

ANALYSIS 9
UNIVERSITY
FOR COPS

HYDERABAD 11
CLIMATE CRISIS:
IS IT ALREADY TOO LATE?

SPORTS 16
BUMRAH OUT
OF SA TESTS

HYDERABAD, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2019; PAGES 16-17



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



NOW I AM
'GODARAMMA'
FOR EVERYONE:
POOJA HEGDE

Page 13

Tremors in Delhi, parts of north India

NEW DELHI: Mild tremors were felt in Delhi and its neighbouring areas after a 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck north-west of Lahore this afternoon. The tremors, which lasted a few seconds, were felt at around 4:35 pm, many in Delhi reported.

The tremors were also felt in parts of north India, including Kashmir, Punjab's Chandigarh and Uttarakhand's Dehradun. There are also reports of tremors in some cities in Pakistan including Islamabad, Peshawar, Rawalpindi and Lahore.

Press Trust of India, quoting local Pakistan media, reported that 50 people, including women and children, were shifted to a hospital in Mirpur in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir after a building collapsed following the earthquake.

Indian mango thief in Dubai to be deported

DUBAI: A United Arab Emirates (UAE) court has ordered the deportation of an Indian airport worker who was held for stealing two mangoes from the baggage of a passenger last year, a media report said. The Court of First Instance on Monday ordered the 27-year-old Indian worker's deportation after paying a 5,000 dirham fine, for stealing the mangoes worth about 6 dirham on August 11, 2017, the Khaleej Times reported.

During interrogation and prosecution investigation, the accused recounted that he had been working at Terminal 3 of the Dubai airport. His duties included loading travellers' luggage onto the conveyer belt from the container and vice versa.

Rs 230 cr 'benami' assets of Maya's aide attached

NEW DELHI: The income tax department has attached "benami" assets worth Rs 230 crore of retired IAS officer Net Ram who also served as secretary to former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Mayawati, official sources said on Tuesday.

They said a total of 19 immovable properties spread across Delhi, Noida, Kolkata and Mumbai have been attached by the department.

A provisional order of the attachment against Net Ram has been issued by the Delhi investigation unit of the department under section 24(3) of the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988, they said.

Private players to run trains on key routes: Railways

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways is mulling the idea of handing over operations of more trains to private players in the coming days on several important routes with improved services and amenities for passengers.

The decision comes under the 100-day agenda of the national transporter to hand over operations of the trains to private players on key routes.

Earlier, the Indian Railways had announced to grant operations of two of its luxurious Tejas Express trains to Indian Rail Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) between Lucknow-New Delhi and Mumbai-Ahmedabad.

According to a railway ministry official, the national transporter has called a meeting of senior railway officials on September 27 under the chairmanship of Member, Traffic of the Railway Board to decide the operational issues relating to private operation of passenger trains. In a letter to all the Principal Chief Operations Managers of the Central, Northern, North Central, South Eastern, South Central and Southern Railway dated September 23, Principal Executive Director of Coaching of the Railway Board, A. Madhusudan Reddy said, "As part of the 100-day action plan,



The Indian Railways had announced to grant operations of two of its luxurious Tejas Express trains to Indian Rail Catering and Tourism Corporation between Lucknow-New Delhi and Mumbai-Ahmedabad

the ministry has proposed that private operation of passenger trains be introduced to provide world class services."

He said, "Under the railways proposal, private operators would be identified through a participative bid process to run private passenger day or overnight trains connecting important cities."

It is contemplated that the private operators shall induct modern passenger trains and

operate them on paths allocated to them on payment of haulage charges," Reddy said.

"Thus in order to prepare the RFQ (Request for quote) and concession documents, it is necessary to identify the routes and the number of services that can be run," he said.

According to the railway ministry plans, besides the Lucknow-New Delhi and Mumbai-Ahmedabad being given to the IRCTC for operations, the

national transporter is mulling to give trains to private operators on inter-city services on 14 routes, while 10 on overnight and long distance services and four suburban services.

The railways has proposed giving trains to private operators on long distance or overnight journey trains on the routes of Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Lucknow, Delhi-Jammu/Katra, Delhi-Howrah, Secunderabad-Hyderabad, Secunderabad-Delhi, Delhi-Chennai, Mumbai-Chennai, Howrah-Chennai and Howrah-Mumbai.

It has proposed to invite the private players for the intercity express on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad, Mumbai-Pune, Mumbai-Aurangabad, Mumbai-Madgaon, Delhi-Chandigarh/Amritsar, Delhi-Jaipur/Ajmer, Howrah-Puri, Howrah-Tata, Howrah-Patna, Secunderabad-Vijayawada, Chennai-Bengaluru, Chennai-Coimbatore, Chennai-Madurai and Ernakulam-Trivandrum routes. The railways has also proposed the operation of suburban trains in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Secunderabad by private players. The railways had earlier clearly said that before engaging private operators to run the trains, the national transporter will consult the trade unions and other stakeholders.

Continued on Page 2



HC dismisses PIL for CBI probe on Kodela suicide

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Tuesday dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed seeking CBI probe into the circumstances that led to the death of former speaker of AP Assembly Kodela Sivaprasada Rao.

A division bench of the HC dismissed the petition on the ground that the petitioner Borragadda Anil Kumar, a native of Guntur district, was neither a family member nor a close relative of the deceased. It also said that it could not intervene in the case as the state police was still investigating it.

In his petition, Anil Kumar had alleged that the state government and Banjara Hills police did not conduct an impartial investigation into the circumstances that led to Kodela Rao's death. The counsel for the state government told the HC that the investigation in the case is underway, and that they had not yet recorded the statements of Rao's family members.

Coal miners' strike hits production in Singareni

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Coal production in Telangana's Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) was affected on Tuesday as the miners went on a day-long strike called by various unions to protest against the Centre's decision to allow 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in coal mining. The coal production in almost all the mines spread across six districts of Telangana was hit as majority of the over 50,000 employees joined the strike.

The production in all underground mines in Bhadradi Kothagudem district also came to a halt while operations in open cast mines were partially affected.

Production was also hit in almost all the mines in

Ramagundam, Mandamra and other areas. The strike might result in production loss of nearly two lakh tonnes. The company is estimated to suffer a loss of over Rs 50 crore.

All major employees' unions, GLBKS, SGLBKS, TSUS, SGKS and TSKS, affiliated to five national trade unions joined the strike. Holding their union flags, the employees took out rallies, demanding the Centre to withdraw its decision.

Recognised union TGBKS affiliated to the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) has also extended its support to the strike. This is the first time after the formation of Telangana state in 2014 that the SCCL is witnessing a strike with maximum participation by the employees.

Continued on Page 2



Frame guidelines against misuse of social media: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday asked the Centre to form a policy on the use of social media, in a plea seeking to link Aadhaar with social media accounts. The apex court also added that the misuse of the medium has become 'very dangerous'.

The Supreme Court has asked the Centre to file an affidavit within three weeks detailing statutory guidelines to balance online privacy, state sovereignty and the reputation of an individual.

A Bench, headed by Justice Deepak Gupta, told the Centre that the case involved issues of privacy, sovereignty, crime prevention and being a matter of policy, the decision ought to come from the government and not the court.

While the social media companies welcomed this decision from Court, Centre claimed that IT Rules provide that social



media intermediaries are bound to share this information. The Attorney General KK Venugopal said that if the companies do not fall in line they may as well shut shop and get out of the country.

The bench too shared their experience of how internet offers Dark Web in which one can be induced to commit crime. But the Court said that since messages on WhatsApp and Apple system are end to end encrypted, there needs to be a legal regime by which these companies could be made answerable.

Paswan warns hoarders, black marketers on onion prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the soaring onion prices, Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan on Tuesday issued a stern warning to hoarders and black marketers against stocking onions. Paswan said that the supply of onion has been affected due to recent floods in Maharashtra and Karnataka - the two main onion growing states.

"I want to inform hoarders that we have a buffer stock of 50,000 tonne. Affected states can boost their supply through agencies like Nafed and National Cooperative Consumers," Paswan said, stressing that the government is taking measures to keep situation under control.

The prices of onion have increased around 300% in the last one month due to the disruption in supply from Maharashtra and Karnataka.

KCR-Jagan meeting 'leaks' raises political heat

L VENKAT RAM REDDY ■ HYDERABAD

The calibrated 'leaks' late on Monday night from Pragathi Bhavan, official residence of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, following his meeting with his AP counterpart YS Jaganmohan Reddy, have raised political heat not only in the Telugu States but also at the central level.

The Telangana Chief Minister's Office (CMO) issued an official press release after the meeting stating merely that KCR and Jagan discussed Godavari-Krishna linkage proposals and certain pending bifurcation-related issues between AP and TS. However, the juicier parts of their meeting emerged through 'leaks' channelized after the four-hour-long meeting, as it turned out that the Telugu CMs discussed more of 'politics' than any of the items on their agenda. Central to



File photo

● Differing reactions to talk of Telugu CMs being 'upset' at Modi, Centre and partnering to contain rise of BJP in Telugu states

● AP CMO condemns leaks, TS CMO mum

their discussion was the ways of the NDA government at the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as the

prompt strategies required to contain the perceived rise of BJP in the Telugu States.

Continued on Page 2

ED books Sharad Pawar in MSCB scam

PNS ■ MUMBAI

In a massive jolt to the Pawar family ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday registered a money laundering case against Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar, his nephew Ajit Pawar and 75 others in a case involving the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) scam, the probe agency said.

ED's move against the political big wigs from the NCP comes after the Bombay High Court in its last month's order asked the Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai Police to file FIR against Sharad Pawar, Ajit Pawar and 75 others in the alleged scam. The ED filed its case based on the FIR of the Mumbai Police, which lodged a case in connection with the scam last month.

FATALITY FALLOUT

CMRS inspects Ameerpet Metro station

● Engineering tests to done with help from IIT-Hyd: Metro officials

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The death of a young woman, Mounika, at Ameerpet Metro station on Sunday have raised ques-

tions about the quality of works of Hyderabad Metro Rail, leading to a statutory investigation into the mishap and its causes. On Tuesday, Commissioner of Metro Rail

Safety (CMRS), JK Garg, under the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation reached the accident spot Ameerpet station for an inspection.

Continued on Page 3

2 farmers electrocuted in Peddapalli

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

Two farmers were electrocuted in Nittur of Peddapalli mandal on Tuesday. Kodipalli Odelu and Alaboji Vaikuntam died on the spot after coming into contact with a live electric wire

while working in their agricultural fields. Sources said an 11 KV electric wire fell on farmers in the fields. Passersby alerted villagers after spotting bodies lying in the fields. Police later shifted the bodies for a post-mortem examination.

Huzurnagar to see triangular fight among Reddy candidates

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

A triangular contest is on the cards in the Huzurnagar by-elections, with Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party announcing the names of their candidates on Tuesday. Even TTDP has decided to field its candidate in the constituency to protect the party's interests in Telangana.

The Telangana Rashtra Samiti announced S Saidi Reddy's name on the day the Election Commission released the election schedule for the Huzurnagar by-election. Interestingly, all three major political parties-TRS, Congress



and BJP -- named Reddy candidates as their choice. The TTDP is contemplating to field its candidate in the by-polls, but is yet to pick its candidate.

As expected, the All India Congress Committee announced former MLA and TPCC chief N Uttam Kumar

Reddy's wife Padmavathi's name as the party's candidate for the Huzurnagar by-elections. AICC general secretary in-charge Congress Election Committee (CEC) Mukula Wasnik said: "The Congress president Sonia Gandhi has approved the candidature of Padmavathi Reddy

as Congress candidate for the ensuing by-election to the Legislative Assembly of Telangana from 89-Huzurnagar Constituency".

Padmavathi was an MLA from Kodada during 2014 to 2018; however, she lost the 2018 elections. Telangana BJP

announced Srikala Reddy's name for the Huzurnagar by-elections. BJP fielded Srikala Reddy as it wants to prove its strength in Huzurnagar. Srikala Reddy's father Jithender Reddy was former MLA from Kodada constituency.

Continued on Page 3

Dadasaheb Phalke award for Amitabh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan was on Tuesday named this year's Dadasaheb Phalke winner, Indian cinema's highest honour for an artiste.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar confirmed the news in a Twitter post. "The legend Amitabh Bachchan who entertained and inspired for 2 generations has been selected unanimously for #DadasahebPhalke award. The entire country and interna-

tional community is happy. My heartiest Congratulations to him.

The 76-year-old screen icon, who rose to stardom with his 'Angry Young Man' persona capturing the anger of the young generation in the 1970s with films such as "Zanjeer", "Deewar" and "Sholay", continues to be a force to reckon with the Indian cinema.

In a career spanning five decades, Bachchan has given memorable performances film after film and is a four-time National Film Award winner.

TODAY

ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Bhadrapada & Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Ekadashi: 02:08 pm
Nakshatram: Pushya: 08:53 am
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 12:07 pm - 01:37 pm
Yamagandam: 07:38 am - 09:08 am
Varjyam: 08:30 pm - 09:58 pm
Gulika: 10:38 am - 12:07 pm
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritkalam: 05:13 am - 06:40 am
Abhijit Muhurtham: Nil

HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Rain
Temp: 30/23
Humidity: 96%
Sunrise: 06:05
Sunset: 06:10
Current Weather Conditions
Updated September 24, 2019 5:00 PM

The undying trend of harassing political opponents

PIN POINT Paying people back in their own coin has always been trendy in politics. Harassing political opponents has become the thing in present-day politics. Former AP Speaker Kodela Sivaprasad Rao's recent unnatural death is a piece with this inveterate trend in the political firmament.

Everyone who is capable of attaining political power with concentrated efforts would naturally harass his/her opponents with increased will and vigour upon coming to power. In any state where national parties have been reduced to nonentities, and where there is strong influence of regional

forces, such political situation is all the more common. Tamil Nadu is a classic example of this type of politics of vendetta, with people accepting such things. Andhra Pradesh has the dubious distinction of seeing routine scenes of political vendetta, with or without people's acceptance.

Political uncertainty has complicated this unseemly situation, following the infamous bifurcation of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. During the Assembly elections in AP, YSRCP's political opponents were subject to harassment by the Telangana government. Dozens of acres of valuable land belonging to TDP leaders in Hyderabad faced the sword of forceful land acquisition.

After the elections, harass-

Former AP Speaker Kodela Sivaprasad Rao's unnatural death is the culmination of politics based on vendetta. What is poignant about the episode is the reaction of Kodela's family members, who did not want a state funeral to be accorded to the departed leader by the YCP government headed by YS Jaganmohan Reddy

ment of political opponents took a turn for the worse. Former AP Speaker Kodela Sivaprasad Rao's unnatural death is the culmination of politics based on vendetta. What is poignant about the sad episode is the reaction of Kodela's family members, who did not want a state funeral to

be accorded to the departed leader by the YCP government headed by YS Jaganmohan Reddy. Jagan had vehemently opposed the attitude of Kodela as Speaker. Kodela, as Speaker, did not disqualify the 23 YCP MLAs who had then defected to the TDP and was



accused of diluting the spirit of the anti-defection law. Given its landslide win in the Assembly polls, YCP leadership has declared that there would be no need for it to encourage defections from other parties. But nobody

knows when such need would arise.

What beats everyone about Kodela is that he had all along been a courageous leader. As home minister in NTR's cabinet, he had to step down owing moral responsibility for the 1988 killing of then Congress MLA from Vijayawada (East) Vangaveeti Mohana Rangarao.

Eleven years after that incident, another one pushed Kodela into deep trouble. It was the one in which four persons were killed in bomb explosions in his own house. He could manage things under the leadership of Chandrababu and even return to the cabinet thereafter. Corrupt activities of family members brought great disrespect to him and he went

down psychologically after being manhandled by irate voters in a polling booth in his constituency for gaining wrongful entry.

Bench of HC

The alleged move to shift High Court from Amaravati to Kurnool has sparked criticism in the legal fraternity of coastal Andhra Pradesh. Lawyers across coastal Andhra are observing boycott of court proceedings at all levels. The talk is that the High Court must be shifted from Amaravati to Kurnool, which was capital of erstwhile Andhra state during 1953-56.

The YCP government appears to be keen on honouring the sentiments of people at

the time of the undivided State's formation 66 years ago regarding sharing of Capital and High Court between the two regions. The AP government is believed to have sent feelers into the public. The lawyers' boycott must have given the government some feedback about the mood of the people on the issue. In 1953, when Andhra state was newly formed, Kurnool in Rayalaseema was selected as the capital of Andhra and High Court was set up in Guntur.

Now, the Government of AP is thinking on the same lines of sharing Capital and HC between two regions of the State! Perhaps it can put a full stop to the core issue by setting up High Court Bench in Rayalaseema.

CAPSULE

Subsidy seeds distributed

MAHABUBNAGAR: Devarakadra MLA Ala Venkateswar Reddy along with the Wanaparthy ZP chairman Loknath on Tuesday distributed the subsidy seeds to the farmers in the Madhanapuram market yard limits. The farmers were provided the groundnut seeds at subsidy rates and bags were allocated to the farmers. This season, the area under cultivation of groundnut crop is likely to spread into the new zones following the bountiful rains, which have been lashing the state since past few days.

RPF organises blood donation camp

KHAMMAM: A blood donation camp was organised at Railway Protection Force (RPF) office at Khammam railway station on Tuesday for the benefit of children suffering from Thalassemia disease. The camp was organised as a part of the 35th RPF Raising Day Celebrations, according to RPF Inspector K Madhusudan. District Collector RV Karman launched the camp and presented fruits to the donors. Around 60 volunteers, including RPF/GRP officers and staff, railway employees, parcel and licenced porters, auto and taxi drivers, students and faculty of SR&BGNR Government College, and Childline-1098 team members, donated blood under the aegis of Sankalpa Voluntary Organisation.

Pocharam to visit Uganda

HYDERABAD: Telangana State Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy will leave for Uganda on September 25 to take part in the 64th Commonwealth nations speakers' conference to be held in Kampala. He will leave for Kampala in the early hours of Wednesday and will return to city on October 6. After the Speakers' conference, he is scheduled to tour Europe. Telangana state legislative affairs secretary Dr Narasimhacharyulu will accompany the Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES

GOLD	₹ 37,980 (10 gm)
SILVER	₹ 48,000 (1kg)
	₹ 700

CHICKEN RATES ₹/kg

Dressed/With Skin	₹152
Without Skin	₹173
Broiler at Farm	₹105

EGG RATES ₹/100

HYDERABAD	390
VIJAYAWADA	410
VISAKHAPATNAM	415
RETAIL PRICE	₹3.90

Bhatti demands 'reverse tendering'

Asks TS government to take cue from AP govt

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has said that the Congress is welcoming the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's act of complimenting Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy's reverse tendering policy.

He demanded the Chief Minister to bring the same policy in Telangana too by appointing judiciary committee to monitor the tendering process. He said that Megha Company filed tenders for Polavaram project with 12.5 per cent less. He asked KCR to bring reverse tendering policy if he had sincerity.

On Tuesday at Assembly Committee Hall, Bhatti alleged that the TRS government had spent Rs 1 lakh crore on irrigation projects and it would spend Rs 1.25 lakh crore on irrigation projects. Contractors



Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka

The CLP leader meanwhile welcomed KCR's act of complimenting AP Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy's reverse tendering policy

would have filed tenders with 12 per cent less if the TRS government resorted to reverse tendering in irrigation projects, Bhatti said.

He said that 28,000 crore would have saved if reverse tendering would have taken place in Telangana in irrigation projects. Stating that the Mission Bhagiratha estimated expenditure is Rs 50,000 crore, Bhatti said that the government would have saved Rs 6000 crore if implemented reverse tender policy.

He said Rs 34,000 crore would have been saved with reverse tendering in irrigation projects and Mission Bhagiratha. Saying that contractor margin would go up to Rs 74,000 crore if added less tender amounts in irrigation projects, Bhatti demanded the state government to order inquiry into the tender process in irrigation projects. He said that the Congress will seek CBI inquiry into tender process in irrigation projects after collecting the information.

Bharosa centre in Nalgonda soon

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Inspector General of Police (Women's Safety) Swati Lakra on Tuesday said Bharosa, a support center for women and children affected by violence and crimes, would be set-up at Nalgonda soon. After visiting a building where the centre is likely to be set up, she said that the facility will be operational in a year.

The Bharosa centre would comprise a The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court and a counselling centre. The main objective to Bharosa centres was to ensure speedy justice to the victims of sexual harass-

ments. Two such centres were already functioning in Hyderabad and Vikarabad, she said. As per Supreme Court directions, these centres are to be located near courts. A Sakhi centre would also be constructed beside Bharosa centre, she added.

She said that a woman police officer, a psychologist and a legal adviser would be appointed to each Bharosa centre to file cases and counsel the victims. Later, she has also inspected women police station at Nalgonda. Superintendent of Police A V Ranganath, Additional SP Padnabha Reddy and Deputy Superintendent of Police Gangaram were also present.

Coal miners' strike hits production...

Continued from Page 1

Police made elaborate security arrangements at the mines as the management promised to protect those not taking part in the strike.

The Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) leader Janak Prasad said it was only the token strike and if the Centre fails to meet their demands, leaders of all trade unions will meet by the month-end to chalk out a future course of action.

SCCL is the largest public sector company in Telangana. It is owned by the state government and the Centre on a 51:49 equity basis.

It registered a record production of 64.41 million tonnes in 2018-19. The company earned a net profit of Rs 1,765 crore.

TSRTC to run 4,933 spl buses for Dasara

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

To cater to passenger rush during Dasara festival season, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has decided to run 4,933 special buses. As Dasara is an important festival for both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh people, TSRTC will run the special buses to destinations across two Telugu states. The special buses will be operated from September 7 to October 7.

"Dasara is an important festival for Telugu people. It is an important season for even TSRTC as we experience peak passenger rush. To cater to the passenger rush during Dasara festival, we are planning to run special buses for 11 days from September 27 to October 7.



While last year we operated about 4,900 special buses, this year will operate 4,933 special buses. Depending upon the demand, we will also push more buses into service if needed," said TSRTC Rangareddy region RM Varaprasad, speaking to media on Tuesday.

TSRTC senior official also said that there would not be any hike in fare for the special buses. By running special

buses, the loss making TSRTC aims to earn some revenue, besides saving passengers from the fleeing private travels, who charge exorbitant amount on tickets, to cash in on festival rush.

TSRTC has planned special buses in both long distance and short distance routes. The special bus services will be operated in Hyderabad-Vijayawada, Hyderabad-Kurnool, Hyderabad-Karimnagar,

Last year we operated about 4,900 special buses. Depending upon the demand, we will also push more buses into service if needed, says TSRTC official

Hyderabad-Warangal, and other intrastate routes. TSRTC carries on an average close to one lakh passengers daily and during the festival season the passengers increase at least three fold, creating huge demand for bus services. Dasara is being celebrated on October 8 this year.

Private players to run trains...

Continued from Page 1

The IRCTC has started the booking of tickets for the Tejas Express between Lucknow-New Delhi from October 5 onward journey. The IRCTC's Tejas Express will be flagged off from Lucknow on October 4.

The minimum fare for the Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express has been kept at Rs 1,125 for the AC chair car, while the fare for Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express AC chair car will be Rs 1,280. On the other hand, the ticket price for Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express Executive chair car has been kept at Rs 2,310 and the Delhi-Lucknow fare for Executive Chair Car will be Rs 2,450.

The passengers travelling on Tejas Express from Lucknow to Kanpur in AC chair car will have to shell out Rs 320 and Rs 630 for the Executive Chair car (ECC). For Lucknow to Ghaziabad travel, the passenger needs to pay Rs 1,125 for the AC chair car, while Rs 2,310 for the ECC. On the return journey, the fare is Rs 1,155 for AC Chair car from Delhi to Kanpur while for the ECC it is Rs 2,155.

All these fares are subject to the application of dynamic fare, just like airlines, the IRCTC has said.



MP BB Patil distributes a tricycle to a physically challenged person on Tuesday

MP distributes electric tricycles to disabled

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

The Lok Sabha member from Zaheerabad, BB Patil on Tuesday distributed electric tricycles to physically challenged persons at several places in the Parliamentary constituency. Patil was accompanied by Zaheerabad MLA K Manik Rao and 59 tricycles were handed over to the beneficiaries in Zaheerabad town. Later, Patil, along with Andole MLA Chanti Kranthi Kiran distributed the 46 electric tricycles to disabled persons in Jogipet town.

Speaking on the occasions, the MP has said that he has

Zaheerabad MP BB Patil was accompanied by MLA K Manik Rao and 59 tricycles were handed over to the beneficiaries

He said that he has spent the funds from Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme

spent funds from MP Lads and also funds available with Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Later, the MP and Andole MLA have also participated in Poshan Abhiyan programme.

Amruta alleges conspiracy in Pranay's case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Amruta, wife of Pranay, who was brutally murdered by a hired killer in Hyderabad last year, has alleged that efforts were on to water down the murder case.

Addressing media here on Tuesday, she alleged conspiracy by some to get the case quashed on technical grounds stating that Pranay's parents are not SCs, but Christians. She contended that her husband's family belongs to SC community as certified by the government officials. She questioned the basis for her opponents classifying them as Christians.

Amruta said that she and Pranay got married in Arya Samaj. Puja was performed to wedding invitation in Hanuman temple. She along with her slain husband visited various temples. As her battle is fully legal, she cautioned her rivals against contemplating getting the case would fizzle out. Further, she said the charge sheet has been framed taking everything into account and leaving nothing for chance. Come what may, the witnesses are not going to backtrack, she said.

BJP leaves no stone unturned for by-poll

PNS ■ WARANGAL

In a bid to spring a major surprise in the Huzurnagar by-elections, the BJP is making every possible effort to repeat the fate of north Telangana by deploying forces from the north Telangana districts.

The party high command at the state-level is keen on adopting a major offensive in the fashion of TRS and it is identifying cadre to oversee the election process during the campaign schedule.

As of now the BJP was not regarded as a strong force in the segment but the recent developments at the state-level have made the party a formidable proposition and the cadre of that party seems rejuvenated with their activities in the

The BJP's plan of action in Huzurnagar by-election is being monitored by the Nizamabad MP Aravind Dharmapuri



segments. Victories in Karimnagar, Adilabad and Nizamabad Lok Sabha Constituencies have boosted the morale of the party cadre and it made the party a force to reckon with.

Following this, the party leadership is trying to take a cue from this result to

strengthen itself in the south Telangana too. Since the Huzurnagar is regarded a challenging task by the ruling TRS and Congress, the BJP is also not losing any chance to prove its mettle.

The BJP has announced Srikala Reddy as its candidate and their cadres from various parts of the state are expressing their desire to join the bandwagon of election in the coming fortnight period. The leaders in north

Telangana districts say the student activists of the party are keen on adopting villages in the Mandals spread across the segment to intensify the campaign and they feel the campaign process would enable the party to show its presence in almost all the parts of the constituency.

The TRS and Congress too are not taking BJP as a weak opponent in the present elections and though the BJP could not surpass the four digit votes in the previous elections the party is likely to emerge a strong force at the present hustings. The BJP's plan of action was monitored by the Nizamabad MP Aravind Dharmapuri team which has inflicted a severe jolt to the TRS in the Lok Sabha polls.

