniform, the cause for all those acrimonious debates and sad tales of supposedly rampant cobwebs in the corridors of power can, on a dispassionate analysis, be pinpointed to the colossal damage caused by a deliberate machination of a dictatorial lady Prime Minister through tinkering of administrative structures.

The fallout is the fallen morale of upright, honest rank & file in the defence forces.

Let me begin with an episode which drew my attention — as a practising lawyer to this wing of Government.

To cut a long story short, I accepted the brief of the then topmost tank-expert of our county, a Brigadier and his boss, then Director of a defence research establishment, who were both thrust with orders of "compulsory retirement".

Apparently because they were not participating in a huge continuing act of misdemeanour: about ₹115 crore was spent to develop the prototype of a main battle tank over 15 long years. The honest duo protested and they were

unceremoniously removed. I can place on record as a matter of pride that with high malarial fever running, I was able to argue for a record num-

The department of Defence ber of hours in then AP High Court and have them both Court and have them both reinstated (with structures passed against then defence secretary).

If the MBT Arjun prototype scam is not as much publicised as the Bofors Gun scam or later day controversies of AgustaWestland Helicopters purchase and the ongoing storm over the Rafale aircraft purchase order, there is but a common thread which weaves beyond the tenure of a certain elected Government or any particular acquisition from a certain jurisdiction.

That there are ghosts hidden in the corridors of power leading to the seeming "selfdestruction" of outdated ships, fighter jets and other such most-expensive assets inducted into our armed forces is a foregone conclusion.

A moment of pride for Indian soldiers has in recent centuries been their incomparable valour during the First World War with all of them fighting shoulder-to-shoulder, regardless of religious faith ey subscribed to!

Wickedness had its say and colonial rulers began to play the cartridge-trick (beef & pork bullets) to eliminate Brahmin castes from Army and divide the rank and file along the religious and caste

This "divide-and-rule" game was the one that was later on aped by a desperate head of State who wished to cling on to seat of power. As a muchpraised 'empress of India'!

Here began the murky

As an incisive study reveals, even though the Ministry of Defence is into long-term planning, a former



A textile merchant displays a saree printed with a picture of IAF Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman at his shop in Surat on March 2

lady PM dismantled the organisational structure of Ministry of Defence by flooding civilian staff under control of IAS offi-

The root cause of all problems with our "fauj eclipse" has been that the Ministry of Defence has been infested with Government servants (the IAS category) who are the rootcause of all acts of corruption springing out of defence deals - ranging from kickbacks in imports to running of dedicated public sector units.

From the embezzlement of PSU-assets to deliberately ensuring that former military Government.

officers are not involved in matters of the military, and policy-making to the exercise of financial powers, the nexus is not a simple wedlock of babudom and netalog but a more deadly, vicious and deeplyentrenched witchcraft stretching over four plus decades of foul play by a "IAS cartel and the dynasty-owned political

The unholy nexus has

caused the downslide in spirit and image of the most pristine department of the country's

Pentagon of the USA does long-term military planning and is staffed by more than 95 per cent military uniformed staff (and not by civil-servants as in India). Similar is the case with Russia, Israel, France, China and the UK.

This is a most noteworthy point that any contender for being a "Global Economic superpower" has to firstly com-

mand (emphasis placed on word "command") respect as a "military-superpower" in today's age and time.

To make matters worse, salaries of the military personnel, housing facilities, pensions have been reduced under supervision of the IAS — masters by dynasty. Thereby the IAS retains about 99 per cent of the financial powers in arms production, procurement to MES, infra-development or the maintenance of militaryareas with complete "loot".

years so as to keep the forces young. These experienced, trained soldiers should be placed in the respective State Police forces (of their native, home State), on higher standards with basic police retraining being imparted. Such a move would help ensure prevalence of an honest police force, countrywide! Such a pragmatic move

All soldiers in the military

are retired at age of 35-38

would ensure that they get pension from age-60 years, thereby also saving taxpayers' hard-earned money on early pensions. For instance, appoint or depute the IAS-IPS-IFS officers only if and after they put in a mandatory seven-years' military service.

Moreover, five years of field posting in such a prescribed seven-year period of military-service would endow a qualitatively refined bureaucratic structure.

And so, the urgent dismantling of UPSC conducted recruitment measures as a springboard to elite military services is an equally vital element in the creation of a strong and robust military services cadre. National security cannot be allowed to be compromised

at any cost. Yet another startling question India must ponder over is 'Where are all those bullets being manufactured by the lakhs everyday at our ammu-

nition factories going?' Why are we importing arms and ammunition when we possess the best of facilities created by the British colonialists and many of which possess idle capacities?

Also, when India rules and drives the software-cum-hardware technological capabilities of the western world in several frontiers and applications, what is the need for continued imports of such "advanced" weaponry systems at huge costs to the exchequer that otherwise may be better utilised?

The imports often are generations old, outdated ones by the time they are inducted in

the Indian territory. Not to miss the trump-card in favour of the case to oust devilry of "scams in defence sector". It is an universal truth that when a certain product is manufactured in one corner of the globe and is imported into another country for use, the purchase is made through a middleman or a marketing representative (who taps the most powerful contacts of buyer-land to close the trans-

action). Under such a trading situation, those who cry "wolf" seated in Opposition-ranks or are wild with rage for not receiving a "share-in-the-pie" would be doing greater disservice to their homeland than the recipients of the "bribes" or 'commissions".

So long as we let the media ecosystem to bypass the niceties of a set constitutional system to govern the democracy, the largely illiterate society would continue to dishonour its heroic ones while prostrating before the evil flock.

I hope this cry of the unsung patriotic defence forces would reach the ears of the Government of the day who certainly can bring in these evolutionary changes to restore the pride and strength of Defence Realm of India! Jai Hind!

(The writer is an eminent

jurist, based in New Delhi)

New Delhi, March 17, 2019

BJP needs strong alliances to fight robust Opposition

gupshup

HARI SHANKAR VYAS



Some BJP leaders claim

that after the Pulwama

and Balakot incidents,

the party is certain of

victory, although the

Opposition is trying to

ensure that their path

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This is thought to be

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smaller parties, in the

BJP's "surrender" before

hope of forging alliances

with confidence in the run-up to elections. Some BJP leaders claim that after the Pulwama and Balakot incidents, the party is certain of victory, although the Opposition is trying to ensure that their path is not without hurdles. This is thought to be the reason behind the BJP's "surrender" before smaller parties, in the hope of forging alliances. A case in point being Jharkhand, where the BJP has left one Lok Sabha seat for its partner, the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU). Not long ago, it was being said that the BJP was not in the mood to kneel before the AJSU, and Amit Shah had asked its leaders to either merge into the BJP or fight alone. But in no time, the BJP changed tack and left the Giridih seat for the AJSU. This indicates that the BJP needs strong alliances to fight against a strong Opposition. That is why the BJP has gone into

rime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah are brimming

agazine the pioneer de la contraction de la cont

alliances with its old partners in States like Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Punjab - and compromised everywhere. In Maharashtra, the BJP changed its old formula and agreed to fight on 25 seats instead of 26. Before this, the BJP used to fight on 26 seats, and the Shiv Sena got 22 seats. But this time, the Sena has managed to get 23 seats in its kitty. In the same manner, the JDU — which has only two MPs — has got 17 seats. In Tamil Nadu, the BJP had to make do with only five seats, while in UP, it has tried its best to continue with both partners.

