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## SC rejects Rafale probe demand No occasion to doubt decision-making process, says court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday provided a major relief to the Modi Government by dismissing the demand for a court-monitored CBI probe into the Government-to-Government deal with France for the purchase of 36 Rafale fighter jets, saying there is no occasion to "really doubt the decision-making process" warranting setting aside of the contract.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi went into "three broad areas of concern" raised in the petitions — the decision-making process, pricing and the choice of Indian offset partners — and said there was no reason for intervention by the apex court on the "sensitive issue" of purchase of 36 fighter jets.

The apex court said the Indian Air Force (IAF) needs advanced fighter jets as the country cannot afford to be "unprepared" or "under prepared" in a situation where adversaries have acquired fourth and fifth generation fighter aircraft, "of which, we have none".

"In view of our findings on all the three aspects, and having heard the matter in detail, we find no reason for any intervention by this court on the sensitive issue of purchase of 36 defence aircraft by the Indian Government," the Bench, also comprising Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph, said in its 29-page judgment.

Attorney General KK Venugopal welcomed the verdict terming it as an "excellent" and "very good" judgment, which in his opinion has given "clean chit" to the Government by accepting all its arguments. "I think a clean chit has been given to the Government on Rafale deal," he told reporters on the sidelines of a function to give farewell to Justice Madan B Lokur, who is set to retire on December 30.

The court said perception of individuals cannot be the basis of a "fishing and roving enquiry" by the court in such matters and it cannot "sit in judgment" over the wisdom of Government's decision to go in for purchase of 36 aircraft in

place of 126.

"We are satisfied that there is no occasion to really doubt the process, and even if minor deviations have occurred, that would not result in either setting aside the contract or requiring a detailed scrutiny by the court," the Bench said.

It noted that process for procurement of 36 Rafale jets was concluded on September 23, 2016 and no questions were raised at that time and the petitions were later filed after reported statement of former French President Francois Hollande with regard to selection of Indian offset partners.

The Bench said it was "certainly not the job of this court to carry out a comparison of the pricing details in matters like the present" and the material has to be kept in a confidential domain.

### RELIEF FOR GOVT

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### Anil Ambani welcomes judgment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani on Friday welcomed the SC order on the Rafale deal, saying it established the falsity of politically motivated allegations against him.

"I welcome the judgment summarily dismissing all PILs filed on the Rafale contracts, and conclusively establishing the complete falsity of the wild, baseless and politically motivated allegations levelled against Reliance Group and me personally," Ambani said.



Congress president Rahul Gandhi with Rajasthan Congress president Sachin Pilot and senior party leader Ashok Gehlot at his residence in New Delhi on Friday

## Rahul pulls it off: Gehlot Raj CM, Sachin deputy

### Decision made for Chhattisgarh, announcement to be made today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday named Ashok Gehlot as Rajasthan Chief Minister and Sachin Pilot as his deputy after party president Rahul Gandhi successfully brokered a peace between the veteran leader and his younger colleague after several rounds of discussion lasting more than two days.

Congress observer to Rajasthan KC Venugopal made the announcement and said details of the oath-taking ceremony would be decided after a meeting Governor Kalyan Singh in Jaipur.

Addressing a Press conference, Gehlot thanked Rahul Gandhi for giving him the opportunity to serve the people of the State for a third time and promised that he and Pilot will give "good governance".

Rahul met Gehlot and Pilot thrice since Thursday. Hectic parleys were held between top party leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra too is understood to be involved in the decision-making process. Senior party leaders Venugopal, Avinash Pandey and Jitendra Singh were present during the meeting on Friday.

"The united colours of Rajasthan," Rahul tweeted on Friday afternoon along with a photograph in which the three leaders were seen in a jovial mood. Gehlot and Pilot welcomed with pomp and splendour at the Jaipur airport after the announcement.

Pilot, 41, exuded confidence that Congress' good electoral performance will continue, saying the party will get a big mandate in 2019 polls and form a Government at the Centre also. "Mera aur Ashok Gehlot ji ka jaadu puri tarah chal gaya hai (Gehlot and I worked our magic in the State)," Pilot said.

The Congress went from 21 seats against the BJP's 163 in 2013 to get 99 seats (plus one of the Rashtriya Lok Dal) in the

Assembly elections. Pilot said the party's manifesto will be implemented immediately.

However, the name of Chhattisgarh CM has been kept under wraps. The official announcement will be made on Saturday in Raipur. All the four contenders — TS Singh Deo, Bhupesh Baghel, Tamradhwaj Sahu and Charan Das Mahant — were called to Delhi.

They took turns to meet Rahul during the day after the name of Rajasthan CM was finalised. Rahul authorised AICC Central Observer for Chhattisgarh Mallikarjun Kharge to announce in Raipur the CM candidate after the CLP meeting on Saturday.

Gehlot will be the fourth leader to become Chief Minister of Rajasthan for a third time. Mohan Lal Sukhadia was the Chief Minister of the State for four times, while Hari Dev Joshi and Bhairon Singh Shekhawat were three-time Chief Ministers of the State. Both Sukhadia and Joshi were Congress leaders while Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was from the BJP.

## Cong manufactured lies on Rafale: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Booyed by the Supreme Court verdict on the Rafale fighter jet deal issue, the Government and the ruling BJP on Friday charged the Congress with manufacturing lies and compromising with national security and said truth always holds together while "falseness always fall apart".

Making this assertion here, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley without directly naming Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi said falseness was manufactured by "one family", but they are not above the apex court.

Along with the Government, the ruling BJP also accused the Congress of making the Rafale deal look a suspect by telling lies. BJP president Amit Shah said here at a separate Press conference that the SC order was a slap on Congress chief Rahul's politics of lies and asked him to apologise to the country and its soldiers for putting national security at risk.



The BJP president said there is no occasion to doubt the decision-making process in the procurement of 36 Rafale jets from France, and the court has upheld that in its order on Friday.

It is not the job of the court to deal with the comparative details of the pricing, he said. He also hit out at the Congress president for taking a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi by saying the "chowkidar" is a thief. "All thieves had gathered to call the 'chowkidar' a thief, but the country never believed it," Shah told reporters.

## Govt misled SC on CAG report, Rahul raps Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government has come under cloud for allegedly misleading the Supreme Court by claiming that it had placed the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on the Rafale jet deal before the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi along with Yashwant Sinha, Arun Shourie and Prashant Bhusan, the three PIL petitioners in the Supreme court against Rafale deal, on Friday pointed out that no such CAG report was ever placed in Parliament or before the PAC.

At a Press conference, Rahul said the Supreme Court in its verdict cited a report by the CAG on the Rafale deal but asserted that no such report was given to the House panel headed by Congress' leader in

Lok Sabha Mallikarjuna Kharge. Kharge, who was also present at the briefing, said the PAC has not received any such report.

"Where has that report gone? Is it with some other PAC that PM Modi has set up," Rahul asked in a dig at the Government. Both the Government and Anil Ambani's Reliance Group have rejected Rahul Gandhi's allegation of wrongdoing.

Rahul again accused the Modi Government of destroying "all institutions" and asserted that corruption to the tune of ₹30,000 crore has taken place in the Rafale deal.

He reiterated the Congress' demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the fighter jet deal and claimed that if it was conducted, names of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and businessman Anil Ambani will come to the fore.

### CAPSULE

**TV ANCHOR FALLS TO DEATH FROM HER FLAT**  
Noida: A news anchor with a private television channel died allegedly after she fell off the balcony of her fourth-floor apartment here early on Friday, with her family suspecting foul play.

**MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA TO RESIGN AS PM TODAY**  
Colombo: Signalling an end to the nearly two-month power tussle in Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa will resign on Saturday, his son said on Friday.

**KEY DHINAKARAN AIDE QUILTS AMMK, JOINS DMK**  
Chennai: In what could be perceived as a setback to AMMK founder TTV Dhinakaran, one of his key aides quit the party and joined the MK Stalin-led DMK on Friday.

**PSBs DO NOT HAVE ANY PLAN TO CLOSE ATMs**  
New Delhi: Public Sector Banks (PSBs) do not have any plans to shut down their ATMs, Minister of State for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla informed Parliament. The statement assumes significance amidst a report by the Confederation of ATM industry (CATMI) warning that nearly half of the 2.38 lakh machines run the risk of closing down by March next year due to regulatory compliance changes making the business unviable due to rising costs.

**49 TIGERS DIED IN INDIA THIS YEAR, MOST IN MP**  
New Delhi: Nearly 50 tigers have died in India this year with the highest number of deaths recorded in Madhya Pradesh, the Lok Sabha was told on Friday.

## 11 dead, 75 sick after eating prasad at Karnataka temple

Bengaluru: At least 11 people, including a girl and a woman, died while 75 others took ill on Friday after consuming "prasad" at a temple at Sulavadi village in Chamarajanager district, officials said.

The condition of eight people being treated in Mysuru is critical. "A child died at the Government hospital at Ramapura, two each at GH hospitals at Kamageri and Kolegal, three at the KP Hospital and one at KRH Hospital," said Suresh Shastri, Joint Director, Directorate of Health and Family Welfare Services.



A woman is being shifted to a hospital following sickness after consuming 'prasad' at Maramma temple in Chamrajanager district in Mysuru on Friday

According to police, the foundation laying ceremony of Maramma temple was organised on Friday morning and prasad was distributed after the function.

## Amitav Ghosh honoured with Jnanpith award

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Noted English writer Amitav Ghosh has been honoured with this year's Jnanpith Award, a literary award given to an author for "outstanding contribution towards literature", Bharatiya Jnanpith announced on Friday.

"Amitav Ghosh is a path-breaking novelist. In his novels, Ghosh treads through historical settings to the modern era and weaves a space where the past connects with the present in relevant ways. "His fiction is endowed with extraordinary depth and substance through his academic training as a his-



torian and a social anthropologist," a statement from Bharatiya Jnanpith reads.

The decision was taken in a meeting of Jnanpith Selection Board chaired by eminent novelist, scholar and Jnanpith laureate Pratibha Ray.

## Nepal bans Indian notes above ₹100

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The Nepal Government has banned the use of Indian currency notes of ₹2,000, ₹500 and ₹200 denominations, a move that could affect Indian tourists visiting the Himalayan nation where Indian currency is widely used.

Indian currency is extensively used by Nepalese people and businesses for their savings and transactions.

The Nepal Government has asked the people to refrain from keeping or carrying Indian bank notes higher than ₹100 denomination as it has not legalised them, Nepal's

Minister for Information and Communications Gokul Prasad Baskota said.

"The Government has decided not to use, carry and keep the Indian bills of 200, 500 and 1000 denominations. The government will soon issue a formal notice in this matter," the Minister said.

The decision will adversely affect Nepalese labourers working in India as well as Indian tourists visiting Nepal.

Nepal Premier KP Sharma Oli said earlier this year that demonetisation hurt the Nepalese people and added that he would raise the matter with Indian leaders.

## Delhi to say 'cheers' to freshly brewed beer

### DDA finally OK's plan to set up microbreweries in Capital

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Now, the Delhiites need not to travel all the way to Gurugram and Faridabad to sip the freshly brewed beer as the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has finally approved to set up the much awaited microbreweries in the restaurants and bars situated in the national Capital.

The new policy or provision for the implementation of microbreweries could not be notified earlier due to various reasons but now as per the offi-

cial's the DDA has approved the same and notified the new policy in the meeting held on Friday morning.

According to sources, "The restaurants, hotel or clubs will be allowed to set up the microbreweries up to 500 litres per day capacity. But at the same time the restaurants, bars and hotels have to get the no-objection certificate (NOC) clearance/licenses from excise department before setting up the microbreweries."

Microbreweries also known as organic beers are



freshly brewed beer with different fruit flavours such as strawberries, apple, grapes which is also considered as a



healthy drinks as per the experts. Experts said microbreweries are healthy for both men and woman as it does not contain alcohol, chemical and preservatives especially glycer-

in's that are used in the packaged and beer cans. Also, it will be good drink and safer than the whisky and other hard drinks which will also reduce fatness.

Currently, there is only one microbrewery set up at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI).

The Delhi Government has approved the proposal to set up the breweries in Delhi three years ago but it could not be implemented as the breweries were listed under the 'prohibited/negative' list of industries in the Master Plan of Delhi (MPD) 2021. However, on the request of the Government, Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal in December 2017 approved the Government's plea to remove microbreweries from the 'prohibited' list of the master plan. After which the DDA's technical committee approved the

proposal in January 2018," an official said.

MARKETS	
SENSEX	35,962.93 (+33.29)
NIFTY	10,805.45 (+13.90)
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THE OTHER SIDE

# Lounging on a time bomb



Paritosh Kimothi

The results of the recently held Assembly elections in five States have elicited the usual range of reactions from surprise to "I told you so" and from jubilation to disappointment. However, for the astute politicians that there are, the results might not have come so much as a surprise as disappointment or excitement at the less or more than expected seats won. One says lack of surprise because actively working on a political or any other project while also keeping an eye on the rivals and problems, one can be surprised by the results only if one is detached from the ground reality.

That is a trait hard to imagine in seasoned politicians at least when it comes to politics. It is similar to the experience one had during school days when annual exams brought tension and anxiety though in general the results were rarely surprising since one knew how much one had prepared and how one had done in the examinations.

Similar scenarios are common at the individual and societal levels though it appears as if we have stopped using common sense and logic to anticipate the obvious reper-

cussions of our attitudes and actions. Nowhere is this more visible than in our lives and in the places where we live. One has been seeing this happen in Dehradun and elsewhere in the state for years now.

About 14 years ago, when I came to reside in the rustic suburban area of Badripur, it was a refreshing place to live in. Ours was the first house to be constructed in an outer part of the locality as most were wary of buying land or constructing homes due to talk of the local development authority planning to acquire lands for implementation of its projects. During those days, the area was all about open spaces, clumps of trees and farms, clean air and peace with not a speck of garbage seen in the open.

One could hear the mellow sound of the water flowing in the roadside canal, the wind in the trees and birds chirping. During the sedate nights, a large number of fireflies twinkled above the canal and around trees while there were a few rounds of jackals howling and dogs responding as civets and nocturnal birds among other creatures went about their routine tasks after sunset.

The quality of the main road was very bad but that kept the traffic thin and vehicles passed at a safe speed. The days were peaceful and the only occasional source of noise during the night was the village

drunkard who used to take shelter in the courtyard of a temple while shouting at his own demons. However, he was easy to silence—simply shining a torch on his face from afar made him discontinue his loud ramblings.

Sadly, as in other parts of Dehradun, this locality has changed for the worse. Many people have spent a lot of money building homes with tiny or non-existent gardens with some of them also leaving the outlets of domestic drains on open public space.

Most home owners have encroached on the side of the main road, the canal is now covered, the fireflies much fewer and jackals have moved away. And with the quality of the road improving, the traffic is more and riskier for both vehicle users and pedestrians. The locality is now noisier with garbage littering most areas.

Whereas there was only one noisy village drunkard in the past, now there are scores who frequent the party plots—that have mushroomed in recent years—for marriage and other functions bringing traffic congestion, noise and other pollution with them before leaving the locality littered with empty cartons, disposables and other trash. The open space, trees and farms have been dwindling consistently. One fears that the situation will only worsen as such suburban

**Such is the scenario in most of Dehradun where rising population pressure and the inability of successive Governments to take sensible measures continue to ruin the city**

areas are now within municipal limits and are likely to be bombarded with 'developmental' works.

Such is the scenario in most of Dehradun where rising population pressure and the inability of successive Governments to take sensible measures continue to ruin the city. This is also due to another major problem which the State faces—migration of people from the mountainous areas to the urban areas in the plains. As expected, the Government has various plans and projects to tackle such problems but some plans make one wonder whether the authorities actually understand the problem and intend to solve it.

Take for example the problem of rising traffic congestion in Dehradun. The human and vehicular load has increased drastically leading to congestion in the town. The authorities came up with fantastic plans like metro rail and automated pods for public transport. Anyone with common sense would say that the first

step to redressing traffic congestion in the city is to implement a proper public transport system instead of the disorderly system of privately owned vehicles—city buses and three-wheelers that flout various rules while providing pathetic public transport. However, the powers that be spent large sums on consultations, project reports and tours to various European countries to 'study' their modes. It is only now that some seniors are saying that metro train is not a feasible option for Dehradun city.

One could go on about problems in the state and effects of skewed governmental focus due to which the state is snugly lounging on time bombs ticking in various sectors.

But, that would be tedious and boring. The feature common in most problems is the lack of direct and proactive engagement of the authorities with the public to ensure the people do their bit too. The question is whether the establishment cares to do so.

# Rain likely in a few districts, dry climate in Dehradun

**Ground frost may form in hills**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Rain is likely to lash a string of districts of Uttarakhand while Dehradun would have a dry climate on Saturday. However, after the climate cleared of the clouds, the minimum temperature has started to dip in Dehradun, adding to the winter chill.

As per the Regional Meteorological Centre officers, the maximum might go up a little while the minimum would come down by a couple of notches in the coming few days. Besides, they warned that ground frost is likely to occur in some parts of the hills over the next 24 hours.

The districts marked by the

weather officers for rain are Uttarkashi, Chamoli and Pithoragarh. As per the forecast, light rain might occur in these districts and the higher reaches of the hills might get fresh bout of snow too on the day. The climate would remain dry in the rest of the State.

Meanwhile, Dehradun had a dry climate on Friday. The day was mostly sunny though partly windy. While the maximum temperature settled at 22.4 degree Celsius, one degree below the normal, the minimum was 6 degree Celsius, one degree below the normal, on Friday.

Elsewhere in the State, in Pantnagar, the maximum and minimum temperatures were recorded at 22.4 degree Celsius, one notch below normal, and 4 degree Celsius, one notch below the normal, respectively.

ly on Friday.

At Mukteshwar, the maximum and minimum temperatures were recorded at 9 degree Celsius, six notches below the normal, and -0.5 degree Celsius, four notches below the normal. In New Tehri, the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded were 12.4 degree Celsius and 1.4 degree Celsius respectively on the day.

Notably, the maximum temperature had dipped by five notches in Dehradun on Thursday as an impact of the snowfall in the higher reaches and the rain/drizzle in the plains.

From now onwards, the trend would be of rising maximum and falling minimum temperatures unless western disturbances bring fresh bout of wet spell, said the Met officers.



# Indofil's Moximate: a fungicide for potato crop protection

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Mumbai-based Indofil Industries Ltd (Established 1962), which is leader in manufacturing Mancozeb and Cymoxanil (technical's) in India and globally has launched a specialty Fungicide—Moximate—for the late blight of potato. It is a dual action fungicide which controls the disease by its protective as well as curative action, claims the company. "Moximate is a

rapid uptake fungicide which immediately gets trans-located in the plant and offers long duration of disease control," says Maheshkumar Khambete, General Manager (marketing) Indofil and adds that the farmers must identify the disease and then choose the right crop protection chemical to fight it. He further says that Indofil has appointed well-trained Krishi Doots to guide farmers to make safe and judicious use of crop protection chemicals.

**It is a dual action fungicide which controls the disease by its protective as well as curative action, claims the company**

# National Energy Conservation Day observed at ONGC

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Enthusiastic participation of the Government departments, educational institutes and students was witnessed at a programme organised to mark the National Energy Conservation Day at ONGC auditorium here on Friday. Many events were hosted in the programme held under joint aegis of Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (UREDA) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited.

On the occasion, the State



Finance Minister Prakash Pant released a calendar on energy conservation prepared by

ITIs on the occasion. The Minister also felicitated the winners of drawing and debate competitions based on the theme of energy conservation. Pant also inspected an exhibition, depicting energy efficient equipment on the occasion.

The secretary, power, Radhika Jha, gave a detailed account about the measures one should take for energy conservation.

The director UREDA, Captain Alok Shekhar Tiwari and GM Technical of ONGC, Z S Alaria were among others present on the occasion.

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निविदा सं० 02/18  
TENDER NOTICE (No. 02/2018)  
रक्षा जैव ऊर्जा अनुसंधान संस्थान, (डीआईबीईआर)  
DEFENCE INSTITUTE OF BIO-ENERGY RESEARCH (DIBER)  
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भारत के राष्ट्रपति महोदय की ओर से निदेशक, रक्षा जैव ऊर्जा अनुसंधान संस्थान, गोरापड़ाव, हल्द्वानी यह क्षेत्र उत्तराखण्ड में है, में उपलब्ध निम्नोप्योक्त वाहनों की नीलामी हेतु जहाँ है जैसे है के आधार पर मुहरबन्द निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। वाहनों का विवरण निम्न प्रकार है:-

क्र.सं०	वाहन का नाम	मात्रा	स्थान जहाँ वाहन रखा है
1.	मारुति जिप्सी माडल 1997	01 अदद	डीआईबीईआर, गोरापड़ाव, हल्द्वानी
2.	टाटा सफारी माडल 2008	01 अदद	डीआईबीईआर, गोरापड़ाव, हल्द्वानी

वाहन के बारे में विस्तृत जानकारी उपरोक्त दर्शित स्थान में किसी भी कार्य दिवस में (सोमवार से शुक्रवार) 15:30 बजे से 17:30 बजे तक प्राप्त की जा सकती है। निविदाकर्ता विज्ञापन प्रकाशन की तिथि से 30 दिन के अन्दर मुहरबन्द निविदा डीआईबीईआर, हल्द्वानी के कार्यालय में दस प्रतिशत धरोहर राशि के साथ जमा कर दें। धरोहर राशि का डी0डी0 निदेशक, डीआईबीईआर, हल्द्वानी के नाम पर जारी किया जाये जिसका भुगतान एस0बी0आई0, मैन ब्रांच हल्द्वानी में हो। उच्चतम धनराशि की निविदा ही विचारार्थ स्वीकार होगी व शेष निविदाकर्ताओं की धरोहर राशि वापस कर दी जायेगी। सफल निविदाकर्ता को 20 दिन के अन्दर सम्पूर्ण धनराशि डी0डी0 द्वारा जमा करनी होगी। सफल निविदाकर्ता अगर दिये गये समय के अन्दर वाहन को उतारने में सक्षम नहीं हुआ तो उसकी धरोहर राशि जब्त कर दी जायेगी।

2. सफल निविदाकर्ता द्वारा भुगतान की धनराशि जमा करने के बाद ही वाहन को उतारने की अनुमति प्रदान की जायेगी साथ ही सफल निविदाकर्ता द्वारा सरकारी नियमों के अन्तर्गत सभी प्रकार के टैक्स भी देय होंगे, जिसे जमा करने का उत्तरदायित्व निविदाकर्ता का होगा व जमा की गई राशि की रसीद वाहन उतारने से पूर्व इस कार्यालय को प्रस्तुत करना होगा। किन्हीं कारणवश अगर अंतिम तिथि को राजकीय अवकाश रहा तो उसके बाद जो अगला कार्य दिवस आयेगा वही अंतिम तिथि मानी जायेगी। निदेशक, डीआईबीईआर, हल्द्वानी किसी भी प्रकार के विलम्ब के लिए जिम्मेदार नहीं होगा। वाहनों पर दर्ज बी0ए0 नम्बर सिर्फ 6 माह के लिए वैध होगा जो कि सिर्फ वाहनों का गंतव्य स्थान तक ले जाने एवं आर0टी0आर0 कार्यालय से पंजीकरण के लिए काम आयेगा। इस नम्बर से वाहन को सड़क पर चलाने की अनुमति नहीं होगी।

3. निदेशक, डीआईबीईआर, हल्द्वानी के पास यह अधिकार सुरक्षित है कि वह निविदाओं को स्वीकार अथवा बिना कारण बताये निरस्त कर सकता है।

4. अतिरिक्त जानकारी हेतु निम्न दूरभाष पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।  
हल्द्वानी :- 05946-232800-211

(कुन्दन सिंह)  
मण्डार अधिकारी

DAVP 10301/11/0177/1819

# Arunachal Pradesh students visit IMA

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A group of 16 students from Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh visited the

prestigious Indian Military Academy (IMA) on Friday.

During the visit, the National Integration Tour (NIT) comprising the students

and four teachers inquired about the institution and held interaction with IMA Commandant Lieutenant General SK Jha.

A communique from IMA said that the visit of the students was a part of the Indian Army's outgoing initiative to foster the spirit of National Integration across the country under 'OP SAMARITAN'.

"This visit to the Academy provided a unique opportunity to these children hailing

from one of the remotest corners of our country to get motivated to join the army.

The interaction with the Commandant of the prestigious institute and his inspiring words to them would go a long way in instilling pride and nationalism among the youngsters," the communique reads.



# Remembering Raj Kapoor and His Vision of the Journey of Ganga

JASKIRAN CHOPRA ■ DEHRADUN

December 14, 2018 is the 94th birth anniversary of the great actor and director Raj Kapoor who was a living legend—the grand showman of our film industry. I would like to dwell upon the connection that he had with the Uttarakhand region. It began when he conceived the idea of the journey of the Ganga as it travels from its origin at Gaumukh in Uttarakhand down the hills towards the plains and finally reaches the Bay of Bengal. When he was thinking about this story, his connection was established forever with this Himalayan region. The State of Uttarakhand did not exist in those years. However, his film Ram Teri Ganga Maili is a beautiful record of the pristine beauty of this hill region, its purity and its spiritual dimension.

The innocence of hill folk is also brought out very well in this film of 1985 which remains an ode to the beauty and purity of the Himalayas and the Ganga and also a dirge for the pollution that defiles the Ganga as it begins to descend into the cities. The heroine, Mandakini, was a perfect choice for the character Ganga who is a resident of

the Himalayas. She looks truly ethereal in the film and powerfully symbolises the Ganga river. The hero comes to Gangotri from Calcutta and is called Naren or Narendra (the name of Swami Vivekananda). This name has obviously been given to him deliberately as he is different from his family and their friends. He has a strong spiritual quality that pulls him to the mighty mountains and makes him feel so much at home there, just like Swami Vivekananda did. The idea of the film was so exquisite that its implementation by Raj Kapoor could not have been any less. The girl travels down the hills and is exploited by corrupt members of society at every step, leading her into becoming a dancing girl, almost a prostitute. She is caught in the clutches of the people who wish to keep her away from her husband (Naren). Her innocence is destroyed and she goes through tragic suffering that is highlighted by the theme song sung by Lata Mangeshkar—"Ram Teri Ganga Maili ho Gayi, paapiyon ke paap dhote dhote." The message is clear—the river Ganga, when at its source, is pristine, pure and divine. As it enters the corrupt cities, it gets completely impure. This was thirty three years ago when he made this



film. Today, things are no better. They may be quite worse. A powerful love story—Ram Teri Ganga Maili—tells us of the plight of the holy Ganges in a manner which could only belong to the visionary director and film maker—Raj Kapoor. His aesthetic sense was very strong.