KCR-Jagan meeting 'leaks'...

Continued from Page 1

It became clear that both the Chief Ministers were highly perturbed at the brazen 'discrimination' shown by the Centre towards Telugu States with regard to allotment of funds and the need for putting up a joint fight against the Centre to secure the two states' legitimate demands.

In particular, the CMs discussed the implications of the Centre appointing hardcore BJP leaders as Governors of AP and TS, and that too, without consulting them even for the sake of formality.

The foregoing 'inside information' constituted part of the 'leaks' that appeared prominently in a section of the vernacular media on Tuesday.

The Andhra Pradesh CMO was

quick to react. It strongly condemned the 'leaks', saying no political discussions took place between KCR and Jagan and that their meeting was confined to Godavari-Krishna linkage as well as pending bifurcation issues between TS and AP. The AP CMO termed the leaks as 'fabricated' by 'yellow media' with mala fide intention.

Normally ministers in TS cabinet or senior TRS leaders brief media persons on issues concerning KCR or TRS government by holding press conferences at Telangana Bhavan.

Had KCR elected not to react on 'leaks' considering them as part of 'fabricated' information, he would have asked his ministers or other senior party leaders to condemn the reports and put the record straight. In this case, nei-

ther KCR nor TS CMO; or, for that matter, ministers or TRS leaders reacted. Noticeably, TRS senior leader and government whip in TS Legislative Council Karne Prabhakar, who addressed a press conference on Tuesday to lash out at BJP's Union ministers for criticizing KCR and TRS government, too chose to ignore the 'leaks' on KCR and Jagan's meeting held on Monday.

All this have added grist to the mill of those who believe that there might be some truth in the leaks. This explains why TS CMO or TRS leaders did not condemn the reports. Rumour mills are abuzz that Jagan was compelled to condemn the 'leaks' in view of his publicly assumed position that he does not want any 'confrontation' with BJP or NDA government. KCR is on a different wicket.

CRIME CORNER

Techie jumps off building terrace, dies

HYDERABAD: A 28-year-old software employee jumped to death from the fifth floor of a multi-storied building at Madinaguda in Miyapur on Tuesday afternoon. According to the police, the woman was identified as Mahathi, who was working in a software firm in Gachibowli. She was staying with her family in an apartment in Madinaguda area. Sources said Mahathi had left for work in the morning but returned home complaining of stomach pain. "She then went to the terrace on the building and jumped off from there, succumbing to the injuries on the spot. There was no suicide note found. The family has not raised any suspicion, police said, adding that a case was booked and the body was shifted for postmortem examination.

Two arrested for thefts

HYDERABAD: The Malkajgiri police arrested two property offenders and seized stolen goods worth Rs 12.5 lakh on Tuesday. The arrested were identified as Hyder Ali Razvi, 29, and Shaik Chand Pasha, 27, said the police. Police said Razvi has a criminal record since 2004. Previously, he was involved in 42 house burglary offences and one murder case. Pasha is a habitual offender who is also involved in bodily offences. He has a criminal record since 2011 and was involved in eight property and bodily offences. During investigation, officials verified CCTV footages near the place of offence and verified the fingerprints with experts, who identified Pasha. On Tuesday, police apprehended Razvi and Pasha and recovered the stolen property.

CMRS inspects Ameerpet...

Continued from Page 1

The CMRS official carried out a preliminary inspection, accompanied by Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) managing director NVS Reddy, Deputy CMRS Ram Meher, engineers of HMRL and L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad (L&TMRH) at the accident site at Ameerpet station. An HMRL official said, "Further inspections will be carried out in due course and the required engineering tests will be got done under the expertise and supervision of IIT-Hyderabad.

Officials said that CMRS will hold a public hearing over the issue at Metro Rail Bhavan on October 3.

Heavy rain pummels city, throws traffic haywire

SEASON'S RECORD DOWNPOUR LASTS HOURS, LEAVES ROADS INUNDATED, COMMUTERS STRANDED



1

1. Commuters were caught unawares as heavy showers started in the city in the afternoon

2. Many out on the streets on way back from work braved the rain to make it home

3. Many roads saw traffic jams as rains continued through the evening and well into the night



3

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rain started pouring down in torrents in the afternoon and continued till late in the evening on Tuesday, leaving several key roads and areas, particularly in HiTec City, severely inundated.

Motorists were stuck in traffic jams across the city. The heaviest rainfall in the city of 6.5 cm was recorded at Tirumalgiri, followed by Malkajgiri at 5.3 cm.

The IMD has forecast intermittent rain and shower, with 'very heavy rainfall' at isolated places across the state including the city till September 26.

According to Hyderabad traffic police, traffic movement got slowed down until late in the evening due to heavy

showers and water-logging at various spots.

Traffic snarls were reported at NIMS Hospital near Panjagutta Junction, Srinagar Colony, Sagar Society, NTR Bhavan Junction, Masab Tank, Lakdi-ka-Pul, Khairatabad, Tarbundi, Old and New Bowenpally, Ramanthapur, Amberpet, Golnaka, Nampally, Asifnagar, Prakash Nagar, Rasoolpura, Madhapur, Jubilee Hills, Hitech-city, Shaikpet and Gachibowli.

With major roads jammed, some commuters looked for alternative routes on Google Maps. The site said it takes an hour and 40 minutes for a 10-km journey starting from Mindspace in HiTec City to reach Tolichowki. IT workers suffered as shuttle services were halted.

Hyd roads, a driver's nightmare

Rains ruin the roads, but quick-fix repairs leave the surface bumpy and uneven

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 23-year-old businessperson, Rajeev Kumar, was driving his scooter with a flat rear tyre on the wrong side of the road under Masab Tank Flyover. The tyre on his vehicle had got punctured for the fifth time in a week due to the sharp bumps on the road.

"I have no option but to take the risk," Rajeev said, "I have spent about Rs 800 on puncture repair in one week. But this time the tyre just burst after hitting a pothole near NMDC office. I will have to replace it altogether."

"Tyre bursts suddenly create a dangerous situation. A scooter or bike can skid badly, which can even cause a fatal accident," said Rasheed Sadik, a puncture repairman.

Just a day ago on Monday, a TSRTC bus rammed into a Metro pillar near Ameerpet as one of its tyres burst. The bus went out of control and four passengers ended up with injuries.

It's becoming clear potholed roads of Hyderabad not just make driving difficult, they damage vehicles and can also be a safety hazard for the driver and pedestrians.



TRIMULGHERRY	6.1 CM
KEESARA	5.9 CM
BALAJINAGAR	5.5 CM
MALKAJGIRI	5.3 CM
ASIFNAGAR	5.2 CM
YOUSUFGUDA	5.1 CM
JUBILEE HILLS	5.1 CM
MAREDPALLY	4.5 CM
MUSHEERABAD	4.5 CM
UPPAL	4 CM
KHAIRATABAD	3.9 CM
HIMAYATHNAGAR	3.9 CM

day, and is not likely to happen in the near future. At the moment the GHMC is suffering from funds crunch. And so for years now it has taken the easy way out by patching up potholes without re-carpeting the entire broken stretch. In August, Mayor Bonthu Rammohan had asked for sanction of Rs 50 crore to fill up over 5,000 potholes using what they called 'high-quality bitumen' and advanced technologies like Vacuum Dewatered Cement Concrete (VDCC) machines. But after all the talk, roads in the city remain cratered.

More rain, worse roads

The IMD warned of rain in all districts of Telangana including Hyderabad till September 25. With more rain forecast, more potholes are likely to emerge in the city, while the repair work would be at halted till the rain stops. City-based civil engineer Niranjan says potholes often begin as imperceptible, barely recognisable cracks on the road, which after being exposed to the sun and rain, widen the cracks. The wear and tear caused by vehicles loosens the surface to form potholes.

'Patch up and cover' no good

The government's plan to spend big on 'do-it-now' road infrastructure never saw light of

MRO Lavanya, husband produced in ACB court

Searches reveal disproportionate assets of Rs 1.3 cr

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Tahsildar and MRO V Lavanya, who was under suspension following a bribery case, was arrested and produced in court by ACB in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Her husband, N Venkateswara Naik, is in judicial custody for demanding and accepting bribes for providing jobs to people on outsourcing basis.

The disproportionate assets case was registered against Nunavath Venkateshwara Naik, superintendent of RDMA (Regional Director Municipal Administration), Hyderabad and his wife Lavanya at Keshampet mandal in Rangareddy district on September 19.

On Tuesday, further searches were conducted at the houses of benamis, B Nagamani at Hayathnagar and V Hussain



V Lavanya



N Venkateswara Naik

Naik in Suryapet district. Searches revealed that Naik and Lavanya had amassed assets disproportionate to their known sources of income to the tune of Rs 1,33,35,012, ACB officials said.

In August, ACB took Lavanya, MRO of Keshampet mandal, into custody and recovered Rs 93.5 lakh in cash and 420 gm gold from her res-

idence at Hayathnagar in Hyderabad. Naik was arrested after he demanded and accepted a bribe of Rs 2.50 lakh from complainant Vangala Randheer to appoint him in the office of RDMA in Hyderabad. Naik demanded a further Rs 40,000 bribe from him continue his job with regular pay with ESI and EPF facilities by influencing senior officers.

Men posing as cops, robbing people on highways, nabbed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Five persons who posed as policemen and robbed vendors on national highways and other state roads were arrested on Tuesday. Police recovered valuables worth Rs 22.08 lakh, including gold ornaments, foreign currency and other items from them.

Rachakonda Police Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat said police has been keeping an eye on all illegal manufacturing, transporting, and storage of gutkha.

The accused were identified as Ananthula Veeranna, 38, Mogulla Naresh, 31, Gangadevi Prabhakar, 28, Syed Amer, 22, and Mohammed Fareed, 25, said police, adding that one more suspect, Rajnikanth, is absconding.

Veeranna and Naresh had once been arrested while transporting gutkha. After release, they formed a gang, started



The five accused in police custody

Accused robbed car occupants of Rs 1.5 lakh, took them to ATMs and forced them to withdraw more money

posing as police personnel and looting other persons who were transporting gutkha to

Hyderabad, police said.

On September 19, posing as police personnel, they looted two cars. Police said they robbed one group of Rs 1.5 lakh and took them to ATMs from where they forced the victims to withdraw more money. They also took US\$ 1800 that one of the victims had, apart from gold ornaments and the gutkha consignment.

Robbery bid foiled, cops chase accused

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Robbers, who tried to break into a jewelry store, attempted to run over a police sub-inspector in Dundigal when their patrol van noticed suspicious activity. After a high speed chase, police found the vehicle used by the robbers abandoned near a forest area in Pet Basheerabad.

Three teams were formed by Cyberabad police to nab the absconding offenders.

Shekhar Reddy, who is posted at Dundigal police station, was on night patrol duty along with three staff when the incident occurred. As the team finished patrolling in residential colonies and other places across three police stations at around 2.15 am and reached Kompally, they saw a mini-van parked in front of Ganesh Jewellers. There were three people inside, wearing money caps to cover their faces.

"We found their movements suspicious. Our driver was asked to stop the car," said Shekhar Reddy. Just as he took a few steps, the mini-van driver suddenly started the vehicle and sped off, almost running over the SI.

The SI and his team gave the van a chase, staying on their trail for over two km. The robbers drove into the Dulapally forest area where they crashed into a tree, and escaped into darkness after abandoning the vehicle. Officials recovered a gun cutter, iron rod, stones and other material from the seized van. Inquiry revealed that the van was stolen by the gang. The Petbasheerabad police registered a case and are investigating.

GIRL INFORMS PAL BY VIDEO, HANGS SELF

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 20-year-old girl was found hanging at her home in Golconda under mysterious circumstances on Sunday night.

According to the police, T Aarathi, a resident of Ibrahimbagh in Golconda, lived with her parents and was pursuing graduation. On Sunday around 10.30 pm, her mother Karuna, who had gone out, called her over the phone and when Aarathi did not respond, she got anxious and rushed

home. She reached there and found that the door was locked from inside. As she was trying to get into the room through a door in the backyard, she found another youngster also trying to enter the room, said Golconda police inspector K Chandrasekar. The youngster, identified as Bharath, informed her that he was Aarathi's friend and said she had sent him a WhatsApp video saying she was going to end her life, following which he rushed to her house.

Huzurnagar to see triangular fight among Reddy candidates

Continued from Page 1

Telangana TDP too wants to field its candidate in the Huzurnagar by-elections. The party's leaders held a meeting in Nalgonda town in this connection. Party leader Nannuri Narsi Reddy exuded confidence that the party would 'show its strength' in Huzurnagar since it has good cadre in the constituency.

The Huzurnagar Assembly constituency fell vacant in

view of the resignation of N Uttam Kumar Reddy upon his election as Nalgonda MP. Polling to the Huzurnagar seat will be held on October 21. Counting will be held on October 24. Candidates can file their nominations from September 23 to September 30. Scrutiny of the nominations will be held on October 1. October 3rd is the last date for withdrawal of nominations.

Suryapet SP R

Venkateswarlu said that they would implement Police Act 30 until completion of the Huzurnagar by-elections. This means rallies, dharnas, rasta rokos, public meetings and other programmes cannot be organized without prior police permission. Severe action would be taken against persons violating the orders, the SP declared. The police would ensure that there would be no law and order problems, he asserted.

Unmarried woman gives birth to stillborn; booked

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An unmarried woman, who had tried to abort her pregnancy earlier, gave birth to a stillborn child in a bathroom after taking homeopathic medicines, at Rasoolpura area of Begumpet.

According to sources, the young woman had avoided medical termination of the pregnancy in the hospital. She went to a homeopathy doctor in Rasoolpura who prescribed her medicine, after

taking which she experienced pain in the stomach.

A source close to the family said she was unable to bear the pain and so requested the owner of a house next to the clinic to use the bathroom. She happened to deliver a baby inside. The panicked owner called the doctor, but by that time the newborn was already dead. The owner called the police who registered a case. The woman was taken to Gandhi hospital for treatment.

Indian univ teachers more inclined on mentoring: Study

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A study conducted by researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H) and Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, showed that "Indian university teachers had higher levels of intention to mentor than Spanish teachers and also, teachers from India valued position-based power more than Spanish university teachers."

The survey-based research was conducted among 88 Indian and 105 Spanish university teachers. Results of the study showed Indian teachers



had higher levels of intention to mentoring than Spanish teachers. But at the same time, teachers from India valued position-based power more than Spanish teachers. In both the groups, self-leadership qualities improved the teachers' sense of control over their work and environment and this led to increased intention to mentoring others in the workplace. "Teachers with high self-efficacy are inclined toward mentoring; their intention becomes stronger when they are driven

by a feeling of empathy generated from the sense of equality horizontal individualism or by a sense of moral obligation to give back to their professional community that is vertical collectivism," said associate professor MP Ganesh from department of liberal arts at IIT-Hyderabad. The recently published work in the 'Journal of Cross-Cultural and Strategic Management, Emerald Insight' helps understand the influence of self-leadership on the intention to mentor among Indian and Spanish university teachers, considering the mediating role of self-efficacy and the moderating role of individualism-collectivism dimensions.

Clean-up drive re-opens access to Fateh Darwaza

The historic gate at Golconda Fort was cleared of wild vegetation and dumped waste

MAYANK TIWARI ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Heritage Trust launched a crowd-funded clean-up drive and cleaned Fateh Darwaza at Golconda Fort on Sunday.

Fateh Darwaza had been reduced to a garbage dump with even Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) workers disposing large amounts of refuse near the moat wall next to Fateh Darwaza.

"This pathway provides access to the fort had remained inaccessible because of refuse dumping and growth of wild vegetation," said a volunteer of

'By clearing this, we have paved way for visitors to access the southern side of Fateh Darwaza and enable them to walk along the wall'

Hyderabad Heritage Trust, Mohammed Shujaath Aly. "By clearing this, we will pave way for visitors to access the southern side of Fateh Darwaza and enable them to walk closely alongside the wall."

The initiative started last

week when volunteers conducted a clean-up drive at Hillfort Palace in Naubhat Pahad. "It was successful, and so this time we are teamed up with GHMC, a co-operation that will help take the heritage clean-up campaign further," said Shujaath.

"Emperor Aurangzeb could not penetrate the fort for eight months even with his massive army, and so he eventually bribed his way with the help of a commander; this happened via this gate, which is why it is called Fateh Darwaza or the 'Victory Gate'. This gate will be preserved because of its historical significance," said another volunteer.



The path leading to the gate now sports a clean look



Rajeshwar TRS in-charge for Huzurnagar by-poll

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister and TRS president K Chandrashekar Rao on Tuesday appointed party's general secretary and Whip in the State legislative Council Palla Rajeshwar Reddy as the in-charge of Huzurnagar Assembly bypoll. KCR instructed Rajeshwar Reddy to coordinate with Ministers, MPs, MLAs, and MLCs from the district and stay at Huzurnagar to coordinate and implement the party's poll strategy. KCR also instructed all the leaders to be in their districts and get ready for the polls.

'RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS LEADING BY EXAMPLE'

■ DEMAND FOR SEATS IN SCHOOLS ON THE RISE, SAYS MINISTER KOPPULA ESHWAR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Minorities Welfare Koppula Eshwar has said that the state government is incurring an expenditure of Rs 1.20 lakh on each student belonging to minority communities and noted that measures to appoint teachers on permanent basis to minorities educational institutions and pucca buildings are underway.

On Tuesday, he inspected the Telangana State Government's minority residential educational institution for boys at Sanatnagar and for girls at Khairatabad. He said that the demand for seats in the residential educational institutions for minorities is very high since they offer education in English medium with all corporate amenities.



He went round the school, visited the classrooms and enquired about accommodation for students. He asked the

students to keep their classrooms and school premises tidy. He enquired the principals about the menu and

asked them to provide nutritious food especially to girls.

He told the school authorities to infuse confidence among the students and ensure that they reach dizzy heights in their career. He suggested to them to hold special classes for those lagging behind.

He told the school authorities that the government set up these schools with lofty ideals and asked them to strive to achieve the government's objective. The principals told the Minister that the schools are equipped with digital class rooms and the students receive sports dress. There is a teacher for every 20 students and each class is divided into two sections. Advisor to government AK Khan accompanied the minister.

Volkswagen case: Botsa appears in CBI court

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Botsa Satyanarayana on Tuesday appeared in a special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court as a witness in the 14-year-old Volkswagen case.

The Minister appeared in response to the summons issued in August. Satyanarayana is likely to record his statement as the 60th witness in the case.

He was Industries Minister in the YS Rajasekhara Reddy government in undivided Andhra Pradesh in 2005 when the scandal had surfaced. The State government had allegedly paid Rs 11.67 crore to Vashista Wahan Private Limited floated for setting up of a Volkswagen manufacturing unit in Visakhapatnam.

Vashista Wahan, however, turned out to be a fictitious entity. The scam came to light in 2005 when Volkswagen sacked its then head of Indian

operations Helmut Schuster on charges of corruption in some other dealings. Schuster was negotiating on behalf of Volkswagen with the Andhra Pradesh government for setting up of the car plant.

Following allegations by the opposition that Satyanarayana and some others had paid the money to Vashista Wahan

through "dubious" means, the State government ordered the probe by the CBI.

The CBI in 2010 filed a chargesheet against six accused, including Schuster. They were charged with criminal conspiracy and cheating. However, Satyanarayana was included as a witness in the case.

Setback for Ravi Prakash in HC

The former CEO of TV 9 V Ravi Prakash received a blow in Telangana High Court on Tuesday in cases filed against him by the state police. The court dismissed the petition filed by Ravi Prakash urging it to relax the conditions imposed on him while granting the bail.

In his petition, Ravi Prakash urged the court to waive the condition of appearing before the police at regular intervals and return his passport in order

to allow him to visit foreign countries.

A single judge bench headed by Justice G Sri Devi passed the orders after hearing the petition. The criminal cases by the state were filed against Ravi Prakash following a complaint by one Kaushik Rao, the director of Alanda Media and entertainment private limited. The court had granted conditional bail in all the three cases filed against him.

Centre copying TS' schemes: Karne

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TRS MLS Karne Prabhakar on Tuesday objected to conduct of Union Ministers on a visit to the State and accused them of adopting double standards. His grouse against them was that leveling allegations against the government forgetting their stature.

Addressing media at the TRSLP office, the MLC said that the Union Ministers taking part in government programmes praise the government schemes, but change the tack while taking part in the saffron party programmes. He felt that it does not augur well for them.

He dared Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is it possible for the Center to implement welfare programmes of Telangana in BJP ruled states. "As a Central Minister you are not able to implement the Center's schemes in your own state of Odisha," he said.



He objected to the Union Ministers shooting their mouth against KCR as they liked in spite of the fact that he enjoys the popular support of the people. He confronted with them by seeking to know whether any of the BJP-ruled states is implementing better government schemes than those being implemented in Telangana. He advised them to highlight the wonderful schemes being implemented by the Center before criticising Telangana.

Grand plans in place for Bathukamma festival

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Tuesday said that the Bathukamma festival will commence on a grand note with the participation of 10,000 at Bhadrakali temple in Warangal on September 28. The festival will be celebrated across the state, including Raj Bhavan and State Legislative Assembly, till October 6, when it will conclude. The government has been making elaborate arrangements for celebration of the festival on a grand scale, irrespective of the expenditure.

Reviewing arrangements for the festival at Tourism Plaza in Begumpet here, he said that the state government would extend necessary support to other states celebrating the festival. He said that the festival is being celebrated officially for the past five years with the state government declaring it as an official festival of the state. It is celebrated in government offices and the government gives special holidays for women to celebrate the event.

He accused the successive government that ruled Andhra Pradesh neglecting the festival. The festival, a part of Telangana culture originated from worshipping nature, under the leadership of Telangana Jagruti president K Kavita has gone international. He urged AP too celebrate the event, which is being celebrated in Maharashtra and Karnataka too. Further, the festival will be celebrated on a large scale in Delhi too. The festival will conclude with taking out a huge rally from LB stadium to Tank Bund.

Bathukamma festival going global: Talasani

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Bathukamma festival, unique to Telangana has gone international ever since the TRS regime gave it the status of state festival, said Minister for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivas Yadav.

Distributing Bathukamma festival sarees among women at various places in the twin cities on Tuesday, the Minister said that the TRS government is distributing the sarees to ensure women celebrate the festival with joy.

He said that the government would distribute 15.40 lakh Bathukamma sarees under the limits of the GHMC through 900 distribution centers a n d 1,300 fair-

price outlets. He appreciated the saree designs and dwelt at length on governments schemes for the poor like Shaadi Mubarak, Kalyana Lakshmi, Rytu Bandhu and so on.

He distributed the sarees among beneficiaries at Bansilapet, Amirpet, Amberpet, Goshamahal divisions. The GHMC Urban Community Development Project Director Snigdha Patnaik, Zonal commissioner Musharaf Ali, Sankaraiyah, Deputy commissioners Gita Radhika, Krishnaiah and others were present on the occasion.



Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav distributes Bathukamma sarees in Hyderabad on Tuesday

Over 15 lakh sarees to be distributed in Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation will distribute a total of 15,38, 742 sarees in the Greater Hyderabad limits, said the civic body on Tuesday. The State Government had started distributing Bathukamma sarees from Monday. The corporation has made preparatory arrangements such as formation of ward-level committees, circle level committees and

nodal officers to ensure proper receipt for distribution and return of the undistributed stock in each zone.

The senior officers have been positioned at various levels to conduct the entire programme in a smooth manner. So far, 7,01,200 sarees have been received from the Telangana State Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society Limited Weavers' and the balance stock will reach the circle level godowns by Wednesday evening.



'Bathukamma Samburalu' poster released

■ FORMER MP K KAVITHA UNVEILS THE POSTER

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former MP and Telangana Jagruti president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Tuesday launched posters and brochures of the 'Bathukamma Samburalu'. Addressing the Telangana Jagruti district convenors, she

said, "Bathukamma has been promoting values and has added spiritual significance to the daily lives of people. Our organisation has spread across the globe in a very short period. Like every year, we will celebrate the Bathukamma festival in Mumbai, and also in coun-

tries like USA, Australia, UK, Europe, Qatar, Oman, United Arab Emirates and in many other Middle East countries." This year, Telangana Jagruti will celebrate 'Bathukamma Samburalu' across the state of Telangana from 28 September to 6 October.

Bathukamma has been promoting values and has added spiritual significance to the daily lives of people. Our organisation has spread across the globe in a very short period, said K Kavitha

KCR interfering in HCA polls: Vivek

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Senior BJP leader G Vivek Venkatswamy slammed Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao alleging that latter has been interfering in Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) elections to gain control over the cricket body.

Vivek came down heavily on the Chief Minister saying latter has obstructed him from contesting in HCA elections. "CM KCR wants to control all

sports. He has been interfering in Hyderabad Cricket Association elections to gain control over the high profile cricket body. KCR obstructed me from contesting in the HCA elections. IT Minister KTR has been openly canvassing for Azharuddin and requesting members to vote for Azhar. It will be a great blow for HCA, if KCR has his way in HCA polls. Interference of KCR will only derail Hyderabad cricket," he said.

MASS FILING OF NOMINATIONS

Will Nizamabad episode repeat in Huzurnagar?

■ 'MALLANNA TEAM' PLANNING TO FLOOD THE CONSTITUENCY WITH OVER 200 CANDIDATES

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

This year, over 200 farmers have filed nominations in Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency in Telangana to protest the failure of the state and Central governments to ensure better remunerative process for their produce.

And the situation is likely to be repeated in Huzurnagar by-election, which will be held on October 21, as the 'Theenmar Mallanna' team is planning to field 200 candidates opposing the mainstream political parties for fielding only Reddy community candidates.

Over 200 farmers filed their nominations in Nizamabad elections and succeeded in defeating ruling party candidate K Kavitha. Here the aim of Mallanna team may be different but the team wants to

prove their mettle in Huzurnagar by-elections with different social justice angle strategy.

According to Mallanna team member Ravikanth, they are going to field candidates from all castes to prove that the by-election is not for a single community.

Interestingly, the team will collect the nomination fee from the people. The team is also asking the interested candidates to contest the elections and asking them to send their details to their team members.

Ravikanth further said that they would announce their team strategy within couple of days. It may be recalled that the TRS announced Sanampudi Saidi Reddy, Congress announced Padmavathi Reddy and BJP announced Srikala Reddy as their candidates, all from Reddy community.

It may be recalled that over 200 farmers have filed nominations in Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency in Telangana last year. However, 184 candidates stayed in the fray, which ensured the victory of BJP candidate Dharmapuri Arvind.

The ruling TRS party candidate K Kavitha lost the elections with huge margin. After the elections, TRS party leaders have alleged that the farmers changed the fate of their candidates in Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency.

All three mainstream political parties - TRS, Congress and BJP are considering these by-elections as prestigious elections to prove their mettle. At this juncture, Mallanna team is planning to field 200 candidates. One has to wait and see as to how these 200 candidates are going to show their impact in these elections.

PNS/Hyderabad

Student unions and unemployed youth organisations are planning to launch a joint agitation against the government, as one Osmania University alumni Navin Kumar Myadari's suicide, apparently frustrated with not getting a government job, once again highlighted the pathetic situation of students and unemployed youth aspiring for government jobs in Telangana.