The CASE OF SECOND SEAT The preferred seats of Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi have been

revealed. The Congress recently released a list of 15 candidates in UP, and Rahul is set to fight from his conventional seats, Amethi. In the recently held meeting of the BJP's Parliamentary Board, Modi's candidature was also fixed. He will fight from Varanasi again. It is being said that both leaders will fight from at least one more seat. The last time too, Modi had fought from two seats — Varanasi and Vadodara, leaving the latter later. There is speculation that he will contest from Vadodara this time around, but seats from other States are also on the discussion table. Puri seat is the most talked about for PM Modi. The BJP leaders feel that if Modi fights from Odisha, the party will benefit in the Lok Sabha as well as Assembly Elections. Some time igo, it was being said that Modi might

ulation is now over.

On the other hand, Rahul has won from Amethi thrice and not fought from any other State. This time, there is speculation that he will contest from a seat from a Southern State. His mother and grandmother have both fought from South India. The Congress leaders feel that if Rahul fights from some other State also, the party prospects could be better. Though it is also true that the Congress is very weak in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, but in the other three States, it has forged strong alliances. That is why the party is also mulling over a State either from North or West India for Rahul to contest

MULAYAM KIN IN THE RACE

This time, some more members of Mulayam Singh Yadav's family will fight the Lok Sabha Elections. In 2004, the number was four: Mulayam had fought from two seats, Mainpuri and Azamgarh. Apart from him, Mulayam's daughter-in-law Dimple Yadav had fought from Kannauj, nephew Dharmendra Yadav from Budaun, and grandson Akshay Yadav from Firozabad. The SP was able to win only these five seats. Later, Mulayam had left the fight from Patna Sahib too, but that spec- Mainpuri seat and his grandson Tej

Pratap Yadav fought from there and won. Then Tej Pratap became the son-in-law of Lalu Yadav. This time, Mulayam will fight from only Mainpuri seat. So, Akhilesh Yadav will have to find another seat for Tej Pratap. The SP has released a list of nine candidates, which has four members of the Mulayam family. Mulayam will fight from Mainpuri, Dimple from Kannauj, Dharmendra from Budaun, and Akshay from Firozabad. Earlier, Akhilesh had said that his wife would not fight this time and he would contest from Kannauj. But, at last, he has roped in his wife. It is being said that he might fight the Lok Sabha Elections. Apart from the seats, which are said to be the den of the Yadav family, two other seats are also Yadav dominated and the SP has a strong vote base there. That is why there is speculation that Akhilesh might either fight from Azamgarh or Sambhal. These two seats might go to Akhilesh and Tej Pratap. Shivpal Yadav has formed a separate party and is gearing up to fight elections. He could be the seventh member of Mulayam's family to contest this time.

FIGHT OVER VOTE BANK

any top leaders of the country are Mtrying to break the ice between the

BSP and Congress. Even the SP's supremo, Akhilesh, wants to take the Congress on board. The Opposition leaders are considering it necessary not only for UP but for the entire country. But Mayawati is not paying heed to anyone and has announced solo fight in many States. In Haryana, she has tied up with Raj Kumar Saini's party, the LSP. She is gearing up to go alone in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Punjab, Karnataka, and Delhi. It is no secret that Mayawati is miffed with the Congress. She feels that Rahul's party is trying to usurp its vote bank. She is upset with the Congress politics in UP.

In fact, Dalit, Brahmins, and Muslims have been the conventional vote bank of the Congress. The BSP has also made these three vote banks its own at different times. Now, when the Congress has roped in Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Mayawati feels that its vote bank could shrink. Recently, Priyanka managed to persuade Dalit leader, Savitribai Phule, to join the Congress, and this has made Mayawati angrier.

CONG ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

Δ few months ago, the Congress formed a committee to talk with probable partners and finalise alliances.

AK Antony was the chairman of this committee. Apart from Antony, Ahmed Patel, Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Ashok Gehlot were also a part of the committee. Now, when the Lok Sabha Elections have been announced, questions are being raised over what the committee has done. Did the committee and its members talk to any of the alliance partners in any State? Did they try to search for new partners? When all decisions regarding alliances are being taken either by the General Secretary or Rahul, then what was the need of this committee? Rahul is talking with all parties regarding alliances. Many Congress leaders are not happy with this strategy and say that all negotiations must be done by other leaders and Rahul should come into the picture only in the final stage. However, Rahul has his own style of working. He wants to hold alliance talks, like he did with Tejashwi Yadav in Bihar.

In Maharashtra also, Rahul held discussions with the NCP leader Sharad Pawar. They had four rounds of talks over the seat-sharing formula. Rahul also talked to Sitaram Yechury over seat sharing. Where Rahul didn't talk directly, his general secretaries stepped in. Even then, the AK Antony-led alliance committee was not roped in at any stage.

US won't accept 'incremental' disarmament

The United States envoy to Pyongyang has stressed that Washington will not

tephen Biegun, the United States envoy to Pyongyang, has stressed that Washington will not settle for the incremental disarmament of North Korea and that it is aiming for complete denuclearisation by the end of US President Donald Trump's first term in 2021. "We are not going to do denuclearisation incrementally," Biegun told a conference in Washington hosted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in his first comments since the failed summit between Trump and Kim Jong-un in Hanoi, Vietnam, last month. Biegun insisted that sanctions would not be lifted unless Pyongyang completely eliminated its nuclear weapons, stressing that it was Washington's goal to achieve this within the current administration.

'We stand by the expectation that if we fully mobilise our resources ... we could align ourselves in a manner sufficient to achieve this in something approaching a year," he said. His statements marked a reversal from previous pronouncements emerging from the White House, with analysts warning that the hardening of the US position is an unrealistic strategy that will end in further stalemate with Pyongyang. Ahead of the Hanoi meeting, Trump had declared that he had "no pressing schedule" on denuclearisation. "As long as there is no [missile] testing,

I'm in no rush," he said. Biegun, meanwhile, had indicated in a speech at Stanford University at the end of January that the US was willing to take a more stage by stage approach to

settle for the incremental disarmament of North Korea, writes NICOLA SMITH the issue — a policy favoured by

Pyongyang.
"We have communicated to our North Korean counterparts that we are prepared to pursue simultaneously and in parallel — all of the commitments our two leaders made in their joint statement at Singapore last summer," he said, referring to the two leaders' first meeting in the city-state last June. Their second summit in Hanoi in late February ended abruptly without any kind of deal.

Trump said that Kim had insisted all economic sanctions were lifted before he agreed to give up his entire nuclear arsenal — a position he could not accept. "Sometimes you just have to walk," he said. However, Ri Yong Ho, the North Korean foreign minister, countered that Pyongyang had only requested "partial relief" on sanctions enacted between 2016 and 2017, and had offered a "realistic proposal" to dismantle uranium enrichment facilities in return.

The talks ended on friendly terms, but North Korea has since shown frustration at the collapse of the summit, with the state-run Rodong Sinmun commenting that the public "are feeling regretful, blaming the US for the summit that ended without an agreement."

In a more alarming development, experts at California's Middlebury Institute of



International Studies, said last week that satellite images suggested that Pyongyang could be preparing to launch a missile or space rocket. In response to questions about what the signs of activity at rocket launch facilities meant, Biegun replied: "The short answer is: We don't know." He added that "the door remains open" for further negotiations. "Nothing can be agreed until everything's agreed," he said. Nuclear and North Korea analysts expressed scepticism about his statements.

"Biegun: "Nothing can be agreed until everything can be agreed." — a losing strategy," tweeted Jenny Town, a Korea specialist at the Stimson Centre, a Washington think tank. Others commented that the insistence on full denuclearisation before the lifting of any sanctions would create a bottleneck with Pyongyang, which has consistently argued for reciprocal concessions.