Many years ago, actor Tom Alter (who plays Ganga's brother in the film) shared with his friends in the Doon valley that he had once questioned Raj Kapoor why he had used the name of Ram

should be forever captured on celluloid in a way that would be greatly appreciated by the new generations.

The song "Husn Pahadon Ka, kya kehna ke baarhon mahiney, yahaan mausam jaadon ka" (sung by Lata Mangeshkar and Suresh Wadkar) expresses the essence of the splendour and seasons of this hill area. The ethos of the Garhwal Himalayas is conveyed delicately and subtly by Raj Kapoor.

It is Raj Kapoor's unique quality that he can mingle romance with a social message. He did this in many of his films, including Awaara, Shri 420, Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai and Prem Rog.

Ram Teri Ganga Maili ended on a hopeful and optimistic note. However, when we watch the film today, it increases our alarm and concern regarding the condition of the Ganga, even in Uttarakhand which is its home.

The film also inspires us to dedicate ourselves towards the purification and preservation of this great spiritual heritage called Ganga. If it has to be saved from remaining "maili" a lot of rethinking is needed both by the Government and the residents of this hill State. This is what the film is all about. It should not just be seen as a love story.

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# Congress lies on Rafale exposed, PM vindicated by SC decision: CM

**BJP State chief says Rahul should apologise to nation, PCC should apologise to State**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said that the Supreme Court decision on the Rafale fighter jet deal had vindicated the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bharatiya Janata Party while exposing the lies spread by the Congress on this issue. Meanwhile, the BJP State president Ajay Bhatt said that Congress national president Rahul Gandhi should apologise to the nation. Addressing the media, Rawat said that the Congress president Rahul Gandhi had been spreading lies about there being a scam in the Rafale deal. However, the Supreme Court decision in this case has exposed the lies of the Congress and vindicated the PM Narendra Modi. He said, "The BJP wanted a debate on the issue in the parliament and a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) but

the Congress refused this and continued to spread lies.

Some people linked to the Congress filed a case in the Supreme Court questioning aspects of the deal but this was rejected by the apex court. The three judge bench headed by the chief justice of India was satisfied at Government stand on the three points questioned by the petitioners.

The Rafale deal was the first instance in recent times when a contract was signed directly between Governments in a transparent manner to procure the fighter jets at a lower price.

Earlier, the Congress had entered into various defence deals through middlemen. The Congress president even used cheap words to target the Prime Minister but the supreme court decision has proved that the Prime Minister's intention was genuine and that the faith of the public in him remains undiminished.

Referring to what the BJP national president Amit Shah had stated, Rawat said that those who were spreading



lies and avoiding JPC were the thieves in this case. The Congress had even questioned the surgical strikes by the Indian Army in which several terror launchpads were destroyed in enemy territory.

Meanwhile, BJP State president Ajay Bhatt demanded that the Congress president should apologise to the nation. The Congress leaders in Uttarakhand should also apologise to the public as they had burnt the Central Government in effigy on the Rafale issue.

He said that the Congress president and leaders had made all attempts to misguide the people on the basis of baseless allegations. The Congress demoralised the army, which is unpardonable and also defamed the nation at the international level.

## Several decisions taken in Cabinet meeting

**18 issues discussed, 16 approved by Cabinet**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Implementation of seventh pay commission for State university teaching faculty and various other decisions were taken in the meeting of the State Cabinet held here on Friday. Cabinet Minister and Government spokesman Madan Kaushik informed that 18 issues were discussed and decision was taken on 16 issues by the cabinet.

The seventh pay commission for State university teachers will be applicable from January 1, 2016. This decision will benefit 2,000 teachers and increase financial burden on the State by ₹130 crore.

The period of co-partnership between Almora base hospital and national heart institute has been increased to March 31, 2019.

About 80 acre of sealing land at Khurpiya Farm in Kichha, Udham Singh Nagar will be transferred to SIID-CUL. This land will be used

for various Government bodies like police station, ITI and Munsif court among others.

The Cabinet also granted approval to tabling the food commission's annual report in the Vidhan Sabha. Approval was also granted to posts under the security rules of the Public Service Commission.

Further, the Cabinet also granted approval to increase in the DBT rate of NCERT books. The DBT rate of books for classes I to V will be raised from ₹150 to ₹250 while the rate of books for classes above VI will be raised from ₹250 to ₹400. Amendments were also approved in Uttarakhand Government primary education regarding promotion, eligibility and appointment.

After TET, basis for appointment will be merit. Approval was also granted to merger of personnel, vigilance and Surraaj-corruption eradication departments which will be known as personnel and vigilance department.

The rules for technical university were also granted approval by the Cabinet.

Further, the Cabinet approved 10 posts of full time legal officers for judicial works. Candidates will be selected for these posts by a committee headed by the chief secretary.

The Uttarakhand motor vehicle taxation act was made more practical with zero per cent tax on electricity battery and solar powered vehicle. Changes in the act will increase the State's income by about ₹100 crore.

Based on the bank procedure, the loan process in homestay regulations has been simplified. The proposal for model school in Haridwar will be presented by the Urban Development department instead of the Higher Education department.

A total of 45 posts were approved for the Mela body in view of the 2021 Kumbh Mela. The Cabinet also paid tribute to former Chief Minister Narayan Dutt Tiwari and waived off the ₹1.43 lakh due from him. Land mutation charge of ₹79.22 lakh due from a hospital run under Vivekanand health mission was also waived off.

## Questions on escalated price and inclusion of Reliance as offset partners remain: Pritam Singh

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Commenting on the Supreme Court's ruling on the controversial Rafale fighter deal, the State Congress chief Pritam Singh said that his party had raised objection on the price of the jets and not cast doubt on their quality and the efficiency.

Talking to *The Pioneer* on the contentious issue in the aftermath of the Supreme Court (SC) judgement in which it rejected all petitions regarding directing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to register FIR on alleged anomalies in the Rafale deal, the Congress leader said that he has not read the whole judgement.

He, however, added that the question remains as to why the fighter jets were purchased at such an escalated cost. Singh added that quality of the fighter

jets had never been in doubt. "And it was during the Congress regime that a decision to purchase the aircraft was taken. Another question we are raising is why just 36 aircrafts were purchased against the demand of 126 given by Indian Air Force (IAF)?"

The Congress leader said that the Congress sticks to its demand of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to be constituted to investigate the deal. He also said that selection of Reliance as an off-set partner in the deal ignoring Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) remained under cloud.

Singh said that the claim of Dassault Aviation that it has chosen Reliance as off-set partner on its own is laughable as the company has no experience in aviation sector and was formed barely days before the deal.

## Preparation on to implement Atal Ayushman yojna from Dec 25

**Every family of U'khand to be brought under the health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State health and family welfare department is gearing up to start the universal health insurance scheme-Atal Ayushman Yojana (AAY)-from December 25. Under the scheme, every family, residing in Uttarakhand, would be brought under the ambit of the health insurance plan in which an annual cover of ₹5 lakh would be provided.

It is worth mentioning here that 5.37 lakh families of the state have already been brought under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana (ABY), the flagship scheme of Narendra Modi Government.

The beneficiaries of the scheme are the economically backward families listed in the economic survey of 2011. On the order of the Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, the Uttarakhand Government decided to extend the benefit of the scheme to all the families residing in Uttarakhand.

The nodal officer of the scheme, Dr Saroj Naithani said that the department has made the necessary preparation to implement the scheme which covers every family of the State. She further said that the department has selected families on the basis of national food security survey.

There are about 23 lakh families in Uttarakhand out of which 5.37 families are already covered under ABY. The remaining families, including about three lakh families of the State Government employees, would be brought under AAY on the birthday of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari

Vajpayee.

A total of 30 private hospitals have so far been included under the scheme while the process to empanel 19 hospitals is underway. The State health agency-set up to implement the scheme-has appointed Arogya Mitras in all the empanelled hospitals for assisting patients on all issues related to treatment under the scheme.

For treatment under the scheme in any empanelled hospital, the patients should have to show their ration card and AADHAR card to the hospital authorities.

The scheme is being run on a trust mode and the State health agency has selected a Hyderabad-based company, Family Health Planning Limited, for technical help. The Union Government is providing 90 percent of the budget for the scheme while the State Government would contribute remaining 10 percent.

## Motor vehicle tax rates revised in State

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The motor vehicle tax in Uttarakhand has been revised as per rules in a bid to make it rational, making tax system easy, increasing the State revenue and keeping the interest of the transporters in mind.

The one-time tax on motor vehicles has now been based on the price of the motor vehicles. On two wheelers, the vehicles below the price of ₹50,000 will be charged at the rate of seven per cent while those between ₹50,000 and ₹1lakh will be charged at the rate of eight per cent.

The two wheelers above the price of ₹1lakh will be charged at the rate of nine per cent. For four wheelers, there are three categories- tax on car costing up to ₹5 lakh will be charged at a rate of eight per cent while those between the price of ₹5lakh to ₹8lakh will be charged at nine per cent and those above ₹10 lakh will be

charged ten per cent. In a bid to reduce pollution, the battery operated, solar powered and CNG operated vehicles have been exempted from one-time motor vehicle tax.

For taxis with six seats excluding the driver and maxi cabs with capacity of seven to 12 passengers the tax fixed is ₹430 and ₹510 per seat respectively for three months though for simplification, both these types of vehicles will be charged a rate of ₹500 per seat for three months. For freight vehicles, the three month charge has been slightly increased from present ₹230 to ₹270 per tonne. For trailers used to transport agriculture produce the rate has been fixed at ₹270 per tonne for three months.

For three wheelers having a capacity to accommodate three passengers except the driver, the rate for every passenger seat has been enhanced from present ₹730 to ₹800 per seat annually, while for vehicles having capacity of three to six

FOR TAXIS WITH SIX SEATS EXCLUDING THE DRIVER AND MAXI CABS WITH CAPACITY OF SEVEN TO 12 PASSENGERS THE TAX FIXED IS ₹430 AND ₹510 PER SEAT RESPECTIVELY FOR THREE MONTHS THOUGH FOR SIMPLIFICATION, BOTH THESE TYPES OF VEHICLES WILL BE CHARGED A RATE OF ₹500 PER SEAT FOR THREE MONTHS. FOR FREIGHT VEHICLES, THE THREE MONTH CHARGE HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY INCREASED FROM PRESENT ₹230 TO ₹270 PER TONNE. FOR TRAILERS USED TO TRANSPORT AGRICULTURE PRODUCE THE RATE HAS BEEN FIXED AT ₹270 PER TONNE FOR THREE MONTHS

passengers, the rate has been increased from ₹845 per seat to ₹1000 annually.

In both these type of vehicles, a sum of ₹7000 has been fixed for one time rate which is voluntary. The battery operated, solar powered and CNG

powered vehicles will get a rebate of 20 per cent in a bid to reduce pollution. Considering higher transportation cost in mountainous regions, the tax rate of destination vehicles in the mountains has been kept half as compared to those in the

plains and fixed at ₹50 per seat per month.

To encourage public transportation within the limits of municipal bodies, the rate for city buses has been reduced from ₹85 per seat per month to ₹50 per seat per month.

## Stir of unemployed physical education teachers continues

**ONE AGITATOR TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AFTER HER HEALTH DETERIORATES**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The hunger strike of the unemployed physical education teachers continuing on Friday with one of the protesters has been admitted at a hospital after her condition deteriorated.

Under the banner of unemployed Bachelor of Physical Education and Master of Physical Education Federation, the youths have been staging a dharna near Parade Ground for the past many days.

On the day, the health of one of the agitators Hansa Bisht deteriorated after which she was admitted at a hospital. However, her place was taken up by another member of the federation, Dinesh who sat on the hunger strike.

On Thursday, the members of the federation had been prevented by the police from marching to the CM's residence.

The federation is demanding that the State Government should appoint one physical education teacher in every Government-run school.

The agitators point out that the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) has made physical education compulsory for students of classes I to X but no effort is being made to recruit trained teachers for overall development of the children.

## 1100 gm tumour removed from a patient at AIIMS Rishikesh

**Surgery costs ₹15,000**

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A tumour weighing 1100 gm that had spread from the chest to the spinal cord of a woman was successfully removed by a team of doctors at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh. Informing of the success, the chest and cardio thoracic surgeon AIIMS Dr Anshuman Darbari said that the woman, a resident of Haldwani, had been detected with a tumour in the Medical College Haldwani and referred to AIIMS.

He said that after CT and MRI, a biopsy had been conducted on the woman. "The woman was later operated upon and subsequently a 15 cm X 15 cm neuro fibroma type tumour was removed," he said.

Dr Darbari, further, said that big portion of the dumb-bell-shaped tumour had been covering the chest area and some part of it had extended to the spinal cord. The help of the

neurosurgeon Dr Rajneesh Arora had been taken and he had done the spinal surgery to remove the tumour, he added.

Dr Darbari said that had the tumour not been operated upon and removed in time, it would have threatened the life of the patient. "She was under increasing threat of paralysis," he said and added that the operation had cost just ₹15,000 while any private hospital would have charged anywhere between ₹2 and ₹3 lakh for it. Dr Darbari further stated that a clinic on cardio thoracic surgery is functional at the hospital.

The AIIMS director Prof Ravi Kant said that the institute is providing benefit of chest and cardio thoracic surgery as this facility is not available in the Government and private hospitals of the State.

He disclosed that process to open an advanced centre for treatment of lung diseases has started and a proposal for it has been sent to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for approval.

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## Cong demands rollback on house tax hike

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A delegation of the Congress councillors and activists led by Mahanagar president of the party Lal Chand Sharma met the municipal commissioner Dehradun, Vijay Kumar Jogdande on Friday and demanded the decision to increase the house tax by 20 per cent be revoked.

Terming the hike as unjustified, Sharma said that three years ago, the parameters of charging house tax had been changed from the rent system to the covered area which ensured a five-time increase in tax.

He further warned that the Congress would be forced to start an agitation if the decision is not revoked in the public interest promptly.

The delegation later handed over a memorandum containing their demand to the commissioner.



## ONGC observes Information Security Day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In view of existing and emerging cyber-crime threats, Information Security Day was observed at ONGC HQ here as part of security awareness week on Friday.

Addressing the gathering, the STF and cyber crime SSP Barinderjit Singh said that these days, the use of online transactions has increased manifold and the cyber threats have also increased as new methods of cybercrime are introduced frequently.

One should not download unnecessary apps on mobile phones as unauthorised apps invite cyber threats. He also shared some personal experience about suspicious phone calls adding that one should not entertain such calls.

He also stressed on the need to monitor use of mobile



phones by children considering the effect of games on the kids.

ONGC executive direc-

tor Preeta Pant Vyas informed that the corporation is marking Security Awareness Week to sensitise all ONGCians and

## HC seeks replies from Governments on Ganga, Yamuna contamination



PNS ■ NAINITAL

In a public interest litigation regarding contamination of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers, the High Court of Uttarakhand has sought replies from the Central and State Governments within two weeks. The petition was taken up for hearing by the division bench of chief justice Ramesh Ranganathan and justice Ramesh Chandra Khulbe.

Delhi resident Ajay Gautam had written a letter to the High Court complaining about the rising contamination of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers while also stating that crores of Hindus have deep faith in these rivers.

Garbage is being dumped into the Ganga at various places with sewers also being drained into it. The case will be taken up for hearing next on January 11.

**Delhi resident Ajay Gautam had written a letter to the High Court complaining about the rising contamination of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers while also stating that crores of Hindus have deep faith in these rivers**

# Last day of Winter Session sees series of protests

## Opp targets Congress on a slew of issues

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Vidhan Sabha's Winter Session was indeed short but not sweet as the Opposition parties took enough aims at the ruling Congress for running away from the debate on its mis-governance. Main Opposition Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), SAD and BJP targeted the State Government on a slew of issues including farmers, potato growers, pollution in rivers, post-matric scholarship, and above all on holding the "shortest session ever".

The elevation of senior Congress leader Kamal Nath as Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister also led to fiery war of words between the SAD and Congress MLAs forcing the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to intervene. Capt Amarinder lashed out at the SAD MLAs for politicising the issue while asking them to let the law take its own course.

The second and the last day of the winter session witnessed series of protests not only by the opposition legislators, but also by the Congress MLA Barindermeet Singh Pahra who also raised the issue of "discrimination against him" over the issue of panchayat polls.

The opposition parties lashed out at the ruling Congress for limiting the session to just one day citing "no business", and claimed that they have plentiful issues to discuss ranging from potato-sugarcane farmers and to the SC students.

Initially proposed for three days and four sittings, from December 13 to 15, the winter session was cut short to just two days and two sittings including one to pay obituaries. The treasury benches, during the Business Advisory Committee meeting, argued that there was no business that needed to be discussed, and thus the length of the session be curtailed by a day and the sittings reduced to two.

Wearing black arm-bands, AAP MLA protested against the short session and demanded to extend it. Taking up the issue in zero hour, AAP MLA Aman Arora cited the book claiming that the House should have 40 sittings in a year.

As the Speaker Rana KP Singh refused to pay any heed to their demand, Arora tore the papers and threw it on the floor in protest. AAP MLAs, sans the rebel group, stormed into the Well raising slogans against the Congress Government.

Arora also flashed a lock saying that the Assembly be locked in case the session was not held as per the laid down procedure; and staged a walk-out on the issue with AAP MLAs.

Also objecting the duration, SAD MLA and former finance minister Parminder Singh Dhindsa questioned the Speaker for rejecting his adjournment motion to discuss farmers' issue. "The Government is claiming that they do not have any business, and when we are giving business, it is being rejected on flimsy grounds," he said.

SAD president Sukhbir Badal said that the three-day session was in itself a brief session, which had been further curtailed to two days. "This two-day session will enter the



Guinness Book of World records as the shortest session ever in history," he mocked. "It is murder of democracy. Will crores of rupees be blown up for convening the session and then winding it up in a day on the plea that there is not enough business... This proves that this is the most incompetent government ever formed in Punjab which does not have any work to take up in the House," he said.

### KAMAL NATH'S ELEVATION ROCKS PUNJAB ASSEMBLY

The protest against the Congress party's decision to elevate its senior leader Kamal Nath as Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister was heard in over 1000 kilometres away in Punjab Vidhan Sabha. SAD dubbed the move as rubbing salt into the wounds of 1984 riot victims.

The issue was raised by SAD MLA Bikram Majithia, to which the state Parliamentary Affairs Minister Brahm Mohindra retorted that MP CM designate was not named in a single FIR.

Mohindra pointed that Nath was elected eight-times as MP after 1984 riots, and thrice served as Union Minister, but never ever this issue was raised by SAD.

mobile phone purportedly of former Chief Minister and SAD patriarch Parkash Singh Badal felicitating Kamal Nath and Parminder Dhindsa, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh alleged that the opposition was politicising the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

The Chief Minister said that a mere reference in the Navavati Commission report could not be construed as Nath's involvement in the case.

"Let us leave it to the law. If somebody is guilty, he's guilty. If he is not guilty, he is not guilty," he said.

Congress and SAD MLAs engaged in a verbal duel on the issue, with SAD legislators raising slogans against the Congress Government and later staging a walkout.

On SAD president Sukhbir Badal's allegation that cases pertaining to the 1984 riots were "suppressed" over the years, Mohindra said: "The country has seen five non-Congress Prime Ministers, they were your (SAD) allies... If you felt so, why did you not raise it then."

### CAPT ASSURES OF EARLY RESOLUTION OF POTATO PRICE FLUCTUATION ISSUE

Showing deep concern over the falling prices of potato crop, the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder assured the House to address the issue on priority while expressing his Government's complete solidarity with the distressed potato growers.

The issue was raised by SAD MLA Gurbhinder Singh Wadala by moving a calling attention motion. Intervening, Capt Amarinder said that the Government had already raised with the Centre a demand to allow export of potatoes and sugar to Russia, UAE, Iran and Sri Lanka for fetching better prices of these crops.

"The Government has sought the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal intervention to direct the Ministry of Commerce and Industries to allow Punjab to export these crops to ensure price stabilisation, as both potato and sugarcane crops were afflicted by wide price fluctu-

ations," he said.

"Once the Centre gives clearance to the State Government for export of these crops, the farmers would be immensely benefitted in terms of lucrative returns and assured marketability of their produce," he added.

To bail out the potato growers from the current crisis of low price, the Chief Minister also assured that all possible steps would be initiated to enhance the consumption of potatoes especially in the mid-day meal, jails and other government departments, so as to stabilise the prices of the crop.

### BAINS OPPOSES PROPOSED SALARY HIKE FOR MLAS

Lok Insaaf Party leader Balwinder Singh Bains on Friday staged a protest outside Vidhan Sabha over the proposed hike in the salary of Punjab legislators.

The proposal was put up before a committee meeting before the commencement of the Vidhan Sabha session. Participating in the meeting, Bains staged a walkout in the protest.

"How is it that the government is increasing the salaries of the MLAs when they don't have the money to pay their employees," asked Bains.

Also criticising the government over the salary hike and dubbing it as "stupid move", SAD president Sukhbir Badal said that they were against it.

SAD MLA and former minister Bikram Majithia said that the Government should look into farmers' distress and employment to youth issues, rather than deciding to hike the MLAs pay.

## THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

My original Sale Deed dated 10.04.2003, Document No 2421 executed by Sh Harish Sehgal & others in my favour of Khasra No 2314/2, Mauza Raipur, Dehradun, which is duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Dehradun in Book No-1, Vol 498, Page No 406, Addl file Book No-1, Vol 1283, Page No 539 to 548, Document No 2421 or 10.04.2003 is lost / misplaced and is not mortgaged with any bank / financial institution.

Sh. Ninu Sehgal, S/o Late Suresh Kumar Sehgal, R/o 03, Dhamawala, Dehradun

# Swap land with Pak, make Kartarpur part of India: Pb Assembly resolution

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

As Pakistan Government has virtually granted permission to visit Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara, Punjab lawmakers now wanted to bring it here in the Indian Territory. For, the Vidhan Sabha on Friday unanimously passed a resolution urging the Centre to swap land with Pakistan to bring the his-

toric Gurudwara in India.

Proposed by SAD president Sukhbir Badal, the demand was supported by not only his party colleague but also the Congress MLAs and Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa who pointed that similar demand was made by his father when he was Dera Baba Nanak MLA.

With the passing of the

resolution, the State would now raise the issue with the Central Government, putting on offer nearly 11,000 acres of land from the state in lieu of the Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara in Pakistan.

During the discussion on the resolution moved by the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder to thank the Pak and Indian Governments for opening the

corridor, besides urging the Central Government for completing the corridor by December 2020 before 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, Sukhbir urged to move the resolution for swapping the land.

AAP MLA Kanwar Sandhu and SAD MLA Bikram Majithia too supported him, with Congress Minister

Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa pointing that this could be done as his father had also raised the issue with the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi which was also considered seriously, but could not fructify in the wake of 1970 war.

Dera Baba Nanak stands opposite the Kartarpur Sahib gurudwara on the Indian side, and is the place from where the

Kartarpur Corridor is to be constructed to Pakistan's Narowal district.

Earlier, appreciating the opening of the corridor, Capt Amarinder reiterated his warning to the Pakistan Army to stop terror activities in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir declaring that he would be the first one to visit the Kartarpur Sahib gurudwara through the corridor, provided Pakistan ensured that peace was not compromised on this side of the border.

To support his apprehension, Capt Amarinder cited an article written by defence expert saying, "It is a project of the Pakistan Army, not that of Imran Khan (Pak Prime Minister). Imran Khan was well-intentioned, but the Pakistan Army is not, and we should not fall prey to their sinister designs," he reiterated.

However, Capt Amarinder's apprehensions on Pak using corridor to revive terrorism in India, especially Punjab, was not supported by most of the MLAs, including of his own party. Instead, they urged the Chief Minister to send across the message of love and peace, and shun "negativity" over the same.

Congress MLA Raj Kumar Verka pointed that whenever India trusted Pakistan and extended friendly hand, they attacked us, but we should give peace a chance.

Another Congress MLA Harminder Singh Gill said that the Chief Minister's apprehensions were ill-founded.

AAP MLA Kultar Singh Sandhwan said the "our Chief Minister" should give the message of love and peace, while leaving it to the Army to take care of the border.

SAD MLAs Sukhbir Badal and HS Chandumajra also asked the Chief Minister not to use "words" which create hurdle in the years-long pending demand of the Sikh community.

"Only people from Punjab would go there, no one from there would come to Indian side. And I am sure that extra care would be taken to ensure the security," said Sukhbir. Majithia said that the move to exchange land would undo the historic blunder that happened while British were dividing India. "Also, land-swapping will take care of the misgivings put forth by Captain Amarinder Singh," he said.

MLAS THANKED SIDHU, CAPT'S RESOLUTION NOT Fine innings by cricketer-

turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu in the not-so-friendly match between India and Pakistan over the opening of Kartarpur corridor was played down by his own "captain".

Virtually keeping him out of the appreciation game, majority of the MLAs, both from opposition and ruling, did not fail to thank Sidhu, while Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh relegated his party and cabinet colleague virtually to the position of an "extra".

Sidhu, who undoubtedly had played a significant role in opening of the corridor, listened to the entire discussion silently, but with a smile. And expressing his gratitude by nodding and bowing every time a MLA mentioned his name.

Congress MLA Verka appreciated Sidhu for bringing the message of opening of the corridor from across the border during his first visit. AAP MLA Kultar Singh Sandhwan demanded that names of everyone, including Sidhu, be included in the resolution for thanking him to realising Sikh's long pending demand.

Another AAP MLA Kanwar Sandhu too demanded that Sidhu's name should also be mentioned in the resolution, for making a beginning.

Congress MLA Harminder Singh Gill said that it was Sidhu's visit that revived the issue, with the Pakistan taking the first step by offering to open the corridor.

SAD MLA Gurpratap Singh Wadala also that "everyone, who was responsible for making the corridor a reality should be thanked, and that includes Navjot Singh Sidhu".