Telangana Nirudyogula JAC, SFI, PDSU, NSUI and other

Telangana Nirudyogula JAC, SFI, PDSU, NSUI and other student unions have vowed to intensify agitation seeking release of job notifications

student unions and unemployed youth organisations have vowed to launch a fresh agitation against the government seeking release of job notifications, as a pall of gloom descended over OU campus, Ashoknagar and other areas, where mostly youth preparing for government jobs reside, after Navin's suicide news spread.

"TRS government has completely betrayed students and unemployed youth. OU student Navin's suicide has once again highlighted the grave-

ness of the situation. At least 20 to 25 lakh youth are seriously preparing for government jobs and eagerly waiting for job notifications. With the government not issuing notifications, these youth are in severe pressure, which is eventually leading to extreme step like suicide. In spite of numerous representations and protests, government is not recognising the helpless situation of unemployed youth. We are planning to launch a joint agitation to step up pressure on the government.

Already PDSU, SFI and others have expressed readiness to join hands and we will even approach ABVP," said Koturi Manavatha Roy, founder of Telangana Nirudyogula JAC, speaking to The Pioneer.

Navin Kumar who had completed his PG in Journalism in 2015 has been staying near OU campus and preparing for competitive examinations. Miffed with not getting a government job even after preparing for four years, he had committed suicide.

SHORT READS

OSD to chief engineer held on graft charges

JAMMU: An officer on special duty (OSD) to the chief engineer of the public works department has been arrested by the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) for allegedly accepting bribe, an official said on Tuesday. Suresh Kumar said in his complaint that he had completed counterfort wall work at Reasi Anji Road for 61.42 lakh for which an amount of Rs 32 lakhs was pending with the Roads and Building Department. The complainant was constantly harassed by OSD Nazir Ahmad and bribe was demanded for release of payment, officials said. After receiving the complaint, the Anti Corruption Bureau registered an FIR and the ACB laid a trap. ACB teams caught Ahmad along with his associate Raju Singh, driver in the PWD department, while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 70,000.

Goa cops track down person behind nude party poster

PANAJI: Goa Police have "tracked down" the person believed to be behind advertising hosting of a "nude party", Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Tuesday after a poster surfaced on social media announcing the event in north Goa. Police on Monday launched investigation into the source of the poster titled "Private Goa Party". It mentioned the venue as Morjim-Ashwem road, Gawdevada Road, in Pernem town. The poster informed that "10-15 foreigners" and "more than 10 Indian girls" will take part in the event. "Police have investigated about that poster. They have been able to track down one person. He will be arrested soon," the chief minister said, adding that the state will not allow such an event to happen. He refused to divulge the location of the person. Tourism Minister Manohar Aigaoankar also said that any nude party will not be allowed in Goa. "If you come to know anything about such event then please inform us. We will take strict action," the minister said.

Mayawati dissolves Rajasthan BSP executive

JAIPU: Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati has dissolved the party's executive in Rajasthan, days after its all six legislators joined the Congress and the brawl among activists at its office. National convener Ramji Gautam and former Rajya Sabha member Munkad Ali have been given the responsibility of the BSP in Rajasthan, said Bhagwan Singh, the party's Rajasthan incharge. The entire executive of the BSP has been dissolved in the state, Singh said, adding that the decision had been taken on the instructions of Mayawati. The move comes after all the six BSP MLAs in the state joined the ruling Congress on September 16. Following the switch, workers clashed at the state-level meeting of the party held here two days ago.

Chouhan to launch civil disobedience campaign against MP

BHOPAL: Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday said he will launch a "savinay avayga" (civil disobedience) campaign against the ruling Congress over "non-fulfillment" of its promises made to people of the state. The senior BJP leader made the announcement during the conclusion of his two-day 'Janata ki Adalat' (people's court) held at Nasrullaganj tehsil in Sehore district, which falls in his constituency Budhni. A large number of people turned up at the people's court to highlight their various problems, including inflated electricity bills, non-waiver of farm loans and issues pertaining to women self-help groups. In Chouhan's presence, some people also set fire their 'inflated' power bills and said they will not pay them till the Congress-led state government does not fulfil its promise of reducing their electricity usage costs from Rs 200 per month to Rs 100 per month. "Farmers are getting highly inflated electricity bills running into thousands of rupees, which is totally unjustified," Chouhan said addressing the gathering.

Saradha scam: Rajeev Kumar claims CBI 'hounding' him

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar on Tuesday moved the Calcutta High Court seeking anticipatory bail in the multi-crore Saradha chitfund case and claimed that the CBI was "hounding" him.

Kumar, who is currently additional director general in the West Bengal CID, said his leave will end on Wednesday and his plea for pre-arrest bail be taken up for hearing urgently.

Moving the anticipatory bail petition, his counsel Debasish Roy submitted before a division bench presided by Justice S Munshi, that "the CBI is hounding me (Kumar) like anything."

At this, the other judge of the bench Justice S Dasgupta said, "Go and surrender."

The division bench then fixed Kumar's anticipatory bail plea, which was filed on Monday, for hearing on



Rajeev Kumar

Wednesday. Kumar's lawyer earlier submitted that the petition was listed at 'serial number 271' before the bench and prayed for an urgent hearing of the matter.

The court asked him to explain why it needed to be taken up for urgent hearing.

CBI sleuths have gone to several places, including Kumar's official residence at Park Street here, in search of the elusive officer. Kumar's pre-arrest bail plea

CBI sleuths have gone to several places, including Kumar's official residence at Park Street here, in search of the elusive officer.

was rejected by the Alipore District and Sessions Court on September 21.

The agency has given multiple notices to him to appear before it for questioning as a witness in the Saradha scam case.

He, however, did not appear before the CBI and has sought more time on every occasion.

The Saradha group of companies allegedly duped lakhs of people to the tune of Rs 2,500 crore, promising higher rates of return on their investments.

During the hearing before the Alipore Sessions Court, the

CBI had claimed that Kumar is not cooperating with it in the probe, and has been evading appearance before its investigation team on frivolous grounds.

Countering the assertion, the senior IPS officer's counsel said Kumar is not a fugitive and is on leave from September 1 to 25.

On September 19, the agency had moved the court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) at Alipore, seeking an arrest warrant against Kumar.

The court had, however, said the CBI does not need its warrant, as the Supreme Court and the Calcutta High Court had already lifted bar on his arrest in the chitfund case.

Prior to that, Kumar had approached the Barasat district court for pre-arrest bail, but it disposed of his application on the ground that it did not have jurisdiction in the matter, as the case was registered at Alipore court.

The Calcutta High Court had on September 13 vacated its interim order granting him protection from arrest. It had also rejected his plea for quashing the CBI notice that sought his appearance for interrogation in the case.

Earlier on May 23, the apex court had vacated an interim protection to Kumar from arrest by the CBI.

The agency had summoned Kumar on May 27 for questioning in connection with the ponzi scam, challenging which he had moved the high court, seeking quashing of the notice.

Kumar was part of a Special Investigation Team set up by the West Bengal government to investigate the scam, before the Supreme Court handed over the case to the CBI in 2014, along with other chitfund cases.

The chitfund scam was unearthed in 2013 during Kumar's tenure as Police Commissioner.

'Kashmiris' fear about losing land, jobs misplaced

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday said the fear of losing land and jobs among people of Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370 provisions should be allayed and asserted that putting an end to the region's special status will help integrate Kashmiris with rest of the country.

According to sources, while interacting with journalists representing foreign media, he claimed that Kashmiris were earlier "alienated" but the repeal of the provisions of Article 370 will remove the barriers that existed between them and the rest of the nation.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), in a statement, said, "This interaction was part of the continuous process where the 'Sarsanghchalak' (chief) engages in constructive dialogue with people from different walks of the society."

About apprehensions of Kashmiris that the move on Article 370 will lead to "outsiders" buying their land, Bhagwat is learnt to have said,



Mohan Bhagwat

"Whatever fears they have about losing land and jobs should be allayed."

On the issue of National Register of Citizens in Assam, he said it's not about expelling people but about identifying the citizens.

"There is no place for Hindus in the world except India," sources said quoting him.

Asked about homosexuality, an issue on which the view of the Hindutva organisation has evolved over time, Bhagwat said it's a "variation" and not an "abnormality".

"They should be treated as equal human beings and inte-

On the issue of National Register of Citizens in Assam, he said it's not about expelling people but about identifying the citizens

grated into society," the RSS chief said.

About incidents of mob lynching, Bhagwat said the RSS condemns all forms of violence and its volunteers should try to stop such incidents.

"If a swayamsevak is found guilty, we will disown him and law should follow its own course," he said.

Bhagwat, under whose stewardship the RSS has opened up comparatively, also told foreign journalists that his organisation will never be a political body and "the Hindutva it espouses is about unity in diversity".



64 sewers died in Delhi while cleaning

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Commission of Safai Karmcharis (NCSK) on Tuesday said 64 people have died while cleaning sewers in Delhi since 1993 with 38 such deaths taking place in the last two years.

NCSK chairman Manhar Valjibhai Zala claimed that the Delhi government has not been implementing the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 and is sending out a wrong message to the rest of the country.

Delhi's Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam, however, said the Delhi government has ensured effective implementation of the Act and the deaths which have taken place occurred in septic tanks of malls and high rises where sewer cleaning machines of Delhi Jal Board cannot reach.

The minister said his government has put an end to manual scavenging and exploring alternatives for cleaning septic tanks in malls and buildings.

He said, "The issue should not be politicised and every-

The minister said his government has put an end to manual scavenging and exploring alternatives for cleaning septic tanks in malls and buildings

one should join hands to put an end to the abominable practice. We have developed 'mangalyaan', we should also explore new technologies for sewer cleaning."

After a review meeting with the officials of the Delhi government, Zala said 38 sewer deaths have taken place in Delhi alone in the last two years and 64 deaths have taken place in the city since 1993.

Of the 64 people who died while cleaning sewers, the state government has given compensation of Rs 10 lakhs to 46 families.

The commission asked the Delhi administration to provide compensation to rest of the families within a week.

Bhagwat interacts with foreign media

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday interacted with foreign journalists from 30 countries and shared the vision of the organisation.

"This interaction was part of the continuous process where the 'Sarsanghchalak' (chief) engages in constructive dialogue with people from different walks of the society," the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh said in a statement.

The interaction lasted for around two-and-a-half hours. It started with brief introduction given by Bhagwat, followed by a question-and-answer session covering a wide range of issues across the spectrum, according to the statement.

Onion prices to stabilise in next few days: Tomar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Onion prices, which are ruling as high as Rs 70-80 per kg in some parts of the country, will calm down in the next few days with supply being boosted through agencies like Nafed, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said on Tuesday.

Onion prices have gradually increased in the last one month due to supply disruption from flood-hit onion-growing states like Maharashtra. Last week's rainfall has further affected the supply, due to which onion prices have surged up to Rs 70-80 per kg in the national capital and other parts of the country, as per trade sources.

"Onion situation will improve in the next few days. Cooperative Nafed is releasing stock from the central buffer at a lower price. We have enough stock of onions," Tomar told reporters after the launch of two mobile apps for farmers.

The government is aware of the onion situation and taking measures to balance in the interest of both farmers and consumers, he said.



Narendra Singh Tomar

"At times, consumers have to pay high price for farm items; and at times, farmers get less price for their produce. Our role is to balance this. We are aware of it and are taking several measures," Tomar added.

Right now, stored onions are sold in most parts of the country, as fresh Kharif (summer) crop will hit the market from November onwards, traders said.

Traders further said that there is enough supply of stored onion of the previous year's crop in the country, but its transportation has been affected because of heavy rains.

The centre has taken several measures to arrest the prices of onion in Delhi and other parts of the country.

Sindhu in Kerala's ancient ritual art form

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



P V Sindhu

Indian badminton icon and world champion P V Sindhu will be part of a centuries-old folk ritual art form in a sleepy village of Kerala later this week, but not through her physical presence.

A ceremonial 'kolam' (effigy) of Sindhu, holding badminton racket, will be made and put on display on September 27 at the finale of the famed 'Neelamperoor Padayani', a 16-day-long annual ritual art to be held at Palli Bhagavathy temple in the state.

"Padayani" is a ritual performed at the 'bhagavathy' (goddess) temples in central Kerala.

One of the oldest such shrines dedicated to Vanadurga (goddess) in the state, the history of Pally Bhagavathy temple at Neelamperoor located in the Kottayam-Alappuzha border, can be traced back to 1700 years, local people said.

Along with the conventional effigies of divine and semi-divine impersonations, 'padayani' artists of the village have decided to make the 'kolam' of Sindhu as a symbolic representation of women empowerment and her epic victory in the recent world championship. The six-feet-high effigy of Sindhu will be made completely using natural ingredients like stem of arecanut tree, stem sheath of banana plantain, bamboo and

Padayani' is a ritual performed at the 'bhagavathy' (goddess) temples in central Kerala

lotus leaves and colour extracts of 'ixora' (chethi in local parlance) flower.

"The work is progressing and the effigy of P V Sindhu is nearing completion. It will be in the form of the girl holding badminton racket in her hand," Sreekumar, a villager, who in among those overseeing the preparations of the Neelamperoor Padayani, told PTI. Unlike the other varieties of 'padayanies', the Neelamperoor Padayani gives freedom in the making of effigies, he said.

"The traditional effigies like swan will be maintained as much. But, youngsters in the village are particular about bringing some novelty in the sub-effigies. Last year, we made one of iconic Argentine footballer Lionel Messi," he said.

Robert Vadra opposes ED in HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Robert Vadra

Robert Vadra has opposed in the Delhi High Court the Enforcement Directorate's plea challenging his anticipatory bail in a money laundering case. Vadra, son-in-law of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, said in his reply that there was no single instance of his non-cooperation with the investigation and there was no risk of him tampering with any evidence as the ED has already seized from him every document pertaining to the case.

ED was conducting a fishing and roving enquiry and has no material to support the allegations made against him, he claimed.

The matter is scheduled to come up for hearing in the court on September 26.

ED had sought in the high court cancellation of Vadra's

anticipatory bail on the ground that it required his custody as he was not cooperating in the investigation.

Regarding the allegation of flight risk, Vadra said in his reply, "The conduct of the respondent (Vadra) in returning to India from abroad voluntarily upon reading press reports that ED was investigating him made it abundantly clear that Vadra had no intention of whatsoever of fleeing the country and was determined to stay in India and clear the name."

UN CLIMATE SUMMIT

New group led by India, Sweden at helm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A new leadership group, to be led by India and Sweden, was announced at the United Nations Climate Action Summit to help guide the world's heaviest greenhouse gas emitting industries towards low-carbon economy, an official of the Union Ministry of Environment said on Tuesday.

Besides India and Sweden, the other countries which are the part of the initiative include Argentina, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, South Korea and the UK, he said, adding several companies



are also an active part of the group.

The new leadership group will drive transformation in hard-to-decarbonise and energy-intensive sectors.

"This global initiative will be supported by the World Economic Forum, the Energy Transitions Commission, Mission Innovation, Stockholm Environment

Institute, and the European Climate Foundation among many others in an ambitious, public-private effort, to ensure heavy industries and mobility companies can find a workable pathway to deliver on the Paris Agreement," the ministry official said.

Addressing a press conference in New York, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said, "The last two days have seen major take-aways, including the decision that heavy industries who are doing their bit on their own, without any external help, have decided to have a low carbon path."

Shah wants welfare schemes for pvt guards

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Amit Shah

The Home Minister said there are around 90 lakh private security guards in the country while the total number of police and paramilitary forces is around 30 lakh. That means, there are 24 per cent police and 76 per cent private security guards, he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday asked operators of private security agencies to undertake welfare initiatives like health insurance, health check up and pension for private guards by taking advantage of government-sponsored schemes.

Shah also asked private security agencies to hire NCC trained guards so that those employed have some basic training on security.

Launching a private security agency licensing portal initiated by the Ministry of Home Affairs, he said agencies must ensure that each and every private security guard has a 'Jan Dhan' bank account for salary disbursement and there should be no cash trans-

actions with them.

The home minister said there are around 90 lakh private security guards in the country while the total number of police and paramilitary forces is around 30 lakh. That means, there are 24 per cent police and 76 per cent private security guards, he said.

"You should undertake some welfare schemes like regular health check up of pri-

ate security guards. You should enrol them under the government-sponsored Rs 2 lakh insurance scheme (Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana) and pay the yearly premium of Rs 22 for each guard. The government will pay rest of the amount of Rs 350.

"Similarly, arrangements should be made so that each private guard comes under the

cover of Atal Pension Yojana (a government back scheme)," he said.

The home minister asked private security agencies to employ NCC trained youths as security guards to ensure that they get people with basic discipline.

"We should enhance the credibility of the whole process. People would know that with NCC certificate,

they will get a job in security agencies easily. This criteria should be popularised gradually. You will also get people having discipline and patriotic values trained by the government. There is also a Skill India certificate," he said.

Shah said the police verification of private security guards has become easier now as 90 per cent police stations in the country are now linked with a dedicated only system (CCTNS).

"The record of any security guard in those 90 per cent police stations will be easily available. This is also very convenient for you to check with the police the criminal record of a person... you can also do the police verification of existing security guards," he said.

SHORT READS



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

BJP gov't in UP has no control over crime: Priyanka

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday attacked the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, saying there had been a rise in criminal incidents and the Yogi Adityanath dispensation was unable to rein in crime. The Congress general secretary also posted a media report on Twitter which claimed that in the last 22 days there have been 12 shooting incidents and four killings in Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow. "You try to match the claims and reality of the Uttar Pradesh BJP government. Every day the BJP government is going around beating drums about making the state crime-free, whereas the truth is 12 shootings, 4 killings in 22 days. Atrocities on women," Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet. The state government has no control over crime, she said.

Part of 5-storey building collapses in Mumbai; no casualty

MUMBAI: A portion of a five-storey building collapsed in suburban Khar on Tuesday afternoon, but no casualty was reported, a fire brigade official said. The incident took place around 2.20 pm when part of a staircase of the residential building, located near Khar Gymkhana, came crashing down, he said. "No casualty has been reported so far and efforts are underway to clear the debris," he said. A rescue team was trying to ascertain if anyone was trapped under the rubble, he said. Four fire engines along with rescue vans, an ambulance, local civic officials, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and police personnel rushed to the spot, he added.

Tharoor in spot over 'Howdy Modi' tweet pix

NEW DELHI: Setting out to take a swipe at the 'Howdy Modi' event, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor found himself in a spot of Twitter trouble instead when he posted a picture of Jawaharlar Nehru and Indira Gandhi in what he claimed was the US only to clarify later that it was probably from their visit to the USSR. Tharoor, who tweeted the photograph of the first prime minister and his daughter in an open vehicle waving to large crowds of people, was also trolled for misspelling Indira Gandhi's name as 'India Gandhi'. "Nehru and Indira Gandhi in the US in 1954. Look at the hugely enthusiastic spontaneous turn-out of the American public, without any special PR campaign, NRI crowd management or hyped-up media publicity," Tharoor said on Monday night tagging the photo and taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's diaspora event in Houston. It was a gaffe, several netizens told Tharoor, who has a massive following of 7.1 million on Twitter.

CORRUPTION CASES

CBI must apply judicious rationale in seeking exemption from RTI: CIC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

It is imperative for the CBI to apply "judicious rationale" before seeking exemption from the RTI Act in responding to petitions seeking records of graft cases probed by its anti-corruption units, the CIC has held.

The Section 24 of the RTI Act exempts security and intelligence agencies including the CBI from the ambit of the transparency law but if the applicant seeks any material in any form held by the agency pertaining to "allegations of corruption", the exemption does not apply.

The cases handled by the CBI primarily deal with the allegations of corruption and the RTI applications seeking information about them should be answered in accordance with the provisions of the transparency law but the officials of the agency commonly cite Section 24 exemption to deny the request.

Such denials often end at the doors of the highest adjudicating authority in RTI matters - the Central Information Commission (CIC) but by the time a decision comes, its already three to four years from the day of filing the application, activists said.



The CIC had in a number of orders made it clear that allegations of corruption do not enjoy exemption but there is no change in the position of the officers handling the RTI

requests in the CBI. The Delhi High Court has also made it clear that allegations of corruption - be it against the officials of the agency or records held by it

The Delhi High Court has also made it clear that allegations of corruption - be it against the officials of the agency or records held by it about third party - do not come under exemption given to it or agencies listed in second schedule of the Section 24

One such applicant had sought an information in 2017 about two corruption cases against him registered by the CBI. He was denied informa-

tion citing exemption given to the agency under the Section 24. When he approached the Commission, Information Commissioner Divya Prakash Sinha noted that it was adequately established that allegation of corruption subsisting in the matter in connection

with case. "CPIO's (CBI officer) contention does not negate the fact that there were allegations of corruption which were investigated into. Besides, the fact that Appellant eventually served imprisonment for a period of four years further evinces the allegation of corruption," Sinha observed.

He said the aspect of larger public interest or the conclusiveness of the preliminary enquiry does not have any bearing on the applicability of the proviso to Section 24(1) of RTI Act as no such contingencies are inserted in the said provision.

Giriraj says political career may end with Modi gov't 2.0

PNS ■ MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR)

BJP's rabble-rouser Union minister Giriraj Singh on Tuesday hinted he may hang up his boots at the end of the current Modi government's tenure, and virtually ruled himself out of contention for chief ministership after the assembly polls next year.

He was responding to questions at a press conference where he was asked to comment on the growing demand in a section of the BJP about reconsidering JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar as the NDA's chief ministerial face during the next assembly elections. "I think I am nearing the end of my political career. I am among those who had entered public life not with the ambition of becoming a legislator, an MP, or acquiring any position of power. I was fired by the nationalistic dream of integration of Kashmir for which our ideologue Syama Prasad Mookerjee gave up his life," Singh said, evading a direct

I am among those who had entered public life not with the ambition of becoming a legislator, an MP, or acquiring any position of power



Giriraj Singh

reply to the query.

Singh indicated since Prime Minister Narendra Modi had fulfilled that dream, he may retire from politics. "We are fortunate to have a prime minister like Narendra Modi who, finally, showed the resolve to fulfil the pledge. I feel a sense of accomplishment. Nothing more needs to be achieved. I think my political career will come to an end with the ongoing tenure of Modi," Singh, a staunch Modi loyalist since his days as the Gujarat

chief minister, said.

A Minister of State with independent charge in the first Modi government, Singh was elevated to the cabinet rank after the Lok Sabha polls this year. He retained the Begusarai seat for his party after trouncing CPIs Kanhaiya Kumar by a staggering over four lakh votes. Known to share cold vibes with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar since his days as a member of the state cabinet, Singh was in news recently

after he alleged his constituency was getting "step motherly" treatment by the state government, which was "generous" towards Nalanda, the CM's native district.

Earlier this month, some BJP leaders had favoured a BJP chief minister in Bihar after the saffron party outshone Kumar's JD(U) in the Lok Sabha polls.

The JD(U), which was hitherto considered the senior partner in the coalition in Bihar, and the BJP had contested 17 seats each of the 40 in the state. The BJP won all seats it contested, while the JD(U) lost one.

However, a section of the state unit of the BJP feels the coalition's sterling performance was on account of a Modi wave that swept Bihar and many other states, and maintains that the saffron party, having played a second fiddle to the JD(U) for years, has a rightful claim to chief ministership.

Speculation unfounded: Deora after tweet exchange with Modi

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Congress leader Milind Deora on Tuesday described as "unfounded" speculation of his future political path, after the exchange of tweets between him and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the latter's US visit.

Deora had triggered speculations about his future political role after he praised Modi's address in Texas as a momentous first for India's soft power diplomacy. Modi had responded to his tweet and recalled his late friend and Milind's father Murli Deora's commitment to strong ties with USA.

State Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant told reporters here that the AICC will respond to Deora's remarks. In a statement, Deora said he has inherited the legacy of the Indo-United States relationship from his father Murli Deora.

"My father first visited the US in 1968 as an exchange student, and after meeting Robert F Kennedy, decided to enter public life and build stronger ties between both democracies. My family's relationships with institutions, political parties and leaders were built keeping India's



Milind Deora



Narendra Modi

"My father first visited the US in 1968 as an exchange student, and after meeting Robert F Kennedy, decided to enter public life and build stronger ties between both democracies. My family's relationships with institutions, political parties and leaders were built keeping India's interests in mind," he said

interests in mind," he said. Deora said his father's efforts and relationships helped strengthen India's national interest. "My late father worked closely with Indian Prime Ministers and US Presidents cutting across party lines in the spirit of bipartisanship. Murlibhai deserves respect because he put his country before party. Fortunately, politics at the time was not as confrontational and ungracious as

it is today," he said. "I express regret on the insinuations and unwarranted criticism in sections of media and social media. For those who have already imagined and chartered my forward path, I wish to give you one unambiguous answer: I will serve my country to the best of my ability and I will remain bipartisan when it comes to issues of national interest and foreign policy," he said.

Naxals blow up oil tanker in Chhattisgarh; 3 killed

PNS ■ RAIPUR

Three people were killed when Naxals blew up an oil tanker with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Chhattisgarh's district on Tuesday, police said.

The incident took place around 10 am between Kosronda and Tumapal villages when the diesel-laden tanker was engaged in rail track laying work in Rowghat area, Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Vivekanand Sinha told PTI.

The tanker had left from Tumapal camp of the Sasstra Seema Bal (SSB), to provide fuel to the construction vehicles engaged in Dallirajhara-Rowghat railway project work. When it reached near Patkalbada village, located around 200 km from the state capital Raipur, Maoists denoted a powerful IED and blew up the vehicle, killing its three occupants on the spot, another police official said.

The deceased were identified as drivers Rakesh Kodopi (24), native of neighbouring Kondagaon district, and



The tanker had left from Tumapal camp of the Sasstra Seema Bal (SSB), to provide fuel to the construction vehicles engaged in Dallirajhara-Rowghat railway project work

Duneshwar Singh (24) (from Madhya Pradesh), and helper Ajay Kumar Salaam (23) (hailing from Rowghat in Kanker), he said.

The tanker belonged to a private firm - K R Infrastructure Construction Company - which is engaged in the rail track laying work, he said.

On getting information about the incident, Kanker Superintendent of Police K L Dhruv along with other security personnel rushed to the spot.

Besides, teams of the SSB from Tumapal and Kosronda camps also launched search operations in the area to trace the culprits, the official said.

Pradyot quits Tripura Cong posts

PNS ■ AGARTALA

President of the Tripura Pradesh Congress Committee, Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarman, has resigned from all party posts over his plea for implementation of NRC in the state and refusing to "compromise" with other Congress leaders.

Debbarman said the central leadership had requested him not to make his resignation public before the by-elections to Badharghat constituency, which was held on Monday.

"I have resigned from all posts of the Congress a few days ago. The party high command had asked me to compromise with a section of state leaders but I told them it was not possible.

"Then they asked me to withdraw the litigation that I have filed for the introduction of NRC (National Register of Citizens) in Tripura, but I did not agree to it, too," Debbarman told PTI over the phone from Delhi.

"Though I have resigned from all the posts of the Congress, I am still with the party at heart," he said.