"If we don't move off this position, we have nowhere to go," Vipin Narang, an MIT nuclear expert, told Vox. "There's no zone of agreement if we insist on everything — I mean everything, complete surrender — up front.

Let's review and go back to last month when US President Donald Trump and Kim Jongun's summit in Vietnam was abruptly cut short as the pair failed to reach an agreement over

how North Korea should denuclearise. A working lunch and signing ceremony pre-announced by the White House was can-celled at the last minute as talks in Hanoi hit a sudden impasse

around midday.

Trump said that Kim had insisted all economic sanctions against North Korea were lifted while not agreeing to give up his entire nuclear arsenal — a position he could not accept. "Sometimes you just have to walk," Trump said at a press conference, adding that he did not want to sign a bad deal. No new summit date was agreed.

The US president insisted that progress had been made and that he and Kim shook hands and remained on good terms. He said Kim had agreed not to restart nuclear and missile tests and the US would not restart military exercises in South Korea — a continuation of the status quo.

However, the failure to make progress disappointed allies. A spokesman for South Korea's president called it "regrettable". Trump also drew criticism at home by admitting he took Kim "at his word" when the dictator said he had not known of the imprisonment and torture of Otto Warmbier, which led to the US student's death in 2017. "I don't believe he knew about it. He felt very badly about it," Trump said. "I did speak to him. He knew about it, but he knew

The comments, which recalled the president's support for authoritarian regimes in Saudi Arabia and Russia, were rebuked across the aisle. Adam Schiff, the Democratic Chair of the House Intelligence Committee, described the remarks as "detestable", while Republican Senator Rob Portman said "we should never let North Korea off the hook" for Warmbier's death.

The first sign that the talks had gone wrong came as reporters waited for the leaders and their teams to arrive for lunch in an elegant dining room at the French colonial-era Metropole hotel hosting the summit. Name cards had already been laid out on eight empty chairs and bouquets of flowers placed on the pristine white tablecloth in anticipation of the dishes to come.

The lunch was first delayed then suddenly cancelled. Outside the Metropole, Kim's stern league of bodyguards sprang into action, jumping into moving cars as his cavalcade roared off into Hanoi.

Confusion reigned for 20 minutes until a statement from Sarah Sanders, the White House spokesperson. President Trump and Kim Jong-un had enjoyed "very good and constructive meetings" while discussing "various ways to advance denuclearisation and economic driven concepts," she said. However, "no agreement was reached at this time." The statement was a dramatic twist to a morning that had begun in a promising way.

The Daily Telegraph

New Delhi, March 17, 2019



As new MJ sex abuse claims emerge, is the music industry — hotbed of scandal and debauchery — guilty of turning a blind eye? LESLEY-ANN JONES finds out

have slept in a bed with many children," the King of Pop admitted in the 2003 documentary, Living with Michael Jackson. "It's not sexual, we're going to sleep. I tuck them in... It's very charming, it's very sweet." Who among us didn't hear alarm bells? Who never wondered, 'where were the parents?' Who didn't think to themselves, what kind of family surrenders its infants into the care of an adult stranger; a globally-acknowledged eccentric, if not downright weirdo at that - a superstar known for cavorting with chimps and sleeping in hyperbaric oxygen chambers?

During his lifetime, Jackson was never found guilty of child abuse, instead settling a string of charges against him out of court for considerable fortunes. Yet Leaving Neverland, a new two-part documentary which aired recently, makes allegations so visceral in nature, they are impossible to ignore.

British filmmaker Dan Reed presents two grown men in his programme — James Safechuck and Wade Robson — who accuse Jackson of having molested them when they were children. Both tried but failed to have him convicted through the courts: Robson was five years old when he met Jackson after winning a competition to dance on stage with him. In 1993 and again in 2005, he denied that anything untoward had happened between them.

But in 2013, four years after Jackson's death, he declared that the singer had both brainwashed and subjected him to seven years of abuse from the age of seven, claimed to have suffered a nervous breakdown, explaining his perspective on events had changed after having become the father of a son himself. Safechuck, 40, met Michael in the 1980s after being cast in a Pepsi advert aged 10, before joining the star on his 1988 BAD tour. In 2014, he filed a lawsuit accusing Jackson of having abused him hundreds of times between 1988 and 1992, with the additional disturbing detail that Jackson staged a freak mock wedding between them only surfacing later on.

Though similar stories were levelled against Jackson when he was alive, these latest claims, made in an era keen to make amends for decades in which bad

behaviour went unpunished, have taken on a seemingly more powerful quality, marking a turning point for both our impressions of the man and the industry that brought him staggering fame, too. I cannot speak to their accusations, but knew Jackson for a time in 1988, having joined the Rome leg of his BAD Tour, where his show at the Flaminio Stadium was billed as the greatest rock spectacle the Eternal City had ever seen.

Having been close to and at one point shared accommodation with his sister La Toya in New York, and known libidinous Jermaine and industrious Janet, then forging her own pop career, I had heard a great deal about their bleak, fun-starved upbringing in Gary, Indiana, and about the abuse they had been subjected to by their steel-worker father, Joe. Michael had been singing and dancing for a living before he'd even started school; his Peter Pansense, then, of being unable to part with the childhood he ought to have left behind, seemed almost inevitable.

And so I would find the biggest artist on the planet one day, down by the Trevi Fountain, a familiar face peeping out through cascading curls, a false moustache and the raised collar of an old raincoat dropping dimes into the gush. He recognised me straight away

We were not strangers: I'd had dinner with him and La Toya in New York; visited his mother Katherine at the family abode in Encino, attended a barbecue at the home of Barry White, at which Jackson was a fellow guest, and had even visited the Neverland ranch. Yet the two of us had not conversed at length — he never seemed that confident in adult company. Under-educated and insecure, he seemed happier among children. When he met my then threeyear-old daughter, Mia, he seemed enchanted by her, calling her "Snow White". His incognito day out in Rome was a reaction to a life spent having "been everywhere [but] see[ing] nowhere. I just wanted to see something for myself, on my own, just one time". And so this was his chance, before the two of us went off for an ice-cream.

That night, he wowed us on stage, but failed to attend his own party afterwards. I never saw him or his family again. Twenty one years later in 2009, I was looking forward to catching up with him when he rented the home of a friend, ahead of his ill-fated 50-night 02 Arena residency, the 'This is It' tour. Somehow, I had a feeling he'd never make it. At the time of Jackson's death, he was worth reportedly worth \$500m, and remains the third-best selling artist of all time, behind Elvis Presley – who, while in his early twenties, turned his attentions to a then 14-year-old Priscilla, who would later become his wife. Having worked as a music journalist for three decades and published eight books on some of its biggest stars, I know only too well that minimal digging is required when it comes to the questionable behaviour of many of the music's luminaries: Bill Wyman, 52, married Mandy Smith, then 18, who he had been grooming since she was 13 — the same age at which Myra Gale Brown married her cousin, Jerry Lee Lewis, in 1957

Consider the Allman Brothers Band, too, whose tour manager used to provide a chart detailing the legal age of consent in every US State: He would make copies for everyone in the band and hand them out at the start of each tour to avoid their getting into trouble. Then there's Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page, claimed to have had a relationship with 14-year-old Lori Maddox, or more recently the indiscretions of R&B singer R Kelly, first accused of sex abuse during the Nineties — allegations that only brought him to a criminal court last month.