**Congress MLA Verka appreciated Sidhu for bringing the message of opening of the corridor from across the border during his first visit. AAP MLA Kultar Singh Sandhwan demanded that names of everyone, including Sidhu, be included in the resolution for thanking him to realising Sikh's long pending demand.**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**Walk-in-Interview for engagement of 04 General duty doctors and 01 ortho Doctor and 01 Radiologist Total-06 Doctors as full time contract Medical Practitioners (CMPs) over MB Divn of Northern Railway**

No. E/EO/G/CMP Doctor/18 Dated: 10/12/2018

Moradabad Division of Northern Railway Intends to engage 03 General duty doctors, 01 ortho doctor and 01 Radiologist and one Physician Chest as full time Medical Practitioners (CMPs) on contract basis for a duration of one year as shown below

Sr.No.	Post/Designation	Vacancy	Place of posting
1.	General duty	02	Divisional Hospital Moradabad
2.	CMP Ortho	01	Divisional Hospital Moradabad
3.	CMP Radiologist	01	Divisional Hospital Moradabad
4.	General duty	01	Health Unit Shahjahanpur
5.	Physician Chest	01	Divisional Hospital Moradabad

**NOTE:-** Depending upon administrative exigencies, Rly administration reserve the right to modify no of Vacancies and Station of Posting.

Contract may be extended up to 12 terms or completion of 60 years of Age, Retd Central/State Govt Doctors may engaged up to the age of 65 Years or for 05 contractual period for which engagement period would not be more than one year period.

**RESERVATION WILL BE AS UNDER**

SC=01	ST=NIL	OBC=02	GENERAL=03	Total=06
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**DATE, TIME & Venue of Walk in Interview & Medical Examination**

The interested Candidates can appear in walk in interview followed by Medical Examination the following venue

Date	Time	Venue
17.01.2019	11.00	Sr DPO office Northern Railway Moradabad

Medical Examination will be held after walk in Interview.

**NOTE:-**

- Candidate should submit their Application in duplicate on prescribed Proforma enclosed herewith latest by 11.00AM at above mentioned venue on the day of walk in Interview.
- In case, it is not possible to Interview/medically examine all Candidate on nominated day, they will be interviewed/medically examined on next working Day. Thus the candidates should make their own arrangement for stay Period of one days and come prepared accordingly.

**REMUNERATION Will Be as Under**

CMP Category	Monthly Remuneration
GDMO	Rs. 75,000/-
Specialist first Year	Rs. 95,000/-
Specialist II nd Year	Rs. 1,05,000/-
Super Specialist	Rs. 1,15,000/-

**Remuneration for Retired Rly Doctors and Central/ State Govt retd Doctors:-**

Consolidated remuneration @ above rate will be admissible (subject to the condition that remuneration+ pension draw should not exceed the last paid drawn) If Govt. accommodation is not provided. If Govt. accommodation is provided, amount equivalent to House Rent Allowance payable to a fresh entrant to Group 'A' Jr. Scale and License fee of Railway accommodation so provided shall be deducted from the monthly remuneration payable to the CMP.

**AGE LIMIT- Candidates should not have completed more than 50 years of age as on 10.12.2018. However relaxation of 5 yrs in case of SC/ST candidates and 3 years for OBC Candidates is admissible.**

**AGE LIMIT for Retired Railway Doctors and Central/State Govt Retired Doctors.** Candidates should not have completed more than 63 years & 06 month of age on 10.12.2018.

**Terms and Conditions:-** Engagement of doctors would be on contract basis initially for a period of one year on annual basis of up to a maximum of 12 terms as per administrative requirement on

the basis of assessment of performance of CMP. However services of the doctor can be terminated even before the expiry of one year after giving 15 days notice on either side. Railway Administration reserves the right to terminate the contract at any time during the contract by giving 15 days notice or Payment of 15 days remuneration without assigning any reason whatsoever. The service rendered as contract doctor as a stop gap arrangement and will not be taken in to consideration in case of selection through UPSC. It will be confer upon them any right for regularization of permanent absorption in the Railways. The engagement purely on contract basis for a period of one year or till the regular incumbent joins, whichever is earlier.

**Terms and conditions for retired Railway Doctors and Central/ State Govt retired Doctors:-**

Engagement of retired Rly Doctors and Central/ State Govt. retd Doctors as CMPs would be purely on contract basis initial for a period of one year on an annual basis up to maximum 05 terms as per administrative requirement. The engagement of CMP shall be for a period of one year or less from the date of entering into contract or till a regular incumbent join attaining the age of 65 years by the retired Rly Doctor & Central/ State Govt. retired Doctor, whichever is earlier. The Retired Railway Doctor & Central/State Govt. doctor engaged as CMPs shall not have any claim Or right for his/her continuity in service or automatic extension of the terms of contract during the validity of contract. CMP shall be at liberty to terminate the contract for betterment of his/her career or any ground by giving 15 days Notice the Railways. Rly Administration reserves the right to terminate the contract at any time during the contract by giving 15 days Notice or Payment of 15 days remuneration without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**Essential Educational Qualification:-**

- I. For General Duty Doctor: MBBS Degree (with completion of Internship) from any University/Institution recognized by Indian Medical Council.**
- II. For specialist Doctor: MBBS degree and Post Graduate Medical degree/Diploma in subject concerned from a University/Institution recognized by Indian Medical Council.**
- III. For Orthopedic Specialist qualification will be MS (Orthopedic)**
- IV. For Radio Diagnosis Specialist Qualification will be MD Radio Diagnosis.**
- V. For Physician Chest-Qualification will be MD (Medicine/Chest)**

**Experience-** For specialist Medical Practitioner, three years experience is essential for General Duty Doctor the candidate with experience will be given preference. Contract is liable to be terminated, if the Contract Medical Practitioner is found to be mentally or physically incapacitated.

**NOTE:-**

- The doctor engaged on contract basis will not be allowed private Practice.
- The contract doctor will not be entitled for Railway Quarter as a matter of right.
- Candidates should bring their Application form along with original and attested copies of all certificate & Mark sheet TA/DA is admissible.
- The offer of Engagement to selected Candidates shall be issued subject to availability of Vacancies as per requirement in Hospital/ Health Unit located at different Stations on as is where is basis. Administration reserves the right to change place of posting as per administrative needs. The CMP specialist doctor so selected shall also have to carry out general duties as and when required by Rly administration in addition to their speciality work.
- Unfilled Post of Specialist will be filled up by General duty Medical Practitioners.
- The Place of notified vacancies can be changed as per requirement of the administration.
- The Notification can be downloaded from Northern Railway website [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)
- After approval of Panel by competent authority the panel will be uploaded at [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) and intimated through Speed Post. Candidates who do not report at the assigned date and time will forfeit their chance of contract engagement and such opportunity will be offered to the next empanelled Candidate.

Enclosed : As above.

(Sudhir Kumar Tyagi)  
Divisional Personnel Officer  
For Divisional Rly Manager (P)  
N Rly Moradabad

3132/18

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

# New rules delayed counting in MP, Raj: EC

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday explained the reasons that led to a delay which include objection related to voting machines, mandatory tallying of electronic voting machine (EVM) count with voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) slips, issuance of certificate after every round of counting and denying public announcement system.

The increase in the postal ballot votes, slim margins in Madhya Pradesh on many seats and a cautious approach adopted to avoid the embarrassment further, also the reasons for delay in announcement of polls results this year.

MP Assembly election results were declared 24 hours after counting began while Rajasthan results declared 19 hours after counting began.

Unlike the quick counting of votes for the Assembly polls in Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Mizoram, counting in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan went on at a snail's pace, keeping people in general and the political parties in particular on tenterhooks throughout the day on December 11.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) VL Kantharao said "The delay is because every candidate has to be provided a certificate after every round of counting." "Right from the first round of EVM counting at 8.30am, the candidates were very particular about checking and examining every seal, tag and serial number of the EVMs and their cases being brought to the counting tables. In several cases, they raised trivial objections on the seals, serial number/tag number, signatures of polling staff on the tags, which required the intervention, explaining and convincing by the Returning Officer, District



► Election Commission explained the reasons that led to a delay which include objection related to voting machines, mandatory tallying of electronic voting machine (EVM) count with voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) slips, issuance of certificate after every round of counting and denying public announcement system

Election Officer and Observer before these EVMs were taken up for counting. Even though no EVM was kept aside or found tampered amongst the 66,000 EVMs taken up for counting, the process of objections slowed down the rounds," the CEO said.

The MP CEO further explained that when a result is noted from an EVM machine at a counting table, it is written down on part two of Form 17C and the counting agents verify and sign on this sheets which is then photocopied and given to them.

"Similarly, when the tabulation of 14 such results from the 14 tables in the counting hall is made into a broad sheet, it is again verified and photocopies are distributed to the candidates. Strict adherence to this procedure has slowed down the counting process," the CEO said.

"The insistence of the candidates to not bring the next round of EVMs on to the counting tables before tabulation, round-wise figures are written on the blackboard/white board in the counting hall and announced in the public

announcement system has denied five-minute time saving that have could done in between rounds. With an average 22 rounds of counting per Assembly constituency, this has led to two hours of delay".

According to Kantharao, in about 250 cases out of 66000 EVMs taken up to counting, the presiding officers had not followed the Close-Result-Clear (CRC) after the mock poll done in the morning of the poll day.

This meant that the result of these particular EVMs had to be obtained through the counting of the VVPAT Slips.

The MP CEO further stated that in the run up to the Legislative Assembly elections 2018, Madhya Pradesh added about 13,000 (21 per cent) additional polling stations as compared to the previous elections. Rajasthan's Chief Electoral Officer Anand Kumar said the reason of delay is because of votes in the electronic voting machine (EVM) have to be matched by randomly selecting a VVPAT from a polling centre in each Assembly constituency.

## 24 MLAs elected to C'garh have criminal cases: ADR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 24 of the 90 MLAs elected to the Chhattisgarh Assembly this week have criminal cases against them. They account for 27 per cent of the strength of the House, up from 17 per cent in the last assembly. As per the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report, 13 of the 90 (just over 14 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases against themselves - bribery, attempt to murder and death by negligence, among others. The comparative number for the 2013 Assembly was nine per cent.

The Congress has 68 MLAs in the new House, including 19 with criminal records (28 per cent). Of these, 12 MLAs have declared serious criminal cases against themselves. Ajit Jogi's Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (J), meanwhile, has strength of five MLAs, two of whom have records. One of these two is

► The increase in the postal ballot votes, slim margins in Madhya Pradesh on many seats and a cautious approach adopted to avoid the embarrassment further, also the reasons for delay in announcement of polls results this year

► The MP CEO explained that when a result is noted from an EVM machine at a counting table, it is written down on part two of Form 17C and the counting agents verify and sign on this sheets which is then photocopied and given to them

► With an average 22 rounds of counting per Assembly constituency, this has led to two hours of delay

accused of serious crimes.

The BJP, which lost power after 15 years, has three MLAs out of 15 (20 per cent) with a record, but none of them are accused of serious crimes. ADR's analysis revealed that 68 (76 per cent) of the incoming MLAs are crorepatris, which is almost the same as the outgoing Assembly's figure of 67.

Forty-eight Congress MLAs (71 per cent), 14 from the BJP (93 per cent), all five MLAs of Jogi's party and one of the BSP's two MLAs fall in this bracket.

"The average of assets per MLA in the Chhattisgarh 2018 Assembly elections is Rs 11.63 crore. In 2013, the average assets of 90 MLAs analysed was Rs 8.88 crore," said the ADR report. The average assets are Rs 11.83 crore for the Congress, Rs 6.32 crore for the BJP, 28.68 crore for the Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (J) and Rs 2.04 crore for the BSP.

## RAFALE DEAL

# Cost comparison not job of court, says SC

Says closely examined jet prices of 2007 & 2016



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday said despite having "examined closely" the pricing details of the basic Rafale fighter jet under the original Request for Proposal (RFP) of 2007 and the one under the Inter-Government Agreement (IGA) in 2016 to "satisfy its conscience", it cannot go into cost comparison as it's not the job of court.

The top court said despite its initial disinclination to even go into the issue of pricing, the Centre was directed to place the cost details of the aircraft in sealed cover, just to satisfy the conscience of the court.

It said the Government has not disclosed the pricing details except for the basic cost of the aircraft even to Parliament on the ground of sensitivity of pricing details and national security, apart from the issues of breach of the agreement between the two countries - India and France.

In relief to the Modi Government, the Supreme Court Friday dismissed the pleas challenging the deal between India and France for procurement of 36 Rafale jets saying there was no occasion to "really doubt the decision making process" warranting setting aside of the contract. The deal is estimated to be Rs 58,000 crore, or about USD 8 billion.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and KM Joseph said the Central Government despite its reluctance, placed the material regarding costs of the aircrafts before the court to satisfy its conscience.

"We have examined close-

ly the price details and comparison of the prices of the basic aircraft along with escalation costs as under the original RFP (of 2007) as well as under the IGA. We have also gone through the explanatory note on the costing, item wise," the Bench said.

It noted that the pricing details of 36 Rafale fighter jets are stated to be covered by Article 10 of the IGA between India and France, which provides for protection of classified information and material exchanged under the IGA and it would be governed by the provisions of the Security Agreement signed between both the Governments on January 25, 2008.

"It is certainly not the job of this court to carry out a comparison of the pricing details in matters like the present. We say no more as the material has to be kept in a confidential domain," the Bench said.

It added even Chief of the

Air Staff is stated to have communicated his reservation regarding the disclosure of the pricing details, including regarding the weaponry which could adversely affect national security.

The Centre has claimed that there is a commercial advantage in the purchase of 36 Rafale aircraft and that there are certain better terms in IGA qua the maintenance and weapon package, it noted.

The pricing details were however shared with the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the report of CAG was examined by the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament and only a redacted portion of the CAG report was placed before the Parliament which is in public domain, the court said. PTI

## Def procurement processes broadly followed: Top court

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday said it cannot seek clause-by-clause compliances of Defence Procurement Procedures (DPP) in the Rafale fighter jet deal and opined that the processes have been "broadly" followed. It also expressed satisfaction with the Government's decision-making process which led to the deal between India and France for procurement of 36 Rafale jets, saying that there was "no occasion to really doubt" it.

Top court, while junking the PILs challenging the Rs 58,000 crore Rafale deal, examined the three "broad areas of concern" - decision-making process, difference in pricing and the choice of Indian Offset Partner by Dassault Aviation.

Scrutinising the decision-making process, a bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said though it had no occasion to really doubt the process, even if there were minor deviations then they would not lead to annulment of the deal. On the DPP, the

court cannot seek "clause-by-clause compliances" of the Defence Procurement Procedures. "Broadly, the processes have been followed".

The Bench, also comprising Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph, said, "We have studied the material carefully. We have also had the benefit of interacting with senior Air Force Officers who answered court queries in respect of different aspects, including that of the acquisition process and pricing."

"We are satisfied that there is no occasion to really doubt the process, and even if minor deviations have occurred, that would not result in either setting aside the contract or requiring a detailed scrutiny by the court." It added, "We have been informed that joint exercises have taken place, and that there is a financial advantage to our nation. It cannot be lost sight of, that these are contracts of defence procurement which should be subject to a different degree and depth of judicial review." PTI

## Curative plea challenging Asthana's appointment as Spl CBI Director dismissed

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has dismissed a curative petition seeking to re-examine its verdict upholding the appointment of Gujarat cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as special director of CBI.

The apex court rejected the curative petition filed by NGO, Common Cause, whose review petition was also earlier held to be devoid of merits.

After an in-chamber hearing, a bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, said, "We have gone through the curative petition and connected papers. In our opinion no case is made out within the parameters indicated in the decision of this court (in the case laying down guidelines to deal with the curative petition)".

The Bench, also comprising Justices MB Lokur, AK Sikri and AM Sapre, passed the order on December 11 and was made public on the apex court's website on Friday.

Curative petition is heard in the chamber of judges in the absence of lawyers.

The decision of the apex court came amidst a bitter feud between Asthana and CBI Director Alok Verma. Both have been divested of powers and sent on leave by the central government on October 23.

The apex court, on November 28, 2017, had dis-



missed the PIL filed by the NGO against the appointment of Asthana to the post of CBI special director, saying it cannot question a "unanimous" decision taken by the selection committee and the decision is not illegal.

Later, the court also dismissed the plea seeking review of the verdict.

The top court had said there cannot be any doubt that if the statute provides for consultation with any person before making a recommendation for appointment to any post, the consultation with that person has to be made.

The NGO in its petition had challenged Asthana's appointment, saying it was illegal as his name had surfaced in a diary recovered during a raid conducted by the Income Tax Department at the offices and other premises of company Sterling Biotech Ltd. PTI

## ED launches probe against Usha Martin's MD

With alleged violations of FEMA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has launched a probe against the Managing Director of Usha Martin, the country's largest steel wire rope maker, in connection with alleged violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA),

agency sources said on Friday. The said agency sleuths questioned Rajeev Jhwar, the MD of the Kolkata-headquartered firm, at their office in the capital of West Bengal on Friday.

The officials recorded Jhwar's statement under FEMA in connection with the purchase and registration of an immovable asset in Singapore in 2013 and a few other overseas transactions.

Jhwar is under the Enforcement Directorate's scanner for alleged irregularities in mobilising funds to create assets abroad.

The agency wants to ascertain the source of funds and compliance of required approvals, the sources said. Jhwar's uncle BK Jhwar and the latter's son Prashant Jhwar are other promoters of the company.

The Competition

Commission had recently cleared Tata Sponge Iron's acquisition of steel business of Usha Martin Ltd. (UML) for Rs 4,300-4,700 crore. UML had earlier said the sale of steel business to Tata Steel will help the company in "significant reduction" of its debt.

Usha Martin is amongst the largest wire rope manufacturers in the world and a leading producer of speciality steel in India.

## Centre grants extension of service of 6 months to IB chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the general elections next year and the defeat of the ruling BJP in the Hindi heartland States' Assembly polls, the Centre has granted extension of service of six months to Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief Rajiv Jain and external Intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) boss Anil Dhasmana. Both were due to retire later this month end.

While Jain's tenure was to end on December 30, Dhasmana was slated to retire from service on December 29.

The decision to extend the tenure of the two intelligence chiefs was taken due to the forthcoming general election and the Centre wants the new Government to take a decision on the appoints for the top

posts of the covert agencies, officials said. Jain, a 1980-batch IPS officer of Jharkhand cadre, was appointed IB Director on December 30, 2016, for a fixed tenure of two years.

A recipient of the President's Police Medal, Jain has served in various departments of IB, including the sensitive Kashmir Desk.

He was advisor to the previous NDA Government's interlocutor on Kashmir KC Pant when talks were held with separatist leaders like Shabbir Shah.

Dhasmana, a 1981-batch officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been with RAW for 23 years, during which he served in important areas, including the Pakistan Desk and is considered an expert on Balochistan.

## Planting of wheat increased marginally: Agri Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Agriculture Ministry data shows that planting of wheat has increased marginally to 233.71 lakh hectare so far in the ongoing rabi season from the same period a year ago, but coverage of other crops especially pulses and rice was still lagging behind. Sowing of rabi (winter) crops begins from October and harvesting from March onwards. Wheat is the main rabi crop.

Wheat was sown in 233.59 lakh hectare in the same period of rabi season in the 2017-18 crop year (July-June). As per the ministry's latest data, wheat acreage in Punjab has increased marginally to 34.34 lakh hectare so far this season from 33.92 lakh hectare a year ago.

Similarly, the area sown to wheat in Haryana has improved slightly to 24.11 lakh



hectare from 23.32 lakh hectare in the said period. The sowing operation in these two States is almost completed, while it is underway in States especially Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Farmers in Madhya Pradesh have planted wheat in more area at 44.57 lakh hectare

so far this season when compared with 37.91 lakh hectare in a year ago.

However in Uttar Pradesh, wheat sowing was still lagging behind at 76.70 lakh hectare so far this season as against 81.90 lakh hectare in the same period last season.

In Rajasthan too, the

acreage was slightly down at 23.49 lakh hectare as against 25.42 lakh hectare in the said period. As per the Ministry's data, total pulses area was down at 125.40 lakh hectare so far this rabi season as against 138.29 lakh hectare in the year ago period.

Oilseeds acreage was also slightly down at 70.22 lakh hectare as against 70.58 lakh hectare in the said period. Coarse cereals area remained lagging behind at 37.55 lakh hectare so far this rabi season as against 47.16 lakh hectare in the year ago.

Rice acreage was also down at 9.24 lakh hectare as against 12.86 lakh hectare in the said period.

Total area sown to all rabi crops remained down at 476.12 lakh hectare so far this rabi season from 502.48 lakh hectare in the year ago period.

## Phethai to hit Andhra by Monday, predicts MeT

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted that cyclone is brewing over the Bay of Bengal and it is expected to hit Andhra Pradesh's coast on Monday afternoon. The cyclone is named 'Phethai' (contributed by Thailand) in line with the naming protocol for cyclones in the North Indian Ocean.

This would be the seventh cyclone this year, starting with 'Sagar', 'Mekunu' and 'Luban' - all in the Arabian Sea - and 'Daye', 'Titli', and 'Gaja' in the Bay of Bengal and third to hit south India in less than two months.

Gaja, Daye, Luban and Titli caused devastation to standing crops and taking a number of lives in southern parts of the country. The IMD predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall has been forecast for coastal Andhra Pradesh on December 16 and 17. South

Chhattisgarh and Odisha may also see rainfall on December 17.

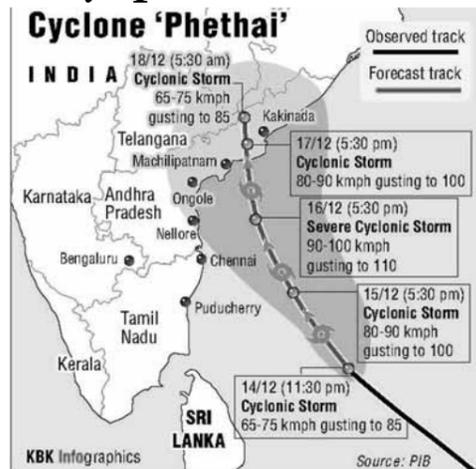
"The Bay of Bengal sees approximately five times as many cyclones as the Arabian Sea. In addition, cyclones in the Bay are stronger and deadlier. But this year could be an exception in terms of the numbers. It has also been seen that nearly 58 per cent of cyclones formed in the Bay reach the coast, as compared to only 25 per cent of those in the Arabian Sea," the IMD officials said.

The IMD said as expected, the low pressure area in Bay of Bengal has now intensified into a well-marked low pressure area and is now seen over Central Bay of Bengal. "Conditions continue to be favourable for the system to induce a depression in the next 24 hours. In fact, we expect it to strengthen into deep depression and further into a cyclonic circulation in the subsequent 48 to 72 hours," it said.

The IMD predicted that severe cyclone would achieve a maximum intensity of wind speeds reaching up to 105 km/hr and gusting to 115 km/hr along and off Andhra Pradesh, north Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts from Saturday evening. "The system would continue to move in north northwest direction and would be heading towards Andhra Pradesh Coast," it said. As the system nears, rains would also start picking up pace and we can expect heavy to very heavy rains over South Coastal Andhra Pradesh. North Coastal Tamil Nadu would see moderate rains with some heavy showers.

"Sea conditions would be rough to very rough, along with high velocity winds. We can expect winds of 80 kmph-90 kmph gusting up to 110-120 kmph at the time of landfall. Locals and fishermen are advised not to venture out in the sea for the next three days," officials said.

severe cyclone would achieve a maximum intensity of wind speeds reaching up to 105 km/hr and gusting to 115 km/hr along and off Andhra Pradesh, north Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts from Saturday evening. "The system would continue to move in north northwest direction and would be heading towards Andhra Pradesh Coast," it said. As the system nears, rains would also start picking up pace and we can expect heavy to very heavy rains over South Coastal Andhra Pradesh. North Coastal Tamil Nadu would see moderate rains with some heavy showers.



## Govt open to 'outside' agencies taking up accreditation of institutions: Javadekar

New Delhi: The Government is open to the idea of roping in "outside" agencies for accreditation of educational institutions, and IITs and IIMs have also been approached in this regard, Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Friday.

"To improve the quality of education, we are making the accreditation process more scientific and tough. The Government wants to increase the strength of the National Board of Accreditation and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council so that more number of institutions can be accredited," Javadekar said during the national conference on "Positioning India on the Global Education Map".

"The Government is open to other agencies taking the responsibility of accreditation, and IITs and IIMs have been asked about it... So that more and more institutions can be accredited," he added.

The Union Minister said ranking and rating of education institutions increase competitiveness among them for better performance.

"Today, because of the National Institute Ranking Framework, every institution has constituted an internal committee to improve their ranking. Students also take into account the institution's ranking before taking admission," he said.

"Graded autonomy is another major step by the Government to boost quality education in the country. Universities will remain within the ambit of the UGC but will have the freedom to start new courses, off campus centres, skill development courses, research parks and any other new academic programmes.

"They will also have the freedom to hire foreign faculty, enrol foreign students, give incentive-based emoluments to the faculty, enter academic collaborations and run open distance learning programmes," he added. PTI

NARENDRA DABHOLKAR MURDER CASE

# CBI fails to file chargesheet

## 3 accused get bail

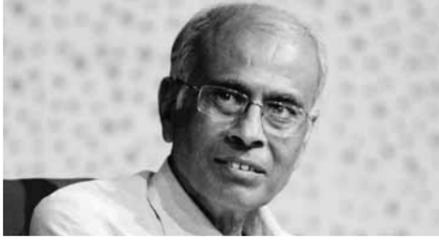
By RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a sad commentary on the functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), a Pune court on Friday granted bail to the three accused in the Narendra Dabholkar murder case, after the CBI failed to file a supplementary chargesheet in the case within the stipulated 90 days.

Pune's First Class Judicial Magistrate SMA Sayyed granted bail to accused Amol Kale, Rajesh Bangera and Amit Degvekar, after the CBI failed to file the chargesheet against them within the stipulated 90 days after their arrest.

The relief to three accused came a day after they moved the court for bail on the ground that the CBI had not sought additional time from the court to file the supplementary charge-sheet under section 43 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

Kale, Bangera and Degvekar are also accused in the journalist Gauri Lankesh murder case. The CBI had arrested Bangera and Degvekar on September 1, while Kale was arrested on September 3. The



CBI had in the first week of September obtained the custody of Kale, Bangera and Degvekar from the Karnataka's Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigate their links with the Dabholkar murder case.

The contention of the three accused was that neither the chargesheet was filed under IPC nor did the CBI seek additional time from the court to file the supplementary charge-sheet under UAPA.

At Friday's hearing, a request was made on behalf of the CBI that the probe agency be given time till December 20 to file the chargesheet on the ground that its officials were pre-occupied with some other work in Delhi, the CBI. However, Magistrate Sayyed rejected the CBI's request on the ground that it should have filed the chargesheet on Wednesday when the 90-day deadline expired.