Fadnavis to announce seat-sharing details

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The final seat-sharing deal between the BJP and the Shiv Sena for the assembly polls in Maharashtra will be announced by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Uddhav Thackeray who are discussing its contours with BJP chief Amit Shah, senior BJP leader Chandrakant Patil said on Tuesday.

The state BJP president also said he would not make any comment on the seat-sharing issue in future.

Patil's statement comes against the backdrop of intense deliberations going on between top leaders of the BJP and the Sena to arrive at a mutually-agreeable seat-sharing formula for the October 21 electoral contest.

"The alliance talks are in the final stage. Chief Minister

Devendra Fadnavis and Uddhav Thackeray are finalising the talks. They are also discussing it with BJP national president Amit Shah. I have thus decided not to make any further comments over the issue," Patil told reporters at the state BJP headquarters here.

Patil, however, refused to answer questions on apparent miscommunication between the BJP and the Sena that led to cancellation of the previously announced press conference of Fadnavis and Thackeray on Tuesday.

On Monday late afternoon, BJP leaders informed media persons about the scheduled announcement of the alliance on Tuesday. However, later in night it emerged that no such announcement is scheduled.

Goa gov't to spend Rs 450 cr on infrastructure

PNS ■ PANAJI

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday said the state will be spending around Rs 450 crore on infrastructure for the 36th edition of the National Games, which it will host in October 2020.

Sawant chaired a high-level meeting of officials at Secretariat near here to review the preparations for the event in presence of sports minister Manohar Aigaonkar. The CM said that he would seek additional funds from the Centre to host the games. "We will seek 50 percent of the organising cost, which is pegged at Rs 250 crore, from the Centre," he said. Sawant said that the National Games would be held between October 20 to November 4, 2020 at different venues across the state.

"We have given different deadlines to various departments to set up the infrastructure required to host the National Games. I will also be holding periodical reviews," he added.

Prez for reducing water footprint; sensitising farmers and industry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday emphasised the need to reduce water footprint and said farmers, corporate leaders and government bodies need to actively consider it.

Water footprint is the amount of water consumed to produce goods and services and cultivation of crops. Inaugurating the 6th India Water Week, Kovind said there has been negligence in preserving water and steps must be taken to ensure that future generations get clean drinking water.

"We often talk of reducing our carbon footprint. It is time we talk about reducing our water footprint. Our farmers, corporate leaders and government bodies need to actively consider the water footprint of



Ram Nath Kovind

Kovind said the Namami Gange project entails numerous projects to ensure the continuous and unpolluted flow of the Ganga

different crops and industries. We need to encourage agricultural and industrial practise that has least water footprint," the President said.

Kovind said the Namami Gange project entails numerous projects to ensure the continuous and unpolluted flow of the Ganga.

He stressed that making Ganga and other rivers clean cannot be a mission of the gov-

ernment alone and has to be a collective endeavour.

In this context, he said idols of deities immersed in rivers should be made from environment-friendly materials to keep water bodies clean and ensure the safety of marine life.

Water issues are too multifaceted and complex to be solved by only the government or just one nation, Kovind said.

Siddaramaiah, Kumaraswamy in war of words

PNS ■ BENGALURU

A political slugfest has erupted between former Chief Ministers Siddaramaiah and H D Kumaraswamy with the two leaders blaming each other for the collapse of the Congress-JD(S) coalition government in Karnataka.

The unease that existed between the former alliance partners ever since the fall of the alliance government in July has now come out in the open with the announcement of bypolls for the 15 Assembly constituencies, in which both parties will go it alone.

"Kumaraswamy does not speak with sense. G T Devegowda who is JD(S) MLA and was minister in his cabinet has recently said that Kumaraswamy had asked him to get votes transferred to BJP candidates in Mysuru and Chamarajanagra (during Lok Sabha polls)," Siddaramaiah



told reporters in Hubballi. "Now he (Kumaraswamy) is playing drama... because byelections have come he is into theatrics," he added.

The Congress leader was reacting to Kumaraswamy's comments blaming local Congress under Siddaramaiah's leadership for the defeat of his father H D Deve Gowda in Tumakuru, son

Nikhil Kumaraswamy in Mandya and for the defeat of Congress' own candidate K H Muniyappa in Kolar.

Referring to a popular Kannada song in which a parrot nurtured by its owner goes on to betray and inflict pain on him, Siddaramaiah in a tweet chided Kumaraswamy and said, "... it is my mistake. Despite having four decades

The unease that existed between the former alliance partners ever since the fall of the alliance government in July has now come out in the open with the announcement of bypolls for the 15 Assembly constituencies, in which both parties will go it alone

of political association and experience, we believed eagle as parrot and allied with it. Will it not inflict pain? What is bigger lesson than experience?"

Seeking to turn the tables, Kumaraswamy squarely blamed Siddaramaiah for the collapse of the government alleging that the CLP leader was unable to fathom the fact that the JD(S) leader had become the Chief Minister of the coalition government.

"I did not become Chief Minister because of Siddaramaiah, Congress high

command took the decision. But Siddaramaiah could not tolerate their decision, or else this government would not have gone," Kumaraswamy said in Chennapatna.

"He had told his party MLAs that he will not allow the coalition government to continue even for a second after the Lok Sabha polls," he added.

He also hit back at Siddaramaiah for his tweet and said that the senior Congress leaders along with others had betrayed Deve Gowda who "nurtured them politically".

PM's suspension of Parl 'unlawful': UK top court

PTI ■ LONDON
In a major setback for Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Britain's Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled in a historic verdict that his decision to suspend Parliament in the run-up to Brexit was "unlawful".
Commenting on the ruling, Johnson said his government would respect even though he "strongly disagrees" with it.
Johnson suspended, or prorogued, Parliament for five weeks earlier this month, saying it was to allow for a Queen's Speech to outline policies of his new government.
However, Opposition MPs and many members of his own Conservative Party had accused him of trying to escape parliamentary scrutiny during a crunch phase ahead of the October 31 Brexit deadline.
Indian-origin anti-Brexit campaigner Gina Miller had challenged his decision in the UK High Court, which had referred it to the highest court of the country.
"The effect on the fundamentals of our democracy was extreme," Supreme Court President Lady Brenda Hale said, as she handed down the verdict.
"The decision to advise Her Majesty to prorogue Parliament was unlawful because it had the effect of frustrating or preventing the ability of Parliament to carry out its constitutional functions without reasonable justification," she said.
She said the unanimous decision of the 11 justices meant that Parliament had not been prorogued - the decision was null and of no effect - and it was for the Speakers of the Commons and Lords to decide what to do next.
The ruling marks a major setback for Johnson, who is currently in the US for the United Nations General Assembly session. He had insisted that courts should not intervene in such political matters. "I don't think this was the right decision. The prerogative of prorogation has been used for centuries without this kind of challenge," said Johnson, as he branded Tuesday's ruling "unusual".
"There are a lot of people who basically want to stop this country from coming out of the EU and we have a Parliament that is unable to be prorogued and doesn't want to have an election. I think it is time we took things forward," he said.
Admitting that getting a Brexit deal was "not made much easier with these sort of things in Parliament or the courts", he insisted the UK would still leave on October 31 - a pledge he had entered Downing Street with.
Miller had made history a few years ago by forcing Johnson's predecessor Theresa May to seek Parliament's approval before invoking Article 50 which set the clock ticking on Britain's exit from the European Union (EU) in March 2017.
In reference to her latest legal win, she said: "Today is not a win for any individual or cause. It is a win for Parliamentary sovereignty, the separation of powers and independence of our British courts."
"Crucially, today's ruling confirms that we are a nation governed by the rule of law - laws that everyone, even the Prime Minister, are subject to."
She stressed that the historic judgment meant Parliament is open and was never prorogued.
Johnson being found to have acted unlawfully and stopped Parliament from doing its job without any legal justification marks an extraordinary legal intervention, which is expected to have a far-reaching impact on British politics.

Iran vows to 'destroy' any attacker
AFP ■ TEHRAN
Iran's armed forces chief of staff on Tuesday vowed to destroy any enemy that attacked the country, a news agency reported.
"The result of any aggression will be destruction" and "captivity", the Fars news agency reported Mohammad Bagheri as telling parliament.
Iran has "no animosity towards the countries of the region", Bagheri said, according to the agency close to the country's ultra-conservatives.
But he alleged Saudi Arabia and its ally the United Arab Emirates had "lost their way" and were "at the source of plots against Iran". Tensions have soared in the Gulf since a September 14 attack on Saudi oil facilities that Washington and Riyadh have blamed on Iran, which denies involvement. In the wake of the attack that slashed Saudi oil output by half, the United States said it had ordered reinforcements to the region.
US President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani are both to address the UN General Assembly in New York this week. But no encounter has so far been planned between the two leaders, Trump said late Monday.

20 killed, over 300 hurt in POK after earthquake jolts north-eastern Pak
PTI ■ ISLAMABAD
A powerful 5.8-magnitude earthquake jolted Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and several cities in the north-eastern parts of the country on Tuesday, killing at least 20 people and wounding over 300 others.
According to US Geological Survey, the epicentre of the quake was near New Mirpur in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), which was severely affected by the quake. The depth of the quake, which occurred at 4.02 pm (local time), was at 10 kilometres.
PoK Information Minister Mushtaq Minhas told the media that 20 people were killed and over 300 injured in Mirpur and surrounding areas due to the powerful quake.
Pakistan Meteorological Department's earthquake centre said the 5.8-magnitude earthquake was located near the mountainous city of Jehlum in Punjab province. However, Minister for Science Fawad Chaudhry said that the intensity of the quake was 7.1.
Some houses collapsed in Mirpur following the earthquake, Deputy Commissioner Raja Qaiser said. Parts of a mosque also collapsed in the area. Emergency has been declared in hospitals across PoK.
TV channels showed the footage of heavily damaged roads in Mirpur, with many vehicles overturned. Several cars fell into the deep cracks on the roads. The building of the state-run Broadcasting House in Mirpur was badly damaged.
The quake was powerful and created panic as people ran out of building, eyewitnesses said. Several cities including Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Skardu, Kohat, Charsadda, Kasur, Faisalabad, Gujrat, Sialkot, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Chitral, Malakand, Multan, Shargha, Okara, Nowshera, Attock and Jhang felt the tremor.
Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is in New York to attend the UN General Assembly session, expressed grief over the loss of human life. He directed all the concerned departments to provide immediate assistance to the quake-hit areas. President Arif Alvi also expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives.
Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa directed "immediate rescue operation in aid of civil administration" for the victims in PoK. Army troops with aviation and medical support teams have been dispatched, the media wing of the army tweeted.

Trump orders aid freeze before Ukraine call: Reports
AFP ■ WASHINGTON
Donald Trump ordered almost \$400m in aid to Ukraine to be frozen days before he allegedly asked its president to investigate the son of Joe Biden. US media said late Monday, quoting administration officials.
The reports in the Washington Post and New York Times add to a burgeoning crisis around Trump's July phone call with Volodymyr Zelensky and a possible attempt to coerce him into digging up information about Biden's son's business dealings in Ukraine.
Members of the Trump administration were instructed to tell lawmakers the freeze was due to an "interagency process", but to provide no additional information, the Post said, citing senior administration officials with knowledge of the matter.
Democrats have fumed as Trump's administration has blocked Congress from obtaining a whistleblower's secret complaint allegedly detailing the president's actions, and they have ramped up their demands for the document that sparked the latest crisis.

Iran vows to 'destroy' any attacker
AFP ■ TEHRAN
Iran's armed forces chief of staff on Tuesday vowed to destroy any enemy that attacked the country, a news agency reported.
"The result of any aggression will be destruction" and "captivity", the Fars news agency reported Mohammad Bagheri as telling parliament.
Iran has "no animosity towards the countries of the region", Bagheri said, according to the agency close to the country's ultra-conservatives.
But he alleged Saudi Arabia and its ally the United Arab Emirates had "lost their way" and were "at the source of plots against Iran". Tensions have soared in the Gulf since a September 14 attack on Saudi oil facilities that Washington and Riyadh have blamed on Iran, which denies involvement. In the wake of the attack that slashed Saudi oil output by half, the United States said it had ordered reinforcements to the region.
US President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani are both to address the UN General Assembly in New York this week. But no encounter has so far been planned between the two leaders, Trump said late Monday.

20 killed, over 300 hurt in POK after earthquake jolts north-eastern Pak
PTI ■ ISLAMABAD
A powerful 5.8-magnitude earthquake jolted Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and several cities in the north-eastern parts of the country on Tuesday, killing at least 20 people and wounding over 300 others.
According to US Geological Survey, the epicentre of the quake was near New Mirpur in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), which was severely affected by the quake. The depth of the quake, which occurred at 4.02 pm (local time), was at 10 kilometres.
PoK Information Minister Mushtaq Minhas told the media that 20 people were killed and over 300 injured in Mirpur and surrounding areas due to the powerful quake.
Pakistan Meteorological Department's earthquake centre said the 5.8-magnitude earthquake was located near the mountainous city of Jehlum in Punjab province. However, Minister for Science Fawad Chaudhry said that the intensity of the quake was 7.1.
Some houses collapsed in Mirpur following the earthquake, Deputy Commissioner Raja Qaiser said. Parts of a mosque also collapsed in the area. Emergency has been declared in hospitals across PoK.
TV channels showed the footage of heavily damaged roads in Mirpur, with many vehicles overturned. Several cars fell into the deep cracks on the roads. The building of the state-run Broadcasting House in Mirpur was badly damaged.
The quake was powerful and created panic as people ran out of building, eyewitnesses said. Several cities including Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Skardu, Kohat, Charsadda, Kasur, Faisalabad, Gujrat, Sialkot, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Chitral, Malakand, Multan, Shargha, Okara, Nowshera, Attock and Jhang felt the tremor.
Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is in New York to attend the UN General Assembly session, expressed grief over the loss of human life. He directed all the concerned departments to provide immediate assistance to the quake-hit areas. President Arif Alvi also expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives.
Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa directed "immediate rescue operation in aid of civil administration" for the victims in PoK. Army troops with aviation and medical support teams have been dispatched, the media wing of the army tweeted.

Trump orders aid freeze before Ukraine call: Reports
AFP ■ WASHINGTON
Donald Trump ordered almost \$400m in aid to Ukraine to be frozen days before he allegedly asked its president to investigate the son of Joe Biden. US media said late Monday, quoting administration officials.
The reports in the Washington Post and New York Times add to a burgeoning crisis around Trump's July phone call with Volodymyr Zelensky and a possible attempt to coerce him into digging up information about Biden's son's business dealings in Ukraine.
Members of the Trump administration were instructed to tell lawmakers the freeze was due to an "interagency process", but to provide no additional information, the Post said, citing senior administration officials with knowledge of the matter.
Democrats have fumed as Trump's administration has blocked Congress from obtaining a whistleblower's secret complaint allegedly detailing the president's actions, and they have ramped up their demands for the document that sparked the latest crisis.

WORLD FACES 'GREAT FRACTURE': UN CHIEF

United Nations: Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is warning global leaders of the looming risk of the world splitting in two with the two largest economies, the United States and China, creating rival internets, currencies, financial rules "and their own zero sum geopolitical and military strategies."
The UN chief said in his "state of the world address" Tuesday to the General Assembly's annual gathering of heads of state and government that the risk "may not yet be large, but it is real."

DEATH TOLL RISES TO 32 IN PAPUA PROTESTS

Jakarta: The death toll from violent protests in Indonesia's restive Papua province has risen to 32 after several bodies were found under burned buildings, officials said Tuesday.

MACRON HOPES FOR PROGRESS ON IRAN

United Nations: French President Emmanuel Macron said he hoped for progress on Iran "in the coming hours" Tuesday after a lengthy meeting with his counterpart Hassan Rouhani.
"I'm hoping that we can make progress in the coming hours," Macron told reporters as he tries to organize a summit between US and Iranian leaders at the United Nations.

Venezuela's Maduro to meet Putin in Moscow today: Kremlin

Moscow: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro will meet Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Wednesday, the Kremlin said, as the embattled South American leader seeks to shore up support from allies.
"All aspects of bilateral cooperation will be discussed," the Russian President's press spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists Tuesday.
The focus of the talks would be on "direct meddling in Latin American affairs by third parties".
Washington has imposed an oil embargo on Caracas to undermine Maduro's regime and has repeatedly called on Moscow to withdraw support for the Venezuelan leader.
Russia has rejected the request, accusing the US of wanting to lead a coup in defiance of international law.
The Venezuelan leader last visited Moscow for talks with Putin in December.

Israeli negotiators seek to break Netanyahu-Gantz deadlock

AFP ■ JERUSALEM
Negotiators for Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his main opponent Benny Gantz met Tuesday to discuss possibilities for a unity government that both men say they should lead after last week's deadlock election.
The chief negotiators for Netanyahu's right-wing Likud and Gantz's centrist Blue and White gathered to follow up on a meeting between their two leaders and Israel's president late on Monday.
That encounter was their first formal meeting since the September 17 election ended with Gantz winning the most seats, but with neither having a clear path to a majority coalition.
The two men are due to meet again with President Reuven Rivlin on Wednesday.
The negotiators' meeting concluded after two hours, with a joint statement saying it was "topical and carried out in good spirits".
The Likud negotiator, Tourism Minister Yariv Levin, noted he was representing "all 55 members of the right-wing bloc."
Netanyahu and the heads of the right-wing and ultra-Orthodox parties signed a document on Thursday committing to conduct joint negotiations and enter a government together.
The two negotiators said they would update their bosses on the meeting "and then decide on further talks and additional steps".
Rivlin, who must choose who will form the next government, has leaned heavily on the two parties to work out a unity coalition between them, and on Monday night urged them to find a path to do so.
Both Gantz and Netanyahu say they want a unity government but are at odds over who will lead it, not to mention further details on the make-up of such a coalition.
A rotation arrangement has been floated, but the question of who would be premier first remains a major stumbling block.
The timing is especially important for Netanyahu, who is facing possible corruption charges in the weeks ahead, pending a hearing set for early October.
A prime minister does not have to step down if indicted - only if convicted with all appeals exhausted - while other ministers can be forced to do so when charged.
Gantz notes that his party is the largest and he should be in the lead.
"The public has chosen change and we have no intention of relinquishing our lead, our principles or our natural partners in this path," Gantz said in a statement late Monday.
Netanyahu has highlighted the fact that he has more support from smaller parties in parliament and pledged not to abandon them in a coalition deal.

Oceans, climate report approved after all-night standoff: Delegates

AFP ■ MONACO
A major report detailing the dire impact of global warming on oceans and Earth's frozen zones was approved by the UN's 195-nation climate science body Tuesday after an all-night standoff with Saudi Arabia over wording.
"Gavelled! The IPCC Special Report on the #Ocean and #Cryosphere is approved!", Jean-Pierre Gattuso, a French scientist and one of the report many authors, tweeted at the end of the five-day talks.
The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) confirmed with a tweet of its own and will unveil an executive summary on Wednesday.
Oil giant Saudi Arabia held up adoption of the Summary for Policy Makers - 300-odd pages, vetted line-by-line - by challenging another landmark UN assessment that highlights the need to slash carbon emissions caused by burning fossil fuels, multiple sources told AFP. At issue is what might have been a routine reference to the October 2018 IPCC report on the feasibility of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.
That assessment detailed the stark consequences for humanity of piercing that threshold, and the need to rapidly draw down the use of fossil fuels. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has consistently raised similar objections to IPCC reports in the past. "It really seems like Saudi Arabia only came to this meeting to block any language on 1.5C," a participant in the Monaco meeting told AFP.
Global warming and pollution caused by humanity's carbon-heavy footprint are ravaging Earth's oceans and icy regions in ways that could unleash misery on a global scale, the IPCC report is set to conclude.

Egypt arrests journalists, blocks websites after protests

Cairo: In the wake of protests calling for President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's ouster, Egypt came under fire Tuesday for arrests of journalists and was accused of blocking news websites.
A New York-based press watchdog, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), said three Egyptian journalists were arrested for covering protests which followed a football match in Cairo on Friday night.
The group also said that several websites were disrupted, including those of news outlets BBC and the US-Government funded Al-Hurra television. Safaa Faisal, Egypt's BBC bureau chief, confirmed to AFP that the news site was inaccessible on Monday without any specific explanation from authorities. Many users have also reported difficulties with accessing popular app Facebook Messenger, according to CPJ.

Before the Chairman, Micro & Small Enterprises Facilitation Council, Sangrur constituted under MSME Act, 2006.
Sukesh Kumar Jain Son of Sh Gauri Shankar Jain Resident of Park Street near SBI (SME) Branch, The Mall, Malerkotla being sole prop. of Firm M/S Konark Industrial Corporation, Shastri Nagar, Railway Road, Malerkotla, District Sangrur, Punjab.
VERSUS
1. M/s Leel Electricals Ltd. (Formerly Lloyd Electric & Engineering Ltd.), Managing Director (Mr. Bharat Raj Punj), 159, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-III, New Delhi-110020.
2. M/s Leel Electricals Ltd. (Formerly Lloyd Electric & Engineering Ltd.), Plot No. 24, Sec-2, IIE, Pant Nagar (US Nagar), Pin-263153, Uttarakhand.
3. M/s Leel Electricals Ltd. (Formerly Lloyd Electric & Engineering Ltd.), Unit 1, Plot No. 16, 17, Industrial Area, Trilokpur Road, Kala Amb, Simour-173030, Himachal Pradesh-02.
Case No.: MSMEFC/Sgr/00001 **Next Date: 30-09-2019**
For claim of delayed payment under the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.
Notice to:-
1. M/s Leel Electricals Ltd. (Formerly Lloyd Electric & Engineering Ltd.), Managing Director (Mr. Bahart Raj Punj), 159, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-III, New Delhi-110020.
2. M/s Leel Electricals Ltd. (Formerly Lloyd Electric & Engineering Ltd.), Plot No. 24, Sec-2, IIE, Pant Nagar (US Nagar), Pin-263153, Uttarakhand.
3. M/s Leel Electricals Ltd. (Formerly Lloyd Electric & Engineering Ltd.), Unit 1, Plot No. 16, 17, Industrial Area, Trilokpur Road, Kala Amb, Simour-173030, Himachal Pradesh-02.
In above titles case, the defendant(s)/ respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that the respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 30th Sep. 2019 at 4:00PM, failing which proceedings shall be taken against them in their absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Court on 13-09-2019.
Chairman MSMEFC-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Sangrur

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Chakri Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kuria Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051.
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi - 110055
PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSETS
[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Notice for sale of immovable property
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immoveable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured assets with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding (In ₹)	Reserve Price (In ₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (In ₹)	Date of Property Inspection and Time	Date & Time of Auction
1.	Esha Laxman (Borrower), Divay MBHela (Co Borrower), LBLHD0002432219	Flat No. 307 3rd Floor Tower-10 Sunworld Arista GH-1C, Sector-168, Noida Express way UP, Noida-201301, Area 615 Sq.Ft	Rs. 44,87,828/- as on Sep 07, 2019	Rs. 33,83,000/-	Rs. 3,38,300/-	Oct 05, 2019, From 11:00 AM To 2:00 PM	Nov. 01, 2019, From 1:00 PM
2.	Cheena Gupta (Borrower) Manav Gupta (Co-Borrower) LBLUD0002382529	Flat No. T 10/2003, Flat 20th Tower 10, Sunworld Arista GH-01/C, Noida Express Way Noida Uttar Pradesh 201301, Area 615 Sq. Ft	Rs. 43,28,631/- as on Sep 11, 2019	Rs. 33,83,000/-	Rs. 3,38,300/-	Oct 05, 2019, From 11:00 AM To 2:00 PM	Nov. 01, 2019, From 1:30 PM
3.	Archana Gupta (Borrower) Sharad Gupta (Co-Borrower) LBFDB0002378934	Flat No. 2501, 25th Floor Tower 10, Sunworld Arista, Plot No- GH 01/C, Sector-168, Noida, UP-201301, Area 615 Sq.Ft	Rs. 36,46,771/- as on Sep 07, 2019	Rs. 31,30,000/-	Rs. 3,13,000/-	Oct 05, 2019, From 11:00 AM To 2:00 PM	Nov. 01, 2019, From 2:00 PM

The online auction will take place on the website of auction agency Shriram Automall India Ltd. (URL Link - https://auctions.samil.in). The Mortgages/ Notices are given last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till Oct 31, 2019, before 5:00 P.M failing which, this/these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with aforesaid earnest money deposit (as referred in column No. (F) in a sealed envelope superscribed "offer for purchase of properties" so as to reach at ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055 and our marketing agents Shriram Automall India Ltd having their office at 219 Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034 on or before Oct 31, 2019 before 5:00 P.M. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. EMD DD / PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank favouring "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact on Mobile no. 9599281817/9650193259 of ICICI Bank Limited. The tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any reasons therefor. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit ICICI Bank Ltd website at www.icicibank.com/n4p4s
Date : September 25, 2019
Place : Delhi/Ncr
Sd/
Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

FORM G INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)
RELEVANT PARTICULARS
1. Name of the corporate debtor: SHREE BHOMIKA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor: 28/11/1994
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated/registered: ROC-Delhi
4. Corporate identity number/limited liability identification number of corporate debtor: U74899DL1994PLC063016
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor: R-273, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi South, Delhi-110048 IN.
6. Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor: 11th July 2019 (but received on 15th July 2019)
7. Date of invitation of expression of interest: 25/09/2019
8. Eligibility for the resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at: Details can be sought by emailing on Email - crip.shreebhomika@gmail.com
9. Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at: As per section 29A and other provisions of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 Available on the website of IBI http://ibbi.gov.in/webfront/legal_framework.php
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest: 10/10/2019
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants: 20/10/2019
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list: 25/10/2019
13. Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants: 04/11/2019
14. Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants: 25/10/2019
15. Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information: Information Memorandum, Request for Resolution Plan and Evaluation Matrix will be shared by the Resolution Professional with the shortlisted Prospective Resolution Applicant(s) meeting the Eligibility Criteria as set out by the Committee of Creditors and compliance with section 29A of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 after receiving a Confidentiality Undertaking as per section 29(2) of the IBC 2016 via email.
16. Last date for submission of resolution plans: 24/11/2019
17. Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional: Through Email, Speed Post/Registered Post By Hand in a sealed cover addressed to: Mr. Manish Agarwal, Resolution Professional, 205, Second Floor, Rohit House, Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-01 ph: 011-41509352, 9412705345 crip.shreebhomika@gmail.com
18. Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval: 24/12/2019
19. Name and registration number of the Resolution Professional: Mr. Manish Agarwal IBBI/IPA-002/IP-NO0223 /2016-2017/10904
20. Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board: Mr. Manish Agarwal, 707, Saket Opp. Rohtash Sweets Meerut-250001, Uttar Pradesh Ph:-0121-4054491, 9412705345 Email:manishfcfs@gmail.com
21. Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional: Mr. Manish Agarwal, 205, Second Floor, Rohit House, Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-01 ph: 011-41509352, 9412705345 Email: crip.shreebhomika@gmail.com
22. Further Details are available at or with: Mr. Manish Agarwal/Resolution Professional Mobile No. +91-9412705345 Email-ID: crip.shreebhomika@gmail.com
23. Date of publication of Form G: 25/09/2019
Date : 25/09/2019
Place : Delhi
Manish Agarwal
Resolution Professional in the matter of
Shree Bhomika International Limited
Registration No. IBBI/IPA-002/IP-NO0223 /2016-2017/10904
E-mail id - manishfcfs@gmail.com