Different times, different morals, so the mentality goes. As one household-name rockstar friend admitted to me recently, "Nobody was asking for birth certificates. We would all have got done, down at Top of the Pops." Certainly, the culture seemed to almost celebrate the idea of illicit relations. appearing to favour the pairing of the randy rocker and underage schoolgirl as the most desirable state of affairs -'Brown Shoes Don't Make It' by Frank Zappa and The Mothers of Invention in 1967 was described as 'Zappa's first masterpiece', in which he fantasised about sex with a 13-year-old; Aerosmith's 'Jailbait' made its intentions clear; Depeche

Mode's 'A Question of

Time' features the unequivocal line Well now you're only 15 and you look good, I'll take you under my wing.' And what were ABBA thinking with 'Does Your Mother Know?, or Police's 'Don't Stand So Close to me' or 'Young Girl' by Gary Puckett and the Union Gap? The list is endless.

For all this time, the music industry has remained immune on the grounds it is a different country — a final frontier, the last place where truly, anything goes. It is still a realm of fantasy and myth: What else is rock'n'roll but Disneyland — Neverland — for grownups? No matter what nefarious activity its key players involve themselves in, music is still the place we all secretly aspire to, if only we could write songs and play guitar. And so a blind eye has permanently been turned.

Forget hurling television sets out of hotel windows or driving Rolls Royces into pools, darker forces are often at work; scandal and debauchery, after all, have always been the blood and guts of rock'n'roll. I wince as I call to mind a particular orgy in LA, long since swept under the carpet, that resulted in the death of a teenage groupie; of the rent boy injected with heroin so that the band could get off on watching him convulse; of the rock fan left for dead in a hotel garbage bin.

Why was no one ever brought to justice for such crimes? Because those party to these, and many other misdemeanours, couldn't risk losing their place in the inner sanctum, perhaps; because remaining one of the in-crowd mattered more than life or because, given the status of the perpetrators, they feared that they would never be believed? The light being back on Jackson's alleged indiscretions proves that like the acting world before it, glamorous industries — while among the last to fall — are no longer safe.

What Robson, now 36, and Safechuck are trying to achieve is unknown. Setting the record straight? Peace of mind? Wherever their motivation lies, having presumably taken into consideration the effect their horrific allegations will have on their own families, they must feel convinced that the fallout will be worthwhile.

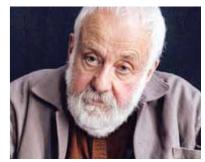
The Daily Telegraph

CULTURE LANE

'Netflix, Amazon killing creativity'

ilm and TV drama is booming, with the streaming services
Netflix, Hulu and Amazon offering audiences hit after hit on demand. But, according to the acclaimed director Mike Leigh, this comes with an unfortunate side effect: That young British filmmakers are being held back by a powerful "new breed of executive". "It is just not on," said Leigh, 75. "The next lot of young directors face such a long wait to get any project off the ground. That's my biggest worry. I've talked to two of them in the last few weeks and one said she expected it to take six years to get her first feature together. That's terrible, and it is because you have got this whole new breed or culture of exec utives and producers who will not simply press the button, and say 'go for it and see what happens."

Leigh, speaking to the Observer before the launch of the DVD of his latest film, *Peterloo*, laments the arrival of a complex commissioning hierarchy, although it does not affect his own work. A veteran of 21 films, Leigh is renowned for brooking no creative



interference and is keen to champion creative freedom for those who follow him. "I'm not talking about my own experience with Amazon, who backed *Peterloo* and who behaved impeccably; the problem really exists for younger filmmakers," he said. It is, he claims, inexperienced, untested directors who are expected to cater to commissioning editors' whims. "By suggesting a director works with a particular team, or asking why you are not using a female cinematographer, they are behaving in a traditional Hollywood, Louis B Mayer-way."

Parody of Yalitza draws criticism

television personality for the Mexican-based Televisa network is facing criticism for dressing up in brownface and wearing a prosthetic nose to make fun of indigenous Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio. Televisa's Yeka Rosales posted photos and videos of herself on social media wearing brown skin paint in an apparent parody of Aparicio, who attended the Oscars after being nominated for best actress for her role in Roma.

The stunt, designed to promote Televisa's season premiere of the comedy show La Parodia, highlights the racism some scholars say indigenous people in Latin America still face in the media. In the photo, Rosales wore a dress similar to the one Aparicio wore at the Oscars, donned a straight, black wig and made exaggerated facial expressions typically used to stereotype indigenous people.

In an email to the Associated Press, Televisa spokesman Alejandro Olmos said the network strongly condemns any form of racism or discrimination. "We do not believe that the production of La Parodia engages in this type of practice," Olmos said, adding that some of the comments

in brownface mimicking Aparicio. Rosales drew immediate condemnation on social media in Mexico and the US. "It's disgusting. I'm kind of shaken up about it," said Jennie Luna, a professor in Camarillo.

were made in "bad taste" and will be

edited from the show. Televisa later

deleted a tweet with a video of Rosales

New 007 film title not Shatterhand?



arbara Broccoli, who along with Bher half-brother Michael G Wilson is the lead producer on the Bond movie series, has indicated that Shatterhand is not the title of the upcoming 007 film, currently known as Bond 25. According to Bond news site MI6 HQ, Broccoli signed a piece of fan art for India Grace that included the word Shatterhand, adding the words "It's not" and an arrow. This would appear to set to rest rumours that the working title under which Bond 25 had been listed in industry publication Production Weekly would

because he couldn't

find a straw was sen-

tenced to 60 days in

County judge also

ordered 40-year-

old Daniel Willis

Taylor to stay away

from the restaurant and

the workers he attacked in

an incident caught on video.

also must pay a \$1,000 fine.

on New Years' Eve. The video

shows him standing at the

Taylor was credited with the 58

days in jail he already served. He

Authorities say Taylor became

irate when he couldn't find a straw

counter, screaming at 20-year-old

holding onto her shirt collar. She

responded by hitting him several

Yasmine James before grabbing and

jail. A Pinellas

become its official one. Shooting is due to start at Pinewood studios on April 6, and there had been longstanding rumours that Shatterhand would be Bond 25's official title. The name comes from an alias used by series supervillain Ernst Stavro Blofeld in Ian Fleming's 1964 Bond novel, You Only Live Twice. The much delayed release has been pushed back to April 2020 amid reports of extensive script rewrites. Bourne Ultimatum writer Scott Z Burns has been hired to rework the screenplay for Daniel Craig's fifth and final outing as 007.

U G HD

SURROGATE BONDS WITH BABY GORILLA REJECTED BY MOTHER

A 30-year-old gorilla at a Florida zoo has become a surrogate mother to a baby gorilla whose mother hasn't shown sufficient interest in her baby. Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens spokeswoman JJ Vitale tells the Florida Times-Union that Bulera began holding five-month-old Gandai as soon as they were introduced on February 27. She says that within minutes Bulera was "comforting her with soft vocal rumbles." The gorilla's mother, Kumbuka, had already lost two infants at the zoo. Officials believe that because she is deaf she didn't hear their distress cries. They intervened

when they observed

took turns providing

surrogate was found.

Kumbuka incorrectly hold-

round-the-clock care until a

ing the baby. Zookeepers

MAN RECEIVES CONGRATULATORY **TELEGRAM 50 YEARS LATER**

Aman who graduated from the University of Michigan in 1969 has finally received a congratulatory telegram from family friends that was sent more than 50 years ago. Robert Fink received the Western Union telegram this year. Western Union ended its telegram

business in 2006. The Washington Post first reported on the telegram finally being delivered to Fink. The telegram originally arrived in 1969 at an Ann Arbor apartment Fink shared with three classmates a day after he had left to attend graduate school in New York.