However, there have been

many occasions in the past when the Bombay High Court had pulled up the CBI for the inordinate delay in completing investigations in the Narendra Dabholkar murder case.

The Supreme Court had said on Tuesday that if there was a "common thread" among the murders of social activists Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, journalist Gauri Lankesh and rationalist M M Kalburgi, then one agency could investigate all the four cases.

Sixty nine-year-old anti-superstition campaigner Dabholkar was shot dead from a point blank range by two motor-bicycle riding gunmen — aged between 25 and 30 years, while he was taking a morning walk on the Omkareshwar bridge located in the heart of Pune, on August 20, 2013.

Gauri Lankesh (55) was shot gunned down outside her Bengaluru residence on

September 5, 2017. She was the editor in Lankesh Patrike, a Kannada weekly started by her late father P. Lankesh. After Lankesh's death, Gauri used to her own weekly called Gauri Lankesh Patrike.

With the State police having failed to make any headway in the investigations into the Dabholkar murder case, the Bombay High Court had transferred the case to the CBI on May 9, 2014, after overruling the objections raised by the Maharashtra Government. The CBI had registered a case on June 2, 2014, on the high court's orders.

It was the Karnataka SIT that arrested Kale, Bangera and Degvekar first in connection with the Dabholkar murder case. The CBI, which is helped by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in the investigations, has a strong reason to believe that the same pistol was used by the miscreants in killing both Dabholkar and Gauri Lankesh.

While Kale is former Pune unit convener of Hindu Janajagruti Samiti, an affiliate outfit of Sanathan Sanstha, Digvekar was a promoter of Sanatan Sanstha's publication the Sanatan Prabhat. Bangera allegedly trained two sharpshooters Sachin Andhure and Sharad Kalaskar in handling the pistol.

# Congress planning to go it alone in Bengal

By SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal unit of the Congress Party is planning to contest single handedly in the next year's Lok Sabha elections, party insiders say.

The Pradesh Congress leadership has been given a clear mandate by the Central leadership to take a decision on its system of alliances, sources said. The decision is the fallout of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's prior announcement to go it alone in the general elections.

"Our workers are being attacked and killed and their houses and properties looted every day by the Trinamool Congress people. They are being framed in false cases. So the Congress plans to take on the TMC alone on its own strength," PCC president Somen Mitra said.

Insiders however said its public posturing apart, the PCC still might wait for a "respectable offer" from the Trinamool without which the party will go it alone in the elections.

The PCC is divided in three groups. The first group led by former PCC president Adhir Chowdhury and State Opposition Leader Abdul Mannan who want an alliance with the Left Front. The second



group led by the likes of Subhankar Chakrabarty, AH Khan Chowdhury feel the Congress has no chances of winning without support from the Trinamool. The third groups led by the likes of MP Pradip Bhattacharya want to go it alone.

Mitra a veteran party leader of 1960s and 70s has asked the lower rung leaders to reach out to the people and strengthen the organisation "where we have a bigger presence." The Congress currently has four MPs in Bengal. While two seats are from Murshidabad the two others are from Malda district.

However the party alleges

that its organisational base has been "gobbled up" by the Trinamool Congress which has either by muscle power or lure of money forced a large number of our local workers to join their side."

Mitra said "we will have to rebuild our organisation in many places. The victories in Rajasthan, MP and Chhattisgarh shows that we still can do it even in Bengal. If we start working from now then we can definitely challenge the TMC."

On whether the party will still go with the Trinamool if they offer a respectable alliance, he said "they have not approached us, neither we will go to them begging for seats."

# Kumar Vishwas may join BJP

By PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Rae Bareilly, the parliamentary constituency of United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi, on December 16 could throw some surprises as there is a possibility that rebel Aam Admi Party (AAP) leader and poet Kumar Vishwas may join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in his presence.

Though sources close to the poet denied such a move, and there is a tradition that no politics is involved during the Prime Minister's function, sources in the BJP confirmed in Lucknow on Friday that there is a strong possibility of Kumar Vishwas joining the party.

"There is a surprise for you. Wait till Sunday," a senior BJP leader said. In 2014, Kumar Vishwas contested the Lok Sabha election from Amethi constituency on AAP ticket and in 2019 he could be the BJP candidate in place of Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani.

But sources in the BJP claimed that Vishwas could be shifted to Rae Bareilly to contest against Sonia Gandhi, while Irani could contest against Rahul Gandhi from Amethi again.



**Govt. of Bihar**  
**Department of Science and Technology**  
 Muzaffarpur Institute of Technology, Muzaffarpur, Bihar, India. Pin - 842003  
**1. NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
 (Through e-Procurement mode only over <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>)  
 Tender Notice No:02/2018-19/DST/MIT-M-150 Date: 08-12-2018  
 E-tenders are invited for Muzaffarpur Institute of Technology under two bid systems from reputed organizations/companies by this Department for Procurement of Machine & Equipment, furniture etc. for Mechanical, Pharmacy & Super I-way Lab, Conference Room & Library and publisher/distributors/registered suppliers for Books for the Library at MIT Muzaffarpur.

Sl. No.	Scope of work	Cost of tender document (In Rupees) (inclusive of GST @18.00%) to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit card)	Tender processing Fee (Non Refundable) (inclusive of GST @18.00%) to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit card)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rupees) Refundable
01.	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training & Maintenance of Machinery and equipment of Advanced Manufacturing Practice Lab under Mechanical Department at MIT Muzaffarpur	Rs. 1,000.00	Rs. 1,180	Rs. 20,000.00
02.	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training & Maintenance of Tribology Lab under Mechanical Department at MIT Muzaffarpur	Rs. 1,000.00	Rs. 1,180	Rs. 14,000.00
03.	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training & Maintenance of Computational Fluid flow Lab & Computational Heat Transfer Lab (computer based) under Mechanical Department at MIT Muzaffarpur	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,180	Rs. 1,00,000.00
04.	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training & Maintenance of Super I-way Lab at MIT Muzaffarpur	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,180	Rs. 40,000.00
05.	Supply of Books for M.Tech & B.Tech for Library at MIT Muzaffarpur	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,180	Rs. 40,000.00
06.	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training & Maintenance of Pharmacology Lab of Pharmacy Department at MIT Muzaffarpur	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,180	Rs. 9,500.00
07.	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training & Maintenance of Pharmacognosy Lab of Pharmacy Department at MIT Muzaffarpur	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,180	Rs. 23,500
08.	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training & Maintenance of Pharmaceutical Chemistry Lab of Pharmacy Department at MIT Muzaffarpur	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,180	Rs. 19,500
09.	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training & Maintenance of Pharmaceutics Lab of Pharmacy Department at MIT Muzaffarpur	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,180	Rs. 18,500
10.	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training & Maintenance of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology Lab of Pharmacy Department at MIT Muzaffarpur	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,180	Rs. 23,000
11.	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training & Maintenance of Central Instrumentation Lab of Pharmacy Department at MIT Muzaffarpur	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,180	Rs. 50,000
12.	Supply of Chair for library from standard company like Godrej, Promark etc.	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,180	Rs. 2,200
13.	Supply of revolving chair, visitor chair, office chair, conference table and conference mic system for conference room at MIT Muzaffarpur	Rs. 1000	Rs. 1,180	Rs. 41,500

1. The DD of earnest money shall be in favour of Principal, Muzaffarpur Institute of Technology, Muzaffarpur payable at Muzaffarpur.  
 2. In case any package is not approved by purchase committee, the cost of tender document fee & tender processing fee will not be refunded. Only earnest money is refundable.  
 3. The rate should be quoted for the entire package, but the bidder is supposed to quote the cost of each item of the package also. The comparison will be based on the total price of package only. If the rate of any item in any package is missing, then the tender will not be considered for comparison of that particular package.  
 4. Bidder can apply even for one package.  
 The details of specification & other information of each package is available on [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) and [www.mitmuzaffarpur.org](http://www.mitmuzaffarpur.org) and can be downloaded from 25/12/2018. The last date of receiving the tender is 15/01/2019. The tender can be sent by Registered post/speed post/courier only. The tender by hand will not be accepted.  
 For further details please visit website [www.prbihar.gov.in](http://www.prbihar.gov.in)

Principal  
 MIT Muzaffarpur  
 आओ सब मिलकर बात करें, बंद हो देहज, शुरूआत करें।

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that a unknown dead body of male, Age about 02 years, Height 1'6", Wearing Green colour T-shirt and yellow colour nikkar was found dead at Haiderpur Canal, Delhi on 26.08.18. In this regard a vide DD No. 10-A dated 26.08.18 has been lodged at PS K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi

Any person having any information or clue about this dead body may kindly inform to the undersigned.

SHO  
 PS: K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi  
 Ph.: 27571762, 27571153

DP/2379/RD/18

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is here by informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **Unknown**, residence and family: **Unknown** about 30 years of age was found dead in front of Shamsan Ghat, Sector-3, Rohini Delhi on 09.12.2018. In this regard a FIR/DD No. 57-A dated 09.12.2018 has been registered at Police Station South Rohini, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-  
**Sex:** Male, **Age:** 30 years, **Height:** 5'3" ft., **ID Mark:** Tattoo Mark on right hand, **Wearing:** Gray & white colour Jersey & Green colour pant.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

SHO  
 P.S. South Rohini, Delhi  
 Ph. No. -011-27512189  
 Mob. No -8750870331

DP/2377/RD/18

**UJVN Limited**  
 H.O. : "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
 Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax No. 0135-2763508  
 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com)

**Tender Notice**  
 The office of Executive Engineer (E&M), Joshiyara Barrage Joshiyara (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tenders from interested firms for following work/supply:  
**NIT No. - 14/EE (E&M)/BARRAGE/18-19:** Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of LT Control Panel and other work at substation of Joshiyara Barrage MB-II Uttarkashi.  
 Estimated Cost : Rs. 21,11,200/- Only (GST Extra)  
 Earnest Money : Rs. 64,000/- Only  
 Tender document Fee : Rs. 1180/- Only  
 Last date of downloading the tender : 07.01.2019  
 Last date of submitting the tender : 08.01.2019 upto 15:30 Hrs.  
 Due date for opening the tender : 11.01.2019 at 11:00 Hrs.  
 For eligibility criteria and fuller & further details kindly visit our website [www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com). Bidders are advised to regularly visit our website for further details, subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc.  
 Executive Engineer  
 733/UJVNL/AdvJ Dated 14-12-2018 "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

### Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one male dead body of Name: **Unknown**, S/o: **Unknown**, R/o: **Unknown**, Age: 55 years Approx., Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Sex: Male, Wearing: Navy Blue Guard Dress, was found dead on 07.11.2018, Place of Recovery: Near Badli Metro Station Opp. Suraj Park Jhuggi, Delhi. In this regard FIR/DD No. 70-A, has been lodged at PS Samaipur Badli, Delhi, on 07.11.2018. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO  
 PS Samaipur Badli, Delhi  
 Ph.: 011- 27854757

DP/2378/RD/18

# Private Medical Colleges in TN come under court scanner for lack of facilities

By KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

A Madras High Court order delivered on Thursday asking the Tamil Nadu Government to shift 150 MBBS students from a private medical college in Kancheepuram to Government run medical colleges exposed the rot that has set in the medical education system, at least in the State.

Justice T Raja, while disposing a series of petitions filed by the students of Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Institute of Medical Sciences (PRIMS) complaining about the lack of infrastructure in the college asked the Tamil Nadu Government to shift the 150 students from the college to the 22 Government-run medical colleges in the State.

This is not the first time the Madras High Court is issuing an order like this. The year 2017 saw the court ordering the shifting of 144 students from Annai Medical College and Hospital to government-run medical colleges. Dr C V Krishnaswamy, highly respected medical doctor in Tamil Nadu told The Pioneer that the regulatory mechanism in the

State need to be beefed up to save the students from fly-by-night operators. "Most of the private colleges have found to be wanting when it comes to infrastructure facilities and qualified teachers," said Dr Krishnaswamy.

Though the PRIMS did not meet the mandatory requirements, the college authorities managed to get the essentiality certificate from the State government in August 2014 which authorised the institution to admit 150 students every year to the MBBS course. But the Medical Council of India opposed the move by the Tamil Nadu government to issue essentiality certificate and Letter of Permission pointing out that PRIMS had many short comings. This included shortage of outpatients, low bed occupancy and non-availability of blood bank.

But the College authorities managed to get the permission based on a Supreme Court verdict based on the report submitted by the Oversight Committee. The Central Government issued the Letter of Permission in August 2016 which allowed the intake of students from the academic year

2016-17. But the students faced number of problems in the college from day one onwards because of shortcomings in infrastructure.

Dr GR Raveendranath, general secretary, Doctors Association for Social Equality (DASE), said the court orders were reflective of the inefficiency and corruption prevailing in the sector. "It is all because of the essentiality certificate issued by the State Government that the PRIMS could commence MBBS course. The fact that an essentiality certificate was issued to an institution which does not meet the mandatory requirements itself has to be probed comprehensively," said Dr Raveendranath.

He also pointed out that admitting students from private medical colleges to government run colleges was counter productive in all respects. "The government-run colleges have already filled the classes with students. There is a student-teacher ratio as well as other limitations in the government colleges. Admitting students midway in the course cause lot of hardship to other students and teachers," said Raveendranath.

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed cover tender is invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Tripura from the bonafide contractors of Tripura for construction of maintenance of the SP (EB) office building no.2 at A.D. Nagar, Agartala.

2. A copy of Tender Notice may be obtained at free of cost from the Office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours up to 1300 hours from 06-12-2018 to 30-12-2018. The closing time/date of the tender is 1300 hours on 30-12-2018.

3. Detailed Tender Notice and terms & conditions may also be seen at following web site:- [www.triprapolice.nic.in](http://www.triprapolice.nic.in) [www.tripura.nic.in](http://www.tripura.nic.in)

Sd/-  
 (Manik Das. TPS.)  
 Superintendent of Police (EB)  
 ICA/C-1933/18 Tripura : Agartala

**CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE**  
 (Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)  
 61-65, Institutional Area, Opp. D-Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110 058

**Walk-in-Interview**  
 Eligible candidates are invited for a walk-in-interview for engagement to the contractual post of **Consultant (Budget)**, on 27.12.2018 at 11.00 A.M., at CCRUM, 5th floor, 61-65, Institutional Area, Opp. D Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi.

1. Full details of the post, eligibility conditions, age limit, remuneration etc. are available on the website of the Council, i.e. [ccrum.res.in](http://ccrum.res.in).  
 2. The eligibility of the candidates will be determined as on the date of advertisement.  
 3. The requirement is purely for a short duration and engagement shall be initially for a period of six months.  
 4. Eligible applicants should come with the Curriculum Vitae in the prescribed format, which can be downloaded from the website of the Council i.e. [ccrum.res.in](http://ccrum.res.in). They should also bring valid identity proof and original educational/professional qualification certificates, experience certificate(s) with a set of photocopies and two recent passport size photographs.

- Sd/-  
 Assistant Director (Admn.)  
 for and on behalf of Director General, CCRUM

# Bulandshahr violence STF seeks Nepal police help to nab prime accused

**Lucknow:** Sleuths of the Special Task Force have sought the help of Nepal police to arrest prime accused in Bulandshahr violence and Bajrang Dal's city chief Yogesh Raj.

The violence which erupted in Bulandshahr on December 3 claimed the lives of the Inspector of Syana police station and a local youth.

"We have inputs that to avert his arrest, Raj has fled to Nepal. We are in contact with our Nepalese counterparts and are trying to drop the net on the mastermind of Bulandshahr violence," said a senior STF officer posted in west UP.

On Thursday night, the STF team arrested another accused, identified as Saurabh Payal, from Bulandshahr. He was produced in a local court on Friday morning and the court sent him to jail. Earlier, the probe agencies had arrested armyman Jitendra Malik aka Jeetu Fauji in connection with the Bulandshahr violence. Later, a hunt was launched for arresting some aides of the armyman who were at the scene on the fateful day.

Interestingly, all accused named in the FIR and with saffron links have been freely uploading videos on social sites and giving interviews, pleading their innocence, but the law enforcers have preferred to look the other way. **PTI**

# Former Minister leaves 'sinking ship' AIADMK

## ...and lands on DMK's safe shores

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

With former Minister Senthil Balaji joining the DMK on Friday, the process of disintegration of the AIADMK has reached the full steam. Hundreds of his followers too accompanied Balaji in his journey from Karur to Chennai and then to the DMK headquarters at Mount Road in the metro.

Balaji and his followers were welcomed into the DMK by party chief MK Stalin. It was a home coming for Senthil Balaji who had left the DMK in 2000 to join the AIADMK and was elected thrice to the Legislative Assembly in the party ticket.

"The AIADMK is a sinking ship and Thalpathi (Tamil for commander, as Stalin is addressed by his followers) is the only leader who is capable of resuscitating Tamil Nadu from the clutches of the BJP," Balaji told reporters after enrolling himself as a DMK volunteer.

Hereafter he will address Stalin as Thalpathi and Jayalalithaa as Jayalalitha. Before reaching Chennai on Friday morning, Balaji and his followers had removed the pictures of Jayalalitha and Sasikala from their shirt pockets, cars and SUVs. By the time they left the DMK head quarters, all vehicles in the motorcade accompanying Balaji spotted pictures of Stalin and Karunanidhi.

TTV Dhinakaran, general secretary of Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), the breakaway faction of the



Former Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji joins DMK in the presence of party president MK Stalin, at the party headquarters in Chennai on Friday. PTI

AIADMK launched by VK Sasikala (aide to late J Jayalalitha) wished Senthil Balaji as the best in his new innings in the DMK. "I don't know why he decided to leave us. If he had any genuine problems and had told us about it, we could have sorted it out," said Dhinakaran in Friday. Balaji was a camp follower of Dhinakaran and the AMMK before he cast his lots with the DMK.

G Satyamurthy, political commentator and columnist said the exit of Balaji was not going to make any impact on the fortunes of the AIADMK or the AMMK. "Both are fast disintegrating and I do not know whether the AIADMK would survive the 2021 Assembly election. The ground report is that the AIADMK would be wiped out in the Lok Sabha election," said Satyamurthy who is also sceptical about the strength of Dhinakaran.

"AIADMK does not have a

charismatic leader who could match the calibre of Jayalalitha to pull it through the troubled times. I am not sure about the capabilities of Dhinakaran," said Satyamurthy. He also said Senthil Balaji joining the DMK is also media hype. "You wait for a couple of weeks and see what happens to him and Dhinakaran. Tamil Nadu politics is getting churned," he said.

Dr V Mythreyan, MP and senior leader of the AIADMK said there is no possibility of his party's merger with the Dhinakaran faction. "O Panneerselvam, our convener, has made it clear that there is no question of aligning with the Sasikala family dominated party and the subject ends there," Mythreyan said.

This puts to rest at least for the time being, reports about the possibilities of merger between the rival factions which were being highlighted by the local media.

# Yogi asks Rahul to apologise for Rafale lies

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hitting out at the Congress President, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said Rahul Gandhi told lies about the Rafale fighter aircraft deal and he should apologise to the people and defence personnel for spreading canards to get political mileage.

"The oldest political party of the country has failed to perform its duty. It has threatened the nation's security and integrity by questioning the Rafale deal which was initiated by their government but was later shelved as they could not

find any middleman like (Ottavio) Quattrocchi or (Christian) Michel," the Chief Minister said while speaking to news persons in Lucknow on Friday.

Yogi was reacting to a Supreme Court judgement in which a three-member bench gave a clean chit to the Rafale deal. The judgement came as a shot in the arm for the sagging morale of the Bharatiya Janata Party, which promptly used the verdict as a hammer to beat the Congress.

The Chief Minister also asked the Congress why its government delayed the Rafale

deal during its tenure from 2007 to 2014.

"Was the party in power searching for brokers like they did during the previous defence deals?" Yogi asked in an oblique reference to the Bofors deal.

Yogi said that Rahul Gandhi should also disclose the source of his information on Rafale deal as it seemed that his statement against the government was an attempt to weaken the country's security.

"The statements made by the Congress chief were more alarming as neighbouring countries are equipped with the latest aircraft and other defence

technology," he said.

The Chief Minister also suggested to the judiciary not to entertain frivolous public interest petitions (PILs) which could affect the security and integrity of the country.

"This is a fact that these PILs were filed just to reap political mileage and defame the government. The court should take strict action against such PILs," he said.

Yogi welcomed the decision of the SC in rejecting all petitions filed against the Rafale aircraft deal and claimed that the judiciary's verdict was a clear indication that nothing



was wrong in the deal. "The SC judgement has exposed the false propaganda of the Congress. The grand old party defamed the Central government and the BJP merely for political reasons," Yogi said.



Congress party workers celebrate after the party named Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot for Rajasthan Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister's posts respectively, in Ajmer, on Friday. PTI

# J&K becomes 1st State to have law banning 'sextortion'

PTI ■ JAMMU

Jammu & Kashmir has become the first State in the country to have a law banning sexual exploitation of women by those in positions of authority, having a fiduciary relationship or a public servant.

The State Administrative Council (SAC) under the chairmanship of Governor Satya Pal Malik on Friday approved the 'Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018' and the 'Jammu & Kashmir Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018', an official spokesman said.

The Jammu & Kashmir Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2018 seeks to amend the Ranbir Penal Code, whereby specific offence under section 354 E is being inserted to provide for the offence of 'sextortion', he said.

# Student dies during tug of war game in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a freak mishap, a 22-year-old college student collapsed and died during a tug of war game at Somaiya College at Vidya Vihar in north-east Mumbai late on Thursday evening.

A resident of Thane city, Jibbin Sunny was leading one of the two teams in the tug of war game when the incident took place.

The tournament had been organised as part of the college's annual sports day.

The video footage of the mishap, which went viral on Friday, showed that Sunny collapsed after he put the rope around his neck and pulled it with more power.

Sunny was rushed to the nearby Rajawadi Hospital where he died during treatment.

While the cause of death was not immediately known, Sunny's body has been sent for post-mortem.

This is perhaps the first death that taken place in the metropolis during a tug of war game.

# JD(U) not in favour of Ordinance for Ram temple: RCP Singh

PTI ■ PATNA

Key NDA constituent JD(U) on Friday made it clear that it was not in favour of promulgation of an ordinance to facilitate the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, demand for which has been made by the sangh parivar and a section of the BJP.

JD(U) national general secretary Ram Chandra Prasad Singh said the party will stick to its earlier stand it had taken on the issue in its earlier avatar as the Samata Party which was — the issue either be solved by mutual consent between the affected communities or decided by a court of law.

There should be no confusion in the minds of the people with regard to our stand on Ram temple issue at Ayodhya. If an ordinance is promulgated to facilitate construction of the temple, our party will not support it, he said.

"Since the Samata Party days, we have been in favour of a resolution of the dispute by mutual consent or through a court order. We brook no third alternative," Singh, who is also the party's leader in the Rajya Sabha and a confidant of Chief

Minister Nitish Kumar told reporters here.

Even before walking out of the NDA in 2013, the JD(U) had always insisted that abrogating Article 370, Ram temple in Ayodhya and Uniform Civil Code should be kept out of the coalition agenda. JD(U), headed by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, is running a coalition government with the BJP in Bihar.

# BJP-called shutdown derails Kerala

IAN ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A dawn-to-dusk shutdown called by the BJP to protest against the death of a man said to be a Sabarimala devotee derailed Kerala on Friday, sparking widespread anger over the disruption to normal life.

The 50-year-old Venugopalan Nair set himself on fire at a BJP protest venue on Thursday and succumbed to his injuries in a hospital here.

But in his dying declaration, he made no mention of the Sabarimala temple.

Before being taken to the public crematorium, his body was brought to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) protest venue where party leaders paid their last respect.

But the rationale for calling the shutdown came under fire from the ruling CPI-M, Congress, business groups as well as the man on the street.

# Annual rejuvenation camp for TN temple elephants begins

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

The 11th edition of annual rejuvenation camp for temple elephants in Tamil Nadu began at Thekkampatti on the banks of Bhavani River on Friday.

State Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister Sevor S Ramachandran inaugurated the camp along with forest minister Dindigul Serinivasan and Municipal Administration Minister S P Velumani.

Ramachandran said 27 elephants from various temples and mutts had been brought for participation in the 48-day camp, a pet project of late Chief Minister Jayalalitha.

Adequate medical care will be provided to the elephants at the camp, with special veterinarian teams, he said adding nutritious food with special diet would be given.

Meanwhile, about 40 farmers of surrounding 23 villages attempted to stage a picketing of the road near the venue, opposing the camp at the location, claiming threat to the people and crops by wild elephants which stray into their area in view of the presence of temple jumbos.

# Hope BJP also wait for SC's Babri Masjid verdict: Mehbooba

Mumbai: On a day the Supreme Court dismissed pleas challenging the Rafale deal, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said the BJP should also wait for the apex court's verdict on the Babri Masjid issue.

In a relief to the Modi Government, the Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the pleas challenging the deal between India and France for procurement of 36 Rafale jets saying there was no occasion to "really doubt the decision mak-

ing process" warranting setting aside of the contract.

"Like the Rafale decision was welcomed, I hope they (the BJP) will wait for the decision (of Supreme Court) on Babri Masjid as well and won't start pointing fingers at the SC. We have an institution which is highly respected," Mehbooba said.

She was replying to questions at an event held by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

The Rashtriya

Swayamsevaka Sangh (RSS) has been demanding an ordinance or a law to build a Ram temple in Ayodhya at the earliest. It had also criticised the Supreme Court's decision to defer the hearing in the land dispute case, saying it "hurt" Hindu sentiments.

Several Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders have also supported RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's push for the law to enable the construction of Ram temple. PTI

# Lingayat politics back to haunt Kumaraswamy

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

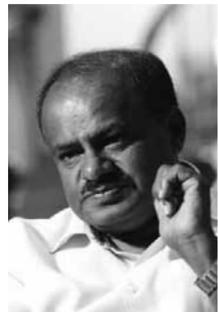
The decision of Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy and coalition partner Congress to appoint Pratap Chandra Shetty, a Congress leader from coastal Karnataka as Chairman of the Legislative Council (upper House) has made both the JD(S) and the Congress leaders fuming against the decision of the Chief Minister.