AXIS BANK Retail Asset Centre Delhi: Axis Bank Ltd. 23, K.G. Marg, Himalaya House, C.P. Delhi, Corporate Office: Axis House, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Butiker Marg, Worli Mumbai-400006
400025 Registered Office: Trilokpur, 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006
POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
Whereas 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 powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(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)/Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.
The Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

Name of Borrower/Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice	2. Date of Possession	3. Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1. Mr. Krishan Mohan Rai, S/o Mr. Shiv Murat Rai, R/o H. No. 3449, 2nd Floor, Sector-23, Gurgaon-122017, Haryana, India. Also At: Mr. Krishan Mohan Rai, S/o Mr. Shiv Murat Rai H. No. 1752, Sector-23, Gurgaon-122017, Haryana, India. Mr. Krishan Mohan Rai S/O Mr. Shiv Murat Rai, A/R. Enterprises, C-101, Palam Vyaapar Kendra, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon-122017, Haryana.	Second Floor With Roof Rights Having Built 18 Sq. Mtrs. Approx (191 Sq. Ft.) In Building Constructed on Plot Bearing No. 3449, Gurgaon-122017, Haryana. Also At: In The Residential Colony Known As Sector 23-23A, Urban Estate Palam Vihar, Distt. Gurgaon (Haryana).	1.22-May-2016	2.21-Sep-2019	3. Rs. 46,63,973/-
2. Mrs. Roena Rai W/O Mr. Krishan Mohan Rai, R/O H. No. 3449, 2nd Floor, Sector-23, Gurgaon-122017, Haryana, India. Also At Mrs. Roena Rai W/o Mr. Krishan Mohan Rai, H. No. 1752 Sector-23, Gurgaon-122017, Haryana.	Entire Ground Floor Having Super Area 1450 Sq. Ft. In Building Constructed And 1/3 Share On Plot No. 236 Measuring 226.04 Sq. Yds. In The Residential Colony, Villages Samsapur, Adampur, Bindpur, Tigra and Wazirabad, Haryana-122002	1.19-June-2019	2.21-Sep-2019	3. Rs. 63,22,723/-

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 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 Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : 25-09-2019,
Place : Delhi
Sd/-, Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.,

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Chakri Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara-390007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kuria Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051.
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi - 110055
PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSETS
[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Notice for sale of immovable property
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immoveable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured assets with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding (In ₹)	Reserve Price (In ₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (In ₹)	Date of Property Inspection and Time	Date & Time of Auction
1.	Esha Laxman (Borrower), Divay MBHela (Co Borrower), LBLHD0002432219	Flat No. 307 3rd Floor Tower-10 Sunworld Arista GH-1C, Sector-168, Noida Express way UP, Noida-201301, Area 615 Sq.Ft	Rs. 44,87,828/- as on Sep 07, 2019	Rs. 33,83,000/-	Rs. 3,38,300/-	Oct 05, 2019, From 11:00 AM To 2:00 PM	Nov. 01, 2019, From 1:00 PM
2.	Cheena Gupta (Borrower) Manav Gupta (Co-Borrower) LBLUD0002382529	Flat No. T 10/2003, Flat 20th Tower 10, Sunworld Arista GH-01/C, Noida Express Way Noida Uttar Pradesh 201301, Area 615 Sq. Ft	Rs. 43,28,631/- as on Sep 11, 2019	Rs. 33,83,000/-	Rs. 3,38,300/-	Oct 05, 2019, From 11:00 AM To 2:00 PM	Nov. 01, 2019, From 1:30 PM
3.	Archana Gupta (Borrower) Sharad Gupta (Co-Borrower) LBFDB0002378934	Flat No. 2501, 25th Floor Tower 10, Sunworld Arista, Plot No- GH 01/C, Sector-168, Noida, UP-201301, Area 615 Sq.Ft	Rs. 36,46,771/- as on Sep 07, 2019	Rs. 31,30,000/-	Rs. 3,13,000/-	Oct 05, 2019, From 11:00 AM To 2:00 PM	Nov. 01, 2019, From 2:00 PM

The online auction will take place on the website of auction agency Shriram Automall India Ltd. (URL Link - https://auctions.samil.in). The Mortgages/ Notices are given last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till Oct 31, 2019, before 5:00 P.M failing which, this/these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with aforesaid earnest money deposit (as referred in column No. (F) in a sealed envelope superscribed "offer for purchase of properties" so as to reach at ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055 and our marketing agents Shriram Automall India Ltd having their office at 219 Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034 on or before Oct 31, 2019 before 5:00 P.M. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. EMD DD / PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank favouring "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact on Mobile no. 9599281817/9650193259 of ICICI Bank Limited. The tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any reasons therefor. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit ICICI Bank Ltd website at www.icicibank.com/n4p4s
Date : September 25, 2019
Place : Delhi/Ncr
Sd/
Authorised Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that, Kiran Kumar residing at B-61, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028 have lost/misplaced the share certificate nos. 00009808, 00201477 and 00005224. Distinctive nos. 000070051 - 000070060, 000234374 - 000234393 and 0066357913 - 0066358332, respectively for 490 equity shares of face value Re. 1/-, paid-up under folio no. K03255 registered in the name of Kiran Kumar in the books of Bliss GVS Pharma Limited (formerly known as Bliss GVS Pharmaceuticals (India) Limited) having Registered Office at 102, Hyde Park, Sakinagar Road, Andheri - East, Mumbai-400 072, India and have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificates. Any person having claim/objection can write to the address given above within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, else the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificates in my favour.
Date: 25 September, 2019 Place: New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
Company Name :
JB Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd
Notice is hereby given that following share certificates of the company have been lost/misplaced or stolen and the registered holders thereof have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificates.
Name of Shareholder Lt. Waryam Singh Mundra, Folio No. W10807, Certificate No. 2659, Distinctive No. 349191-334720, No. of Shares 1500.
The public are hereby warned against purchasing or dealing in any way, with the above share certificates. Any person who has any claims in respect of such share certificates should lodge such claim(s) in writing with the company at its registered office at the address given above within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, after which the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificates and company will process to issue duplicate share certificates.
Date: Delhi
Date: 25/09

PAPER WITH PASSION

Safe travel plans

The collapse of Thomas Cook has led to an incredible rescue operation. Should India look at such protection for travellers?



The collapse of Thomas Cook in the UK has little or no direct bearing on India other than the fact that this winter, there might be fewer holiday-makers from Britain in Goa and Kerala, the two destinations popular among those who book package holidays back home. Thomas Cook India, which was once a subsidiary, was spun off a few years ago and is currently majorly owned by a Canadian investor. Thomas Cook was the original package tour operator wherein people paid a company to take care of all arrangements of travel, stay and food. But a history of bad decisions coupled with management greed led the company to its demise. These have clearly been compounded by concerns about Brexit and the way the travel industry has undergone a sea-change in recent times. The rise of an online market, with consumers choosing their own travel plans through aggregated players and with Airbnb and OYO services now being available in almost every city round the world, travel agencies are becoming all but redundant while their commissions have dwindled drastically. Consequently, it is either corporate business travellers or those who do not want the baggage on their heads to plan a trip who rely on them. A sudden shutdown of the traditional service has meant that it is not just those planning holidays who've been hit. Imagine the plight of the 180,000 holiday-makers, who are currently out on their vacations and have suddenly discovered that not only has their holiday been curtailed, they have no way of getting back home.

For years, the British have had something called the Air Travel Organisers' Licence (ATOL), wherein a small fee from every package holiday went to the UK's Civil Aviation Administrator so that in case of a business failure, the funds could be used to help repatriate stranded tourists home. The rationale behind this plan was developed after several operators went under in the 1970s with a multitude of citizens stranded abroad. For many in those days, holidays were once-in-a-lifetime experiences for which they would save money for years. Many vacationers did not have the funds to pay for an emergency ticket back home, let alone pay for such tickets for entire families. Over time, the planning and execution to rescue stranded tourists across the world — from the Asia-Pacific to the US — has become a remarkable operation and is extremely impressive, especially since it is being conducted during peacetime. Most other dramatic repatriation operations have often had the clouds of war in the background, including India's dramatic airlift of citizens before the 1991 Gulf War. While this provision only covers those with package holidays, there have been industry calls for protecting the traveller from failed airlines. India, too, must look at such a proposal. In the past decade, two large airlines and several smaller ones have gone into insolvency, leaving thousands of travellers high and dry. While those, who paid with credit cards, were entitled to some sort of compensation from their card-issuing companies, others found themselves without any recourse. Those who were abroad, or even foreign flyers in India, found themselves stranded. As air travel and package tours become more popular, several companies, airlines and travel operators will face financial difficulties in India and could face a heartbreak or two in the coming years. The Government should add a small fee, even under a hundred rupees, to every air ticket to take care of such an eventuality. While travellers should be aware of the financial health of their tour operators and the airlines, that is not always possible and with many holidays booked months in advance, it is impossible to predict a business failure.

For years, the British have had something called the Air Travel Organisers' Licence (ATOL), wherein a small fee from every package holiday went to the UK's Civil Aviation Administrator so that in case of a business failure, the funds could be used to help repatriate stranded tourists home. The rationale behind this plan was developed after several operators went under in the 1970s with a multitude of citizens stranded abroad. For many in those days, holidays were once-in-a-lifetime experiences for which they would save money for years. Many vacationers did not have the funds to pay for an emergency ticket back home, let alone pay for such tickets for entire families. Over time, the planning and execution to rescue stranded tourists across the world — from the Asia-Pacific to the US — has become a remarkable operation and is extremely impressive, especially since it is being conducted during peacetime. Most other dramatic repatriation operations have often had the clouds of war in the background, including India's dramatic airlift of citizens before the 1991 Gulf War. While this provision only covers those with package holidays, there have been industry calls for protecting the traveller from failed airlines. India, too, must look at such a proposal. In the past decade, two large airlines and several smaller ones have gone into insolvency, leaving thousands of travellers high and dry. While those, who paid with credit cards, were entitled to some sort of compensation from their card-issuing companies, others found themselves without any recourse. Those who were abroad, or even foreign flyers in India, found themselves stranded. As air travel and package tours become more popular, several companies, airlines and travel operators will face financial difficulties in India and could face a heartbreak or two in the coming years. The Government should add a small fee, even under a hundred rupees, to every air ticket to take care of such an eventuality. While travellers should be aware of the financial health of their tour operators and the airlines, that is not always possible and with many holidays booked months in advance, it is impossible to predict a business failure.

Another lynching

The vigilante attack on Jharkhand tribals is not just an incident, it is symptomatic of a system that condones it



Seems the eastern State of Jharkhand, which accounted for 17 of the 44 lynching deaths in the country between May 2015 and December 2018, is unlikely to get rid of the tag of being a "hotbed" of cow vigilantism anytime soon. If anything, it demonstrates how an artificially created fear psychosis and the vicarious thrills it generates are being used to create an ambient temperature and vote polarisation before the Assembly elections. Most worrisome is the fact that attacks on minorities seem to be an easy tool as the perpetrators are pretty sure that they can avoid the law. Just three months ago, 24-year-old Tabrez Ansari was killed on the alleged suspicion that he and two of his friends were guilty of theft. Despite viral videos on what should have been an open and shut case, the accused were let off at first and booked only after a public outcry and a detailed medical inquiry. This time three Christian tribals — Kalantus Barla, Philip Horo and Kachhap — were attacked in Khunti district in the belief, arising from a chain of whatsapp messages, that they were carving out meat from the carcass of an animal. Overlooking the lessons from the Ansari incident, self-styled vigilante groups took it upon themselves to deliver justice to the three without even confirming the truth behind the messages. An agitated mob beat one to death while the other two are battling for life in the hospital. Of course, the police, unlike the Ansari case, has taken swift action in this case. As soon as the matter was reported, it lost no time to rescue the victims and is now probing all angles that led to the heinous act.

It is deeply distressing that lynching incidents, mostly manifestations of bigotry, caste or communal, and accelerated by social media platforms, continue to remain a recurring theme not just in Jharkhand but also other States. This despite the Supreme Court berating politicians for their failure to deal with such offences. It had asked the Parliament to formulate an anti-lynching law and provide adequate punishment for such incidents while also asking respective States to "take specific preventive, punitive and remedial measures." Two high-level committees were set up to guide the Government in the formulation of a law but nothing much has yet been achieved. Forget the drafting of a law, even the guidelines to prevent misuse of social media platforms for hate campaigns haven't taken shape. Which is why on Monday, the top court had to step in once again to haul up the Government, asking it to submit details of the progress made in holding social media firms accountable for their failure to trace the origin of online content within three weeks. While lynching-specific laws may not be there at present, there are others that can effectively tackle the menace. Only the political will seems to be lacking. This has only created an environment that has allowed wrong-doers to overcome all sorts of inhibitions and kill people legitimately in a group to make a point. The Raghubar Das Government, which is seeking another mandate, has to order a thorough investigation into the matter and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to book unlike in the Ansari case which continues to linger, marred as it is with several twists and turns. More than anything else, instilling a sense of fear of law among vigilante groups is essential.

It is deeply distressing that lynching incidents, mostly manifestations of bigotry, caste or communal, and accelerated by social media platforms, continue to remain a recurring theme not just in Jharkhand but also other States. This despite the Supreme Court berating politicians for their failure to deal with such offences. It had asked the Parliament to formulate an anti-lynching law and provide adequate punishment for such incidents while also asking respective States to "take specific preventive, punitive and remedial measures." Two high-level committees were set up to guide the Government in the formulation of a law but nothing much has yet been achieved. Forget the drafting of a law, even the guidelines to prevent misuse of social media platforms for hate campaigns haven't taken shape. Which is why on Monday, the top court had to step in once again to haul up the Government, asking it to submit details of the progress made in holding social media firms accountable for their failure to trace the origin of online content within three weeks. While lynching-specific laws may not be there at present, there are others that can effectively tackle the menace. Only the political will seems to be lacking. This has only created an environment that has allowed wrong-doers to overcome all sorts of inhibitions and kill people legitimately in a group to make a point. The Raghubar Das Government, which is seeking another mandate, has to order a thorough investigation into the matter and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to book unlike in the Ansari case which continues to linger, marred as it is with several twists and turns. More than anything else, instilling a sense of fear of law among vigilante groups is essential.

Lanka's electoral test

With presidential polls in Sri Lanka scheduled later this year, internal security is one domain that is going to be on the minds of citizens



ASHOK K MEHTA

The space for presidential contenders in Sri Lanka's election on November 16 is crowding. The hopefuls are from the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP), the breakaway faction of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP)'s Anura Kumara Dissanayaka and United National Party (UNP)'s leaders — Ranil Wickremesinghe; deputy leader, Sajith Premadasa; Speaker of Parliament Karu Jayasuriya — and even Democratic Party leader Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, who fought and lost to Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2009. Tomorrow's secret ballot will determine the UNP candidate. The bets are on the youthful Premadasa to give a fight to Gota, former Army Colonel and Defence Secretary under his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was the key architect of victory over the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). His image as a doer/disciplinarian under the shadow of 21/4 Easter Sunday bombings makes him electable. The most striking headline of a possible outcome of an election is Rajapaksa redux and democracy in peril.

At present, national security tops the election agenda, which includes the fragile economy, abolition of the executive presidency and arresting and rolling back the anger against Muslims. Like in previous elections, the vote of the minorities — Christians, Muslims and Tamils — will be the clincher. In the last elections, a unity candidate of the SLFP and UNP, incumbent President Maithripala Sirisena defeated Mahinda Rajapaksa. This time around, a grand alliance is unlikely. Its signal achievement was the opening up of the democratic space, the passage of 19 and 20 Amendments and tinkering with Constitutional reform. The Rajapaksa swept the local polls in 2018, marking its rise due to the collective failure of the National Unity Government — failure to mend the economy and press as promised corruption charges against the Rajapaksa.

Gota, a former American citizen, has an edge at present as he commands the support of a majority Sinhalese (76 per cent) in urban areas and among civil and military bureaucracies. He is feared as much as he is admired as a tested war leader; his aura though tainted with "white van" disappearances, allegations of human rights violations and a litany of corruption charges that he says are being "managed." Gota's choice as President has, according to the grapevine, introduced a rift in the ambitious Rajapaksa clan. While presenting Gota as a presidential suitor, Mahinda promptly proposed his own name as the future Prime Minister. In an interview to a Tamil newspaper, he said the real power, thanks to the 19th Amendment, will be with the Prime Minister. He is Gota's shadow in his election rallies and closed-door meetings with SLPP youth wing and other Muslim and Tamil



minorities. Gota is explaining that discipline and military rule are not the same thing.

The Sirisena-Wickremesinghe cohabitation failed miserably. In the UNP, the perennial question of younger leadership has been blocked by Wickremesinghe, who has twice before lost presidential elections and will be no match for Gota a third time. He lacks charisma. Fifty-nine-year-old Premadasa, the Minister for Housing and Reconstruction, has like his father, former President Ranasinghe Premadasa, done great work in rural areas, building homes and caring for the underprivileged. Fonseka, a former Army Commander during the Eelam war, has said that if national security is the lead issue, he is the right man for the job. But only Premadasa can give a fight to Gota. JVP's Dissanayake will eat into around five to six lakh Sinhalese votes. This campaign will be about Gota securing minority support and Sajith Premadasa winning additional Sinhalese votes. The Rajapaksa have never won over the minorities though this time they are working overtime.

The ruling combine has made some progress in reconciliation and transitional justice in the north by returning 75 per

cent of the land occupied by the Army and establishing the Office of Missing Persons. But no progress was recorded in the investigation of 65,000 complaints of "the missing." Sirisena visited Jaffna on August 30 and reiterated his promise to the Tamils. They are disillusioned with Mahinda Rajapaksa, who first replaced devolution with development but later, at India's insistence, pledged the implementation of 13A plus, the plus being an upper house. The Tamils are divided. A number of new parties has sprouted like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Social Democratic Party of Tamils (SDPT). The mainstay, Tamil National Alliance (TNA), remains aligned with UNP while the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) plus some smaller parties will support the Rajapaksa. Rizakh Badruddin of ACP party is a Muslim. Some Muslims have been returning to the north in Mannar — after they were hounded out of the north by the LTTE. The TNA is the kingmaker in Government formation and has invariably shunned the Rajapaksa.

The most pragmatic Muslims are united and better organised in the east. In Batticaloa and Ampara districts, Muslims constitute 22 per cent

of the population (population division in the east, including Trincomalee district, is roughly one-third each of Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims). The ever-green Rauff Hakeem of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) has kept his flock together as for his party there are no untouchables. After the 21/4 bombings, Muslims have self-moderated and 10 of its Ministers resigned from the Government so that investigations against them could be held freely and fairly. Anti-Muslim sentiment across the country is high but dormant, especially among Sinhalese and Tamils in the east.

Gota hopes to receive 47 per cent of the Muslim votes though his association with the Bodu Bala Sena in the riots in Ampara, Kandy and Kalmunai has not been forgotten. In Beruwalla last month, accompanied by Mahinda, he attended a civic reception by 10,000 Muslims at a mosque. Christians traditionally vote for the UNP. So the battle for the minority vote, crucial for Gota, is in full swing though UNP is the usual beneficiary (the minority vote is even more critical during the parliamentary elections due on August 2020). Together, the north and the east make up 29 seats in the

225-member Parliament. The much-promised electoral reforms are critical for stability.

The shock of the Colombo bombings by local internally radicalised Muslims inspired by the Islamic State (IS) has shattered the confidence Sri Lankans achieved after subduing the deadly LTTE following a three-decade-long war. The risk of growing polarisation in society has to be contained and rolled back. This makes internal security the main concern of the people and Gota, therefore, the frontrunner with attendant dangers of over-securitisation. If UNP and its candidate can switch the electoral agenda to economy, livelihood and democracy while keeping national security in place, can be a close race — too close to call. The return of the Rajapaksa will cause some anxiety for New Delhi. Three retired Sri Lankan professors along with Colombo's Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute carried out an election survey in August. It showed Gota ahead. But six weeks is a long time in elections, especially if it is Gota vs Sajith.

(The writer is a retired Major General of the Indian Army and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the revamped Integrated Defence Staff)

SOUNDBITE

There is no sign of freedom of speech in Jammu and Kashmir. The situation in the Valley is very bad.



Senior Congress leader — Ghulam Nabi Azad

The world's getting smaller and we are a huge industry. We all are going to be out there at some point or the other.



Director — Zoya Akhtar

PM Imran Khan met British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson this morning. Sorry for the typo in previous tweet. PM Imran Khan met British PM this morning (sic).



Pakistan's UN envoy — Maleeha Lodhi

Friendship was the bedrock of my father's politics. I will not compromise on my core beliefs even though politics continues to become partisan.



Former Congress MP — Milind Deora

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unconventional move

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Convenient truths" (September 24). Despite many criticisms by the media, the fact remains that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did steal the show during his speech at the world's only super power, where public speaking is as celebrated as the presidency itself. And this, in the company of the world's most powerful politician, who quite incredibly — and going against his grain — was content playing the second fiddle.

But wading into the domestic politics of a host nation can cast a long shadow on future relations. Whether an Indian Prime Minister should have so openly weighed in an upcoming electoral battle in a foreign country would not have passed the test of conventional diplomacy. But neither Trump nor Modi is a conventional politician.

By speaking of India's democracy and its diversity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi showcased the common values with the US. By defending his moves in Kashmir, linking it to terrorism and espousing a part-

The pomp and show at Houston

This refers to the editorial, "Convenient truths" (September 24). In its appearance, the "Howdy, Modi" event in Houston was a big success. It made for a magnificent spectacle and a visual treat. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in his element and his address delivered to the rapturous applause of the audience was an exercise in grand-standing. However, only by looking at India through rose-coloured spectacles can we agree with the Prime Minister's assertion that "everything is fine in India." Seeing impoverishment, joblessness, farmer distress, mob lynchings, jailing of dissenters and the like and speaking about them are nowadays left to "anti-nationals" and "urban Naxals."

One thing that US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Modi — leaders of predominantly Christian and Hindu nations — share and what makes them look similar is their conscious dissociation from Islam. Their allusion to "extremist Islamist groups" as the common enemy and threats from them was not lost on anyone. Modi opined that Article 370 "benefitted separatists and terrorists." But he did not explain



as to why its dilution by a two-thirds majority in the Parliament was followed by repressive measures and restrictions in the Valley. We couldn't agree more with the Prime Minister when he said, "Diversity is the strength of our democracy." To add to what he said, it is the defining feature of our democracy.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Mutual benefit

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Convenient truths" (September 24). The joint appearance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump at Houston underscores the growing significance of the

nership with Trump on counter terrorism, he sought to neutralise Pakistan. Pakistan, already feeling frustrated due to the lack of global support after the abrogation of Article 370, has all the reason to feel very angry and helpless.

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

Indo-US ties. For the latter, it was a chance to court Indian-Americans for the 2020 presidential election, where Texas could emerge as an important political entity while deciding the result. For Modi, it was a PR triumph, and the picture with Trump may help him shrug off the criticism over his recent strong-arm poli-

cies at home. It was a win-win event for both.

That said, why does the media always keeps harping about the current situation in Kashmir? I wonder, did it ever bother about the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits when they were driven out of Kashmir? Of the approximately 300,000 to 600,000 Hindus living in the Kashmir Valley in 1990, only 2,000 to 3,000 reside there today. Any tears for them?

KS Jayatheertha
Bengaluru

Courting controversy

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Convenient truths" (September 24). What purpose did the Prime Minister's Houston visit serve at a time when the nation is burning with issues such as economic slowdown, falling GDP, increasing unemployment, farmer suicides? It was nothing but indulgence in a choreographed extravaganza.

Sumit
Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Get on the start-up bus

The initial investments may be high but the windfall gains on the success of a company would also be humongous



HIMA BINDU KOTA

They say to get rich you have to make money while you're asleep, which certainly requires a new approach to investments and out-of-the-box thinking. According to the risk-return trade-off, the higher the risk an investor takes, the potential returns are also higher. Therefore, although fixed income investments are safer, the returns are limited. For risk tolerant investors, investing in some of the upcoming start-ups can be one of the options. According to the Government, India is the second-largest start up ecosystem in the world growing at the rate of 10-12 per cent year-on-year. The number of innovative new firms in India has grown to 50,000 from 7,000 in a decade, according to a KPMG report released in February.

What is a start-up anyway? Any business that can bring about a disruption in the existing industry and give convenience like never before through an app or usage of technology can be defined as a start-up. Order groceries, without leaving your house, by using BigBasket or Grofers. Need cab at midnight? Call Ola or Uber. These are some of the examples of noteworthy start-ups. Most entrepreneurs begin small while developing their initial idea and then as they build their businesses, go for additional funding from angel investors or venture capitalists. And if they are successful, along with them, all the lucky investors who believed either in the product, service or the entrepreneur and took a risk by investing in the fledgling company, are able to cash in big.

So, how can we, as investors, be a part of this growth story and hope to make big gains? We can do that by investing and buying a piece of the firm in exchange of equity, which essentially means buying a portion of the ownership which gives us the right to future potential profits. However, a word of caution here — if the company fails, you lose your investment. Suppose for a growing company all the profits are reinvested, then how do you make profits? If we believe that the start-up we chose grew quickly, then we as investors make a profit from their investments when we sell part or all of our portion of ownership in the company during a liquidity event, such as an Initial Public Offering (IPO) or acquisition. During a successful IPO, there is a considerable rise in the share price as compared to the initial investment, increasing the value of investors' holdings and giving shareholders the opportunity to trade their stock on the public market if they want to liquidate or cash in their shares. That was the good news! Now the bad news is that 90 per cent of the start-ups fail. It is also difficult to sell off their equity before its IPO. However, having said that, this increased risk is coupled with the potential for a very large return if the company succeeds and can be a good investment option for risk-tolerant investors.

Having understood the pitfalls and the risks involved in investing in start-ups, there may be some investors who would want to bet on the future of some such firm. Such investors can start by joining an angel network preferably with the nation-wide coverage to be able to give access to start-ups throughout India. With this larger opportunity set, one should focus on the promoters, their vision and mission and their capabilities to take the venture forward. The advantage of these networks is that the preliminary due diligence like discovery of the company, initial project evaluation, documentation and constant monitoring post-investment is being handled by them and the investor has to simply take the decision to invest by taking advantage of their expertise. Often, it can get very overwhelming sometimes, particularly if you are starting new. So, an investor should observe what experienced angel investors are doing, build his own understanding of the start-up ecosystem, find out the sunshine sector and then invest. Some of the websites that an investor can visit are LetsVenture, AngelList or OurCrowd. Retail participation in start-ups is facilitated through an angel fund, which is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) fund, registered under the SEBI. Indian investors can also participate in syndicates, which are private investment vehicles led by experienced technology investors and financed by institutional investors and sophisticated angels, created to make a single investment. The advantage of syndicates is that the investors can participate with lower minimums and can get access to some of the top deals, which are typically hard to procure for someone who is not experienced in building deal flows. Personalised deals are available for investors with higher fund availability, where he can personally scrutinize different ventures and invest in them after due diligence for price discovery and some smart negotiations. The initial investments may be high but the windfall gains on the success of the company would also be humongous.