Christina Zaske rediscovered the telegram in December after removing the bottom drawer of an old filing cabinet now owned by Ann Arbor-based digital marketing agency ICON Interactive to retrieve a piece of paper that had fallen inside. "I looked inside, mostly because I was curious to see an actual telegram," Zaske told The Ann Arbor News.

Zaske saw Fink's name on the paper and used the internet to

WESTERN UNION find him and return the note. Fink is now a professor at Oakland University in Rochester, a Detroit suburb that's about 45 miles northeast of Ann Arbor. "I was surprised to learn that he had never received the telegram and was glad that I could reunite it with its intended recipient all of these years later," Zaske said. Fink said the letter has brought back memories and made him reflect on his old connections. The theme for me has been that

the long arm of the past is reaching out and grabbing me, and I should take it seriously," he said. Fink said he's regretful he never had the chance to thank Ben and Lillian Fischman for sending the telegram, noting that they've both died. "It also left me with a funny sense of guilt that they had thought about me that way," Fink said. "It took some effort to send a telegram - it's not like texting someone. It touched me they had thought about me and made the effort to do so."

ORANGE JUMPSUIT BETRAYS DETAINEE

hearing and ran through a North Carolina town, but his orange jumpsuit gave him away. The Shelby Star reports that Joseph Lee Short

had just appeared in court Wednesday and was waiting with others to be taken back to jail when he removed a leg restraint and ran out of a parking garage.

says Short ran through several parking lots as deputies tracked him down after about five minutes. Briscoe says the "orange jumpsuit helped him stand out."

being charged with robbing a Kings Mountain bank. Officials at the sheriff's office didn't immediately respond to an email asking if Short has a lawyer who can speak on his behalf.

JUDGE: JAIL TIME FOR MAN WHO ATTACKED MCDONALD'S WORKER A Florida man who grabbed a McDonald's worker by the collar

detainee briefly A detained one...

Sheriff's Office Maj. Durwin Briscoe

He has been in jail since May after

BUGATTI SELLS FOR \$19 M

The most expensive new car **▲** ever sold is a one-off

Bugatti luxury sports car that has gone for 16.7 million euros (\$18.9 million). "La Voiture Noire" — French for "The Black Car" — is a lowslung sports car with a huge 16-cylinder engine and

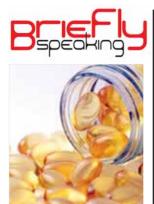
Bugatti's trade-

mark front grille.

The manufacturer unveiled it at the Geneva auto show this week, and said Thursday that it had been sold at what it and industry experts said was a record price for a new car. The identity of the buyer was not revealed, though the buzz surrounding the move will have burnished Bugatti's

times. The Tampa Bay Times reports Taylor kicked another worker while image as a maker of luxury being escorted out. trophy cars. Stephan Winkelmann, the president of **MOST EXPENSIVE NEW CAR:** Volkswagen-owned Bugatti, said: "The true form of luxury is individuality.

New Delhi, March 17, 2019



VITAMIN D TO HELP CONTROL ASTHMA?

Besides making bones Strong, higher levels of Vitamin D can also help chil-dren with asthma become more resilient to harmful respiratory effects caused by indoor air pollution, say researchers. "Asthma is an immune-mediated disease, said lead author Sonali Bose, Assistant Professor at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "From previous scientific studies, we knew that vitamin D was a molecule that may influence asthma by impacting antioxidant or immune-related pathways." The researchers observed that having low blood vitamin D levels was related to harmful respiratory effects of indoor air pollution from sources such as cigarette smoke, cooking, burning of candles, and incense, among children with asthma. Conversely, in homes that had the highest indoor air pollution, higher blood vitamin D levels were associated with fewer asthma symptoms in children.

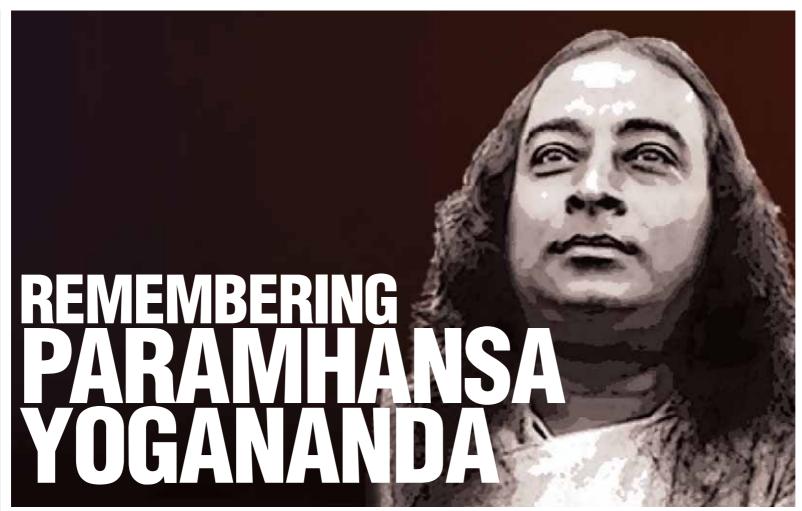
HOW HOOKAH AFFECTS HEART HEALTH

Smoking tobacco through Hookah results in inhaling more toxic chemicals than a cigarette. The study published in the American Heart Association's journal called Circulation, states that a single session of hookah, that typically lasts 30 or more minutes, results in greater exposure to carbon monoxide than a cigarette and that the toxic chemicals, in addition to tobacco, harm the heart and blood vessels. Hookah has a water bowl containing tobacco, has a head with holes in the bottom, a body, a flexible hose with a mouthpiece, and burning charcoal that is placed on) of the tobacco bowl. The tobacco for hookah comes in various flavours and the sweetness of the flavours masks the harshness of smoke that makes it easier to continue smoking it.

KIDNEY RISK



Bheart and lungs, exposure to passive smoking can also raise the chances of chronic kidney disease (CKD), which can lead to renal failure, warns a new study. The findings showed that individuals with less or more than three days of exposure per week had nearly double the risk of having kidney disease when compared with participants with no second-hand cigarette exposure. "Secondhand smoke exposure is still prevalent despite legislative actions prohibiting public smoking," said Jung Tak Park from Yonsei University in Seoul. "This exposure was found to be related with CKD, even with less frequent amounts of second-hand smoke exposure," Park added. For the study, the team included 131,196 nonsmokers and were classified into three groups: No-exposure, less than three days per week of exposure, and three or more days per week of exposure. Cigarette smoking and exposure to secondhand smoking have been linked with higher risks of various diseases



Autobiography of A Yogi has remained my close companion; it has silenced my doubts when the path seemed precarious, writes SWAMI ANAND ARUN

teve Jobs, one of the greatest innovators of the century, in his last days, planned each detail of his own memorial service to be held at Stanford University in October 2011. Each attendee received a brown box as a farewell gift. This last souvenir which Jobs believed could do justice to his extraordinary life — was a book that had inspired and shaped his spiritual journey: Autobiography of A Yogi. The book has remained a close companion throughout my spiritual journey. I have read this book countless times. It has silenced my doubts when the path seemed precarious, reassured me when the inexplicable unfolded and meditation took