The decision has upset the former pro tem chairman of the council (of the JD(S)) Basavaraja Horatti (who was Siddaramaiah's candidate) both Lingayat leaders have openly criticised the Congress and the JD(S). Along with it another powerful Lingayat leader from north Karnataka and former water resource Minister MB Patil also directly hit at Kumaraswamy and many say this might help BJP

to consolidate in favour of the party which is playing Lingayat card successfully in many elections. The Lingayat drama unfolded in the ongoing Winter Session of the Assembly where Kumaraswamy is facing the heat both inside and the outside. Sugarcane farmers are protesting and pressuring for the MSP and also to get the dues cleared.

The Lingayats are a powerful community which constitute over 19 per cent of the state population. The BJP has been polarising Lingayat votes keeping its strongman from the same community BS Yeddyurappa and this might help them to work out a strategy in the ensuing 2019 general elections.

Even though the Congress victory in the Hindi heartland has given ammunition to the coalition partners, the century old party has failed to douse the fire. In another political devel-



opment Siddaramaiah who is the chairman of the coordination committee of the coalition Government has cut short his foreign visit and back in Bengaluru to handle the changing political developments. Many Congress MLAs are waiting for the December 22 for the Cabinet expansion. According to sources after the

victory in MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh the party may not expand the Cabinet which might lead to more dissent in the party.

The State Governments acceptance on the floor of the house that only 800 farmers have benefited from the ₹49,000 crore farm loan waiver till now has given ammunition to the BJP and also dissidents within the coalition partners.

A senior Congress leader said "the party which extended support to JDs to form the government has ignored the Lingayat leaders in the party who were involved in the movement for a separate and minority religion tag to the community. The Centre also rejected their demand and the leaders who led the movement are left in a lurch in process".

Soon after stepping down as the pro-tem chairman of the legislative council, Basavaraja Horatti, blamed his leader

Kumaraswamy and asked him not become a rubber stamp.

He said, "I want to tell my leader and Chief Minister Kumaraswamy not to end up as a mere rubber stamp of the Congress. My party asked me to file the nomination but after we realised that the Congress was fielding its candidate, we backed out to save the coalition from embarrassment," he added.

He said, "The Congress drove a hard bargain for the portfolios during the cabinet formation. They had then demanded the speaker's post while agreeing to give the chairman's post to the JD(S). But now, they have unilaterally decided to stake claim to the council top post. Can you run a coalition without rules?"

Former water resources minister MB Patil of the Congress has questioned the Government on North-South disparity when it comes to allocation of prime positions by

the Congress is miffed with the party over not being given a Cabinet berth. He said "more number of Congress legislators (41) had been elected from north Karnataka, but only five of them had made ministers. In contrast, 36 legislators have been elected from South Karnataka, but nine of them have been made ministers".

"All the prime portfolios like Home, Water Resources, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj have gone to legislators from South Karnataka. Important positions like Deputy Chief Minister, Speaker of the Assembly, Chairman of the Council too have gone to legislators from the South" he added.

He said he will be writing a letter to Congress president Rahul Gandhi regarding this. "This disparity should go and the imbalance should be set right. The post of chairman should have gone to SR Patil," he added.

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**PRESS SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
The Ex. Engineer (E&M)-II, invites tenders on behalf of Commissioner SDMC through online item rate tenders on the website <https://www.tenderwizards.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER> from the reputed and eligible contractors in two part bidding system i.e. Technical bid and Price bid as per schedule given below:  
Issue of Tender document form : 14.12.18 at 04:30PM, Tender Closing of bid : 20.12.18 at 11:00 AM, Opening of Technical bid : 20.12.18 at 11:30 AM, Opening of Financial bid : 20.12.18 at 01:00 PM, S.No. 1, Name of Work: Engagement of 35 nos. drivers for a period of 03 month for operation of water tankers under SDMC. Head of file: F-100-1064, Tender Amt.-2387609, EMD: 48000, Tender Cost: 500, Time of Compl.: 90 days, Rate hold good for: 120 days, Rate: IR, Other detailed terms and conditions can be seen on the website <https://www.tenderwizards.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER>  
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**Corrigendum-IV**  
Notice Invited Tender No. 227/UH/MI/XP/IV/M/04/1990 DATED: 25-08-2018  
Extension in due dates against tender enquiry No. QH-1/1990 for procurement of GI Wire 8 SWG (4mm) are notified for information of all concerned.

Sr. No.	Particulars	Date and Time
1	Bid Preparation & Submission (Bidder Stage)	27-12-2018 at 13:00 Hrs.
2	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids	27-12-2018 at 15:00 Hrs.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.  
Detailed information can also be obtained from website <https://haryanaspurchaseprocurement.gov.in> and [www.uhbvn.org.in/portal/tenders](http://www.uhbvn.org.in/portal/tenders).  
RO No. 74154 Dt. 14-12-2018

**ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE NORTH DIVISION, NEW DELHI

e-procurement Tender Notice  
Tender ID. No. : 2018\_NDMC\_163702\_1  
Name of work : Hiring of two vehicles for break-downs/maintenance works in 11KV Maintenance North division (Elect.) for the period of one year.  
Estimated Cost : Rs. 14,52,384/- (Rupees Fourteen Lacs Fifty Two Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Four Only)

Earnest Money : Rs. 29,048/-  
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 13.12.2018  
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 26.12.2018 at 3:30 PM  
Date/Time for opening of bid through e-procurement solution : 26.12.2018 at 4:00 PM  
Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
Note : - To participate in tender in NDMC registration with E-tendering system of government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory. Sd/ EE (E) MN

**noida New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)  
Website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see this website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

**A (1) 121/DGM(JAL)/AO/SM(JAL)-II/2018-19** Water Supply Scheme for Sector-78 (Electric Power Connection for UGR & Tube Wells), Noida. Cost 58.45 Lacs. **(2) 125/DGM(JAL)/AO/SM(JAL)-II/2018-19** Water Supply Scheme for Sector-74, Noida. (P/L Distribution Supply Line) Cost Rs. 68.20 Lacs. **(3) 127/DGM(JAL)/AO/SM(JAL)-II/2018-19** Strengthening of Water Supply (Reboring of Tube Well No.-5/56 & 6/56), Noida. (Erection of New Boring, S/F Pumping Plant, Making Foundation, Chain Pulley Stand & Connection for Tube Well). Cost 48.57 Lacs. The above tenders can be uploaded by date 28.12.2018 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 31.12.2018 at 11.00 AM.  
(BABU RAM) SENIOR MANAGER (JAL)-I NOIDA  
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## The Rafale soars

The Supreme Court's putting down of the allegations on the jet deal is welcome news for the Modi Government



Before a bench headed by the Chief Justice of India, Ranjan Gogoi, pronounced their judgement on whether further investigations were necessary on the Rafale case, both sides — the ruling BJP and the rabble-rousers who have been hammering on about this case egged on by Rahul Gandhi himself — were prepared for a very different judgement. Some in the ruling dispensation had steeled themselves for an unfavourable judgement. The expectation of a Court-monitored Special Investigative Team (SIT) kept all of Narendra Modi's detractors happy. After all, the opposition seems to have pinned down a strategy of painting Modi as corrupt, both financially and morally. So much so that when the judgement was read out, emotions went in completely opposite directions. The BJP deflated after the recent state poll results where there is no doubt that the Rafale deal played a part, got a booster shot when the expected prognosis was worse. The Congress and its army of rabble-rousers were shocked into silence in social media, and this was not even a Chief Justice about whom they could spread insinuations like they did with the recently retired Justice Dipak Misra. All they could do was latch on to the court's observation that the CAG report on Rafale was given to the Parliament's Public Account Committee, which they claimed was not true.

But the happiest people today ought to be the strategists in the Defence Ministry and the officers and men of the Indian Air Force. With the Rafale deal now certified by the Supreme Court, there is no doubt that the first of the planes manufactured in France will land in India in late 2019. It was as if in anticipation of the verdict that Dassault, the manufacturers of the fighter jet, released a picture of the first plane to be delivered to India undergoing flight testing off the French Atlantic coast. However with India's frontline fighter fleet severely depleted and still depending on 30 to 40-year-old jets, the approval of this deal will not change the situation dramatically on the frontlines. India needs to place a follow-up order to these 36 planes as soon as possible, and while the Defence Ministry has issued a Request for Information from global manufacturers for a 110-plane order, one hopes that does not descend into a horrible farce all over again. We are not only at risk for a technically-advanced and burgeoning People's Liberation Army Air Force but also at risk of losing pilots unnecessarily because they fly outdated jets older than themselves. One way to ensure this is that the government does take the opposition at least in confidence about the necessity of the deal and why the winning contender was selected. The need for new fighter jets for the Indian Air Force should trump politics, and so should be the need to develop a private sector military-industrial complex. The government should have been less arrogant and the Opposition should have resorted to less grandstanding on this issue. Now that everything has been resolved, we should bury the body of the Rafale scam and hope that its ghost stays six feet underground.

## Generational conflict

Rahul Gandhi has a tough job in keeping both his CMs and his peers harmonised till 2019



Congress chief Rahul Gandhi may scream "united colours of Rajasthan" and claim the diversity of experience and youth, maturity and raw energy as an ideal detente of governance but will it rid the Congress' age-old malaise of infighting and undercutting? That's a question he has to answer as his young Turks are getting increasingly restless for relevance. Otherwise he may run the risk of being labelled an inheritor of dynastic fortunes seeking pliant courtiers rather than as a team-builder of equally aspirant and

capable men and women. Yes, a decisive mandate would have undoubtedly helped him but given the slim margins of victory in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, he had to do some bridge-building in consultation with his mother Sonia Gandhi. Truth be told, though he has handed over the throne to old loyalists, he will have to work out a suitable operable area for both Sachin Pilot and Jyotiraditya Scindia to feel needed and keep them invested enough for all the work they have put in towards resurgence of the party's fortunes. Scindia has even said that he will continue to serve the state as he has age and time on his side but both Gandhi and he know that prospect won't hold infinitely. Satisfying both peers frankly will be a tall order given that their activities should not in any way tread the egos of the senior Chief Ministers. Or else the inter-generational tussle could cost the party heavily before the 2019 polls, both in terms of governance and perception.

The new Congress Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Kamal Nath, has always been assessed in terms of his elitist associations and negotiating strategic worth with the central leadership so far. Having steered the party through difficult troughs before, he did manage to push the baseline voter grid in the state this time too and had bet big on stitching alliances with the BSP even before the verdict became sure. In fact, his younger partner Scindia was more cautious as Nath worked the ground and negotiated a way for himself through swift political management. But as one who has undoubtedly nurtured his home ground of Chhindwara, even touting his model of development there better than Modi's, he is yet to develop a pan-state appeal. In this respect, he falls far short of his predecessor Digvijay Singh, who had a keen eye on statistics of each district and knew people by name, and even BJP's Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who was a crowd favourite for 15 years. Scindia scores slightly better on image. Nath's biggest challenge now will be portfolio allocation, humoring the Scindia group enough and breaking through angry farmers who turned the tide.

For Rajasthan, Gandhi was under pincer attack with Pilot actually moving to the state from Delhi to develop the Congress vote base and Gehlot becoming one of the key floor managers in keeping the RSS and its affiliates at bay. And when all hope was lost, the latter did manage to script the Congress revival story in the Gujarat elections and is now party national general secretary in-charge of organisation. Besides, vote share charts show the BJP still remains a force to reckon with both inside the Assembly and outside. Managing legislative business, therefore, remains a task at hand for both governments. Which is why the old guard is needed to keep up the momentum for 2019. Gandhi can still toss the national challenge of rebuilding to these young leaders and can reward them if they do deliver selflessly at the hustings for long-term gains than claim a prize for a one-time job well-done. Can everybody put party first?

# Get art out of the box

The Kochi biennale has pushed key frontiers in global dialogue, snapping the exclusionary stiffness of art fairs, where the plight of the dispossessed is merely a motif and not felt anguish



RINKU GHOSH

Young Ahalya from Kollam, who grew up in a pineapple farm, loved the fruit's colours so much that she decided to express herself through them and turned painter. As she filled up her canvas with intricate scenes of plantation life, replicating her hard-working parents' faces on the figures that peopled it, she surrounded them with hills and forests, nature in a flaming surge as it were, pushing the pylons of civilisation in a distant greyness. Her fellow artists have picked up a morbid rubble tossed up by the Kerala floods and strung them to a twisted spinal cord, which is straightening itself in a desperate lunge at survival. There's Pangrok Sulap from Malaysian Borneo, another artist born of the soil, dancing on a canvas spread taut on wood-cut blocks depicting farm life and issues, his happy feet imprinting his memories of them. All of them have stitched together their peasant origins and come together at the Kochi Muziris Biennale, which is unshackling art from the confines of rarefied thought and elitism to listen to the sub-terranean voices and helping them stake a claim in contemporary discourse.

If art biennales are meant to rearticulate the times, then the Kochi edition has clearly pushed key frontiers in global dialogue, snapping the exclusionary stiffness of art fairs and museums, where the plight of the dispossessed is merely the motif and not the felt anguish of those who go through it. As its curator, artist Anita Dube has attempted to explore "possibilities of a non-alienated world" and managed to address the elephant in the room, to create a safe public sphere where we can think freely, exchange ideas, ask questions of ourselves, have conversations and dialogue rather than ideological loud-mouthing and best of all provide a safe pedagogic haven where people do not feel threatened, judged or not qualified enough. In this respect, the Kochi biennale has fully given credence to sociologist Pierre Bourdieu's argument for the need to create a social and cultural capital juxtaposed to the economic one. He had defined "cultural capital" as that which determined the "tastes" of society, which, if not wholesome and representative enough, can perpetuate a cycle of privilege instead of breaking it down. Museums and galleries may lend us access to all sorts of artwork that have emerged as an interpretation of history, context and archives but what of sensitive story-telling? Will it be a projection of an idea rather than a humane experience? The Kochi biennale hasn't talked down, it has allowed everyone to come in. Or as Dube described it, unfolded them in the "discursive frame of culture." Be it an attempt at post-colonial redemption by the West, the resolution of anxieties, the fluidity of identities, the retrieval of protest poetry from conflict zones, the reinstatement of women's



dues, like that of the selfless Malayali nurses, the cry for ecological justice, the siege of micro-cultures or the much-revered cow head turning into a fist of agrarian assertion, every voice has been respected and interpreted in concrete, tactile and visually explosive terms. For public engagement of art cannot happen unless it appeals to our sensorium. And till that is done, till art also becomes a source of pleasure, populism will continue to cede space to majoritarian monologues. Should that be easily handed over? Shouldn't populism be a happy prospect that be demised as a takeover tool of everybody's trade?

In that sense, the Kochi biennale has already started the process of cultural reclamation as a democratic nurturing of ideas, not a handed down rewriting of scripts. Muziris was an ancient port on the Malabar coast, our first point of globalisation over centuries as merchant ships plied the spice routes and broke down barriers for a confluence and assimilation of cultures. Perhaps this biennale rescued that ancient spirit and applied it to the current context.

For Kerala, a State that was ravaged brutally by the floods barely a hundred days ago — 1.5 million people displaced and 200,000 lives lost — the biennale has been a huge palliative. Many had questioned if the Government should go through with this edition and not divert

the usual funds to the reconstruction process. But Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wanted to send out the message that Kerala is resilient and means business. The spinoff effects on the economy by way of tourism, services and infrastructure are for all to see. The laid-back Fort Kochi area is now a bustle, the waterways have emerged as transport corridors ferrying people from one island to another, the local youth have signed up as volunteers and most residents have opened up homestays and cafes. Warehouse owners, who do booming business in a port town, have let out spaces for three months to make way for installation artists. And abandoned houses are getting a new lease of life. More so, the people of Kochi, who have virtually owned this art event as their badge of pride through the past years, don't want to let go of it. Students and young people are toggling assignments and work to play hosts and coordinators. Thousands of carpenters are at work, helping erect structures and artworks, the caterers have never been busier, feeding visitors on the roadside and the auto *wallahs* have replaced the need for Google maps.

The Chief Minister himself inaugurated the biennale, lending a heft to proceedings and insisting in his speech that the traumatised State indeed needed to heal itself through art. The biennale has done up drab walls in hospitals and dressed up worn out facades with colourful murals to mask the darkness of pain. Over the years, organisers have reached out to schools and made entry free on certain days for the common people to access and embrace a different form of expression. This is the process by which an auto rickshaw driver like Bapi Das was inspired enough to embroider his thoughts on fabric, now on prominent display. Or a run-away like Vicky Roy, who grew up in a shelter home near the New Delhi Railway station and who was trained in a photography workshop, to reframe the urbanscape through his lens and awaken us to the trickle-down effects of societal statutes and policy-making. Like Ahalya, they were not empowered by birth, be it in terms of access to language or chance. They evolved on their own, organically and untutored. Kerala clearly isn't shedding a tear for itself.

Of course, what's art without the political subtext? And there were plenty at the biennale posited against the visual epidemic of clichés on other media. At a time when the women artists' collective have articulated their brand of #MeToo in the Malayali film industry and faith debates on Sabarimala continue to hover over a woman's right to enter the shrine, the biennale has had its first woman curator and devoted more than 50 per cent of the

works to women artists. The Guerrilla Girls, who have been talking about sexism in the arts field through provocative slogans and street performances, have plastered the town with placards, asking questions about whether women are only good as models for artists and if gallery staff get respectable pay. Kashmiri artist Veer Munshi has recreated a Sufi shrine with lacquer coffins of the young, arguing for the middle path in dialogues and a return to civilisational contiguity that has been torn asunder by extremism. A young performance artist frisks entrants to peacefully demonstrate his angst of growing up behind the wired quarters. That speaks louder than the gun.

In the end, art anywhere should be about the relational dynamic between the creator and the audience. Only then can it be a vibrant cultural asset and offset hierarchies set by economic and political structures. Or to borrow words from the Guerrilla Girls, "Don't let museums reduce art to a small number of artists who have won a popularity contest among big-time dealers, curators and collectors. If museums don't show art as diverse as the cultures they claim to represent, tell them they're not showing the history of art, they are just preserving the history of wealth and power." The sea winds have brought a whiff of life to Kochi. (The writer is Associate Editor, The Pioneer)

## SOUNDBITE

Farmer's loan waiver shouldn't be part of poll promises. It inhibits investment in the farm sector and puts pressure on the fiscal of States which undertake it.



Former RBI Governor —Raghuram Rajan

We have taken significant steps to build on India's status as the US' major defence partner, including elevating the country to strategic trade authorisation, tier one status.



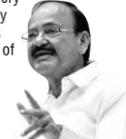
Top US official —Alice Wells

Telling a compelling story is more important for me than winning an award. I do not believe in competition when it comes to art.



Norwegian filmmaker —Iram Haq

Every word you utter, every decision you make, every vote you cast, resonates deeply within the hearts of your people who have expectations from you.



Vice President —Venkaiah Naidu

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Politicising matters

Sir — Retired Lieutenant General DS Hooda, who was the former General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Army's Northern Command in September 2016 when the surgical strikes took place, rightly spoke against the politicising of military operations. Surgical strikes were part of a necessary counter-offensive of the Army in retaliation to the Uri terror attack in which 19 Indian soldiers were killed by Pakistani terrorists.

Hooda said that it was natural to have initial euphoria about the success, but the constant maintenance of hype over military operations was unwarranted. Indeed, a constant political show-casing of a military strike can do a two-fold damage. First, a constant political chest-thumping for an Army operation can have adverse effects on our relations with neighbouring countries. Second, if it turns into political asset for one political party, it will send a wrong impression that the entire country is divided in terms of defence policy.

Sujit De Kolkata

### Post-election rout, BJP has its task cut out

This refers to the editorial, "Rahul's day dawns" (December 12). Which way the political winds are currently blowing is not hard to see. Obviously, the election results in the so-called Hindi heartland represent a shot in the arm for the Congress and a setback for the BJP. Evidently, the impoverished masses, including the distressed farmers and the unemployed youth, have turned their back on the BJP for which they voted overwhelmingly in 2014 and demonstrated their strength to redraw the political landscape. It must be sobering for the BJP to realise that a party long on promises but short on performance cannot keep its support base for long.

Voters in the Hindi belt disabused us of the BJP's invincibility and gave the Congress a new lease of life. The 'Modi factor' could not help the party romp home even in its impregnable strongholds. Had the BJP won, it would have been wholly attributed to



Modi's enduring and soaring popularity. With no tangible *vikas* and *acche din*, Modi's case for another term is wearing a little thin. The Prime Minister now has a fight on his hands to contain the ripple effects of the party's defeats on the whole country and outdo a formidable *mahagathbandhan*.

G David Milton Maruthancode

### Lessons in loss

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Rahul's day dawns" (December 12). The Assembly elections must prod the BJP to acknowledge the relevance of the much maligned dynasty of the Congress and that it is but a form of orchestrating individual strengths to optimise collective

results. The Indira Gandhi regime of imperious central *diktats* saw the party gradually losing cohesion at grass roots. Tall regional satraps could yet hold the party, but with the loss of Rajasekhara Reddy of Andhra Pradesh, the party plunged into decline. Clearly, the dynasty was effective so long as its president produced results. See what the lack of dynasty has done to the

AIADMK, whose faction fight is a textbook case for the Samajwadi Party.

Congress chief Rahul Gandhi seems to have learnt the lessons well. His persuasive style had the frontline leaders, be it Rajasthan or Madhya Pradesh, to put party needs above personal ambitions. His task now is to keep that esprit de corps going and showcase the same for the 2019 LS elections.

Meanwhile, the BJP too must ponder now that its centrally driven one-man party apparatus has proved fallible. Nor can the Prime Minister carry the sole onus of campaigning. The party needs many more shoulders and given its poor bench strength today, it is left with little time to promote fresh talent.

R Narayanan Navi Mumbai

### Get ready for 2019

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Rahul's day dawns" (December 12). The BJP was, perhaps, too over-confident of winning the Hindi-speaking belt. But they lost because of empty promises. The results should be an eye-opener for the party. Rising problems, like farm and rural distress as also urban angst played a crucial role in the erosion of the BJP's support base. Understanding the problems faced by people will remain crucial to fight the next General election.

Jubel D'Cruz Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Quest for a future on our terms

Investing in children's growth will help advance their health and overall development. Doing so must be a priority so as to secure their future



POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH

Childhood is arguably the most crucial stage of life. During this phase, brains develop, bodies grow, social skills are learnt and character is built. So important are the early stages of life that they can define a person's future, from the likelihood of a lifelong health to outcomes in cognitive and physical ability. This in turn affects the prospect of living a productive life and making a positive contribution to society. Accelerating region-wide health and development is, therefore, incumbent on investing in early childhood and ensuring each and every child gets the best start possible.

The potential to do so is clear. In recent years, WHO South-East Asia's member states have made dramatic progress in reducing child mortality. Between 1990 and 2017, for example, under-five mortality was slashed by 70 per cent. Neo-natal mortality declined by 60 per cent. Last year alone, 3.5 million more children under-five — including 1.3 million newborns — survived as compared to 1990, with almost all member states achieving the Millennium Development Goal on reducing child mortality. Commendably, four member states have already met the global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target on under-five mortality. These outcomes are in keeping with the region's flagship priority of ending preventable maternal, new-born and child deaths.

As member states sustain this progress, the need to invest additional resources in early childhood development (ECD) must be grasped. At the same time as enhancing health equity, research shows that for every dollar spent on ECD, the return can be as high as 13 times, due in large part to ECD's capacity to help overcome the effects of stunting (which 37 per cent of children in the Region suffer), and other early childhood adversities that can cause poor development, mental health problems, obesity and heart disease among other conditions. Though enhancing ECD requires action across multiple areas of Government, including the education and nutrition sectors, the health sector has a crucial role to play, especially from conception to the age of three, which is the critical period for brain development. As outlined in the recently developed global framework on "Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development" in addition to the region's own strategic framework, there are several steps countries can take to advance ECD's game-changing potential and provide the responsive care needed.

First, high-level political leadership and buy-in must be secured. It is fundamental to ensure that impactful policies to advance ECD are devised and implemented at the grassroots, including at primary healthcare centres. It is also fundamental to ensure that the underprivileged or at-risk populations are prioritised. Importantly, adequate funding must be allocated to programmes aimed at enhancing ECD on a long-term basis. "Equity from the start" must be more than a mantra. Second, concerted efforts should be made to fortify and scale up interventions, starting from the antenatal period, as part of a broader focus on frontline care. Community health and nutrition workers are crucial to promoting ECD for providing ongoing health services for newborns and children, including necessary vaccines, monitoring weight and growth and providing appropriate care. As part of this, promotion of breastfeeding is vital. Breastfeeding is, after all, proven to provide the strongest foundation for lifelong health and optimal nutrition.

Third, families should be supported to boost ECD themselves. In the early years of life, parents and close family members are the best providers of nurturing care — through love, bonding and attachment, and stimulating their children through age-appropriate activities. Making families aware that communication for at least one hour a day has the power to shape a child's destiny should be a priority among policy-makers. The World Health Organisation (WHO) is working to promote these outcomes.

In addition to working with countries to implement the region's strategic framework, a WHO-organised meeting was held with parliamentarians from across the region in July to chart the path forward. That was followed by the Partners' Forum 2018 in New Delhi, which brought together 1,200 partners dedicated to implementing the UN Secretary General's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health, including ECD, which is integral to the "thrive" objective outlined therein.

Region-wide, the quest to accelerate progress in ECD is growing stronger. It must be scaled up. ECD's capacity to revolutionise health and development in the space of just one birth cohort must be fully comprehended and leveraged by both high-level political leaders and citizens alike. Should this happen, the future will not only be ours, it will be every generation's to come.

(The writer is Regional Director, WHO South East Asia)

WE (CONGRESS) AGAIN CHALLENGE THE PRIME MINISTER FOR A JPC PROBE TO UNVEIL EVERY LAYER OF CORRUPTION IN THE RAFALE DEAL.  
 —CONGRESS CHIEF SPOKESPERSON  
 RANDEEP SURJEWALA

POINT COUNTERPOINT



THE TRUTH HAS ONLY ONE VERSION AND FALSEHOOD HAS MANY. THE SUPREME COURT VERDICT IS CONCLUSIVE AND LEAVES NO SCOPE OF ANY DOUBT.  
 —UNION MINISTER  
 ARUN JAITLEY

State results: BJP downing BJP

The recent Assembly polls have given the party time to learn crucial lessons. Voters have sent a strong message that they know how to halt the juggernaut if leaders do not listen to them



VK BAHUGUNA

The results of the Assembly elections held in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram must have sent jitters down the spine of the BJP leadership. The seniors had never expected this kind of a drubbing, thinking their schemes were indeed people-friendly when their implementation was skewed. In contrast, the outcome has also done a lot to rejuvenate the Congress and Opposition leaders, who are all now rallying behind the leadership of Congress president Rahul Gandhi. The BJP, however, has not been totally routed. It retains a fair share of the vote pie in spite of anti-incumbency in the three heartland States — Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. But for sure, the oft-repeated slogan of 'a Congress-mukt Bharat' was blown away like a hot balloon. With these results, the Opposition is going for the jugular now and smelling power for the 2019 parliamentary elections, notwithstanding the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity remains intact.