Although risky, start-up investing is an alternate investment avenue for investors who are willing to be a part of the vibrant community by investing in them for potentially higher gains. So, get on the start-up bus and add a new leaf to your investment portfolio.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

POINT-COUNTER-POINT

SHOULD I COMMIT SUICIDE? WHAT AM I EXPECTED TO DO IF NOT RAISE THE ISSUES OF MY CONSTITUENCY AS AN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE? —UNION MINISTER GIRIRAJ SINGH



GIRIRAJ OFTEN SEEKS TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS BRAVE. BUT HIS TALK OF SUICIDE GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS A COWARD. —JD(U) SPOKESMAN NIKHIL MANDAL

University for cops

A central police university that will overhaul training and help the force fight new-age crime better is the need of the hour, say Rochin Chandra and Hanif Qureshi

With the crime graph soaring and criminals becoming more technology-savvy each day, smart policing is the need of the hour. But for this, India needs to overhaul the training of the force, teach skills to deal with new policing challenges such as cyber crime, improve the mechanisms in place to maintain law and order, encourage research and development and improve investigation abilities.

The idea of setting up a central police university for overhauling the way the police works and deals with law and order has been around since 2006. In keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Smart Policing," the idea of a central university was part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) commitment in the Lok Sabha elections.

On the 49th Foundation Day of the Bureau of Police Research and Development, the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, announced the setting up of a national police university and forensic science university, with affiliated colleges in every State. According to the Centre's plan, this university, for which the Government has given in-principle approval and a 100-acre plot has been identified in Greater Noida, will have affiliated colleges in every State, which will offer undergraduate courses in policing. Touted as an unprecedented development in India's policing and crime-reduction landscape, this proposal aims to serve three main purposes, which are to improve the knowledge, skills and training of police personnel; increase the use of research in policing policy and practice and allow candidates who have cleared their class XII examinations to gain specific skills of police work, with special weightage in recruitment to the police and paramilitary forces.

Such institutions are already operational in the three States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jharkhand, each of them having one police university. These universities, while relatively young, are offering professional courses on criminal justice, which include criminology, police science and forensic science, with an intention to provide skilled, trained and efficient manpower for the police forces. Of the three, Raksha Shakti University, the brainchild of Modi, is the only police-oriented university which has kept the promise of bolstering local police efforts to combat crime and changing their perspective on tackling law and order situations.

So, is it worth making a huge investment in setting up an institute for imparting police education, when only one such university has claimed to have made substantial progress in its avowed purpose of modernising policing, thus far? The answer to that question is a resounding "Yes." That's because policing education stresses not only on physical fitness, perseverance and teaching handy skills like firearms and self-defence but also on developing a specialist knowledge-base for all policing roles which reflects its current and future challenges. Of the many subjects taught under police studies, the one that is central to policing in many ways is criminology. The etiology and distribution of crime offers a foundation from which police agencies can develop a proactive approach and get smarter about crime control.

In the West, for example, police scholars and professionals use criminologically-driven concepts — such as victim-offender relationship, geographic concentration of crime, early identification of high-rate offenders, differential involvement in crime by age and gender and linkages between disorder, signs of incivility, lack of guardianship and crime — to create an effective and humane response to crime problems.

Remarkably, this practice is grounded in the belief that crime is a social phenomenon, tackling which requires the police to understand its



THROUGH AN ANALYSIS OF WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOES NOT, POLICY-MAKERS CAN BE GIVEN EVIDENCE-BASED CHOICES ON ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION. OVER A PERIOD, POLICING WILL GAIN AS A RESULT OF THOROUGH REVIEW AND EXAMINATION OF ITS PRACTICES

causal factors — much like a doctor who first diagnoses the problem and then prescribes medical treatment for curing the ailment.

Hence, the vision that the national police university will serve as a think-tank can only be realised when "intellectualism" is brought into the police discipline. This means teaching policing not only with an emphasis on effective practices but also with the intention to conduct deeper analyses about its role, functions and legitimacy. For this to happen, criminology must be institutionalised and formalised in the curriculum.

Challenges for Police Education: There are three major challenges to teaching modules.

First, at present, there are only a few courses in India and they too teach rudimentary skills. That's because these courses are mostly taught by retired or serving police officers, who utilise their experience of handling "tough situations" largely through their "great vision" and larger-than-life persona. The success of policing work, however, has to be based on verifiable data and evidence-based strategies which are not dependent on larger-than-life projections. A pedagogical approach, which is dependent on individual bravado and not empirical evidence, may be detrimental to developing effective strategies.

Second, since police education curriculum is directly driven by professional competencies as defined by police officers and approved on the basis of existing delivery models, it tends to deal more with what is visible on the surface and of immediate concern; policy issues which have serious implications for the future are generally ignored. This form of curriculum development often neglects the important role of social sciences in

advancing crime analysis and in evaluating and assessing traditional practices and new innovations in strategies. It also allows experts to deliver their lectures based on field experiences and condemn theoretical insights as something constructed in "ivory towers." There's no denying that practitioners' experience is important, but being dismissive about theories whose origins lie in hard data analysis and research is really worrisome.

For instance, Newman's concept of "Defensible Space" allowed city planners to create physical layouts that decrease crime levels by affecting the behaviour of both residents and potential offenders in urban neighborhoods. Newman was a professor of architecture and that helped him make use of spaces for public surveillance. Similarly, the concept of "Environmental Criminology," introduced by C Ray Jeffery in 1971, is concerned with criminal events and the importance of the characteristics of the places where crime happens. Several practical approaches to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) were developed later on by Paul and Patricia Brantingham and others. There is a need to blend in these concepts with practitioners' experience while teaching for policing.

Third, the non-upgradation of police education curricula might lead to skills and knowledge deficiency in police personnel. The police studies syllabus, as followed by the present police universities, has not kept pace with the latest developments in police sciences the world over, and indeed, within India itself. The curriculum drafting committees must take steps to incorporate new topics of crime control such as hotspots policing, problem-oriented policing, crime analysis through Computer Statistics and

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Crime Mapping.

By doing this, future personnel will be better equipped with the use of evidence-based strategies to improve responses to complex crime and law maintenance problems.

Professional opportunities in police departments: The idea of a national police university will gain the importance it deserves when graduates of police science are provided with professional opportunities to practise their skills and knowledge. This may be done in several ways. One of this is introducing "Criminology and Police Science" as an optional subject in the Civil Services Exam. This will ensure an equal footing for this important subject, which is already an established field in most Western countries. Creating a special quota for the recruitment of criminology and police science graduates at the lower levels of police departments would lead to an influx of subject area expertise in police ranks, which in turn, could assist senior officers in framing and administering smart policies for crime reduction.

Police academia partnerships: The proposed universities would also do well to aggressively partner with academia on conducting research into various policing practices and other crime-reduction strategies. Through an analysis of what works in policing and what does not, policy-makers can be given evidence-based choices on alternative courses of action. Over a period, policing will gain as a result of thorough review and examination of its practices.

(Chandra is a Criminologist and Director of the Centre for Criminology and Public Policy and Hanif Qureshi, is Inspector General of Police, Haryana and Chair, Evidence-Based Policing Network of the same institute)

A test of tough decisions made by Modi

The October Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana will be an evaluation of the Centre's crucial steps like the revocation of Article 370 in J&K, the NRC and the ban on Triple Talaq



KALYANI SHANKAR

The Election Commission of India has sounded the Assembly poll bugle for the two Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled States, Maharashtra and Haryana, which will go for elections on October 21. The BJP is not only eyeing a comeback but also a much bigger margin. The saffron party is poised to win both the States mainly because of the disarray in the Opposition ranks.

The elections in these two States will be a test for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as they will be the first Assembly polls after his 2019 impressive Lok Sabha win. It will also be an evaluation of the Centre's crucial decisions like the

revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the ban on Triple Talaq.

The Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' leadership is also at stake although the BJP is depending on Modi's charisma to work its magic again. Above all, the results will show whether the sliding economy is going to be a factor for voters or not. Given the fact that Mumbai is the financial capital of the country, the economic slowdown is a big issue in these polls, though the Modi Government has announced a slew of fiscal measures to give a boost to the financial system in the last one month.

However, the BJP has to guard against trouble regarding the defectors from the Congress Party and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and also over ticket distribution.

The BJP is looking for an opportunity to emerge as an umbrella party like the Congress used to be earlier. The saffron party has been on an accelerated path of growth

since the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. In the 2014 Assembly elections, after the four-way contest, the BJP emerged as the single-largest party, followed by the Shiv Sena (63), the Congress (42) and the NCP (41).

The BJP's ally Shiv Sena is still haggling over seat sharing and also bargaining for the post of Deputy Chief Minister for Aditya Thackeray, son of Uddhav Thackeray. The Sena has also welcomed with open arms, defectors from the Congress and the NCP. The Sena finds that it has to guard against the BJP's onslaught as the saffron party has overtaken it in the last 24 years. While the Sena has registered a modest 3.09 per cent increase, the BJP grew by 16.3 per cent.

As for the Congress, this will be the party's first Assembly election after the return of Sonia Gandhi as the Congress president.

The Congress and its alliance partner NCP are the main challengers to the BJP-Sena combine. However, the Congress is in a disarray both at the local and national

level, its morale is at the lowest point and it is facing not only a leadership crisis but also factionalism and indiscipline. The more important worry for the grand old party is the mass erosion in its ranks as several leaders, including the Leader of Opposition Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil and former Minister Harshvardhan Patil, have left the Congress and joined the BJP while Abdul Sattar joined the Shiv Sena.

Sonia Gandhi has been trying to restore some order but it is too little and too late to make a major difference.

The BJP and the Sena have made inroads in the Western Maharashtra, Vidarbha and Marathwada. A win in Maharashtra, where the Congress had remained dominant for decades, would go a long way in boosting the morale of the party.

The Congress Party's alliance partner, the NCP, too, is not in good health.

The two parties, which joined hands in 1999 after Sharad Pawar

launched his new outfit, ruled Maharashtra together for 15 years but had also, contested the 2014 Assembly elections separately. But like the saffron parties, the Congress and the NCP also reunited for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Pawar is fighting a lonely battle with some of his long-time associates and staunch supporters like Vijaysinh Mohite Patil, Padmasinh Patil and Madhukar Pichad, leaving him to join the BJP. The ageing Sharad Pawar is not in good health and has lost his grip on the rank and file. The NCP, too, is facing factionalism and indiscipline. So the two ailing parties will find it difficult to challenge the combined might of the BJP-Shiv Sena combine.

Though the Congress-NCP combine is the major challenger, the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA), led by Prakash Ambedkar, has been trying to emerge as the third front in Maharashtra's largely bipolar politics. The VBA will only cut into the votes of the combine.

The Opposition has identified

key points like the economic slowdown, rural distress and unemployment as major poll issues while the BJP wants to showcase the achievements of the Modi Government at the Centre and the Maharashtra Government. It also wants to invoke nationalism and its strong leadership.

Maharashtra, a major State, is significant in multiple ways and so the BJP wants to consolidate its strength while the Sena is trying to guard its turf.

For the NCP, it is all about survival while for the Congress Party it is keeping up its relevance in the country and Prakash Ambedkar is expecting a big break. Many predict the fight may be one-sided as the BJP has an edge in Maharashtra with the momentum gained from the Lok Sabha verdict coupled with the growing stature of Devendra Fadnavis. It will not be a big surprise if the two saffron parties win the polls not just effortlessly, but also with a bigger margin this time.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



SHOCKING NEWS ON THOMAS COOK

The whole miserable Thomas Cook episode also serves as a reminder of the perils that await. The weakness of sterling combined with Brexit uncertainty, as well as other factors outside ministers' control, place companies at risk. As political instability looks set to continue, the government must come up with clear criteria against which future bids for state help from collapsing businesses can be judged.

(The Guardian editorial)

CAPSULE



DGTR centre for full utilisation of trade remedial measures

NEW DELHI: The DGTR, an arm of the commerce ministry, has set up a help desk and facilitation centre to ensure optimal utilisation of available trade remedial measures aimed at curbing unfair trade. The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) is an investigation arm of the ministry which deals with anti-dumping duty, safeguard duty, and countervailing duty. These duties are trade remedy measures, provided under an agreement of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to its member countries. They are used to provide a level playing field to domestic industry in case of dumping of goods, significant increase in imports, and subsidised imports. The Help Desk and Facilitation Centre is an institutional arrangement to facilitate optimal utilisation by different stake holders of available trade remedial measures aimed at curbing unfair trade," the DGTR said in a notice.



UP govt to give 5% discount on khadi products

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday decided to provide 5 per cent additional discount on khadi products. The decision to this effect was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. "It has been decided to provide 5 per cent discount on khadi products. It will be in addition to the existing 20 per cent (discount) provided by the khadi department. Thus, the customer will be getting 25 per cent discount." UP minister and government spokesperson Shrikant Sharma told reporters while briefing about cabinet decisions. The 5 per cent discount will be available from Gandhi Jayanti (Oct 2) to Mar 31, he added.



EU court: Dutch tax deal with Starbucks is not state aid

THE HAGUE: A European Union court has overturned a ruling by the European Commission that a tax deal between the Dutch government and Starbucks amounted to illegal state support for the coffee giant. In 2015, the Commission ruled that the Netherlands gave tax advantages to Starbucks. That led to Dutch authorities recovering 25.7 million euros from the coffee giant. Both the Netherlands and Starbucks appealed the decision. In a ruling Tuesday, the General Court of the European Union says the EU's executive commission "was unable to demonstrate the existence of an advantage in favour of Starbucks". The Commission can appeal against Tuesday's judgment.

SEBI BETS BIG ON TECHNOLOGY

● Shortlists Infy, Wipro, others for data solution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has shortlisted as many as seven companies, including Infosys, Wipro and Accenture Solutions, for providing a data solution that can handle vast amount of data from multiple sources. Over the past few years, the regulator has been betting big on technology to address and handle challenges arising out of technological advancements in the markets.

To provide 'data lake' solution, the markets regulator had issued a notice in May, inviting expression of interest (EoI) from the interested parties. The selected company will be responsible for designing, implementing and supporting a big data solution with analytical capabilities.

The data lake will contain large amount of structured (order, trade data among others), unstructured (annual reports and Sebi orders) and semi-structured data (XML - a markup language designed to store and transport data. It encodes documents in a manner that is both human and machine-readable).

"As the trading volumes are growing at an astronomical rate, a need is felt to build a

Accordingly, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) invited bids from companies to provide such services



data lake which can handle structured, semi-structured and unstructured data from multiple sources," the regulator had said.

Accordingly, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) invited bids from companies to provide such services.

After evaluating the responses, the regulator said in a notice, it has shortlisted seven firms — Accenture Solutions, Capgemini Technology Services India, Hewlett Packard Enterprises (India), EIT Services India, Infosys, Wipro and Larsen &

Toubro Infotech — "for further process". Data lake is a system that stores vast amount of data in its native form at any scale. Besides, the regulator, in its annual report for 2018-19, said that it intends to deploy data analytics and new generation technologies to deal with various challenges in the market. "Sebi would encourage adoption and usage of financial technology to further develop and maintain an efficient, fair and transparent securities market ecosystem which also promotes innovation in the securities market," Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi said in his statement in the annual report.

As per the report, the regulator would continue to strengthen market supervision through steps such as technology solutions being built to achieve the objective of identifying non-compliance and assisting in investigations.



Global postal union meets under threat of US pull-out

PNS ■ GENEVA

Diplomats opened an emergency meeting of the UN agency that sets international postal rates on Tuesday, with the US threatening to quit the global body as early as next month. President Donald Trump's administration announced last October that it planned to withdraw from the Universal Postal Union, charging that the current system sets postal rates that unfairly penalise the United States while benefiting carriers in countries like China. Washington, which made its announcement as trade tensions soared with China, said it would leave the UPU in a year unless the agency underwent dramatic reform.

But the State Department had stressed that "if negotiations are successful, the Administration is prepared to rescind the notice of withdrawal and remain in the UPU". This week's three-day meeting marks only the third extraordinary congress to be held in the UPU's 145-year-history.

RIL's earnings growth starting to de-risk

● Tax liability to fall by 4% pts: Morgan Stanley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries' earnings growth is starting to be de-risked, amid improving earnings growth clarity, better refining margins, lower tax rate, and cheaper gas feedstock costs, global brokerage Morgan Stanley said noting that company's tax liability will reduce by 4 percentage points following cut in the corporate tax rate.

The shares of Reliance Industries surged as much as five per cent after Morgan Stanley said lower taxes and cheaper gas feed costs should de-risk outlook and boost earnings.

The stock was trading at Rs 1,285.55, up nearly 4 per cent over the previous close, on the BSE at 1245 hrs after scaling a peak of Rs 1298.55.

"Rising clarity on 2020 growth; top pick in south Asia: RIL's earnings growth is starting to be de-risked as headwinds of 1H19 turn and become key tailwinds in 2020," it said.

The brokerage went on to list the reasons for its assessment -- rise in refining margins with improved demand and slower capacity growth; cheaper gas costs and improved margins from a slowdown in petrochemical capacity growth in 2020, in particular for polyethylene,



supporting the rise in chemical margins; and telecom subscriber adds remain steady.

"There is increased evidence of these factors playing out, which should raise investor confidence on the 17 per cent EPS growth we expect over F2019-21," Morgan Stanley said.

As one of the most complex refiners, RIL should be the biggest beneficiary in Asia from International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulations that from January 2020 bar use of fuel with more than 0.5 per cent sulphur in ships. This will lead to a rise in diesel demand.

On the impact of last week's announcement of a reduction in the corporate tax rate,

Morgan Stanley said: "We estimate a 400 basis point reduction in the consolidated tax rate RIL's businesses paid in F2019 of 29-35 per cent, much higher than the new corporate tax rate of 25.2 per cent.

"RIL also has deferred tax liabilities of USD 6.5 billion as of F2019, which could reduce with a lower tax rate."

The company's retail and telecom business currently pay an effective tax of 34.9 per cent and its consolidated effective tax rate comes to 27.9 per cent.

The brokerage said the company's target of zero net debt by FY2021 will help lower investor concerns about debt, which had increased steadily over the past seven years.

'Retailers using advanced tech to target niche consumer segments'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Retailers are adopting advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and social media analytics to understand consumers' shopping behaviour and preferences with a view to target niche segments, according to a Deloitte India report. Retail firms are using a strategy - Tribetailing - to identify and cater to a niche set of consumers.

As consumers' preferences are changing at a dynamic pace with an evolving retail environment, tribetailing helps retailers connect with buyers and understand them better, the report titled 'KNOW your consumer - What you see is what you get' said.

"Riding on the digital wave, retailers are using advanced technologies such as artificial

intelligence, machine learning, and social media analytics to get information about consumers' shopping history, behaviour, preferences, and online activities," it said.

This information, it said, is helping retailers to group consumers in different categories and come up with bespoke solutions, and devise personalised marketing and promotional programmes such as membership and loyalty programmes and discounts to target niche consumer segments.

With the emergence of a more informed and tech-savvy consumer base, retailers are increasingly replacing the traditional mass market approach with targeted strategies formed using insights driven from consumer data, said the report, which was unveiled in association with Mapic India.



Tax cut makes India attractive investment destination: Das

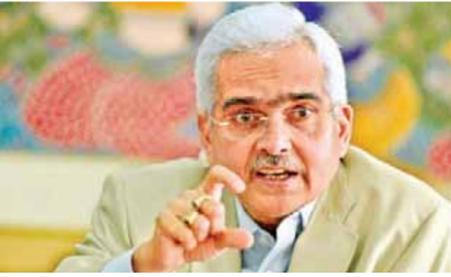
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Describing the government's move to slash corporate tax rate as a bold measure, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Tuesday said it has made India a very attractive destination for foreign investment.

In the biggest reduction in 28 years, the government on Friday cut corporate tax rate by almost 10 percentage points as it looked to pull the economy out of a six-year low growth and a 45-year high unemployment rate by reviving private investments with a Rs 1.45-lakh crore tax break.

Base corporate tax for existing companies has been reduced to 22 per cent from the current 30 per cent; and for new manufacturing firms, incorporated after October 1, 2019 and starting operations before March 31, 2023, it was slashed to 15 per cent from the current 25 per cent.

"It is a very bold measure, and it is a highly positive step. India's corporate tax now becomes very competitive compared to other emerging market economies in ASEAN and other parts of Asia. So far



"It is a very bold measure, and it is a highly positive step. India's corporate tax now becomes very competitive compared to other emerging market economies in ASEAN and other parts of Asia. So far as international investors are concerned, so far as FDI is concerned, I think India stands definitely in a very competitive position, and would be able to attract higher investments

— SHAKTIKANTA DAS, RBI Governor

as international investors are concerned, so far as FDI is concerned, I think India stands definitely in a very competitive position, and would be able to attract higher investments," Das said. With regard to domestic investors, he said, they now have more cash so

they'll be able to undertake more capital expenditure.

"They can invest more and some of them can leverage their liabilities which will add strength to their balance sheets, he said after meeting Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman here.

Infosys, TCS, HDFC among Forbes' 17 Indian firms best 'regarded' cos

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 17 Indian companies, including Infosys, TCS and HDFC, have been named in the list of World's Best Regarded Companies compiled by Forbes.

IT major Infosys has been ranked third in the list of World's Best Regarded Companies, along with global payments technology company Visa and Italian car-maker Ferrari on the first and second position, respectively.

Infosys jumped to the third spot from 31st position in 2018. "Infosys' leading position headlined an Asian invasion in the rankings," Forbes said. The other top ten companies in the list for 2019 are Netflix at the 4th position, followed by PayPal (5), Microsoft (6), Walt Disney (7), Toyota Motor (8), Mastercard (9), Costco Wholesale (10).

Indian companies Tata Consultancy Services (22nd position) and Tata Motors (31)

featured among the top 50 in the coveted list.

Other Indian companies in the list include Tata Steel (105), Larsen & Toubro (115), Mahindra & Mahindra (117), HDFC (135), Bajaj Finserv (143), Piramal Enterprises (149), Steel Authority of India (153), HCL Technologies (155), Hindalco Industries (157), Wipro (168), HDFC Bank (204), Sun Pharma Industries (217), General Insurance Corporation Of India (224), ITC (231) and Asian Paints (248).

The US dominated the list as it is home to 59 of the 250 companies in the list. The next three most-represented countries are Japan, China and India together house 82 companies on the list, up from 63 last year. "In all, nearly half of the 250 best-regarded companies are based in Asia, making it the most dominant continent," Forbes said.

10% of Thomas Cook's UK clients repatriated

PNS ■ LONDON

Britain has repatriated ten per cent of nationals who were stranded abroad after the collapse of travel firm Thomas Cook, authorities said Tuesday, as anger erupted over excessive management pay.

The Civil Aviation Authority regulator, which is managing the UK's biggest repatriation since World War II after Thomas Cook's dramatic bankruptcy, said in a statement that it flew back 14,700 of the 150,000



stranded Britons on Monday.

The CAA added that it hoped to bring back another 16,500 people on Tuesday. The dramatic collapse of Thomas Cook left 600,000 customers of all

nationalities stranded in popular tourist destinations dotted around the globe, including Cancun, Kos, Las Vegas and Lanzarote. "Following the very sad news... that Thomas Cook had stopped trading and its aircraft were grounded, we launched at the government's request our operation to return more than 150,000 people to the UK," said CAA Chief Executive Richard Moriarty.

Moriarty added: "A repatriation of this scale and nature is unprecedented and unfortu-

nately there will be some inconvenience and disruption for customers. "We will do everything we can to minimise this as the operation continues.

"We want people to continue to enjoy their holiday, so we will bring them back to the UK on their original departure day, or very soon thereafter."

Meanwhile, criticism is mounting over the pay of Thomas Cook's management, who steered the 178-year-old company into the rocks with vast debts.

IT to be used extensively in data collection works: DG

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Information Technology tools will be used extensively in data collection and compilation works for the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises 2019, according to Vijay Kumar, Director General, National Statistical Office, New Delhi.

This would help in maintaining the quality of data and



early release of survey results in public domain, Kumar said on Monday in his address at the

regional training conference for Central and State government officials here who have been assigned the field work of Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises.

NSO is in the process of launching new surveys apart from its regular surveys meeting the requirements of government, data users, planners and researchers.

BlackRock trims Escorts stake; sells shares worth Rs 22.7 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BlackRock has trimmed its stake in engineering and farm equipment maker Escorts by selling 4.41 lakh shares worth around Rs 22.7 crore through a market transaction.

As per a regulatory filing, BlackRock Inc, which had 3.20 per cent stake earlier, brought down its shareholding in the company to 2.84 per cent by selling shares on September 19, 2019.

Based on the weighted average price of Escorts' stock at Rs 514.50 apiece on



September 19, 2019, the transaction is estimated at Rs 22.7 crore.

Shares of Escorts were trading 4.51 per cent lower at Rs 606 apiece on the BSE.

'Blocks to be identified for auctioning commercial coal mines'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday said the government is in the process of identifying blocks to be put up for auction for commercial mining of coal to Indian as well as overseas miners. Besides, the process for auction of 42 mines to domestic public sector undertaking (PSUs) is also on to scale up output, Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi said adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants a curb on imports barring 135 million tonnes which is unavoidable.

"Our policy is clear (to invite global players for roll out of commercial coal mining). We will decide on the numbers and identify blocks at a proper



time," Joshi said on the sidelines of India Energy Forum organised by Mining Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India.

The maiden move aimed at

cutting coal imports is set to end the monopoly of domestic giant Coal India that accounts for over 80 per cent of the India's dry-fuel output. "Prime Minister has directed

The maiden move aimed at cutting coal imports is set to end the monopoly of domestic giant Coal India that accounts for over 80 per cent of the India's dry-fuel output

me and my Ministry to double the production of coal. Prime Minister has said that he can understand we are importing crude oil, petroleum products but he doesn't understand why we are importing coal which is unacceptable," he said adding PM has directed to curb imports barring 135 million tonnes that is unavoidable for plants.

Addressing the event "Indian

Coal: Potential and Diversification", he said although domestic coal production has grown substantially by 165 million tonnes (MT) in last 5 years, still a lot of it has to be imported to bridge the demand-supply gap and there is urgent requirement of ramping up the domestic coal production. "Coal India, SCCL and other miners are geared up for enhancing coal production

from the current level of 730 MT to 1149 MT by FY 2023 thereby totally eliminating the coal import except the un-substitutable import of 135 MT," the Minister said adding land acquisition was also one of the reasons behind delays in operationalising mines. He said the coal PSUs have planned to increase coal production from the present level of 676 MT to 965 MT by opening of new mines, capacity expansion of existing mines and creation of new evacuation infrastructure.

CIL alone is poised to commission 11 new coking coal washeries in a phased manner to meet the total demand of washed domestic coking coal of steel sector expected to be 10 MT in FY 2022.



CLIMATE CRISIS: IS IT ALREADY TOO LATE?