me to the eclectic lands of mystery. Paramhansa Yogananda was born on January 5, 1893, in Gorakhpur, a city near the border of Nepal. His father, Bhagwaticharan Ghosh, was a high-ranking officer in the Indian Railway. Yogananda's childhood name was Mukunda Lal Ghosh. In 1915, he took formal vows into the monastic Swami Order from Sri Yukteshwor Giri and became 'Swami Yogananda Giri'. Sri Yukteshwor Giri later decorated him with the title 'Paramhansa'. Paramahansa means "supreme swan' and is a title indicating the highest spiritual attainment. Swamiji's parents were the disciples of Lahari Mahashaya, who was the direct disciple of Mahavatar Babaji, the primary guru of the great tradition of Kriya Yoga. It is believed that Mahavatar Babaji has been living in the Indian Himalayas near Badrinath in his physical body for thousands of years and comes to Prayag each Kumbha Mela, the largest gathering of Indian holy men that happens every 12 years. He still guides seekers who are very advanced in their path. In the Kumbha Mela of January 1884, Mahavatar Babaji gave darshan to Sri Yukteshwor Giri and told him, "The future of the world is only possible if there is equal exchange between the East and the West. There has been great materialistic growth in the West, but no spiritual progress to match its proportion. Very soon, I will send you a disciple whom you

will have to train in the secrets of Kriya Yoga and send him to the West." Later, that inspired young man became Paramhansa Yogananda

became Paramhansa Yogananda. After meeting with his guru, Yukteshwor Giri, Yogananda's life took a complete turn. Yogananda moved to Serampore, a city close to Kolkata, where Yukteshwor Giri had a small ashram. Yogananda spent most of his time in his guru's hermitage while pursuing his higher studies. Swamiji practised yoga and meditation with utmost devotion and patience for the next 10 years. Swamiji has beautifully described these years he spent in close proximity to his beloved guru in

Autobiography of A Yogi. He spent most of his time at the ashram and practised meditation. One night when Swamiji was staying with Yukteshwor Giri and enjoying the beauty of the night, suddenly his master inquired about his BA final exams. Yogananda was as though awakened from a spell, and realised the exams were just around the corner. He replied nervously, "The exams start in five days but I haven't prepared for them at all. It is certain that I will fail, so I had better not appear in the exams." Yukteshwor Giri wouldn't listen to his disciple's plan and ordered him, You have to appear in the exams. If you don't, then your family will also be sad and it will also be a barrier in the divine plan. You appear in the exams and God will surely help you." As ordered by his guru, Yogananda went to his friend Ramesh and studied all night. Miraculously, whatever he studied in the night was to be asked in the exams. But in the English exams, Yogananda calculated that he would get no more than 33 marks when the passing marks were 36. He went straight to his guru's ashram and told him that he would surely fail in English. "Don't worry, the sun and moon might change their course but you will certainly pass your BA exams," Shri Yukteshwor said to Yogananda. When the results came out, Yogananda found out that in that particular year, the Bengal University had reduced the passing marks of

THE UNEXPECTED MEETING

Between 2005 and 2010, I conducted several meditation retreats on a ferry in West Bengal through the Sundarban Delta and Ganga Sagar. I always visit the Belurmath and Dakshineswar temples whenever I am in Kolkata. During my stay in the city, I also visit Yogananda Ashram in Dakshineswar and Swami Yogananda's house at 4 Garpar Road, where he was born. I have met some of Swamiji's family members including his brother Sananda Lal Ghosh's son, Hare Krishna Ghosh. I also met the granddaughter of his younger brother, Ananta, at Serampore. At the 4 Garpar Road House, we were greeted by Hare Krishna Ghosh, the son of Sananda and nephew of Swamiji. Ghosh was taking care of the house in those days. He was a rather amicable person. We talked at length about Swamiji. I told him I was an admirer of Swamiji and had written several articles on him and spoken about him on national radio and television. He was kind enough to allow us to meditate in the small attic room where Swamiji had attained enlightenment. It was empty except for a small altar with Swamiji's picture and a shelf with a few photos and relics. Swamiji has written in detail about his stay in that house in Autobiography of a Yogi. The room was still vibrating with his strong presence. Sitting in that tiny room for half an hour, I was absorbed into deep meditation. After the meditation, Ghosh showed us around the place. Swamiji had presented a lot of things to him: A tea set, Swamiji's clothes, and many of his rare pictures. Ghosh was showing me a photo album and both of us were totally absorbed in the photos. He told me that Swamiji and Rabindranath Tagore had the same ancestral roots. When we were busy peering at the family tree, I noticed a bright orange robe fluttering behind Ghosh. I thought perhaps it was someone from the house. The night was silent and cool and the master's presence was palpable. We spent a long time leafing through the pictures, and the robe kept fluttering. Suddenly, I was seized by this intense desire to look at the person who was wearing the robe. I looked up and what I saw left me dumbfounded! Swami Yogananda was looking at me and smiling. He stood that way for the next few seconds and disappeared into thin air.

English from 36 to 33. Elated and perplexed, he went straight to his guru and prostrated at his feet. Sri Yukteshwor smiled and lovingly said to him, "God probably found it easier to pass you than to change the course of the sun and the moon."

Soon after Yogananda graduated from college in 1920, he received the invitation to participate in the International Conference of the Religious Liberals in Boston. Before he left for America, Mahavatar Babaji gave him a darshan and said, "Always remain fearless; you shall always be divinely protected." Yukteshwor Giri also lifted his spirits by saying, "All doors are open to you now. Go to America. Spiritual energy will enter through the eyes of any person you gaze at and their spiritual journey will be kickstarted. Even if you are in the middle of a dense forest, you will find a friend." His guru's blessings came true. Wherever Yogananda went in America, he found a friend and through their help, he established the headquarters of the Yogoda Satsang Society in Los Angeles in 1925

After making arduous efforts to preach the spiritual significance of yoga in the West for 32 years, Yogananda left his body in California on March 7, 1952. On that day, he was attending a dinner party for Binay Ranjan Sen, the visiting Indian Ambassador to the United States, at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. At the end of the feast, Swamiji spoke about the possibility of a "United World" through the cohesion of the East and the West. According to Daya Mata, a direct disciple of Yogananda, who was head of the Self Realization Fellowship from 1955-2010, Swamiji concluded his speech with his poem, 'My India': "...where Ganges, woods, Himalayan caves and men dream God I am hallowed my body touched that sod." As soon as he finished the last verse of his poem, he raised his eyes to his third eye and his body flopped on the floor. His body is preserved in Forest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Glendale, California.

The writer is an early Osho disciple, an international meditation teacher, and author



HIDDENSOULS PRAMOD PATHAK

Fear is the key



y the time this column gets published, many things would have changed, for good or for bad. That is, in the context of the recent surgical strike of the Indian Air Force. Depending on what course the events take, opinions also may be expressed, not necessarily one-sided. Some may advocate virtues of restraint, while others may want greater offensive. But the point is to understand that India had limited options. The mischief of the terrorist outfits from across the border was getting more and more painful and there is every reason to believe that the military establishment of Pakistan was abetting them. No one is advocating a war, at least on this side of the border. We have all seen the wars India faced and the price we have paid. Wars come at a cost, and a huge cost. So it is always the last option. But there are times when one is left with no choice. The surgical strike was that choice, as the terrorists were getting emboldened with every passing day. It, then, was a timely and fitting action and no questions can be asked. In fact, we may do well to take out a leaf or two from the eternal work of Goswami Tulsidas — the Ramcharitmanas. In the Sundara Kanda of Ramayana, Lord Rama wants the ocean God to give way so that his army can cross. He has been very humbly requesting the ocean God to allow his men to cross without hassle and reach Lanka. But when this request goes unheeded for three days, Lord Rama loses his temper. He asks his younger brother Laxman to get him the bow and arrow. Lord Rama states that some people do not understand the language of humility because they are pig headed. These people only understand one language: The language of force. They would only respect you if they fear you. Saying thus, Lord Rama picked up his bow and prepared to shoot at the ocean. And that brings a trembling ocean God with folded hands, praying to the Lord that he will do whatever Rama desires. The basic premise of Lord Rama is summed up in the next two couplets of Ramayana as paraphrased below. He says that fools do not understand the language of love, nor do the crooked deserve to be loved. The miserly cannot be made broad-minded. The greedy do not listen to the virtues of charity and the short-tempered do not like peace. For such people, these words of wisdom do not work. They need to be shown their place. The same holds good for the terrorists. They will not understand the language of reason. You need to be one degree more unreasonable if you want them to listen. So it was in fitness of things that India used force with precision. It was the best strategy because for such elements, there is a need to instill fear. Further, there is also a need to understand the basic political compulsion of the Pakistani Army for whom India-bating is the only way to rule. And for the Pakistan politician, India bashing is a means to stay in power. Or else there is little reason to beg and borrow to fight a stronger adversary. True, you must avoid wars at all cost and the solution can only come through dialogue. But to bring the unreasonable to the negotiating table, fear is the key.