The results have further proved that the Indian electorate does not bother about performance or rhetorical slogans and knows how to halt the juggernaut. They have also thrown a few lessons for both the ruling and Opposition parties. Let us examine the matter from the point of view of both the BJP and the Opposition. As an informed citizen, this writer has been observing the functioning of the Government in different fields in different States, has been writing on issues germane to the people, hailing good decisions and providing suggestions for improvements on several others.

Governance is not a cakewalk for any ruler, nor is feeling the pulse of the Indian mind in elections an easy task, as voters have time and again been pooh-poohing expert psychologists with disdain. Any hasty policy decision on well-intentioned goals and programmes has always backfired on the ruling regimes. People have a poor memory both for good deeds as well as bad. They tend to forget the good deeds fast enough and forgive quickly on bad experiences. Because of this, for quite some time, the Indian polity has become a sort of circus. Short-term perceptions rule the people's minds and those who exploit them are victorious.

Taking a particular group or section of people for granted is wishful thinking. The ruling NDA had a lot of positives to offer to the country after it came to power, both internally (in several fields) as well as on external affairs. India's prestige and position grew to a new height and esteem, globally. The Prime Minister's demonetisation drive had yielded a few positives in due course, like busting black marketers in real estate, ghost business houses *et al*. This writer vividly remembers the poor people happily standing in long queues before the banks during demonetisation as they believed it was going to end black money and cause difficulty to the corrupt and the rich.

There has been a sustained increase in the number of Income Tax Returns (ITRs) filed in the last four financial years. As compared to 3.79 crore ITRs filed in 2013-14, the number of ITRs filed during 2017-18 was 6.84 crore, which is an

GOVERNANCE IS NOT A CAKEWALK FOR ANY RULER. NOR IS FEELING THE PULSE OF THE INDIAN MIND IN ELECTIONS AN EASY TASK, AS VOTERS HAVE TIME AND AGAIN BEEN POOH-POOHING EXPERT PSYCHOLOGISTS WITH DISDAIN. ANY HASTY POLICY DECISIONS ON WELL-INTENTIONED GOALS AND PROGRAMMES HAVE ALWAYS BACKFIRED ON THE RULING REGIMES



increase of 80.5 per cent. The number of e-filings increased to 6.75 crore during the last fiscal. During 2017-18, the gross collections before refunds rose by 13 per cent to ₹11.44 lakh crore. The quantum jump in tax base to a large extent was the result of demonetisation. The Government machinery, however, could not counter the allegations against it.

But the biggest voter loss (loss of vote base) for the BJP was the business community (the traditional BJP supporters for long) due to initial hiccups in the implementation of the Goods and Service Tax (GST). The introduction of GST was a revolutionary attempt but those who implemented it will never agree that they failed to read the people's mind on this. The problem is that promises made before the reform got under way were never implemented. And later, when the Government tried to correct the mistakes, it was too late.

The mishandling of the agitation of the upper castes against reservation for promotions in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan had really made a difference to the BJP as the community voted for NOTA. In Madhya Pradesh, NOTA votes were exercised by 542,295 (6,43,144 voters) constituting about 1.4 per cent of the total votes. In Rajasthan, NOTA votes were to the tune of 467,781, constituting about 1.3 per cent of the total votes polled. Most people, who exercised NOTA, were anti-reservation supporters and former BJP supporters. The BJP got 41 per cent votes in Madhya Pradesh while the Congress got 40.9 per cent. The 1.4 per cent

NOTA may have taken the BJP's tally to well past 120 seats. Similarly, as against the Congress getting 39.3 per cent of votes compared to the BJP's 38.8 per cent in Rajasthan, the NOTA vote would have crossed to 40 per cent for the BJP and the party could have scraped through. In Chhattisgarh though, the Congress really trounced the BJP by a margin of 10 per cent.

Yet another cause of the Congress' win was the way the party got the support of farmers, who were facing several constraints notwithstanding the fact that Shivraj Singh Chouhan, during his chief ministerial tenure, increased the irrigated land from 7.5 lakh to 36 lakh hectares over the last 10 years. It was the disconnect in the programme with regard to production, marketing and incomes of farmers (including lopsided implementation of the Bhavantar scheme) that stoked the farmers' anger.

Though the Union Government had taken a lot of steps for the farmers' welfare, it had either not been marketed or executed well. Besides, the farmers' income was still not commensurate with production costs. In Rajasthan, the State had done very good work in water harvesting but the programmes did not catch the imagination of the farmers. The outreach by the bureaucracy was also not visible on the ground.

Another cause of the BJP's defeat is the mobilisation of opposition parties and the saffron party's lack of containment of negative vibes in politics. The "Samark for Samadhan" was a damp

squib as those who were contacted were mainly urbanites. Genuine opinion makers' attempts for course correction were ignored. For example, though Telugu Desam Party supremo Chandrababu Naidu's own political situation is not so good in Andhra Pradesh, his alienation did fuel a movement against the BJP. Similarly, the party alienated several of its opinion-makers who during the last 15 years were in its favour. This writer knows one senior journalist and many more supporters who relentlessly attempted to take the BJP to a high pedestal as an acceptable national party with pan-Indian appeal among the intelligentsia but they were either ignored or sidelined.

Now, the Congress and the Opposition front must adopt a charter which is nationalistic and filled with a positive vision for a future India and away from confrontationalist polity as the BJP is still a favourite for 2019. The Congress has to modernise its functioning and embrace a collective leadership, keep the Delhi crowd of bureaucrats at a distance and engage with experts to serve the nation. The people are fed up with poor governance and unnecessary logjams in Parliament. To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers and squabbling political leaders. The mandate of people is supreme. It should be seen as a lesson for all politicians, particularly in view of the coming Lok Sabha election in 2019.

(The writer is a Retired Civil Servant)

When democracy is not enough

If we do not stand up and reclaim the space we have conceded to criminals and other low-life who now sit in judgment over us, it will be our children who will pay the price in the coming years



DEEPAK SINHA

The Preamble to the Constitution of India clearly states that India is a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic. But as the ongoing public discourse of our political masters clearly shows, we are more a democracy and less a republic. We may not truly be aware of the subtle difference between the two or even be bothered to give this aspect much thought. But make no mistake, if we are to progress and develop as a nation, we cannot do without either. History tells us that the term 'democracy' originated from the Greek words 'demos', the common people, and 'kratos' or strength. The first democracy was the city of Athens in 508-507 BC

where Cleisthenes, known as the father of Athenian democracy, introduced the concept of rule by the common people. However, representational democracy, as we know it today, is very different from what was practised then and is today defined by its one major characteristic "rule of the majority", which can easily devolve into mob rule or tyranny of the majority, or even worse, anarchy.

Benjamin Franklin once said: "Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch." The only thing that keeps the lamb off the lunch menu is the fact that we are a republic — not a perfect one but still one nonetheless. What that basically implies is that the country is not a private concern of the rulers but is considered a "public matter" and belongs to each one of us regardless of caste, creed, gender or ethnicity. While this obviously demands that our rulers are elected and not inherited, as quite a few tend to be, more importantly, it requires them to rule

for the common good, an aspect of governance on which philosophers, such as Plato and Aristotle, wrote volumes. This is, of course, only possible when there are a set of laws and those elected as leaders follow them both in letter and spirit.

Unfortunately over the past few decades, common good seems to be ignored in the face of parochial and self-serving interests of our leaders, as the rule of law is often ignored or rendered irrelevant. It is no wonder then that our legislatures at the Centre and States have a surfeit of members facing criminal charges — 1,765 MPs and MLAs at last count, or 36 per cent facing over 3,500 cases as per the Government; though some contend the numbers are vastly understated.

While the Supreme Court may well view the entry of criminals into legislative bodies as akin to "termites to the citadel of democracy," it cannot make laws to keep them out. That, the court said, is the domain of Parliament, an institution that is yet to show a firmness of resolve to

stem the rot. Ironically, it is the actions of the apex court itself which gave a fillip to criminals joining politics with its farcical ruling in the infamous JMM bribery case, involving the bribing of MPs to defeat a no-confidence motion brought against the then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's Government way back in 1993.

These allegedly corrupt MPs were unashamed and blatant enough to openly deposit the bribe money in a public sector bank. They were subsequently prosecuted under the Prevention of Corruption Act but were absolved by the Supreme Court's interpretation of Article 105 of the Constitution. This Article states that (1) MPs shall enjoy freedom of speech in Parliament and (2) shall not be held liable in respect of anything said or any vote given in Parliament.

The court held that the alleged bribe-takers, who had voted in the House, were "entitled to the immunity conferred by Article 105(2)." It

also went on to direct that the bribe-givers must be prosecuted, as also the bribe-takers who did not vote. Certainly, a unique legal justification for the concept of honour among thieves.

The apex court has now attempted to correct the existing state of affairs by directing the Government to set up 12 fast-track special courts to try cases against the legislators.

In addition, it has also directed all political parties, which give tickets to persons with criminal cases pending against them, to publicise the information on the party websites, apart from issuing a declaration in "widely circulated" newspapers and on electronic media after the nomination is filed.

However, there is little doubt left that the "chiffre of gravity" seems to have shifted in favour of the criminal legislators and they seem to have become indispensable to parties for grabbing power. The sad truth is that actions taken by the Supreme Court now are of little

consequence, nothing more than closing the barn door after the horse has bolted.

While regular and reasonably fair elections have ensured that we continue to enjoy the fruits of a vibrant democracy, the same cannot be said for the state of our Republic. The gradual decline of values and the rule of law have ensured that the common good is of little concern to our political class who are quite happy with the *status quo*. Neither the judiciary nor the bureaucrats can bring about change for the better that is required. It is, therefore, left to the common citizen to act. If we do not stand up and reclaim the space, we have conceded to criminals and other low-life who now sit in judgment over us. It will be our children who will pay the price in the coming years.

(The writer is a military veteran, a Consultant with the Observer Research Foundation and Visiting Senior Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai)



FOREINEYE



RAHUL'S RETURN

Till a few days back Rahul Gandhi had a nickname that no poll victory could erase off. It's 'Pappu' which means 'loser'. However everything has changed overnight. The Congress' spectacular victory in the Assembly polls in Hindu hinterland of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh has made people see the young Congress President in a new light. There is a metamorphosis of a new leader. (DailyMirror Editorial)

# ₹ skids 22 paise to 71.90 against \$



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee declined by 22 paise to close at 71.90 against the US dollar on Friday amid strengthening of the greenback and cautious trading in the domestic equity market. Forex traders said the rupee came under pressure following strengthening of the dollar against major currencies overseas, while caution prevailed amid the RBI's central board meeting under new Governor Shaktikanta Das. At the Interbank Foreign Exchange (forex) market, the local unit opened lower at

71.80 and fell further to touch the day's low of 72.04. However, it pared some losses and finally ended at 71.90 per dollar, down by 22 paise against its previous close. On Thursday, the Indian rupee had plunged 33 paise to 71.68 per US dollar. Benchmark indices finished with modest gains after a seesaw session Friday. The BSE Sensex ticked higher by 33.29 points, or 0.09 per cent, to end at 35,962.93, while the broader NSE Nifty rose 13.90 points, or 0.13 per cent, to 10,805.45. Brent crude, the international benchmark, was trading

at \$61.02 per barrel Friday, lower by 0.70 per cent. On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) bought shares worth ₹675.14 crore Thursday, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were sellers to the tune of ₹51.86 crore, provisional data available with BSE showed. The Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 71.7359 and for rupee/euro at 81.4628. The reference rate for rupee/British pound was fixed at 90.5809 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 63.20.

# PSU banks do not have any plan to close ATMs: Govt

## 2.21 lakh ATMs are deployed in the country as on September 30

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) do not have any plans to shut down their ATMs, Minister of State for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla informed Parliament. The statement assumes significance amidst a report by the Confederation of ATM industry (CATMI) warning that nearly half of the 2.38 lakh machines run the risk of closing down by March next year due to regulatory compliance changes making the business unviable due to rising costs and dipping or stagnant revenues. As reported by the scheduled commercial banks, small finance banks, payment banks and white label ATM operators, 2.21 lakh ATMs are deployed in the country as on September 30, Shukla said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. Apart from ATMs, banking services across the country are provided through bank branch-

es, inter-operable business correspondents (BCs) with micro-ATMs etc, he said. Further, he said, mobile banking services and various digital modes of banking facilities are also available in India. Replying to another question, Shukla said the Government announced recapitalisation of PSBs to the tune of ₹2.11 lakh crore in October 2017, through infusion of capital by the Government and raising of capital by banks from the markets. PSBs meet their capital requirement through various sources including, inter alia, mobilisation of capital from the market through issuance of capital instruments and monetisation of non-core assets, internal capital generation including through recovery in written-off accounts, and capital infusion by the government. "₹88,139 crore was infused by the Government in PSBs during financial year 2017-18 after the recapitalisation announcement and provision of ₹65,000 crore has been made in the budget for the current financial year for infusion," he said. Since the recapitalisation announcement till November 2018, PSBs have been recapitalised to the tune of ₹1,28,861 crore through infusion and mobilisation of capital from the market, he said.

# India Post gets full-fledged entry into e-commerce



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India Post on Wednesday announced full-fledged entry into e-commerce business, where it will leverage its parcel business for end-to-end delivery of products. "We have simplified decision-making process at Department of Posts (DoP) by setting up a separate parcel directorate. It can make quick decision on parcel rates and related provisions. India Post will leverage its vast network for e-commerce services for doorstep delivery of products," Communications Minister Manoj Sinha told

reporters. The minister also launched India Post's e-commerce portal. Earlier, any decision related to change in parcel delivery rates or matching services of private players required approval from top officials, which was time-consuming. The DoP has set up parcel directorate which is free to take decision to match the competition. "India Post is open for registration of all vendors for e-commerce business. It will pick up products from vendor and deliver to doorstep of customers," Sinha said.

India Post has delivery network up to remotest villages through its 1.55 lakh post offices which no one can match, the minister said. "We will also facilitate return of products service like it is available for customers on other e-commerce platforms," India Post Secretary A N Nanda said. Sinha said the department will strictly monitor delivery of products. "The credibility that DoP has built over the years is immense. We will suitably resolve complaints whenever we receive them," the minister said.

# Indian School of Hospitality hosts international student counsellors conclave

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

Indian School of Hospitality, a newly inaugurated Gurugram based hospitality and culinary arts college, hosted its first international counsellor summit — the Counsellors' Retreat 2018. Inaugurated by Chancellor of the Gurugram University Markandey Ahuja, the summit saw a gathering of school counsellors representing schools from across the entire country and neighboring regions, including people who are working in hospitality education École hôtelière de Lausanne. The Counsellors' Retreat was called with the mission and aim to introduce school

counsellors to the diverse range of professional opportunities and career paths in the world of travel, tourism, hospitality, culinary arts and other new age industries for their students. The event saw counsellors participate in talks held by industry and education leaders that highlighted the trends of the hospitality industry, career options for students and the benefits of hospitality and culinary education for today's talent. During the interactive session, industry and academic experts discussed and exchanged views about ISH and its curriculum for the hospitality and culinary education space.

# J&K Govt to set up RERA to promote planned development

PTI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir Government for the first time will set up a Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) in the state to promote regulated and planned growth of the real estate sector, official spokesman said on Friday. On Friday, the State Administrative Council (SAC) under the chairmanship of Governor Satya Pal Malik approved the establishment of Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) in the State. The Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2018 approved by the SAC provides

a provision to establish the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, the State Advisory Council and the Real Estate Appellate Tribunal in the State to effectively and efficiently regulate this sector, spokesman said. The move is aimed at promoting planned development of real estate and to ensure sale of plots, apartments, buildings and other real estate projects, in an efficient and transparent manner and to protect the interests of the consumers, he added. RERA would ensure a fair and just treatment to the buyers and protect them from any unscrupulous builders, he said.

# WPI inflation falls to 4.64% in Nov on easing food, petro prices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's wholesale inflation fell to a three-month low of 4.64 per cent in November, driven down by decline in prices of food articles, especially vegetables, and some easing in rates of petro products. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was 5.28 per cent in October and 4.02 per cent in November last year. Food articles witnessed softening of prices with deflation at 3.31 per cent in November, against 1.49 per cent in October, government data released Friday showed. Vegetables, too, became cheaper with deflation at 26.98 per cent in November, compared to 18.65 per cent in the previous month. Inflation in the 'fuel and power' basket in November continued to rule high at 16.28 per cent, but was lower than 18.44 per cent in October. This was on account of lowering of prices of petrol and diesel, following a decline in global crude oil prices. Separately in petrol and diesel, inflation was 12.06 per cent and 20.16 per cent, respectively, and for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), it was 23.22

per cent during October. ICRA Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said the easing of the WPI inflation was led by a deeper disinflation in prices of primary food articles, easing of inflation related to crude petroleum and mineral oils following the correction in retail fuel prices, and some impact of the appreciation in the rupee on the landed prices of imports. "The recent trend of a year-on-year correction in food prices does not augur well for the strength of rural demand in the immediate term. However, factors such as weak post-monsoon rainfall and a delay in rabi sowing pose some uncertainty regarding how long food prices would remain in the disinflation zone," Nayar said. Nayar said with the recent stability in the crude oil prices and the rupee, ICRA expects the WPI inflation to range between 3.7-4.4 per cent in the remainder of second half for current fiscal. Among food articles, potato prices continued to rule high with 86.45 per cent inflation in November. While onion witnessed deflation of 47.60 per cent, the same for pulses stood at 5.42 per cent. The October inflation at

4.64 per cent is the lowest in three months, and a lower inflation than this was last seen in August at 4.62 per cent. CARE Ratings, in its analysis, said it expects WPI inflation to remain in the range of 4.5-5 per cent for the rest of the year, and will be above the CPI rates. The WPI inflation for September, however, has been revised upwards to 5.22 per cent, from the provisional estimate of 5.13 per cent. Data released earlier this week showed that the retail or consumer price index-based inflation for November also fell to a 17-month low at 2.33 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mainly takes into account retail inflation data while formulating monetary policy. In its fifth monetary policy review for the fiscal, released last week, the Reserve Bank kept interest rates unchanged, but held out a promise to cut them if the upside risks to inflation do not materialise. The central bank lowered retail inflation projection to 2.7-3.2 per cent for the second half of the current fiscal, citing normal monsoon and moderate food prices.

# Govt asks mills to undertake sugar shipment as per fixed quota

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concerns over slow pace of sugar export, the Government on Friday directed mills to undertake shipment of their fixed quota and even threatened to take action against defaulting sugar mills. To liquidate surplus stock and improve the liquidity of the sugar mills to facilitate them for clearance of cane price arrears of farmers, the Government has asked domestic sugar mills to mandatory export 5 million tonnes in the 2018-19 marketing year (October-September). The Government is even compensating expenses towards internal transport, freight, handling and other charges to undertake shipment. "However, it has been observed that the sugar mills are not undertaking export of sugar at a desired pace. Only about 2.46 lakh tonnes of sugar has been exported and contracts of only about 6 lakh tonnes (including 2.46 lakh tonnes of actual export) in the first quarter of the season," the food ministry said in a statement.

**Syndicate Bank**  
Regional Office: C Block, Phase 2, Industrial Area, Sector 62, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201309,  
PH: 0120 240 0851, Email: ro.noida@syndicatebank.co.in

**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
(for immovable property under Rule 8(1))

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule- 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Bank issued demand notices on the date mentioned against account and amount stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within sixty days from the date of receipt of said notices. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against account and amount below.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The owner/s of the property in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Syndicate Bank for the amounts and interest, cost and charges etc thereon. Detail of Properties where Symbolic possession had been taken is as follows:-

Sr. No.	Borrower surety/owner/Branch	Description of mortgaged (movable & immovable) property	Amt o/s (as mentioned in the Notice us 13(2)) and interest thereon, costs etc.	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
1	Borrower Mrs. Jaibun Nisha W/o Mr. Masroor Khan and Co-Borrower Mr. Masroor Khan S/o Mr. Ahmed Saeed Khan and Sh. Alisher Khan S/o Sh. Gulsher Ali. B/O: HPDA Hapur	All that part and parcel of Residential Building on Plot No. 9, measuring 124.51 Sq.Yards Part of Khasra No. 1285M, situated at Mohalla Majeed Pura, Hapur in the name of Mrs. Jaibun Nisha	Rs.4,93,910.15 and interest thereon, costs etc.	23/07/2018	13/12/2018
2	Borrower Mrs. Sudha Chauhan W/o Mr. Dharanvir Singh B/O: Bichhat Surajpur	One nug Plot of Land pertaining to Khasra No. 1s having Area 315 Sq.Mtrs i.e. 376 Sq.Yards situated at Village Sanatia Shalpur Khurja P&T Khurja	Rs.3,09,423.02 and interest thereon, costs etc.	01/08/2018	13/12/2018
3	Borrower Sh. Rajesh Kumar S/o Sh. Prem Chand Garg and Guarantor Sh. Sunil S/o Sh. Vijay Pal Singh B/O: Chhipiyana Khurd Urf Tigr	A Residential Flat No. 1, Part of House No. 40, Area 78.78 Sq.Mtrs situated in Rama Krishna Colony, Old Arya Nagar, Ghaziabad, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad (UP) owned by Sh. Rajesh Kumar	Rs.4,15,665.54 and interest thereon, costs etc.	31/07/2018	12/12/2018
4	Borrower Sh. Rohitash B/O: Garhmukteshwar	All that part and parcel of A plot no.73 measuring 265 sq yds and standing structure there upon situated at Moh Kaska Naya Bann, ward no. 5, Garhmukteshwar paragona and Tehsil Garh, Distt Ghaziabad at present Hapur owned by Mr. Rohitash Kumar	Rs. 2,86,653.44 and interest thereon, costs etc.	24/09/2018	12/12/2018
5	Borrower Sh. Satish Bhanwar Singh B/O: Garhmukteshwar	All that part and parcel of residential house area 98.77 sq mtr at ward no 9, Upadhaya Nagar, Garhmukteshwar owned by Mr. Sandeep and Satish	Rs.1,36,429.42 and interest thereon, costs etc.	24/09/2018	12/12/2018
6	Borrower Smt. Prem Wati B/O: Garhmukteshwar	All that part and parcel of Plot measuring 63 yards at Moh: Adarsh Nagar, Ward No.11, Garhmukteshwar owned by Premwati	Rs. 1,35,487.11 and interest thereon, costs etc.	24/09/2018	12/12/2018
7	Borrower M/s Om Enterprises prop. Sh. Amit Kumar s/o Sh. Dal Chand also Guarantor Sh. Dal Chand s/o Sh. Uday Singh Saini, Sh. Jay Prakash s/o Uday Singh Saini, B/O: Khurja	All that part and parcel of UREM of Commercial Shop Situated at Moh Burj Usman Khan, Subhash Road, Kasba Khurja, Pargana and Tehsil Khurja Distt. Bulandshahar owned by Shri Dal Chand and Shri Jay Prakash s/o Shri Uday Singh Saini	Rs. 19,64,446.87 and interest thereon, costs etc.	09/08/2018	12/12/2018
8	Borrower M/s Rajveer Industry prop. Shri Rajveer Singh as also Guarantor Smt. Raj Kumari w/o Shri Rajveer Singh, Sri Balbir Singh, Sri Trilok Chand, B/O: Khurja	All that part and parcel of nug of land having area 251 sq. mtrs, i.e. 300 sq. yards and construction there on pertaining to Plot No.59, situated at Kasba Khurja, Bahar Chungi, Pargana & Tehsil Khurja, District- Bulandshahar owned by Smt. Raj Kumari w/o Shri Rajveer Singh	Rs. 30,50,388.23 and interest thereon, costs etc.	09/08/2018	12/12/2018
9	Borrower M/s Pradeep Sattering Store Prop. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Sharma as also Guarantor Mr. Satendra Kumar B/O: Khurja	All that part and parcel of one nug Plot having area 167.28 Sq.Mtrs, Khasra No. 34, situated at Village Gospur Traina Khurja Pargana & Tehsil Khurja, Distt. Bulandshahar owned by Mr. Satendra Sharma S/o Mr. Madan Gopal Sharma	Rs. 11,56,915.82 and interest thereon, costs etc.	08/08/2018	12/12/2018

Date: 15.12.2018, Place: Gautam Budh Nagar

Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER, SYNDICATE BANK

# DVCom launches e-store, offers range of products

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to provide customer services through online shopping portals, a Delhi based DVCom group has launched India's first Tech supported e-store DVComm.in. The site offers a wide range in IT, Communication and Electronics among other related products. The company is said to have deployed a team to help guide buyers with their pre-sales assistance & Free Tech Consultation. DVComm's big advantage is that they are providing pre-sale guidance, post sales service with direct liaisoning with OEM during the warranty period of the product, this begets customer comfort & huge confidence, a service that is pro-

vided by non other DVComm also provides a chargeable installation as required & guarantees delivery anywhere in India. Presently its product line includes a wide range in IT, Networking, Telecom, CCTV Security Electronics, UPS products from leading Global brands such as — Cisco, Alcatel, Polycom, CPPlus, Samsung, Nikon, Huawei, LG, Dell, HP, Emerson, APC and others. Surya Murugaian from Ericson Global Services India, Bengaluru said — "The Hub motors from DVComm.in are good, their components are really trust worthy".

# ONGC board to consider share buyback on Dec 20

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) Friday said its board will consider buyback of company shares at a meeting on December 20. This follows Government pushing cash-rich PSUs to use their funds to buy back shares or pay a higher dividend. The Government is looking to bridge budgetary deficit through higher receipts of dividend as well as selling its shares in PSUs in the buyback programmes. Stock buybacks refer to the repurchasing of shares by the company that issued them. A buyback occurs when the issuing company pays shareholders the market value per share and re-absorbs that portion of its ownership that was previously distributed among public and private investors. In a regulatory filing, ONGC said, "The meeting of Board of Directors of the company will be held on Thursday,

December 20, 2018, inter-alia, to consider the proposal for buy-back of the fully paid-up equity shares of the company." The Government holds 67.48 per cent stake in India's largest oil and gas producer ONGC. Just on Thursday, state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) said it will buy back 29.76 crore shares for about ₹4,435 crore and spend another ₹6,556 crore on paying an interim dividend to shareholders. The board of the country's largest oil firm Thursday approved buyback of up to 29.76 crore equity shares, or 3.06 per cent, at ₹149 per share. The Government, which holds a 54.06 per cent stake in the company, is expected to participate in the share buy-back. The Government is targeting a minimum ₹5,000 crore through share buyback offers of state-owned firms like Coal India, BHEL and Oil India Ltd.