Everyone is affected by climate change. While a few regions experience extreme heat, others experience unseasonal floods. But as Greta Thunberg says, "No one seems to care." It is time for countries to take stock of what is happening and reduce emissions. Climate protests are taking place all over the world to bring people's attention towards global warming, reports V SATEESH REDDY

HYDERABADIS FIGHT FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

Following Greta's footsteps, hundreds of kids and parents gathered in the city recently and raised their voice over the dangers of climate change. The protest was part of the 'Fridays For Future' movement that has gathered speed in several nations. The participants shouted slogans and performed short skits to explain the risks of climate change, and urged people to come forward. Kaajal Maheshwari, one of the participants in the demonstration, said that climate change is a global issue and we must do something to save our environment. Ravindra, a class X student, said that India has to take immediate action as five cities are in the list of most polluted cities in the world. Sanjay Kumar, a techie shares, "The pollution levels are very high in Hyderabad and I don't know what actions are being taken by the Pollution Control Board (PCB) and GHMC but with the radiation of cell towers, many birds are dying and no one cares."

KEEP THE CLIMATE, CHANGE THE ECONOMY

The South Asian People's Action on Climate Crisis (SAPACC) was formed in May 2019 to provide a platform for people to discuss and act on environmental issues. They recently organised a four-day conference on people's action on climate change in the city titled, "Keep the Climate, Change the Economy". Sudhershan Rao Sarde, Convener of SAPACC said, "No country is working towards making the possibility of the Paris Agreement a reality. This is seen in the rising global average temperature. This would substantially increase the risks and effects of climate change."

Global climate protests are being held all over the world by people from all walks of life to save the next generation from the harmful effects of climate change. Speaking at the Climate Action Summit - 2019 at the United Nations General Assembly on Monday, Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish climate activist who spearheaded the movement said, "We are in the initial stages of a mass extinction and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!" World leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be coming together this week for the annual United Nations General Assembly, where so far many world leaders, at the beginning of the UN event, have spoken about the responsibility of governments around the world to find ways to mitigate the oncoming climate crisis. But many activists remain disappointed with the lack of action from the nations, especially the developed ones, despite the Paris climate accord that they signed in 2015, to lower carbon emissions, among others.

"This largely disappointing set of outcomes from the Climate Action Summit raises the stakes even higher for the upcoming [United Nations climate conferences in December 2019 and 2020], where leaders have another chance to take action," said Oxfam International executive director, Winnie Byanyima, as reported in an article by *The Verge*. Angry with the world governments for not taking any action against the man-made effects on the environment, the young climate activist says, "For over 30 years climate change has been crystal clear. But how dare you continue to look away and come here and say that you are doing enough when the politics and the solutions needed are still nowhere in sight. You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency but I do not want to believe that because if you really understood the situation and still keep failing to act then you would be evil." Since August 2018, Greta has been raising awareness globally on the risks posed by climate change, and has been holding politicians accountable for their lack of action.

“You've stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth - how dare you!

GRETA THUNBERG
 CLIMATE ACTIVIST



DEBATE OVER FITNESS THROUGH SQUASH

Schools have been mushrooming at every street corner at a rate that is unheard of 20 years ago. Even though this will help provide education to more students, it comes at the cost of quality education especially in physical activities. To fill in the gap many private organisations have taken the mantle to help children participate in sporting events. One such event was the Netplay Sports Telangana State Squash

Closed Championship 2019 that concluded on Tuesday at Gamepoint, a multi sports center in Madhapur. This tournament was conducted under the aegis of Telangana Squash Rackets Association and Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI). Tushar Kothari won the Men's category by beating Ravi Pandey in the final while Aishwarya Payyan emerged as the victor in the Women's category. Prof. K. Ranga Rao, President, Olympic Association of

Telangana was the chief guest of the event who distributed the prizes to the winners.

THIS TOURNAMENT WAS HELD UNDER THE AEGIS OF TS SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION AND SQUASH RACKETS FEDERATION OF INDIA (SRFI)

what's brewing?

PARTY

LIFESTYLE EXPO

SUTRAA, an iconic designer exhibitions, hosted a curtain raiser event at Hotel Taj Krishna. Several affluent members from across the city gathered to attend the magnificent curtain raiser of the exhibition which shall bring together fashion, lifestyle, creative and boutique brands under one roof. The exhibition is scheduled for September 28 and 29 at Hotel Taj Krishna, Banjara Hills.



● Naziya Khan



● Honey



● Twinkle



● Swathi



● Tara



● Supraja Reddy

Photos by SV Chary

CITY GUIDE

COMEDY

FUNNY BUZZNESS

Funny Buzzness is a well known comedy gig series by Buzz Kya Entertainment and has been instrumental in bringing up artists like — Amit Tandon, Sorabh Pant, Sumukhi Suresh and Naveen Richards. October 20 at 6 pm HICC.



BAS KAR BASSI

This is a show where comedian Anubhav Singh Bassi will tell you an honest story about his career choices and lifestyle. 'Bas Kar Bassi' is what he said to himself when he was fired from his last job. The show will be held till October 16 at Kulapati Munshi Sadan, King Koti, Basheer Bagh.



ART AND CULTURE

INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

The fifth edition of the Indian Photography Festival will be held till October 20 at various locations in Hyderabad. IPF is an international photography festival which showcases various events, including talks, discussions and more.



EXHIBITION

EMERGING PALETTES

A group art exhibition, a platform for emerging artists to display their work, has organised its 11th edition in collaboration with Goethe-Zentrum. The event will be held till October 6 at Shrishti Art Gallery, Jubilee Hills.



THEATRE

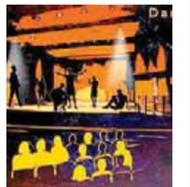
HONEYMOON (A HINDI PLAY)

Manch Theatre is going to organise a comedy play in Hindi about two friends. The play revolves around one friend, on a honeymoon, is forced to find a way to help his other friend in trouble. The play will be organised on September 29 at 7.30 pm at Phoenix Arena.



PAKITMAAR RANGMANDAL

Pakitmaar Rangmandal is a Hindi play written by Asghar Wajahat. The story is about a pickpocket named Bhagwan who is passionate about theatre. After watching a Parsi play he decides to do a theatre show himself and leave pickpocketing. The play is about the troubles he faces organising the show due to the label of a thief that the society has put on him. The play will be on September 28 at 7.30 pm at Lamakaan.



BAAGH

Baagh, a play written by Badal Sircar and directed by Malayaban Lahiri has friendship and relationships at its core. The play revolves around repressed pain, relationships, and structures that we adhere to. October 2 at 8 pm, Phoenix Arena



MAHABHARATA - THE EPIC TALE

All history and mythology is based on cause and effect. Mahabharata - The Epic Tale... in-depth deals with the primary emotional and psychological causes that were the genesis of this destructive war. The planet has witnessed destruction based on the whims of a few people. Till October 6, multiple venues



GET YOUR EVENT LISTED: To get your events listed, please send your details along with a poster and contact number to features.pioneer@gmail.com

FUN TIME

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



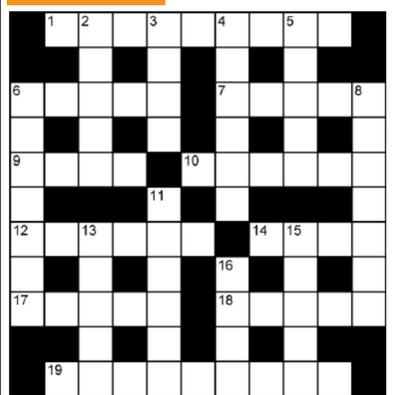
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU

			1	5				
	8		5	6				
			6	2		3		
8		6	2			1	9	
5							6	
7	1		9	5			2	
2		9	5					
		5		7	8			
6		8						

Yesterday's solution
 8 2 4 1 7 9 6 3 5
 7 5 9 6 2 3 1 4 8
 6 1 3 8 4 5 7 2 9
 9 4 1 2 5 6 3 8 7
 3 7 2 4 1 8 9 5 6
 5 8 6 3 9 7 2 1 4
 4 3 5 7 6 2 8 9 1
 2 9 7 5 8 1 4 6 3
 1 6 8 9 3 4 5 7 2

Rules
 • Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
 • The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

- 1 Hair on the upper lip
- 6 Fortunate
- 7 Boggy land
- 9 A rower pulls these
- 10 Cold region around the North Pole
- 12 Quantity
- 14 Wicked
- 17 Used a car
- 18 Helped
- 19 A holder for mail

DOWN

- 2 An American film award
- 3 Speaks out loud
- 4 Ridiculous
- 5 A body organ
- 6 A large spotted wild cat
- 8 Preserved in vinegar
- 11 Six-legged creature
- 13 A gas layer high above the Earth
- 15 TV recorder
- 16 Two matching items



GINGER MEGGS



Now I am 'Godaramma' for everyone: POOJA HEGDE

It was difficult shooting for the song in the middle of the river at Yanam. I've even had sunburns, recalls Pooja while speaking at the success meet, reports NAGARAJ GOUD

Pooja Hedge, who has played a small role in *Gaddalakonda Ganesh*, is on cloud nine with the response she has been receiving for her dance performance for the new version of *Yelluvachi Godaramma Yellakila Paddadammo...* song in the movie. "I've seen people dancing and enjoying themselves to the song in the theatres. They've been sharing those videos on my social media pages. It has been such a high. It was difficult shooting for the song in the middle of the river at Yanam. It was hot and tiring. I've even had sunburns. Also, I was nervous to match to Sri Madam's screen space. But at the end of day, with the kind of response the song has generated, it all feels worth it. Even when I saw the song, I wanted to stop the movie and rewind the song three times," she said flashing a smile. She was speaking at the success meet of the film in Hyderabad on Monday evening.

Pooja thanked film's director Harish Shankar for giving her another blockbuster song after *Seetimaar...* from *Duvvada Jagannadham*. Lauding the efforts of film's composer Mickey J. Meyer, she added, "It's scary to remix an old classic without ruining the essence of it but Mickey was spot on with his work. I've always been known as Gopikamma (her famous song in *Mukunda*) in villages till now but they are now calling me as Godaramma," she chortled and extended her thanks to choreographer Sekhar master as well for nailing the choreography.

Varun, on his part, extended his thanks to his elder brother Charan and Jr NTR for helping him with release blues. "As everyone knows the film's title was changed in the last minute and as unit got into a huddle to oversee the title change, I rang Charan Anna, explaining what I was going through. He asked me to come to his home. I found Jr NTR garu at his home, having a coffee. As experienced actors who have seen many ups and downs, they helped me relieve the stress," Varun said.



“It's scary to remix an old classic without ruining the essence of it but Mickey was spot on with his work. I've always been known as Gopikamma (her famous song in *Mukunda*) in villages but they are now calling me as Godaramma

Naveen Vijay's *Oorantha Anukuntunnaru* to release on October 5

Nares'h's son, Naveen Vijay, who made a decent debut with *Nandini Nursing Home* is coming up with yet another film, titled, *Oorantha Anukuntunnaru*.

Touted as a clean family entertainer, this film is directed by Balaji Sanala. Meanwhile, the latest news is that this film will be hitting the screens during Dussera season on October 5. The film also stars Kota Srinivas Rao, Jayasudha and Srininav Avasara in prominent roles. Megha Chaudhry is the female lead in *Oorantha Anukuntunnaru*.

Srihari Mangalampalli, Ramya Gogula, and PLN Reddy produced the film, jointly.

THE FILM ALSO STARS KOTA SRINIVAS RAO, JAYASUDHA AND SRININAV AVASARALA IN PROMINENT ROLES. MEGHA CHAUDHRY IS THE FEMALE LEAD IN THE FILM

tollywood

RAHUL VIJAY to play student leader



Currently awaiting the release of his Telugu-Tamil bilingual *College Kumar*, a remake of Kannada hit with the same name, Rahul Vijay of *Ee Maya Peremito* and *Suryakantham* fame has signed on a new film,

The Pioneer has exclusively learnt.

A source close to the development says, "Gangadhar, former associate of writer-producer Kona Venkat is making his debut as a director with this flick. It's an action college drama set in the backdrop of student politics.

It's inspired by events that happened in Siddharth Arts College, Vijayawada, in 2003. In fact, Gangadhar was a student of the college. He has penned an interesting screenplay around the incidents and Rahul will play the student leader. There's also a love story that has been woven into the narrative. The director is planning to shoot in Vijayawada and most likely the film will be a period drama."

Signing on to this new movie also comes close to Rahul agreeing to spearhead debutant Krishna Kishore's love story, also co-starring Satyadev. This yet-to-be-titled film is about the love stories of the actors and how one particular character affects the life of the other. It has a poetic feel to it that is both contemporary and fresh. — NG

THE MOVIE IS INSPIRED BY EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE AT A COLLEGE IN VIJAYAWADA IN 2003

KANDUKURI's film shoot in US rescheduled

The US leg filming of Shiva Kandukuri's next with debutante Vaidehi Chandrasekhar, who assisted Ram Gopal Varma in the past, has been deferred to November. The shooting for the romantic emotional entertainer, co-starring Manjima Mohan and *Hippi* girl Digangana Suryavanshi, was to begin on October 5 in the US for 35 days but with the actor's maiden film *Choosi Choodangaane* scheduled to release mid-October, the plan has been rescheduled.

"Vaidehi will first shoot in India which has been planned for only 10 days. The director will shoot with Shiva from October 4 to October 14, post which Shiva will dive headlong into the promotions of *Choosi Choodangaane*. He has allotted the whole of November to for Vaidehi's film," said Raj Kandukuri, who has produced *Choosi Choodangaane*.

The producer has also clarified that he is looking to slot his production on October 18. Vijay Deverakonda's production *Meeku Maathrame Cheptha* too is eyeing a similar date though nothing has been official yet. "Vijay is our boy. I don't want to clash with his movie. I can come on October 25 as well but Suresh Babu, with whom I have a meeting on Wednesday, will take the final call," he said. — NG



Seepana's *Brundavanamadi Andaridi* back on track

After completing almost 70 per cent of the shoot in 2017, writer Sreedhar Seepana had to put his maiden directorial, *Brundavanamadi Andaridi*, on hold over financial reasons. But producers V. Srinivas and Prabhakar Reddy have said that they are finally ready to fund the project. Seepana is now planning to reshoot the left-over portions of the romantic comedy, featuring Harshvardhan Rane, Richa Panai, Pridhvi and a couple of other new faces.

"We are back on track with *Brundavanamadi Andaridi*. The last schedule will commence next month. We will be shooting in Mysore, Chikmagalur and Hyderabad for 15 days. The film is a thorough entertainer that will attract all types of audience. It revolves around three characters who think money is everything. They come across a character, played by Mano Bala, in a palace. He gives them tasks to accomplish and the follow-up events are

narrated in a funny way. The story is the real hero and I'm confident of winning the box-office," says Seepana, who had penned scripts for films like *Poola Rangadu*, *Bhimavaram Bulloodu* and *Loukyam* among a slew of other comic entertainers.

He added that senior TDP leader and former MP N. Sivaprasad, who died due to renal failure last Saturday, had played a key role in the film. "His role in my film is one of his last gigs as an actor. It's also his biggest role in the last five years. He will be seen as a middle-class father," adds Seepana.

The writer/director is confident that Mani Sharma's music will do the trick for him on the publicity front. The ace composer is back in the spotlight after his recent soundtrack for *iSmart Shankar* topped the charts. "He has composed extraordinary tunes for *Brundavanamadi Andaridi* and the songs should help generating buzz around the project," says Seepana. — NG



SREEDHAR SEEPANA SAID THAT SENIOR TELUGU DESAM LEADER AND FORMER MP N. SIVAPRASAD, WHO DIED DUE TO RENAL FAILURE LAST SATURDAY, HAD PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE FILM

AMY JACKSON SHARES A GLIMPSE OF HER NEWBORN

Actress Amy Jackson and her fiancé George Panayiotou recently became parents to a son. Announcing the arrival of the baby boy, Amy on Monday took to Instagram and wrote: "Our Angel, welcome to the world Andreas."

She even posted a video of Andreas on Instagram story in which the little one is seen sleeping. "Hi World," she captioned the video. Amy announced her child's gender in August and said she will be welcoming a baby boy.



AYUSHMANN PICK HIS "FINEST" LATA SONG

Bollywood actor-singer Ayushmann Khurrana recently posted an Instagram message on the evergreen Lata Mangeshkar hit, *Saawan ke jhoole pade...* from the 1979 Amitabh Bachchan-starrer *Jurmana*.

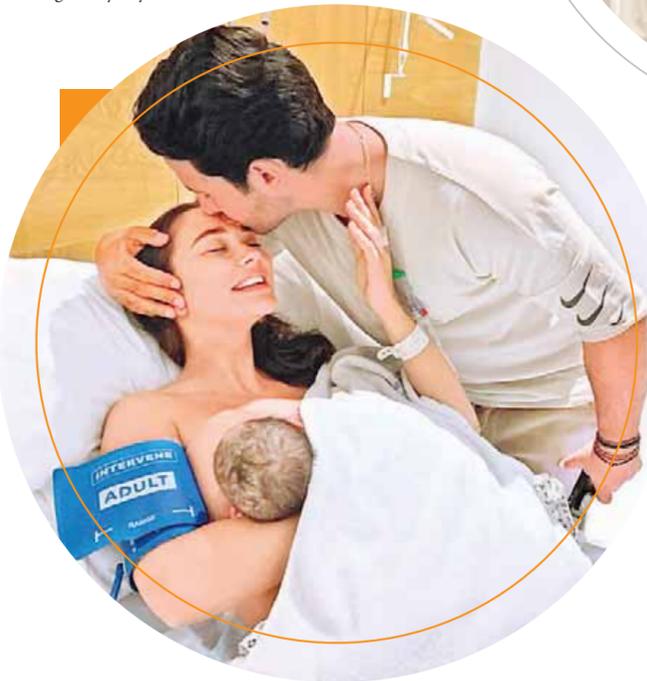
Picking the RD Burman as a personal favourite, Ayushmaan posted the original soundtrack album-cover of *Jurmana* and a heart icon with the lilting number.

"From her incredible repertoire of songs I think *Saawan ke jhoole pade...* is one of her finest," opined Ayushmann.

Incidentally, Mangeshkar has no recollection of this exquisite number but she is appreciative of Ayushmann's praise.

Opening up on Ayushmann, Mangeshkar told us on Monday, "I know he is a very good actor and an equally good singer, so his appreciation comes from a genuine understanding of music. I wish him well. He must pursue singing as ardently as acting. It will enhance his performances," said the playback legend.

When the Nightingale of India showers praise on you, it is indeed a rare honour, which must thrill Ayushmann no end.



Jeffrey Wright is in negotiations to play Commissioner Gordon in upcoming Batman movie, while Jonah Hill will be seen as one of the Caped Crusader's signature adversaries in the Matt Reeves directorial. Robert Pattinson is topline the cast as the popular DC Comics superhero.

Jim Gordon, role famously played by Gary Oldman and JK Simmons in the past, is the police commissioner/detective at the Gotham City Police Department and a reluctant ally to Batman. A source told *The Hollywood Reporter*, talks with Hill are at an early stage as the two sides are yet to reach consensus on the character he will play.

The choice is between two antagonists — Penguin and the Riddler. The film is being billed as a grounded take on the *Dark Knight* and will feature many of Batman villains.

In a new interview with *Variety*, Pattinson talked about playing Batman and said he had grown up watching the Tim Burton's Batman movies and also had his own Batman costume. "When I was a kid, it was the only outfit that I had," he said.

JONAH HILL TO PLAY THE RIDDLER AGAINST ROBERT PATTINSON'S BATMAN



KELSEA BALLERINI WANTS TO PEN "WEIRD" SONG



Singer Kelsea Ballerini says she wants to write a weird song for her next album.

In an interview with the latest issue of *Music Week* magazine, Kelsea shared details about her new songs and what audience can expect new from her, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"Ten songs. The first 10 songs are the ones that are singles or that feel mainstream and good for radio. I want to get those all mixed and mastered and then be like, OK, I want to do a weird song and a song that is going to crush live but will never be a radio single. I can play with the rest of it," added the "Miss me" hitmaker.

DIMITRI VEGAS, LIKE MIKE TO PERFORM IN INDIA

Belgium's DJ duo Dimitri Vegas and Like Mike will perform in multiple cities of India in November.

They will hit the stage in Bengaluru on November 7, then Hyderabad on November 8, followed by New Delhi on November 9, and finally culminate their musical tour in Mumbai on November 10 for their India Take Over 2019 Tour with Sunburn Arena.

"It's been a while since we came to India, for us always one of our favourite countries to visit, as we get such incredible love from the fans. We cannot wait to come back this November for what will be one of our biggest tours ever," Dimitri Vegas and Like Mike said in a joint statement.

Karan Singh, COO, Percept Live, added: "We are so excited to bring Dimitri Vegas and Like Mike back to India after a long gap. They have a massive fan base in India who has been waiting eagerly for their return. This promises to be their biggest Sunburn Arena India tour ever."

Sunburn Arena is a sub-variant brand format created under the brand umbrella Sunburn, an Intellectual Property of Percept Live, with the aim to cater to dance music enthusiasts across various cities pan India and around the world.



DIRECTORS WANTED TO SEE MY CLEAVAGE, THIGHS: SURVEEN CHAWLA



Actress Surveen Chawla has opened up on casting couch. She said there was a time when director wanted to see how her cleavage looked, and another one was interested in her thighs.

The actress started her showbiz journey with the TV show *Kahin to Hoga* and went on to act in more small screen projects. She also featured in Telugu, Kannada and Tamil films apart from Bollywood movies.

The *Hate Story 2* actress had to face the casting couch five times — thrice in South film industry and twice in Bollywood.

"A director wanted to see how my cleavage looked. Another director wanted to see how my thighs looked," Surveen said in an inter-

view with *Pinkvilla*.

She also revealed that there was a time when she was called overweight. "I went to give this audition and the person told me, 'You are overweight! I was just 56 kilos and I thought the person needed glasses,'" she quipped.

Her experience in TV didn't make it easy for her.

"Yes, there was a time when people told me you are overexposed because of television. For sometime, I tried to hide it from producers and tell them I did TV only for a year, but I realised later that 'Why am I doing this?' Isn't it going to be easier for a team to get someone who already knows how to do their lines?" she said.

AFP ■ MILAN

THE BEST

Messi, Rapinoe win FIFA Player of the Year award; Klopp selected as best coach

Lionel Messi won the FIFA Men's Player of the Year award as beaten rival Cristiano Ronaldo stayed away from the star-studded ceremony in Milan's iconic La Scala Opera House on Monday.

Barcelona striker Messi's victory was a surprise as he edged out Virgil Van Dijk, who won the UEFA player's award last month after helping Liverpool to the Champions League last season.

Juventus forward Ronaldo had also been shortlisted for the award, but did not attend the ceremony as he was named in FIFA's World 11 best team along with Messi.

Both Messi, 32, and Van Dijk, 28, are now in the running for the coveted Ballon d'Or which will be announced on December 2.

"I want to thank those who decided to give me this recognition," said Messi. "The most important thing for me is the collective awards, but today is also a very special night for me."

It is the first time that Messi has won the FIFA Best Award which was created in 2016. Ronaldo won for 2016 and 2017, with Croatian Luka Modric beating both last year.

Messi was top scorer in the Champions League last season with 12 goals before Barcelona were dumped out by Liverpool in the semi-finals.

The Argentine also won the European Golden Shoe after scoring 36 goals, the La Liga title with Barcelona and helped Argentina to bronze at 2019 Copa America.

Van Dijk had been bidding to become a rare defender to win a FIFA player award, since Italian Fabio Cannavaro won the World Player of the Year, and he Ballon d'Or in 2006.

The Netherlands captain also missed out on completing a treble for Liverpool with manager Jurgen Klopp winning the men's coach of the year award and Alisson Becker the goalkeeper prize.

RAPINOE 'LOST FOR WORDS'

Megan Rapinoe beat fellow World Cup winner Alex Morgan and England's Lucy Bronze to the women's prize, with her USA coach Jill Ellis lifting the women's coaching award.

Rapinoe, 34, was joint top scorer with six goals at the women's World Cup and won the Golden Boot, also gaining the Golden Ball for the best player and becoming the face of the tournament for her outspoken views on US president Donald Trump and campaigning for LGBT rights.

"I'm a little bit at a loss for words, if you can believe it, it rarely happens to me," said Rapinoe who went on to make a plea against racism and for women's rights.

"We have such an incredible opportunity being professional football players. "We have incredible platforms, the unique opportunity to use this to actually change the world for the better."

Klopp won the men's coaching award ahead of two other Premier League coaches — Tottenham's Mauricio Pochettino, who the German beat in June's Champions League final, and Manchester City's Pep Guardiola.

"It is great, nobody expected this 20, 10, five, four years ago that I would be standing here," said the 52-year-old German who joined Liverpool in 2015.

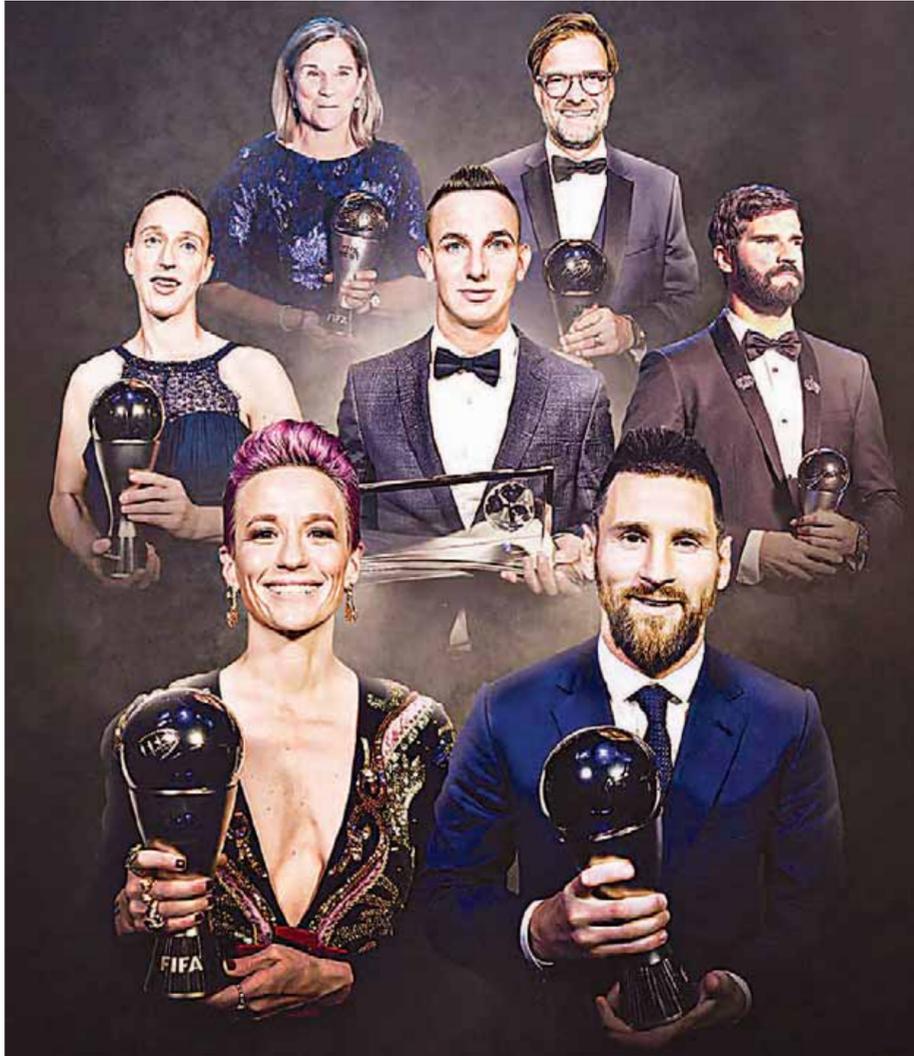
"I have to say thank you to my outstanding club Liverpool FC. Those who don't love it don't have a heart.