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ARE WE ROBOTS?

Souls come programmed and we go on with our lives in a robotic fashion. If we pursue the spiritual path, we will no longer be robots but free souls making spiritual progress slowly but surely, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

his is a valid question, which requires careful examination. Referring to the cosmic design, we bring fate from our previous births. This fate consists of many parts. The main ones are: Where will one be born; to which parents; with what bodily features and facial appearance; the level of intelligence; unfinished good and bad karmas (deeds), which have not come to fruition as yet; and the life span. This is common knowledge but not many are aware of our deep desires, strongly rooted habits, sanskars, and the extent of progress in the spiritual journey, etc. These are equally important, if not more than the fixed part of fate described earlier. These are also programmed into the soul.

I will limit myself to clarify the fixed part of the fate. There is no confu-

sion about the first two parts, ie where will one be born and to which parents. The soul enters the mother's womb, as programmed due to the fixed aspects of one's fate. Facial appearance and bodily features will form accordingly, as will the lines on the palm. The brain will develop as programmed till it reaches the predestined intelligence. Yet to fructify *karmas* remain in memory and their fruits come to fruition at their appointed times. These are all fixed as can be predicted by an expert astrologer to a great extent, say up to 80 to 85 per cent.

Palmists have a different challenge.

Palmists have a different challenge. The lines on one's palm keep changing as one's life progresses influenced by one's deep desires, deeply entrenched habits, *sanskars*, spiritual awakening,

etc. I will cite a couple of examples to explain what happens. Suppose a soul has deep desire for wealth, and is prepared to work hard habitually, and is morally inclined, and has some faith in God. Driven by these, he will endeavour to make a lot of money in his life, mostly in an honest way. This will go on for the entire duration of his life, unless the God factor comes into play. Then, he develops a link with God and has a desire to improve the quality of his life with the help of God. Then, things begin to change as different from what was originally programmed into the soul because God is the only one who can really change the original programme, otherwise everyone is more or less on autopilot mode throughout one's life. Another example will clarify this

Another example will clarify this matter further. This person also has a deep desire for wealth. He is also habitually prepared to work hard. He is morally inclined too. However, he has a deeper faith in the existence of God. Driven by his deep desire for wealth and strong habit for working hard and his moral inclinations, he too makes a lot of money honestly. However, his enduring faith makes him uncertain about the direction his life is taking him. On top of it, he is a habitual worrier. This serious handicap is forcing him to think of

a solution to his anxiety problem. He tries various means, including consulting many doctors, as he does not lack any resources. Nothing works, therefore, he turns to God for help. However, this is not so simple. Progress in the spiritual domain is always slow and not so apparent also, being subtle. But determined as he is, he pursues and gradually begins to become peaceful, ie he does not get so anxious any more. He has managed to change the direction of his life. He is no

longer on the autopilot mode. What is the conclusion? As stated earlier, souls come programmed. These manifest and one goes on with his or her life in a robotic fashion. Some may feel uneasy about the state of affairs but will go on after making some feeble attempts to change the course of their lives because one is unable to fight his own faculties, which all are seats of lust. (Gita 7.40) But if one is determined enough to pursue the spiritual path, he succeeds over a long period. God helps both in dealing with the painful part of fate and, most importantly, his poor habits, especially of worrying. Then, he is no longer a robot but a free soul making spiritual progress slowly but surely. He is in cruise control.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com





























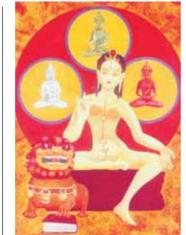




ARIES March 21-April 19

Finally, you will find the determination within yourself to avoid bad habits and start some new activities that are good for you. Be ready for some distressed nerves during this transition. Your physical fitness is of utmost importance, joining a fitness regime class will help you a lot. Take good care of yourself in order to look after others. This week, you can expect some good news related to your career. Those awaiting results of a competitive exam, the result will be positive. People seeking jobs may receive a call letter for a job with a better perspective, perks and facilities. Those waiting for a posting may get the desired destination. For a business person, monetary gains are indicated this week.

Lucky number 7 Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Health-wise, this week will be a tough time for you. You may face some illness, but stressing over this will make things worse. Don't let your health problems lead to a decline in your spiritual growth. Stay positive because after every crisis there is a promise of a good time. If required, reach out to others for help, be it a friend or a medical practitioner. At this point in your career, things are not that great. You may face a challenge that will leave your project incomplete. Keep telling yourself that you have the inner strength to overcome any difficulties. You need to be resilient and not be intimidated by others who are pulling you down. Don't worry, you will sail through. It will be a magical time for love. Females should connect with their feminine side and trust their intuition Lucky number 9

Lucky colour Indigo **Lucky day** Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

It is very important that you maintain a positive attitude to stay healthy. If you worry about your health issues, then things will become worse. A positive outlook will work wonders. In case, you are not sure about your physical well-being, then take medical support. Trust your instincts. By facing your fears and turning them to your advantage, you will grow even stronger. This week your career looks good. You will enjoy the outcome of your hard work. If you are in the line of promotion, then celebrate because you will find something that is better than you expected. All your efforts will be valued and appreciated. It is indicated that you might take up the position of a leader or head in some adventurous venture. You will face the agony and pain in your relationship.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Grey **Lucky day** Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This will you will enjoy good health, but be careful while exercising as you might be prone to some sprain or injuries. If you are in the process of healing from an injury, then take care and do not stress yourself. Try to have a focused mind and follow your health regime religiously. On the career front, you will be feeling content and will cultivate smooth interpersonal dynamics and harmonious communication patterns. Your words will carry more weight with others now; use that wisely to further your prospects. Those looking for a job, you are likely to get one. On the relationship front, this is not a good week. You will find yourself unmotivated and disengaged with your partner. You need to re-evaluate the situation. Lucky number 2

Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Sunday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Health-wise, this week is full of energy and vitality. This will make you optimistic about the future. Those who are waiting on test results need to relax as the result will be in your favour. Think about your usual mode of thought; remember that your mindset affects your health. You will be in a position to mentor and share the spiritual insights that you have gained. On the career front, you will be at a stage where you will get work success and recognition. Give your best to be organised and productive. This will pay off. This week you should have a conservative approach in terms of financial dealings and decisions. Those who are thinking to invest, put your money in conservative stocks/ bonds with really good track records. This is not a time to take risks. Good luck will follow you in matters of the heart. Lucky number 3

Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Your health will remain good if you pay proper attention to your health regime. The week will start with an upswing in your creative energy; you will be active and enthusiastic. Be careful because as the week progresses, you may face some health issues which need your immediate attention. Go and consult with the doctor. Be positive, there is a cure for everything. In your professional life, if you are not dedicated to your work, you might have to pay for it. You are under scrutiny and every act of yours is being reported to higher authority. Be ready to face the opposition; they might devalue your opinion. This is a highly emotional time in love relationships. Situations can quickly become heated and uncomfortable. Pick your battles; be sure to treat your lover like a friend. Lucky number 7

Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Thursday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Till now you did not give attention to your health. Since you have realised that health is very important, you are conscious and aware of the needs of your body and mind. Now, you are following the proverb: Prevention is better than cure. You should attend classes and seminars on healing therapies and apply them in your life to balance your inner strength. On the career front, you need to come out of the selfmade limitations which are hampering your progress. In some matters, you are required to be fluent and quick-witted. You have to be very careful while spending money. Be alert to grab the opportunities coming your way. In love life, avoid false commitments else you might have to pay. Married couples too might face some unpleasant situation. Lucky number 8

Lucky colour Purple

Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Your health is likely to be good this week. You will experience high level of energy and enthusiasm. Be a little careful when exercising; minor sprain or injuries are indicated. You need to start on a health regime to attain a healthy lifestyle. It is important to channelise the new found energy in the right manner. At your workplace, you may encounter a person who would like to mentor you. This person has the leadership skills to guide you in the right direction and you can trust him/her. Those who have been facing challenges, this is the right time to take control and find solutions to them. This is beneficial for you and others as well. You will be goal-oriented and visionary, and that will help you to get that leadership position you have been eyeing.

Lucky number 11 Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you likely to feel depressed and gloomy as things are not going your way. You will be stressed due to some or the other health issues. Keep a regular check on your BP, sugar and blood and you will realise that you need regular medical attention. Stay calm because this is a temporary phase. The situation will change, but you need to follow a strict health regime. You need to relax and have a positive approach. You are going to progress in your professional life. There will be money, prestige and honor and you enjoy the parties and good times at work. Those in business are going to earn good money and are likely to invest in a property. This is fairly a good week on the emotional front too. The new love, romance is on the card. Lucky number 6

Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

In terms of health, you are restricted. Your fear, anxiety and negative thoughts are not allowing you to lead a normal life. It is crucial to bring balance with body, mind and spirit. Negative thinking or anxiety always had a bad impact on health. Find help, if you need, to bury these negative thoughts. Meditate and listen to your inner voice and half of your problems will be solved. You will face some injustice at the workplace. The position you have been aspiring for may be given to another candidate. Those looking for a better job option may get one, but with that comes another consideration which will cause tension. You may find yourself indecisive. Difficulty to choose whether to remain in the existing one or join the new one will prevail. Conflict in married life due to the intervention of the third party is indicated. Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Beige



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, listen to your inner voice when it comes to health issues. If you are not sure about a diagnosis or not comfortable with your medical attendee, get a second opinion. Those who use alcohol or drugs, this is a high time you avoid it and indulge in some kind of intoxication. On the career front, you need to be a generous person. A friend or colleague may ask for financial help. Your act of generosity and kindness will earn a good name for you. This is the time to invest in property and long term projects. Relationship wise. this week is good. Your relationship will move into a lighter, easier and more balanced phase. Those who are single and are looking for love, there is a need to consider your emotional side and see if there is any issue to be dealt with at the first place. Lucky number 16

Lucky colour Yellow **Lucky day** Thursday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Health remains good this week. You will remain cool and poised amidst of loads of work that will make you exhausted and strained. You will experience unbounded energy and stamina, which will also be your support 'stem. You need to use your energy in a creative direction. It is advisable that you follow a disciplined life for a good physical and mental strength which paves the way for success. Career-wise, your will power and determination will help to achieve your target. In the moment of crisis, your tough decisions will give strength to strategise plans. Chances to choose from job options are indicated, therefore, follow the advice of some senior person who is close to you. The chances of rift and conflicts in the family are likely. This is because you are not able to give them your time and attention. Lucky number 5

Lucky colour Golden

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ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

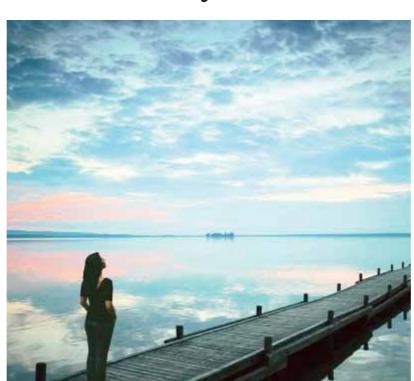
very interesting question was posed by someone who came seeking guidance last week. "Sir, I am deeply spiritual. My day doesn't begin without an hour-long dedicated puja in service to our family deity. Yet, I am not at peace. My restlessness and anger don't go away. I am not able to perform well even at my works. Why? And what is the way out?

Had you been spiritual, by now you would have been able to be in better control of yourself, as your thought process should have registered considerable improvement. Remember, perception drives a being — what you aspire in life or the way you react and respond to the issues confronting you. This is primarily guided by the defining principle of each individual mind, coming as it may as Karmic carryover from the past. It, thus, becomes incumbent upon us to be conscious about setting right our thought process, if at all we wish to improve our quality of life. Evidently, the process adopted should be such as could reach out the inner realms of mind and modify our thought process Spirituality is the way forward.

You rather seem to be a religious

person emotionally committed to a set belief. You have been offering puja to your dedicated God on the belief that you may benefit out of the boon granted to you. But nothing of the sort happens. Remember, you are bound by a cause-effect chain. In this scheme of things, a cause predates every happening, which becomes the cause for future happening. So, you happen to be a beneficiary or victim of how you look at life and the way you conduct on dayto-day basis. It works almost in a selfautomated process. There is no external agency that would be overseeing our Karma and accordingly rewarding or punishing us. Even following religious practice, your thought process could have undergone change if you could imbibe the attributes identified with the deity you worship.

You mean spirituality and religion are different?" the man countered. Yes of course. A spiritual person may or may not be religious. Spirituality in fact, is a way of life, which is neither moralistic, idealistic, nor ritualistic. It rather takes you through awareness route. The purpose is to evolve into a good human being having full human potential unfolded with all its humane



sense and virtues. Following which, you may lay down the ground to live as a dynamic being in peace and harmony with the self as well as the world around, and with relative ease and

comfort. The world may then turn into

a beautiful place to live. The process as such begins with self-reflection upon one's own truenature. You, thus, get to know your own mirror-image, with all its seedpotential and fault-lines. It, thus, offers you with the opportunity to purify your mind of its limitations and hone your potentials. A purified mind makes accessible its full landscape with its limitless powers. With such an expanded vision, you look at issues in hand with an open mind, free from any preconditioning whatsoever, and so get to know them in the right perspective due. Accordingly, you pick up the right

Towards the next step, you explore what life is about, individually and collectively. With an already purified mind, you get to understand the existential realities holistically exactly as it is made out. You then get to know that though

lead. Also, true humane spirit and

virtues, intrinsic to a being, which oth-

erwise remained dormant because of

clouded vision, comes into full play.

Spirituality is a way of living life individually we may be under limitations but in togetherness we make out a wholesome self-supporting world. You thus realise that the world is a unified organism where no individual holds a reality independent of the totality. Consequently, you give up your assumed sense of perfection, and start looking at things realistically. You no longer live under any self-delusion. Also, you begin to engage with the world around with a sense of equanimity. You, thus, understand not only your own self, but also how you fit into the larger game-plan of life. That makes you conduct in life as an informed being with relative ease and comfort. This is not to underrate the role that religiosity can play in life. All that is needed is to give a spiritual turn to the religious process. Here comes the role of a Guru. He may intuitively figure out your fault lines and accordingly, put you through such practices as would help modify your thought process.

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