# Govt to set up National Medical Devices Promotion Council

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday said it will set up National Medical Devices Promotion Council (NMDPC) to boost manufacturing, attract investments and promote exports of the fast-growing sector.



range of products.

"As Indian manufacturing companies and startups move towards creating innovative products, the setting-up of the council will spur domestic manufacturing in this sector," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

It said the medical devices industry plays a critical role in the healthcare ecosystem and is indispensable to achieve the goal of health for all citizens.

The manufacturing and trade in the sector is growing steadily which includes a wide

Although the industry has been growing in double digits, it is predominantly import-driven, with imports accounting for over 65 per cent of the domestic market.

The council, it said, will undertake several activities including facilitation, promotion and development of the sector besides holding seminars and workshops to garner views

It would also identify redundant processes and render technical assistance to the agencies and departments concerned to simplify the approval processes involved in the sector.

It will "enable entry of emerging interventions and support certifications for manufacturers to reach levels of global trade norms and lead India to an export driven market in the sector," it said.

The NMDPC would support dissemination and documentation of international norms and standards for medical devices, by capturing the best practices in the global market and facilitate domestic manufacturers to rise to international level.

It will also "drive a preferential market access policy, by

identifying the strengths of the Indian manufacturers and discouraging unfair trade practices in imports".

Besides, it would make recommendations to Government based on industry feedback and global practices on policy and process interventions to strengthen the medical technology sector.

The council will be headed by the secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

Apart from the concerned departments, it will also have representatives from healthcare industry and quality control institutions.

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhuram announced this move at WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices at Visakhapatnam.

# Ducati enters pre-owned bike market in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Italian superbike maker Ducati on Friday announced its foray into pre-owned market in India through its Ducati Approved programme.

Under the programme, only bikes less than 5 years old with certified mileage lower than 50,000 km are allowed to be sold after undergoing 35 technical checks, the company said in a statement.

"Our entry in the pre-owned segment in India will make Ducati more accessible to passionate bikers who aspire for the luxurious and premium experience offered by Ducati motorcycles," Ducati India managing director Sergi Canovas said.

Ducati Approved is a certified pre-owned motorcycle programme wherein company's qualified service technicians select and inspect every bike, certifying its history, the company said.

The programme also includes extended warranty and roadside assistance, it added.

"With this program, our aim is to sell bikes with the same level of sophistication and authenticity as offered with a new Ducati," the Ducati India managing director said.

# Infosys forms JV with Hitachi, Panasonic, Pasona in Japan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Infosys on Friday said it had formed a joint venture (JV) with Hitachi, Panasonic Corporation and Pasona to strengthen its presence in the Japanese market.

As part of the agreement, Infosys will acquire 81 per cent of the shareholding in Hitachi Procurement Service Co, Hitachi's fully owned subsidiary, Infosys said in a statement.

Hitachi, Panasonic and Pasona will be minority shareholders of the entity, it added. The consideration for the 81 per cent stake, subject to closing adjustments, is JPY 2,762 million (approx ₹174.58 crore).

"As part of the transaction, Infosys Consulting Pte. Ltd. will acquire an 81 per cent stake in HIPUS from Hitachi by way of an acquisition of existing shares," Infosys said in a regulatory filing. Hitachi will transfer 2 per cent each to Panasonic and Pasona, and will hold the remaining 15 per cent, it added. The transaction is expected to close by April 1, 2019, subject to customary closing conditions, Infosys said.

"The transaction is in alignment with Infosys' strategy to strengthen its presence in Japan and invest in local capabilities to serve the local and global needs

of Japanese corporations," it said.

Hitachi Procurement, currently, handles indirect materials purchasing functions for the Hitachi Group. "...iconic companies coming together, will accelerate business process transformation leveraging digital procurement platforms for the local and global needs of Japanese corporations," the statement said.

Infosys will bring its expertise in procurement processes, consulting, analytics and digital technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and Robotic Process Automation (RPA) to the venture.

Combined with Hitachi and Panasonic's knowledge of their procurement functions and local teams, and Pasona's human capital and BPM networks in Japan, the entity will provide differentiated, end-to-end, efficient and high value procurement capabilities to corporations, the statement said.

"This JV will help Japanese corporations transform their procurement processes using next-generation digital platforms, as we bring together the combined power of deep procurement expertise, technology, global expertise and local skills," Infosys president Ravi Kumar said.

# Indospace raises USD 1.2 bn to develop, buy logistic parks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Everstone-backed IndoSpace on Friday said it had raised USD 1.2 billion from investors through its new fund to develop and acquire industrial and logistics parks.

IndoSpace is one of the largest provider of modern industrial and logistics real estate in India and has taken total commitment to India to about USD 3.2 billion. It is promoted by Everstone Group, GLP and Realterm.

IndoSpace said in a statement that it held the final close on IndoSpace Logistic Parks III (ILP III) and the offering was significantly oversubscribed on the back of strong investor demand.

"USD 580 million of total equity was been committed to ILP III which, post leverage will create a corpus of more than USD 1.2 billion to develop and acquire industrial and logistics-related real estate investments in India," it added.

IndoSpace would utilise the fund to further strengthen its market leadership position. Leading global institutional investors have invested in ILP III. Currently, IndoSpace has a portfolio of around 30 million square feet across developed and under-construction projects.

# Alembic Pharma raises ₹350 cr

New Delhi (PTI): Drug firm Alembic Pharmaceuticals on Friday said it had raised ₹350 crore through allotment of non-convertible debentures (NCDs) on private placement basis. "The NCD committee of Alembic Pharmaceuticals Ltd... has allotted 1,500, 9 per cent rated unsecured listed

redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCDs)... aggregating to ₹150 crore under tranche I," Alembic Pharmaceuticals said in a regulatory filing. The company said it had also allotted 2,000, 9 per cent rated unsecured listed redeemable NCDs... aggregating to ₹200 crore.

# National electronics policy almost finalised: Prasad

New Delhi (PTI): The government has almost finalised the National Policy on Electronics to boost electronics manufacturing in India on a big scale, Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said Friday. He said the Narendra Modi government was pushing India's case for USD 1 trillion digital economy. Speaking at an event organised by industry body CII, the minister also asked the electronics industry to focus on producing medical devices, defence and automobile items.

## NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
BHARTIARTL	305.2	333.4	305.2	319	15.9
BPCL	334.65	349.4	330.75	344.95	10.05
YESBANK	172.7	181.6	168.25	179.7	5
IOC	141.15	142.5	140.1	141.3	3.9
COALINDIA	244.55	250.4	242	250.05	5.5
ONGC	143	150.14	140.6	146.25	2.95
NTPC	141	144.15	139.6	143.8	2.75
GRASIM	770	852.75	835.5	844.9	15.5
IBULHSGFIN	852.65	798.05	760.05	788.9	13.2
EICHERMOT	23,350.00	23,800.00	23,150.70	23,700.00	394.6
ASIANPAINT	1,332.80	1,511.00	1,320.00	1,390.00	18.8
POWERGRID	181.5	186.25	180.5	185.1	2.55
GAIL	346.95	353.2	341.5	351.3	4.85
ULTRACEMCO	4,039.00	4,043.80	3,975.00	3,998.50	49.4
INFRAEEL	249	252.9	247.25	252.3	3.1
INFY	697.45	713.7	694.4	706.15	8.4
HINDPETRO	224	229.5	222	226.95	1.8
VEDL	199	203.2	198.15	201.9	1.25
ICICIBANK	349.2	354.05	349.15	351	1.45
TCS	1,983.00	1,998.95	1,975.25	1,989.00	6.4
RELIANCE	1,103.10	1,114.90	1,091.80	1,100.25	2.95
HINDUNILVR	1,837.00	1,865.85	1,832.75	1,860.55	5
TECHM	709.15	716.8	705.1	711	1.7
TATASTEEL	511	517.8	506.5	513.5	1.25
ITC	274.35	277.25	273.9	275.85	0.55
AXISBANK	619.1	623	611.3	620.3	1.2
HINDALCO	219.5	222.85	217.3	220.6	0.3
TATAMOTORS	166	168.4	164.85	167	0.15
MARUTI	7,684.00	7,690.00	7,545.95	7,676.00	5.5
SBIN	288.5	290.8	287.05	288.7	-0.3
BAJAJFINSV	617.90	620.20	610.30	613.10	-0.6
HEROMOTOCO	3,302.00	3,350.80	3,266.65	3,315.00	-3.25
INDUSINDBK	1,610.00	1,613.50	1,590.05	1,608.00	-2.1
BAFINANCE	2,488.25	2,512.00	2,464.25	2,485.35	-3.75
M&M	751.1	764	751.6	757	-2.2
DREDDY	2,595.00	2,609.60	2,568.00	2,589.20	-7.65
HDFCBANK	2,104.90	2,118.00	2,088.05	2,107	-6.2
SUNPHARMA	421.95	426	417.1	420.45	-1.65
KOTAKBANK	370	371.15	367	368.9	-2.15
CIFLA	528.35	533.8	516.65	522.05	-4.95
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,836.00	2,837.35	2,785.20	2,808.50	-27.6
UPL	770	777	758.85	765.9	-7.55
WIPRO	339	343	332.3	335	-3.65
LT	1,423.45	1,428.55	1,405.05	1,410.65	-15.8
ZEE	491	494.95	482	485.55	-8.15
TITAN	943.65	951.7	928.45	928.6	-15.55
HDFC	1,945.00	1,955.00	1,898.05	1,906.6	-32.45
JSWSTEEL	297	300.85	291.15	292.9	-5.15
HCLTECH	966	968.8	950	960.1	-17.95

## BSE 500

Script	Last Traded	Abs Change	% Change	CANBK	266.45	6.75	2.6	FSL	51.95	1.55	3.08	ITDCM	108.85	-0.6	-0.55
3MINDIA	23027.85	-400.35	-1.71	CANFINHOME	278.35	12.25	4.6	GAIL	350.95	4.6	1.33	ITI	92.85	-0.35	-0.38
8KMILES	165.15	-5	-2.94	CAPF	536.85	-7.55	-1.39	GDL	137.7	0.05	0.04	J&KBANK	35.75	-0.4	-1.11
AARTIND	1438.05	2.45	0.17	CAPPL	393.75	-4.65	-1.17	GEPIL	837.6	16.35	1.99	JAGRAN	112.3	-0.7	-0.62
ABB	1431.35	-6.1	-0.42	CARBORUNIV	351.6	-3.1	-0.87	GESHIP	346.7	5.6	1.64	JAIACORPLTD	103.75	-0.45	-0.43
ABBOTTINDIA	7534.55	30.2	0.4	CARERATING	997.6	-2.4	-0.24	GETHRD	255.6	-5	-1.92	JAMNAUTO	63.65	-0.95	-1.47
ABCAPITAL	99.05	0.6	0.61	CASTROLIND	149.25	2.1	1.43	GHCL	238.2	2.35	1	JBCHEPHARM	298.1	-0.8	-0.27
ABFRL	199.1	0.8	0.4	CCL	279.7	-0.1	-0.04	GICHSGFIN	241.65	-1.2	-0.49	JCHAC	183.6	6	3.33
ACC	1498.5	-1.75	-0.12	CEATLTD	1309.4	14.3	1.1	GICRE	273.25	1.1	0.4	JETAIRWAYS	259.95	8.1	3.22
ADANIAPORTS	368.95	-2.4	-0.65	CENTRALBK	30.5	0.35	1.16	GILLETTE	6499.75	-19.35	-0.3	JINDALSALV	82.1	-0.7	-0.85
ADANIPAPER	52.15	0.35	0.68	CENTRUM	36.8	-0.7	-1.87	GLAXO	1383.05	-10.8	-0.77	JINDALSTEL	157.35	-1.85	-1.16
ADANITRANS	219.75	-0.05	-0.02	CENTURYPLY	185.9	1.8	0.98	GLENMARK	666.4	-10.65	-1.57	JISJALQSQ	66.5	0.25	0.38
ADVENZYMES	178.5	1.55	0.88	CENTURYTEXT	925.55	12.8	1.4	GMDCLTD	86.7	-1.2	-1.37	JKCEMENT	731.3	1.55	0.21
AEGISLOG	196.2	-6.4	-3.16	CERA	2357.3	-9.45	-0.4	GMRINFRA	15.75	0.3	1.94	JKIL	119	-3.4	-2.78
AIANG	1611.05	-22.95	-1.4	CHAMBLFERT	144.2	-2.45	-1.67	GNFC	337	-4.3	-1.26	JKLAKSHMI	279.65	5.7	2.08
AJANTIPHARM	1096.25	16.25	1.5	CHENNPETRO	728.25	4.1	1.5	GODFREYPHLP	925.55	8.9	0.97	JKTYRE	95.55	-0.05	-0.05
AKZOINDIA	1574.25	11.25	0.72	CHOLAFIN	1230.7	-7.7	-0.62	GODREJAGRO	506.65	-4.45	-0.87	JMFINANCIL	86.45	-1.3	-1.48
ALBK	46.35	-0.05	-0.11	CIPLA	521.4	-6.35	-1.2	GODREJIND	543.6	-3.7	-0.68	JL	33	0.05	0.15
ALKEM	1882.1	11.5	0.61	COALINDIA	246.75	1.95	0.8	GODREJPROP	664.85	-4.45	-0.66	JLSHISAR	90.2	0.65	0.73
ALLCARGO	107.35	1.05	0.99	COCHINSHIP	381.15	-0.4	-0.1	GPPL	102.65	0.55	0.54	JSWENERGY	70.95	0.35	0.5
AMARAJABAT	735.35	5.35	0.73	COFFEDAY	264.7	-1.8	-0.68	GRANULES	87.65	0.75	0.86	JSTEEL	293.45	-4.6	-1.54
AMBUJACEM	219.25	0.5	0.23	COLPAL	1311.85	8.7	0.67	GRAPHITE	863.4	-11.7	-1.34	JUBILANT	738.3	-2.3	-0.31
ANDHRABANK	28.6	0.1	0.35	CONCOR	651.55	2.5	0.39	GRASIM	845.5	14.8	1.78	JUBLFOOD	1246.05	-6.65	-0.53
APARINDS	608	-9.15	-1.48	CORAMANDEL	438.85	9.6	2.24	GREAVESCOT	123.8	0.3	-0.24	JUSTDIAL	491.7	-0.5	-0.1
APLAPOLLO	1290.5	-14.6	-1.12	CORPBANK	28.4	0.2	0.71	GREENPLY	131.1	-0.2	-0.15	JYOTHYLAB	190	-3.95	-2.04

## NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
BANDHANBANK	504	511	503.5	533.8	29.55
IDEA	35.4	37.7	35.25	36	1.1
MOTHERSUMI	166.6	179.1	163.3	166.6	4.9
SUNTV	588.8	578.75	554.7	575	143
DABUR	426	446.3	426	444.55	9.85
PETRONET	2128	2183	2124	2172	44
GODREJCP	812	829.9	802	825	16.3
ICICI	892.7	915	888	906	17.1
HDFCLIFE	389	395	386.3	394	6.8
LATHEE	145.05	148.4	143.6	146.8	1.65
BIOCON	641				

# SRI LANKA CRISIS Mahinda Rajapaksa to resign as PM today

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Signalling an end to the nearly two-month power tussle in Sri Lanka, disputed Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa will resign on Saturday, his son said on Friday, soon after the Supreme Court refused to stay a court order that restrained the embattled former strongman from acting as the premier until it fully heard the case next month.

Rajapaksa, 73, was appointed as the prime minister on October 26 by President Maithripala Sirisena in a controversial move after naming Ranil Wickremesinghe, which plunged the island nation into a constitutional crisis.

"To ensure stability of the nation, Former President @PresRajapaksa has decided to resign from the Premiership tomorrow after an address to the nation," Rajapaksa's son Namal tweeted.

The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) with former president, Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and others will "now work to form a broader political coalition with President Sirisena," Namal Rajapaksa, a lawmaker, added. Wickremesinghe's camp



was hopeful that Sirisena would now reinstate him over the weekend after Rajapaksa resigns, effectively ending the political stalemate that plagued the nation for the past seven weeks.

There was no immediate reaction from President Sirisena, the architect of the current crisis. Parliamentarian Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena said Rajapaksa, who ruled Sri Lanka for nearly a decade, decided to step down in the best interest of the country.

He claimed Rajapaksa can hold office without resigning but that will only further drag the political turmoil in the country. So the former president decided to step down after the court ruling given on

Friday and on Thursday. His Cabinet will also stand dissolved, Abeywardena was quoted as saying by the Colombo Gazette.

The apex court's latest ruling came a day after it unanimously declared that the dissolution of Parliament by President Maithripala Sirisena was "illegal," in a body blow to the embattled leader, whose controversial

decisions plunged the island nation into an unprecedented political turmoil.

The Supreme Court decided that a Court of Appeal order issued against the appointment of Rajapaksa as Prime Minister and against his Cabinet from holding office will stand.

# May sticks to her Brexit plan despite rebuff from EU

AP ■ BRUSSELS

British Prime Minister Theresa May insisted on Friday that her Brexit deal was still alive and kicking, despite a stinging rebuff from the European Union after she asked for changes to make the agreement more palatable to UK lawmakers.

May came to an EU summit in Brussels seeking legally binding changes to the agreement, but the bloc told her bluntly that a renegotiation was not possible. They offered only assurances they would seek to move swiftly on forging a new trade deal after Britain leaves the bloc on March 29.

Nonetheless, May told reporters in Brussels that she welcomed the EU's words — and that, as formal conclusions of an EU summit, they "have legal status."

"There is work still to do, and we will be holding talks in coming days about how to obtain the further assurances that the U.K. Parliament needs in order to be able to approve the deal," May said.

May's optimism contrasted with a pessimistic tone from many on the EU side. EU leaders expressed deep doubts that May could live up to her side



of their Brexit agreement and vowed to step up preparations for a potentially-catastrophic "no-deal" scenario for Britain's departure.

"Very objectively, the signals that we heard yesterday are not especially reassuring about the capacity in Britain to be able to honor the engagement that was undertaken," Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel told reporters.

Expressing a "gigantic doubt" that May can get her Brexit deal through the British Parliament, Michel said: "we are going to be sure to prepare for all hypotheses, including the hypothesis of a 'no deal'."

May canceled a Brexit vote in the U.K. Parliament this week after it became clear it would strongly vote down the Brexit deal she concluded with the EU last month. She hopes to secure changes from the bloc in order to get Parliament's approval in a vote next month.

# EU leaders vow to press on with 'no-deal' Brexit plans

AP ■ BRUSSELS

European Union leaders expressed deep doubts on Friday that British Prime Minister Theresa May can live up to her side of their Brexit agreement and they vowed to step up preparations for a potentially-catastrophic "no-deal" scenario.

May cancelled a Brexit vote in the UK Parliament this week after it became clear the assembly would reject the deal she concluded with the EU last month.

She travelled to Brussels in hope of wringing some concessions from her European partners that would help assuage doubts about the draft divorce agreement back in London.

But EU leaders rejected any attempt to re-negotiate their agreement, a 585-page legal text settling things like the divorce bill and the rights next year of Europeans living in Britain or Britons living in the EU, plus a document laying out their hopes for future relations, which isn't legally binding.

They did publish a short text with "assurances" about how the deal would work.

"Very objectively, the signals that we heard yesterday are not especially reassuring about the capacity in Britain to be



able to honour the engagement that was undertaken," Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel told reporters.

Expressing a "gigantic doubt" that May can get the deal through Parliament, Michel said: "we are going to be sure to prepare for all hypotheses, including the hypothesis of a no-deal."

No country has ever left the 28-nation EU — the world's biggest trading bloc — and the rules laying out that process are sketchy. Essentially, Brexit is being made up as the process advances. Court challenges have clarified some of the rules.

This week, Europe's top court ruled that Britain can change its mind about leaving should it want to.

One thing is clear: Brexit will happen on March 29,

although a transition period will help ease Britain out over almost two, and possibly up to four, years. The prospect of a no-deal has shaken markets and the British pound, and created uncertainty for investors and businesses. Brexit involves Britain leaving around 750 international treaties drawn up over 40 years of membership. One of them is the EU's aviation market.

Without a deal, British planes won't be able to land in Europe on March 30. Nor will European planes be able to land in the UK.

May didn't talk to reporters as she entered EU headquarters early Friday for talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, after shuffling around Europe earlier this week seeking support.

## GLOBE TROTTER

### 16 KILLED IN TRUCK ACCIDENT IN NEPAL

**Kathmandu:** At least 16 people were killed when a mini-truck met with an accident in Nepal's Nuwakot district, 80 kms west of Kathmandu, on Friday evening.

### OFFENSIVE AGAINST TALIBAN KILLS AT LEAST 20

**Kabul:** An Afghan official says an assault on Taliban positions in northeastern Afghanistan's Kunar province, which included US air strikes, killed at least 20 insurgents, contradicting Taliban claims of civilian casualties.

## EU court rejects Hamas appeal over terror listing

AFP ■ BRUSSELS

A top EU court on Friday threw out an appeal by the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas against its listing by the bloc as a terrorist organisation.

The General Court of the EU rejected a bid by Hamas, the militant group which has ruled the Gaza Strip since 2007, to end a freeze on assets held in the bloc that was imposed in the wake of the 9/11 attacks in the United States.

## China lodges 'stern' protest with US over Senate Bill on Tibet

PTI ■ BEIJING

China has lodged a "stern" diplomatic protest with the US over the Senate passing a bipartisan legislation that seeks to impose a visa ban on Chinese officials who deny American citizens, officials and journalists access to Tibet, even as Beijing asked Washington not to make it a law.

Reacting to the US move, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said here that the American action disregarded facts and amounted to interfering in China's internal affairs and was a violation of international rules.

"China is firmly opposed to it and lodged stern representations to the US. I have to point out that Tibet affairs come under China's internal affairs

and it allows no foreign interference," he said.

"The Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, seeking unhindered access to Tibetan areas for Americans, something which is routinely denied by the Chinese government, was passed by the US House of Representatives in September.

The US Senate on Tuesday passed the crucial bipartisan legislation that also calls for a visa ban on Chinese officials who deny American citizens, government officials and journalists access to Tibet, the remote Himalayan homeland of exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama.

The legislation, passed unanimously, comes amid the Trump administration imposing massive trade import duties on China that has started

impacting the Chinese economy.

The bill now heads to the White House for President Donald Trump to sign into law.

Lu said foreigners entering Tibet can apply through normal channels and every year a lot of foreigners and local tourists visit Tibet.

He said since 2015, about 40,000 Americans visited Tibet and this included US Senators, Congressmen and businessmen.

"This shows the US accusations do not hold water at all and Chinese government and people cannot accept that. We urge the US to immediately take effective measures to stop signing the act into law and thus avoid harming US-China relations and our cooperation in key areas," he said.

## Trump knew hush-money payments were wrong: Ex-lawyer Michael Cohen

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump knew it was wrong to order election-eve hush money paid to two women who claimed to have had affairs with him, his former lawyer Michael Cohen said in an interview to be broadcast Friday.

Trump acted because he "was very concerned about how this would affect the election," Cohen told ABC News of the women's allegations in his first comments since being sentenced to three years in prison on Thursday.

Trump said he never directed Cohen to break the law. But Cohen, asked if Trump knew the payments to Stormy Daniels and Karen McDougal were wrong, said "of course."

Trump acted because he was very concerned about how this would affect the election, says Cohen

Cohen challenged Trump's assertion in a tweet Thursday after the lawyer's sentencing that he never told him to break the law.

"I don't think there is anybody that believes that," Cohen told George Stephanopoulos on the program "Good Morning America." ABC released excerpts of the interview ahead of its full airing.

"First of all, nothing at the Trump Organisation was ever done unless it was run through Mr. Trump. He directed me to make the payments, he directed me to become involved in these matters," Cohen said.

## Seven-year-old Guatemalan girl dies in US custody: Report

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

A seven-year-old Guatemalan girl died in American custody after being detained by US border police in New Mexico. The Washington Post reported on Thursday.

The girl who illegally crossed the border from Mexico along with her father and dozens of others died last week of "dehydration and shock," the newspaper reported, citing US Customs and Border Protection.

She had "reportedly had not eaten or consumed water for several days," the CBP told the Post, who said she began having seizures more than eight hours after being detained.

Emergency responders had measured her body temperature at 105.7 degrees (41 centigrade), the Post said.

She died after being flown to hospital.

The name of the girl and her father have not been released.

The father is in El Paso, Texas awaiting a meeting with Guatemalan consular officials, the Post said, quoting CBP, which said it is investigating the incident.

President Donald Trump has made hard-line immigration policies a central plank of his presidency, drawing fire from critics who accuse him of demonising migrants for political gain.

Much attention has been focused on caravans of thousands of Central Americans who have made their way to Tijuana, Mexico, just south from San Diego, California in a challenge to Trump, who criticised them as posing an "invasion".

But migrants fleeing poverty and gang violence also continue to cross over in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona after enduring dangerous treks through Mexico.

## France dismisses ISIS claim for Strasbourg Christmas bloodshed

**Strasbourg (France):** France's interior minister on Friday dismissed a claim by the Islamic State group that it was responsible for a shooting spree at a Christmas market in Strasbourg after the gunman was shot dead by police, ending a 48-hour manhunt.

The city reopened the market on Friday, with officials praising the massive public help and quick police reaction that led to the death of suspected shooter Cherif Chekatt late on Thursday.

## Israel in West Bank manhunt as Netanyahu under pressure

AFP ■ RAMALLAH (PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES)

Israeli forces kept up a manhunt on Friday for a Palestinian who shot dead two soldiers in the occupied West Bank, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced rightwing pressure for a strong response.

Thursday's shooting was the latest incident shattering months of relative calm in the West Bank, where 4,00,000 Israelis live in settlements alongside more than 2.5 million Palestinians.