"As a coach you can only be as good as your team. I'm really proud of being coach of such an incredible bunch of players."

Two-time women's World Cup-winning coach Ellis, beat Dutch coach Sarina Wiegman, runner-up in France 2019, and England's Phil Neville for the award.

"The World Cup really was a showcase, the world fell even more in love with the game," said 53-year-old Ellis, who will step down from the team in October.

Leeds United manager Marcelo Bielsa won the fair play award after he ordered



Clockwise from top left: FIFA award winners Jill Ellis (Women's best coach), Jurgen Klopp (Men's best coach), Alisson Becker (Men's best goalkeeper), Lionel Messi (Men's best player), Megan Rapinoe (Women's best player), Sari van Veenendaal (Women's best goalkeeper) and Daniel Zsori (Puskas Award for the best goal winner)

"I want to thank those who decided to give me this recognition. The most important thing for me is the collective awards, but today is also a very special night for me."
—LIONEL MESSI

"It is great, nobody expected this 20, 10, five, four years ago that I would be standing here. I have to say thank you to my outstanding club Liverpool FC. Those who don't love it don't have a heart. As a coach you can only be as good as your team. I'm really proud of being coach of such an incredible bunch of players."
—JURGEN KLOPP

his team to allow Aston Villa to score an equaliser during their 1-1 draw in their Championship match in April.

Bielsa's side had gone ahead controversially when a player was injured before the Argentine intervened.

Romanian-born Hungarian forward Daniel Zsori won the Fifa Puskas Award for the best goal, beating strikes from Messi and Juan Fernando Quintero.

The 18-year-old forward, on his debut, scored a spectacular overhead kick to win the game for his side Debrecen against Ferencvaros in stoppage time.

Kick racism out

FIFA chief says racism 'not acceptable' in Italian football

AFP ■ MILAN

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has made a plea to "kick racism out" of Italian football, during the FFFA Best Football Awards ceremony in Milan.

"Tonight is a night to celebrate, but we should reflect a little bit," the Swiss-Italian football chief told a star-studded gathering at La Scala Opera House.

"I would like to say that here in Italy in my country, yesterday (Sunday) we witnessed again in the Italian championship an episode of racism.

"This is not acceptable any more, we have to say no to racism in society. We have to kick racism out of football and society once and for all."

Sunday's Italian league match between Atalanta and Fiorentina was halted for several minutes after racist abuse was aimed at the Tuscan side's Brazilian player Dalbert in a game played in Parma.

The problem is a recurring one throughout the peninsula.



Real Madrid's manager Zinedine Zidane reacts during UCL game against Paris Saint-Germain in Paris AP

Real look to continue recovery

AFP ■ MADRID



Zinedine Zidane claims he has not even thought about the criticism aimed at him in recent weeks as Real Madrid look to build on Sunday's morale-boosting win away at Sevilla.

Madrid eased the growing pressure on their coach with a determined performance at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan after they had been beaten 3-0 by Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League four days before.

That loss was Madrid's worst during Zidane's two spells as coach and prompted questions about the Frenchman's future, with Jose Mourinho among those linked with taking charge.

Madrid play newly-promoted Osasuna today and could go top of La Liga with a victory.

"It's always the same, there has always been criticism and there always will be," Zidane said in a press conference on Tuesday.

"I don't even think about it. It is what it is, it happens. When we lose, I'm going to get sacked and when we win, I'm the best. You just have to keep working."

"I feel strong but I feel the same as I did a month ago. The important thing is to give 100 per cent and to give my best. I remember playing badly for this team as well but the important thing is to give your best."

Madrid have won three of their six games in all competitions so far this season and, after Osasuna, play Atletico Madrid at the Wanda Metropolitano on Saturday.

"We played a good game in Sevilla but most of all we played as a team from the first minute until the last," Zidane said.

"Playing as a team, fighting for each other, that's what we have to do against Osasuna and we have to keep playing like that."

Madrid will be without Ferland Mendy on Wednesday after the defender injured his hamstring against Sevilla.

It is the second muscle injury Mendy has suffered since joining Madrid from Lyon for 50 million euros in July and leaves Zidane short at left-back, with Marcelo also recovering from a back problem.

Zidane said Marcelo is close to a return, along with Luka Modric and Isco, who have been out with thigh injuries.

Klopp inspired to make charity pledge

AFP ■ LONDON

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has revealed that the emotional high of his side's UEFA Champions League triumph against Tottenham on June 1 at Wanda Metropolitano inspired him to join the Common Goal charity.

Klopp will join a host of star names from the world of football, including Manchester United's Juan Mata and FIFA women's player of the year Megan Rapinoe, by donating one percent of his salary to aid the work of charities across the world.

The 52-year-old, who was crowned FIFA men's coach of the year on Monday, told the *Players Tribune* of difficult times he suffered early in his career as an amateur footballer, working in a warehouse while trying to support his young family.



Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp poses with the FIFA Best Coach trophy Liverpool/Instagram

And while he now faces the pressure of trying to deliver Liverpool's first Premier League title in 30 years, Klopp insisted he and his players have the luxury of no longer living in the 'real world'.

"We should not forget what it was like when we had real problems," said Klopp.

"This bubble we live in is not the real world. I am sorry, but anything that happens on a football pitch is not a real problem. There should be a bigger purpose to this game than revenue and trophies, no? Just think what we could accomplish if we all came together and gave one percent of what we earn to make a positive difference in the world. Maybe I am naive. Maybe I am a crazy old dreamer."

"But who is this game for? We all know damn well that this game is for

dreamers."

After a stunning comeback from losing the first leg of their Champions League semi-final 3-0 to Barcelona to beat the Spanish champions 4-0 at Anfield in May, Liverpool lifted their sixth European Cup by beating Tottenham 2-0 in Madrid.

On their return to Liverpool, an open-top bus parade took the team passed hundreds of thousands of celebrating fans on the city's streets.

"If you could've put all the emotions, all the excitement, all the love in the air that day and bottled it up, the world would be a better place," added Klopp.

"I have not been able to get the emotion of that day out of my head. Football has given me everything in my life. But I really want to do more to give back to the world."

Kim resigns citing personal reasons

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

South Korean Kim Ji Hyun, who played a pivotal role in PV Sindhu's march to the world title recently, has resigned as India's women's singles coach citing personal reasons but the national federation said it hasn't received any official communication from her.

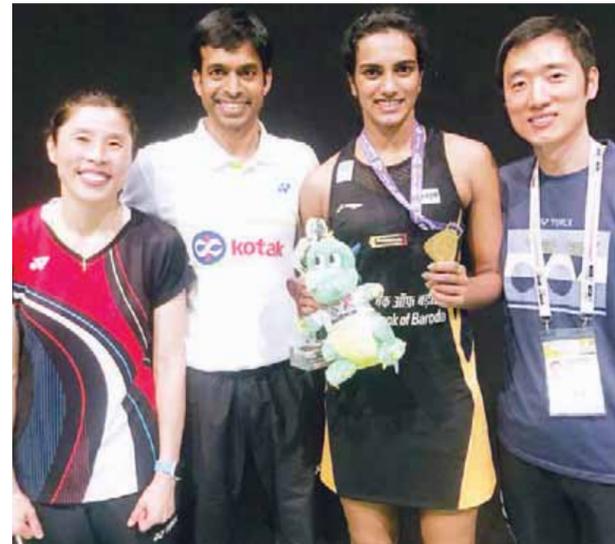
The 45-year-old from Busan has rushed to New Zealand to care for her husband Ritchie Marr, who suffered a stroke a few days ago.

Kim, who was roped in by the Badminton Association of India (BAI) early this year, was with Sindhu during her World Championship Gold-winning campaign last month at Basel, Switzerland.

"It is true, Kim has resigned as her husband is pretty unwell. He suffered a kind of neuro stroke sometime during the World Championship. So she rushed back. She needs to take care of him as it will take around 4 to 6 months for him to recover," India's chief national coach Pullela Gopichand said.

However, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) General Secretary Ajay K Singhania said that neither the governing body nor the Sports Authority of India (SAI) have received any resignation from Kim.

"We know that Kim's husband is unwell and she has gone to attend to him but we haven't received any official resignation from her. In fact, the Sport Authority of India also hasn't received any letter in this regard," Singhania said. "The Olympics is still 10 months away



Indian badminton player PV Sindhu along with national coach Pullela Gopichand and Kim Ji Hyun (extreme left) pose with World Championship Gold medal PV Sindhu/Instagram

and we are trying to talk to her, get an update and see if it is possible for her to continue in her position.

"It was under her guidance that Sindhu won the Gold medal at World Championships and her role is important for India's success at the Olympics." The departure of Kim Ji Hyun will be

a big setback for Sindhu with less than a year to go for the Tokyo Olympics. The Olympic Silver-medallist, however, said the unforeseen situation doesn't leave her with any option but to go on without Kim.

"It is unfortunate that Kim had to leave at this stage...And I wish her husband a quick recovery," Sindhu said.

"I had a good rapport with her and I know it will be a fresh start for me but it is something which is part of a sports-person's life. I will have to work harder and I am sure Gopi sir and the BAI will take care of everything," she added.

Her father P V Ramana said Sindhu will be seeking assistance from men's singles coach Park Tae Sang and when required.

"Kim had given special individual attention to Sindhu during the last few months. She worked on her skills in morning and evening sessions," he said.

"So now that she has had to leave, we will have to see if someone is hired to replace her. There is also the men's singles coach Park Tae Sang, who can train her now," he added.

Interestingly, Kim was India's third foreign coach to resign without completing the tenure.

Renowned Indonesian coach Mulyo Handoyo, who had guided the men's singles shuttlers, had resigned abruptly in late 2017 citing personal reasons. He later joined the Singapore squad.

Malaysia's Tan Kim Her had also stepped down as India's doubles coach early this year, 18 months before his tenure was to end at the Tokyo Olympics.

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) will now have to quickly find a replacement for Kim, given that the Olympics qualification is currently on and the Tokyo Games are just 10 months away.

"We are trying to get someone to fill in her boots. But it will be again a stop-gap arrangement. We need to find a permanent solution," Gopichand said.

Simona Halep targets strong finish in Asia



Simona Halep leaves court after her opening round win in Wuhan Open Simona Halep/Twitter

AFP ■ WUHAN

Simona Halep said that winning her first Wimbledon title this year meant "everything", but she is determined to have a better Asian swing than in past years after an emphatic start to her Wuhan campaign on Tuesday.

Halep suffered opening-round exits in three of her previous five appearances at the Chinese event — including the last two seasons — but was dominant in a 6-3, 6-

2 triumph over Wimbledon semi-finalist Barbora Strycova to reach the last 16.

A solid contender for clinching one of the six remaining spots in the WTA Finals in Shenzhen, sixth-ranked Halep also has a shot at finishing the year as world number one for a third consecutive time with a strong finish to the season in Asia.

"Very, very tough goals honestly. After winning Wimbledon, I was a little bit let's say more relaxed in results, making big results."

But I'm still motivated. I'm working hard," said the fourth seed, who next faces Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina for a place in the quarter-finals.

"For this period I just want to be better because every year I promised myself that I will do the best I can, and I couldn't for different reasons."

"Now I feel healthy, I feel motivated, I feel fresh. I just want to go there and win every match I play."

Halep recently announced she will be reuniting with coach Darren Cahill from the start of 2020 and the Romanian is convinced they can pick up where they left off last year when the Australian helped her win a maiden Grand Slam title at the 2018 French Open.

"I'm really happy and I feel confident that next year I can do some good things again," she said.

Halep skipped past Strycova in just 85 minutes on Tuesday, benefiting from her opponent's 30 unforced errors.



Jasprit Bumrah prepares to bowl during nets at NCA in Bengaluru PTI

Bumrah out of SA Tests

Indian pacer to miss Freedom series due to stress fracture in lower back

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a major setback to India, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was on Tuesday ruled out of the upcoming Test series against South Africa due to a stress fracture in his lower back, which might also force him out of next month's assignment against Bangladesh.

Fellow paceman Umesh Yadav replaced him in the Indian squad for the three matches against the Proteas, beginning in Visakhapatnam from October 2. "The injury was detected during a routine radiological screening. He will now undergo rehabilitation at NCA and will be monitored by the BCCI Medical Team. The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Umesh Yadav as Bumrah's replacement,"

the BCCI said in a release.

A BCCI official, however, said Bumrah could also miss the home series against Bangladesh. That series comprises three T20 Internationals and two Tests, which are part of the World Test Championship. It will be held from November 3 to 26.

"Jasprit is out for a period of seven to eight weeks minimum. This effectively rules him out of the World Championship games against Bangladesh also. He is out till the end of November. That's how his medical bulletin is at the moment," the official said.

"The good thing is that the detection happened at the preliminary stage and that's why it won't take more than two months to heal. Otherwise, a stress fracture takes pretty long to heal," he added.

Bumrah had been rested from the recently-concluded Twenty20 series against South Africa, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

The paceman, with a sling action, is feared for his immaculate line and length, particularly the perfectly-placed yorkers.

In the Test series against the West Indies, which was his last assignment, Bumrah emerged as the wrecker-in-chief for India with 13 wickets in two Tests.

The 25-year-old became the fastest Indian pacer to take 50 wickets in Tests during the course of that assignment last month. He achieved the feat during the second Test against the Caribbean side.

Bumrah reached the milestone in 11 matches, going past Venkatesh Prasad and Mohammed Shami, who took 13

matches each to touch the mark. Yadav last played a Test for India in December 2018, during the tour of Australia.

The 31-year-old Yadav, on the other hand, was part of the India A squad that toured the West Indies last month but couldn't make much of an impact.

In the 41 Tests that he has played so far for India, Yadav has 119 wickets at an average of 33.47.

Revised squad: Virat Kohli (captain), Mayank Agarwal, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vc), Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma and Shubman Gill.



Virat Kohli congratulates Rishabh Pant after he scored his fifty BCCI

Pant needs guidance from captain: Yuvraj

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh on Tuesday called for an end to the constant criticism of Rishabh Pant, saying the young stumper-batsman desperately needs guidance from captain Virat Kohli or anyone who can understand his psyche.

Yuvraj said Pant doesn't deserve the criticism coming his way and needs the support of Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri to overcome the slump. Pant has been drawing flak for failing to grab his chances and getting out to rash shots despite being given a long rope by the Indian team management.

"I really don't know what is happening with him (Rishabh). He is facing a lot of criticism which is not needed. Somebody needs to get the best out of him," Yuvraj said on the sidelines of 'The Sports Movement' summit.

Pant struggled during the away series against the West Indies last month before failing to make an impact in the recent home T20 International series against South Africa.

"The people monitoring him, the coach (Ravi Shastri), the captain (Kohli) have to guide him," the former left-handed batsman added.

The former all-rounder, who retired from international cricket earlier this year, said Pant needs to be given confidence to overcome

the drop in form after a spectacular start which fetched him Test hundreds in England and Australia in his maiden year at the top level.

"At the moment the thing is in IPL, the young guys are getting a lot of money. So somebody needs to tell them how to go about their business and tell them what is their priority. Somebody really needs to talk to them," Yuvraj said.

"That guy has got two away Test hundreds. He has a lot of potential. He is an outstanding talent. Someone should know how to read him, how to encourage him, point him what he needs to focus on," he added.

Pant is seen as an heir apparent to the iconic Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who led India to two world titles.

"If you feel he is the most talented wicket-keeper batsman we have then stick with him, give him more chances. Go and tell him to play domestic cricket. You need to give him confidence, by criticising you won't get anything out of him," he said.

Yuvraj said the 21-year-old should be looked after psychologically.

"How you get the best out of him is completely based on his character. You need to understand his character, you need to understand his psychology and work according to that.

"If you are going to suppress him, you are not going to get the best out of him," he added.

Rohit gets more vocal role in MS absence



Rohit Sharma chats with bowling coach Bharat Arun and head coach Ravi Shastri during training session PTI

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

India's limited-overs deputy Rohit Sharma's tactical acumen is no secret. The man who has won four Indian Premier League titles as Mumbai Indians skipper is often considered as one of the best when it comes to making on spot decisions. His record as India captain is also enviable and in MS Dhoni's absence, captain Virat Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri have asked him to be more vocal on the field when it comes to guiding the youngsters.

In the just concluded T20I series against South Africa, Rohit was seen time and again walking up to the bowlers and speaking to them. It was a great sign to see the deputy constantly speak to the youngsters even as skipper Kohli manned the boundary. And this practice isn't a one-off.

Speaking about it, sources in the team management said that with Dhoni not there to guide the bowlers from behind the wicket — the captain and coach felt that it would be great to have Rohit share his thoughts with the bowlers as the T20 format calls for quick thinking and on-spot change in plans.

"See, you don't want too many cooks to spoil the broth. There is always the need to have a fine balance and not confuse the youngsters in the middle of a match. So, when MS was there behind the wicket, it was Kohli and MS who would do the guiding. In Dhoni's absence, it was felt that it would be great to have Rohit sharing his thoughts with the youngsters and being vocal on the field. Rohit has been a part of the leadership group for a while now and it is not like this is the first time that he is sharing his ideas with the players. The captain and coach trust his instincts and it is great when a senior member walks up to a bowler and suggests ways to trump the opposition batsman," the source pointed.

A youngster who has also played under Rohit's leadership in the Indian team said that the opener like Rohit backs the boys and just shares his thought process and what he feels will work in a particular situation.

"You might feel a lot of things about your own capabilities. But the backing of the seniors is what helps. Be it Kohli bhai or Rohit bhai, they give you freedom to go and express yourself. They don't impose themselves on us. Even when Rohit bhai is leading or explaining a situation on the field, he only gives you his suggestions and what he feels could work. After that, it is on you to take the call," the player said.

Pak not to play home matches in UAE anymore

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan Cricket Board CEO Wasim Khan on Tuesday said playing their home matches in the United Arab Emirates is "not an option anymore", aiming to cut down on costs in light of the "improved security" situation in the country.

The UAE has remained Pakistan's home venue for a long time with no Test nation visiting the country since the 2009 terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team bus.

"It costs us a lot of money hosting there," the chief executive officer said.

"Frankly speaking the security situation has improved in Pakistan and the security experts have also



assessed that we are in a position to manage security risks while hosting teams in the country," Khan added.

He said his board has not paid any money to Cricket Sri Lanka for its tour to Karachi and Lahore to play a series of

One-day internationals and T20 matches.

Khan told the media here that since the PCB now wants to see Pakistan playing all their home Test and limited over series in Pakistan, it was trying to convince other boards to start sending their teams to the country.

Since 2010, a year after militants attacked the Sri Lankan team in Lahore, Pakistan have played all their major international home series in the UAE.

The PCB succeeded in bringing a World XI side to Lahore in 2017 for a short T20 series and then convinced Sri Lanka to play a lone T20 in the same city.

Last year they also hosted

a depleted West Indies team for three T20 matches in Karachi, which came at the cost of extra money to the players and the concerned WICB by the PCB.

However, Khan said not a single penny has been paid to Sri Lanka for the current tour, as it was part of a reciprocal agreement.

He said that Pakistan also wanted Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to come and play Pakistan's home Tests of the ICC Championship in the country in December and January.

The PCB official also said Pakistan wanted to resume bilateral ties with India but that depended on their government.

Ministry, BCA act on Barua's charges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Both the union ministry of sports and Bengal Chess Association have taken serious note of the corruption charges leveled by Arjuna Awardee and Grandmaster Dibyendu Barua against Bengal Chess Association secretary Atanu Lahiri, who is also a member of the trainer's committee of the All India Chess Federation (AICF).

While the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has directed the AICF through a letter dated September 18 to take immediate action against Lahiri on Barua's charges, the BCA has sacked Lahiri from the post of secretary and ended his membership of the association.

The BCA has also received an ad interim Order of injunction issued from the Court of the 3rd Additional Civil Judge (Junior Division) against Atanu Lahiri's title suit 1434 of 2019.

The Court has further restrained AICF and AN Reddy, Chairman of the AICF Enquiry Committee, both from issuing any direction on BCA relating to Elections. The Court has also restrained Atanu Lahiri from taking part or act as Secretary of BCA.

The decision is also a big blow to AICF president PR Venketram Raja, who had formed a three-member committee on receiving Barua's complaint against Lahiri. The committee issued a directive to Lahiri to conduct the election of state chess association in October, but it remained silent on any action against Lahiri.

The Court has granted ex parte ad interim injunction inter alia directing both BCA and Atanu Lahiri to maintain status quo in respect of election activities of the Association till November 20.

Since the Disciplinary Committee of the BCA did not receive any written submission or explanation to the show cause issued to Atanu Lahiri on Barua's charges, the three member BCA Ad-hoc Committee on Monday decided to remove Atanu Lahiri from the post of Hony Secretary and also to terminate his membership with BCA with immediate effect.

BCA Ad Hoc Committee had earlier communicated to hold an EOGM on the September 30 to discuss further course of action.

Finch eyes return to Test team

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

After a poor time with the Test team last summer, Australia's ODI and T20 skipper Aaron Finch wants to give it another try and play the longest format of the game for his country. With suspensions handed to Cameron Bancroft, David Warner and Steven Smith following the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa last year, Finch was included in the Australia Test team for the UAE series against Pakistan in October 2018.

The 32-year-old has played five Tests, two against Pakistan away and three against India at home, averaging 27.80.

"For me personally, it's about probably having one really good crack at trying to get back to the Test team again," Finch was quoted as saying by SEN radio station.

"The young guys who came in and did well throughout the back half of last summer did a really good job. I still think that I've got one really good crack at it left in me," he added.

There are four Sheffield Shield games before Australia's first Test against Pakistan and Finch is eyeing to use it as a platform for making his presence felt. "Obviously [I'll] just try and get some runs, get some big runs there. That's my plan," Finch said.

"I think the young kids who have come in have taken their opportunities, Kurtis Patterson and Travis Head, these guys have come in and done reasonably well when they've played."

"Kurtis got a hundred in the last Test that he played. Will Pucovski and that whole crop of young batters who are coming through are so talented, so I think I've got one more push in it for myself. If it doesn't happen then it doesn't happen. I'm comfortable with that. It will be nice to play a few Shield games in a row to be fair. It's been a while since I've played more than one in a row," he expressed.

Murray ramps up comeback with 1st ATP Tour win

AFP ■ ZHUHAI

Andy Murray ground out his most significant victory since major hip surgery with a 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-1 win over Tennyis Sandgren on Tuesday at the Zhuhai Championships.

This was the former number one's first triumph in a singles match on the ATP Tour since the 32-year-old had a career-saving operation in January.

A three-time Grand Slam winner but now ranked 413 in the world, the Briton has competed mostly in doubles since and recently played sin-



Andy Murray takes selfie with fans after his win in the singles match ATP/Twitter

gles on the lower-level Challenger Tour.

He faces seventh seed Alex de Minaur of Australia in the second round in southern China after coming through a physically demanding test lasting more than two and a half hours.

Murray looked exhausted at the end, slumping in his chair and puffing out his cheeks.

There were glimpses of Murray at his best as he sealed the first set in 41 minutes after the 69th-ranked Sandgren planted a backhand wide.

Murray squandered match point in the second-set

tie break as Sandgren forced a deciding set.

But the American folded in the third, seemingly affected by a foot injury which required extensive strapping with him 3-0 down in the decider.

Victory was a small measure of revenge for Murray, who lost to the 28-year-old last month in his second singles tournament since his return.

After Zhuhai, the China Open in Beijing and the Shanghai Masters, Murray will return to Europe to compete in Antwerp, making it a testing next month on the long road to rehabilitation.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's top wrestler Bajrang Punia on Tuesday said not even an Olympic medal will heal the pain of his controversial semifinal loss at the just-concluded World Championships.

The 25-year-old from Haryana, who had claimed Bronze and Silver in the last two editions, lost to local favourite Daulet Niyazbekov in the 65 kg semifinal following some debatable decisions by the judges in Kazakhstan.

The two were tied 9-9 after the bout but the Kazakh was declared winners by points, robbing Bajrang a chance to fight for the Gold medal. The Indian had to be content with a Bronze.

"It is very demoralising when you lose due to bias or someone wins by cheating because I didn't do anything wrong. I didn't lose out the Gold because of my mistakes," Bajrang said.

"I know I have to forget this pain. I have to put this aside to do well in

Olympic medal won't even heal World C'ship loss: Bajrang



Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju in a group photograph with the World Wrestling Championships medal winning wrestlers Ravi Dahiya, Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Deepak Punia at SAI Head Office in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

the future tournaments but it is difficult to get over it." Will an Olympic medal ease the pain, Bajrang didn't think so at this point of time.

"World Championship and Olympics are different tournaments. I am preparing for Olympic and I had put a lot of effort for World Championship also, so I don't think I can forget it. Whenever something similar will happen, I will remember this incident," he said.

Bajrang, who has claimed Gold medals at 2018 Asian Games, 2018 Commonwealth Games and 2017 Asian Championship, said it wasn't the first time he had to face bias. "I have been at the receiving

end of such discrimination in all the three World Championships. Last year also it happened in the final," he said.

"Our president has objected to it this time and told them why it is happening to Indian wrestlers time and again and they assured it won't happen again," he said.

Asked if he is satisfied with his performance at the World Championships, Bajrang said: "I am just happy that I could win a third medal for my country at the tournament. But it wasn't my best. If I could have got a chance to win the Gold, then I could have showed."

"In the first bout, I won easily and I did work on my leg defence ahead of the tourna-

ment and I gave very less chance in that area this time. So now I will work on it further so that I don't give any chance to my opponents to get hold of my leg," he said.

"I need to work on all areas. Overall, whether it is leg defence, attack or counter attack, I need to keep improving in all aspects going ahead."

Deepak Punia had claimed his maiden Silver at the World Championships in the 86kg before he was forced to pull out of the final due to an ankle injury.

"I had suffered this injury in the first round itself but I kept competing and so it got aggravated. If I would have played in the finals, I might have needed

a surgery so we decided to skip it," he said.

"The physio said it will take another 15-20 days to recover completely," added Deepak.

Last month, he became the first Indian to win the World Junior C'ship in 18 years and the youngster said it gave him the confidence to do well Worlds.

"I had won the junior World C'ship last month and it gave me the confidence ahead of the senior World C'ships. It is extremely tough competition as all top wrestlers come into this event with full preparation."

"I have to work on my technique now. I lacked experience as it was my first world championships, so as I grow in confidence it will help."