It was the third deadly attack by Palestinian gunmen in the West Bank in two months and set off demonstrations by settler groups against Netanyahu, whose rightwing government depends

on their support. Israeli media speculated Friday about the possibility of a new Palestinian "intifada," or uprising, against Israel's occupation of the West Bank. In Thursday's attack, a gunman got out of his car and opened fire on soldiers and others outside a settlement in the central West Bank, killing two and seriously injuring another two Israelis before fleeing. In response the army locked down the city of Ramallah, home to secular Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, while calling in reinforcements.

Clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces erupted in different parts of the West Bank, including inside Ramallah during army raids.

Settlers shouting for revenge threw stones at

Palestinian vehicles, while an Arab bus driver was beaten by ultra-Orthodox Jews in Modiin Illit settlement, according to Israeli media reports.

In overnight raids, the army said it arrested 40 Palestinians, most of them affiliated to the Islamist movement Hamas which has claimed responsibility for two recent shooting attacks.

It has not yet claimed Thursday's attack, though Israeli officials point the finger of blame in its direction.

The Army did not say it had made arrests linked directly to the latest attack.

At a checkpoint near the Beit El settlement on Friday morning, a soldier was moderately wounded after a man hit him with a rock before fleeing, the Army said.

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this female **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 55 years, **Sex:** female, **Height:** 4 feet 10 inch., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Identification:** Tattoo Mark of "Ganga Saraswati" on right hand, **Wearing:** White petikot, purple printed blouse, bare footed,

has been found dead at Under Signature bridge, Yamuna River in drowned condition, Timarpur, Delhi on dated 24.11.2018.

In this regard a DD No. 15-A, dated 24-11-2018 has been lodged at P.S. Timarpur, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this female may kindly inform to the following.

**SHO**  
**PS. Timarpur, Delhi**  
**DP/9460/N/18 Ph.: 011-23812734, 8750870129**

### Syndicate Bank

Regional Office: C Block, Phase 2, Industrial Area, Sector 62, Noida,  
Uttar Pradesh 201309, Ph: 0120 240 0851, Email: ro.noida@syndicatebank.co.in

Demand Notice

You the below mentioned borrowers have availed loan by mortgaging the schedule mentioned property and you the below mention have stood as borrower/co-borrower, guarantor for the loan agreement. Consequent to the default committed by you, your loan account has been classified as non-performing asset under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (in short SARFAESI Act). The Authorized Officer of Syndicate Bank has issued Demand Notice u/s 13(2) read with section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act to the address furnished by you. The notices sent to you by the Registered post are receiver back returned unserved. The contents of the said notices are that you had committed default in payment of the various loans guaranteed to you. Therefore, the present publication carried out to serve the notice as the provision of Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act and in terms of provision to the rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002:-

Sr. No.	Name and Address of the Account, Borrower(s) & Sureties, Branch Office	Details of the security to be enforced	NPA/ 13(2) Notice date	Amount O/s as per 13(2) notice
1	<b>Borrower:</b> M/s. Sarveshwar Creations Pvt. Ltd. Represented by its Directors 1. Sh. Apoorva Joshi and 2. Smt. Geetika Kweera, Office at: CR-274, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar Delhi-110092. <b>Factory Unit</b> at B-58, Sector-63, Noida UP. <b>Surety:</b> 1. Sh. Apoorva Joshi s/o Late Sh J C Joshi R/o D-169/56, Sector-50, Noida UP. 2. Smt. Geetika Kweera w/o Sh. Apoorva Joshi R/o D-169/56, Sector-50, Noida. UP. Also at 3. Corporate Guarantee of M/s Sheen India Pvt. Ltd. Office address: B-107, Sector-63, Noida UP-201301. 4. Corporate Guarantee of M/s G & K Moda Plus Pvt. Ltd., Registered Office: CR-274, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi. <b>Branch Office: SME Branch, B-117, Sector-18 Noida.</b>	1). Stock & Book Debts and other Current assets. 2). Immovable Property Plot No. A-38-1, Sector-34, Noida in owned by M/s G K Moda Plus Pvt Ltd	28.09.2018 27.11.2018	Rs. 52027562.90 (Rupees Five Crores Twenty Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Two and Paise Ninety Only) is along with interest from 01.10.2018 and cost etc.
2	<b>Borrower:</b> Mr. Bjendra Singh, R/o Village Shahpur Chaudhary, Teh. Garhmukteshwar, Hapur-245207. <b>Surety:</b> Mr. Samar Pal Singh s/o Sh. Ratil Raj, R/o Village Powli Garhmukteshwar Dist. Hapur. <b>Branch Office: Garhmukteshwar</b>	House part of Khasra No. 890 which is constructed at ground floor in village-Shahpur chaudhary, Pargana & Tehsil- Garhmukteshwar Distt-Hapur UP. Owned by Mr. Bjendra Singh	31.05.2014 24.09.2018	Rs. 714149.74 (Rupees Seven Lakh Fourteen Thousand one Hundred Forty Nine and Paise Seventy Four Only) is along with interest from 01.09.2018 and cost etc.

You are hereby called upon to pay Syndicate Bank within the period of 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice the aforesaid amount with interest and cost falling which Syndicate Bank will take necessary action under the Provisions of the said Act against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of secured assets of the borrowers, mortgagors and the guarantors. The power available to the Syndicate Bank under the said act include (1) Power to take possession of the secured assets of the borrowers/guarantors including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment of sale for releasing secured assets (2) Take over management of the secured assets including rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale and realize the secured assets and any transfer as of secured assets by Syndicate Bank shall vest in all the rights and relation to the secured assets transferred as if the transfer has been made by you.

In terms of the Provisions of the Section 13(13) of the said act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the normal course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to above and also hypothecated/mortgaged to the Bank without prior consent of the Syndicate Bank.

\*Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (B) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act where under you can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s).

The notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of Law.

**PLACE: GREATER NOIDA, DATE: 15.12.2018** **AUTHORISED OFFICER, SYNDICATE BANK**

SHORT CIRCUITS



**DEEPIKA PADUKONE**  
It feels nice to be one of the top actresses of Bollywood. It's not something that has fallen in my lap. My message to kids is that work hard, believe in your dreams and have fun while you are at it. Life is not only about being at the top, but more about enjoying the process.



**KAILASH KHER**  
Even if we touch the sky, we cannot uproot ourselves. *Koi kitna bhi bada ho, apne bado se bada nahi hota. Ye mere bado ki dharti hai.* (No matter how much one achieves, s/he is not bigger than her/his elders. This is the land of my elders). It's nostalgic and emotional to sing for my people on my homeground.



**RANVEER SINGH**  
Marriage is like the best thing that has ever happened to me. I feel some kind of magic. It's like I'm invincible. You know in those superhero movies, you know that moment when the suit comes on. I feel like marriage has done that to me. I would highly recommend it to the entire young population.



**MATTHEW HEALY**  
I don't think it is particularly brave to be talking about my drug addiction in my song. Telling the truth is the only option. That's why I represent it in my art and the way I speak and the way I am with people. It is important for me to be upfront. People can deal with anything if it's true.

**JENNIFER LOPEZ**  
*Limitless* is a song that Sia wrote for the movie, *Second Act*. It's the anthem for the film. I asked her watch the movie and tell me what you think — if you're inspired, write something, and she wrote that song which is I thought I had to be somebody else, but look at me now, I'm limitless.



EVENT 30 MINUTES

# NOT JUST FOOD

Founders RUCHI SIBAL and ADITI KAPOOR tell CHAHAK MITTAL how the Palate Fest goes beyond conventional culinary habits to promote healthier initiatives among the public



What were called the *melas*, popularly known as amusement fairs, have now got a suave new avatar as theme-based festivals and extravaganzas, especially ones that are centred food. In fact, the turn of the season seems to signal the start of a host of events centred around gourmet eating. This trend has not only acquired a must-do status among the denizens of the capital but also shapes the face for various cuisines and food cultures in the year to come.

Ruchi Sibal, co-founder and director of the Palate Fest, says that the festival was the first-of-its-kind when it was launched five years ago. "We conceptualised the show keeping in mind a space where there is something for everyone including kids and adults. If it provides a section to particular cuisines to showcase, there is also a special section for kids as well as one for presenting food products for adults," she says.

There will be gaming zones for kids and sections that promote healthy eating habits. It also gives a platform for various chefs and cooks to share and learn new recipes.

With about 80 stalls, the festival offers piquant food options like freshly-skewed fish, barbecued chicken, noodles, and various cuisines including Mexican and pan-Asian.

"Food is something that can bring everybody together. People used to go for picnics in the parks earlier. Now that concept is vanishing. However, such festivals, in a way, are trying to replicate the experience minus the preparation and time that these entailed. These aim to bring in delicacies at big venues,"

believes Ruchi. So what is the biggest element that the festival offers? Founder Aditi Kapoor says that by bringing in chefs from many segments, they are trying to promote healthier food eating habits. She says, "We have chef Sabyasachi who promotes 'healthy bingeing' of fruits and dry fruits including dehydrated mangoes without any added sugar. He also brings fresh eating habits by avoiding trans-fat and including a tomato and cucumber salad."

Ruchi lists some of the elements that have been added for the first time in the fest. "So we have a country pavilion for Mexico in a corner. It will present their local cuisine and culture. We have also expanded our entertainment factor where we'll have the kids' zone. Earlier everything was in one area, now there are separate sections for everyone. We will have little food alleys where there will be young and significant food brands. There is also more participation from even the general public."

She mentions the B2B programme where new businesses for food can be thought about and set up. She says, "Anyone, people from the government, commercial heads from embassies, wedding planners or gifting businesses, who want to team up with like minded individuals and create something related to food. The fest offers the space to incubate new ideas."

Aditi believes that street food in India was always more popular but today the Indian audience is open to more cuisines and food cultures. She says, "It's not just about having *chowmein*, *butter chicken* or *chole bhature* anymore, or going out to have one



food item. Such a festival gives a roof to all kinds of cuisines together."

She says that this scenario has evolved among the current population as they are travelling a lot more. "When they like something in a foreign land, they also wish for it to be present and accessible in their own country. Now with growing awareness, the availability has also increased. Today there's a plethora of things to explore," she says.

While talking about the challenges, she agrees that there are always hurdles while creating something so massive. "But," she says, "the biggest one is not become stagnant and do the same thing year after year. There should always be certain additions that give a new vibe. This time there are food sessions and talks on healthy food, sections for food art and organic products, entertainment and more." She recalls that when they implemented their idea for the first time, half a decade ago, "there was one challenge — understanding. We wanted people to comprehend that it is not just a frivolous food festival that has some drinks and music but also amusement related to food as well as an

opportunity to gain some knowledge around various cuisines."

So what have been the patterns that she has observed during the course of five years? "The demographic of the country is so wide that there are no particular lines that hit the highest graph. If some follow more international dishes, some still stick to Indian food. Those who have tried things before and have liked them want to stick to them. There are variations so there can't be just one statistic. But, the Indian audience is indeed increasingly heading towards global food movements," says Aditi.

The three-day extravaganza will also see Bollywood actress Taapsee Pannu greeting audience. There will be performances by singers like Daler Mehendi on December 16, while Jasmine Sandlas and Tulsi Kumar will be performing today. A few names from the culinary space are Big Wong, Jom Jom Malay, Bombay Brasserie, The Great Kabab Factory, Orient Heritage, Wok to Walk, Olives of Spain, Kiaras Soul Kitchen, among others. (The festival at Nehru Park ends on Sunday.)

ENCOUNTER 20 MINUTES

# 'ART IS NEVER A COMPETITION'

Filmmaker IRAM HAQ's *What Will People Say* has been selected as Norwegian entry for the best foreign language film at the 91st Academy Awards

Norwegian-Pakistani actress filmmaker Iram Haq, whose film *What Will People Say* has been selected as Norwegian entry for the best foreign language film at the 91st Academy Awards, says telling a compelling story is more important for her than winning an award because she does not believe in competition when it comes to art.

How did she first react on her film being chosen to represent Norway at the Oscars.

Haq, whose film stars Indian actors Adil Hussain, Ekavali Khanna and Rohit Sarafi said, "When I started making the film, the most important thing for me was to tell a story in an utmost honest manner. And as an individual, I strongly believe that art is never a competition."

"Of course, it is a big honour for me that my film has been chosen but I want to say that it is not possible to compete in art. Reaching out to people with a story is important," added Haq, whose earlier film 'I am Yours' was also selected as the official Norwegian Oscar entry for Best Foreign Language Film.

This year, Rima Das's *Village Rockstar* has been selected as India's official entry to Oscar. The story of Haq's film deals with the journey of a young girl who is dealing with socio-cultural difference and a disturbed relationship with her parents.

According to her, understanding the generational gap and expressing a critical view on the matter through the film was very important.

Talking about projecting a balanced view with the story, Haq said, "It was important for me to put out both sides of the story. You see, the film is basically a love story between a father and his daughter and that does not really work because they are coming from two different generation, gender and mindset."

"While the daughter understands the cultural values of her father and how he is struggling to accept the cultural difference of a world that is very different from a regular south Asian society, the girl is a Pakistani born and brought up in Norway. It is almost impossible for her to live her entire life to please her family."

The film not just features Indian actors, but is also shot in various parts of India, mostly in Rajasthan. In fact, Adil won the Best Actor award at the Amanda Award or the Norwegian National Awards.

On casting Indian talent, especially Adil, Haq said, "He is a wonderful actor and he was the perfect choice for playing the father. How wonderfully he transformed the character from script to screen through his performance."

Being a Pakistani girl who is born and brought up in Norway herself, just like the pro-



tagonist Nisha — played by Maria Mozhdah — the film is quite autobiographical for the director. Reflecting upon that, she said, "When our parents went abroad and were not well-integrated, they feared to embrace the new culture. That is how they ended up taking wrong decisions for their children."

"I had to live life like a well-mannered South Asian girl in my home because according to my parents, 'log kya kahenge (what will people say)' otherwise, we will lose out on our tradition and culture. They think the new generation will lose themselves in the western culture."

"I wanted the young generation to break free of that constant thought of *log kya kahenge* and assert that we are not here to live up to the expectation of 'log (people)... we are here to live our *zindagi* (life). This is how I always stand by my child as a mother," added Haq.

She was kidnapped and taken to Pakistan and lived there for a year. She had lost connection with her parents.

"I want to say that the story of the film is told with a lot of love but at the same time, it is a critical voice on how you shut down a young voice, or the voice of a girl, because she is a girl or because the individual is young. I am a strong believer of respecting young voice."

Before making her directorial debut in 2010 with the short film *Little Miss Eyeflap*, Haq worked as an actress, writer and theatre artiste for many years.

Is she interested in collaborating more with Indian actors? She said, "I have already worked with Indian artistes and producers over here in India and of course I love India. I speak the language and it feels like they are my people. So, I am open to the idea of collaborating with Indian artistes in the near future."

—IANS

DIALOGUE 40 MINUTES

# The water game

It was not just the storyline but also the effort and passion that went into the shooting of *Aquaman* that make it a much-awaited film, says its cast



Can you tell us James, what was the most important part for you to get right in creating this world and telling this story visually?

**James Wan:** Probably one of the biggest visuals I wanted to get right was the costume of *Aquaman*. That was definitely something we worked hard and long on. I really wanted to capture the vibrancy of Atlantis and all the underwater kingdoms and do justice to the comic book while obviously, filtering it through my own sensibility.

**Mera is fierce. She goes toe-to-toe with the bad guy. What are you most proud of in terms of this character — the way she was written and the way you portrayed her?**

**Amber Heard:** Well, I feel really lucky to have worked with people who wanted to maintain the integrity and strength of the original character. Mera never was anything other than a bad-ass super hero. She is not damsel in distress. Mera is a kick-ass woman and doesn't need any help from anyone. It was amazing to get to play a character like her.

Orm is the villain of the film but

he also has a point about humankind destroying the oceans. What was it like playing the many sides of this complex character?

**Patrick Wilson:** Well, his fight is perfectly understandable. There's a long history of Aquaman protecting oceans, fighting whaling, saving fishermen, all throughout comic history. I like that they left the pollution up to Orm because it enables you to have a really violent response. And I think there's something cathartic for an audience watching that. I think you'd be hard-pressed to find someone who didn't think we were destroying the oceans; of course we are. And, of course, it's something we all need to take heed of — not that, that's the main theme of the story, but certainly that's Orm's track when he sets out to combine his armies and take on the surface. Everybody says, 'Yeah, I get it. So, it's a fun way in, because then you've got conflict. You sort of wonder, so he's the little brother of an older brother he never had?' He knows deep down he is the firstborn, so there are all those Shakespearean complex emotions that he's dealing with. But you start him from a very organic place, then you can go as big as you want, which we do.

**James, what was your biggest challenge, and why Jason?**

**James Wan:** Ultimately, it is just bringing his personality to this character — not bringing him to *Aquaman*, but bringing *Aquaman* to him. And what I

love most about it is I get to be the one to showcase the other side of Jason Momoa that not many people have seen, which is the funny side of him. And after this movie comes out, people are going to see what a great potential romantic lead he is as well.

**Jason Momoa:** I just want to speak English. I don't want to fight anymore.

**James Wan:** But that's what I love about Jason — he comes in and just makes a statement with this character, and that's what this first movie really needs.

**When you first learned that you were going to play Aquaman, how did it make you feel to know you'd be taking on one of the most iconic heroes known in comic books?**

**Jason Momoa:** When Zack (Snyder, the director) first told me I'd be the cast... I wish I had a picture of my face because, I am the last person he should be hiring. I thought I'd be playing a villain. It was an honour. Zack's perspective is so radical, and what it offered to the team in Justice League was something we hadn't seen. And it's not until the end of this movie that we get to him being a king.

**With so many water effects in this movie, what were some of the challenges you ran into?**

**James Wan:** You hear it all the time from filmmakers that making movies with water is not the most pleasant thing. It's uncomfortable and slows down the speed of the film. The irony is all the sequences



that are actually fully submerged in this underwater world — that was actually shot dry for wet. And that's literally what it sounds like, in these rigs that simulate swimming, floating, and how your body moves underwater. But we did play with a lot of water as well. I don't think you can make an *Aquaman* movie and actually not have anyone get wet. And, again, the irony is that when we're actually above the water — when we're dry — that's when I have to drench the actors nonstop. When they're actually out of water, that's when they're dripping wet. But when you're underwater, people actually look dry, so that's why we shot it without water.

The biggest water set that we had in this film was the submarine sequence at the beginning. We built the submarine over a water tank and would just submerge it again and again. As we'd play out the scene, we would submerge it, and then bring it back out of the water tank, blow dry it down, and then do take two, and then take three. It was quite a laborious process. And, a bit of a pain.

**Jason, this movie is going to mean something to Aquamanfans, but do you think it has something specific to say for people who are half-Asian or half-native Hawaiian?**

**Jason Momoa:** Coming from the Polynesian islands, there are so many water gods that we have and so much folklore and mythology about how the islands came about — from Kanaloa to Tomaloa and Maui. It's the *Poseidon* story and I get to play that. To be the first mixed-raced Super Hero in 2018 is a huge honour. And also just to play it so close to who I am, with all of Arthur's imperfections. I don't have to be Superman — I'm not. But I got to play it as someone who really is split between those two worlds, and I'm excited for the world to see it.

**What is the one thing you really hope people will take away from this film?**

**James Wan:** For the fans out there who have stood by Aquaman all these years while people made fun of him, his comic book and all the characters in his world — I want them to see that this is finally the opportunity to get revenge. This movie is made with a lot of passion. I want people to know that I respected the source material in making this film. And then, on the other side, I want to introduce all these characters to a whole new generation of kids that didn't grow up with Aquaman, and so I want the two separate worlds to come together.

**IMMERSIVE 60 MINUTES**



# FRAGILE BEAUTY

The tapping was gentle yet insistent and then a sudden shattering sound echoed around the studio. Two flowers broke off from a green decorative glass piece and made a clatter triggering collective ohs and sighs from the 10 odd people that were hovering around the glass artists crafting the piece at Studio Glass Sutra in Chattarpur.

"One has to go very slowly to remove the glasswork from the rod as the bottom part is cold and the upper part is soft. The upper part couldn't take the shock and that is the reason it broke," says Reshmi De, founder Studio Glass Sutra.

The piece, an exquisite green, opaque figurine, was work under progress for quite sometime and entailed frequent trips between the furnace and the heating chamber where the flowers are kept. If the glass was heated a little less, the flowers don't stick, if it was melted a little bit more, then there was always the danger of the flowers falling off. This meant that it was not a simple process and needed constant switches between the two places. Brent Sheehan, a glass artist from California who had been holding the piece at the end of a blowing rod, shrugs at the loss. Reshmi says, "This doesn't break our heart but yes, we do feel bad."

Reshmi, an Economics graduate from Assam, ventured into glass around 1999. She made the long journey from her state to Delhi in search of doing something different where, "I could tell a story of life, experiences and my journey." And that was despite

RESHMI DE discovered the story of her life and breaking its contours with glass, says SAIMI SATTAR

her parents opposition who wanted her to do masters in the subject or appear for the UPSC exams. But she was yet to decide upon how she was going to pursue her calling. Initially she sat for MBA exams, qualified for some institutes, then attended workshops on Mass Communications and but realised that her heart was not in any of it.

"Then I saw some coloured glass pieces with light passing through," and it was as if her life too was illuminated. She asked the person who had brought them questions similar to the ones that she now fields often— about how it was made, the technique and more. Initially she started with marketing them but did not want to sell something without understanding it. "I started studying online. I wanted to go to Firozabad but everyone objected. There were only two trains to the place and that too without any reservation. But I stood by my decision and headed there. I remember distinctly that it was May 1999 and after so many years, I am still at it," she says. But there were some recurrent problems. She studied online but when she wanted something similar created, there was a skill, understanding and aesthetic gap among the craftspeople. So there was always a discrepancy between her visualisation and the final output. "So I decided that I should do things which

they understand."

It was as if seeing her persistence, doors seemed to open automatically. In two months, an institute called Centre for Development of Glass Industry came up which was commissioned by Government of India and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). "They invited Czech glass master Petr Novotn who is ranked as one of the three world celebrities in the field of glass art craft by experts. He was accompanied Martin Janecky, his assistant and after all these years we are still in touch.

It was from them that Reshmi learnt that glass has an art side also. "Here I learnt that it was important to understand the material and the design after which you think through the whole process and create it yourself," she recalls.

She crafted her pieces and sold them to stores, as well as at places like the Blind School Diwali Mela. "The ones at the latter were more like hand crafted organic tableware pieces," she says. In 2007, she branched out into installation art. "I started doing commissioned pieces. My most expensive piece was a wall installation for a corporate on sustainability which was priced at ₹27 lakh and a chandelier which cost ₹25 lakh."

Reshmi works with different methods of glass making. Hand blown glass is where glass is melted in a furnace at a temperature of 1050-1100 degrees centigrade temp. The molten glass which has the viscosity of honey is blown through the end of a pipe and given shape. This is the most difficult of the techniques. "While most people claim that they are doing this, it lathe blowing where borosil test tubes are attached at the end of a machine and given shape as well as design is what they are actually doing."

Then there is flame work which is used to create more intricate and often smaller pieces like jewellery. "I have even created a 3x90 feet chandelier with this technique. Then there is fusing or slumping which is used to make platters and large installations.

However, while working with glass there are some things that need to be kept in mind. If the glass is not cooked properly, it breaks. At her studio, she maintains the highest of international standards. The glasses that they wear to protect the eyes are made of didanium and there is proper hand gear.

Reshmi wants to create an understanding and an awareness about art where people can see the beauty of glass and craftsmanship. "There is design touching the boundary of art, with an infusion of craft. I am trying



functional art as well. So there is a transition from design to art to craft," she says.

Reshmi also points out that there are different types of glass that are involved. While for the coloured pieces, she works with recycled glass for the clear ones, it is the fresh glass that is used. To infuse colour she prefers the glass bars from Krugler or Reichenbach which are German based brands to camouflage the quality of the glass. Her devotion can be measured from the fact that often when the glass is being melted she shifts bag, baggage and dog to the studio where she sleeps on the first floor to keep a check on the furnace. "Glass needs to be melted at 1300 degrees celsius for 12-14 hours to be perfect," she says.

She prefers to not make more than four to five pieces of each of her work as, "I get bored," she says.

The pieces can start at ₹1,000 for the tiniest one. The bespoke luxury ones begin at ₹7,000 and can go up to a few lakh while the installations start at ₹3 lakh upward. For the India Design Week, she is working on a range of lighting which incorporated textile with glass.

As for her future plans she wants to work with women and give them the hope and skill set to improve their lives as well as try and get the study of glass incorporated in some institute.

**GALLERIA 25 MINUTES**

## Game of colours

Artist VINITA KARIM says that landscape will always be an important part of any art discourse, despite the rising trend in conceptual and digital pieces. By TEAM VIVA

From fiery oranges and yellows, myriad shades of blue, to black, green, rich hues of red and even copper, silver and gold, artist Vinita Karim's canvases are a glorious riot of colour.

"I love colours. I just can't work in black and white. There is no fun in that," tells Vinita.

Born in Myanmar, educated in Sweden and the Philippines, originally from India — Vinita Karim's nomadic lifestyle takes her all over the world. She channels her constantly changing surroundings into her passion for art and no matter where she goes, through her paintings, sculptures and installations, Vinita carries with her the rest of the world.

Her new collection of abstract cityscapes titled *Magical Musings*, were created in the last five years, replicate fantastical cities in the artist's mind on to the canvas. The exhibition also showcases eight sculptures, which she did not sculpt but painted.

The imaginary spaces featuring clusters of houses against robust skies, and sometimes beautifully coloured streams or rivers, are products of Vinita's entire life, which she has, quite literally, lived out of a suitcase.

The artist is a fan of all things layered, and her paintings are no exception. Sometimes they are layered with different painting techniques, at other times she uses different mediums like acrylic, oil and embroidery to tier her works.

Vinita explains further that her works are literally layered with geographies, histories and the cultures of different places while physically they are the paints, lines and embroidery.

As she travelled from one city to another, each place left a mark. She imbibed their spirits that got intertwined in her head, giving birth to cities of her own.

"My father was part of the Indian Foreign Service and I have lived in over 10 countries. I am like a sponge who has absorbed everything around me. It was not just travelling for me. I was living in these cities. And when you live in a city, you become very intimate with its culture and people. The best thing is that all these different cultures also get embedded in your own psyche," says she, who is inspired by Austrian landscape artist Hundertwasser, "yet I consistently link back to my roots in India." Richly coloured canvases combine the sand dunes of Egypt with the islands of the Philippines, the ghats of Varanasi with the rivers of Bangladesh. These are not just pretty pictures, they are "living landscapes", she explains.



Odyssey

Her rendition of the holy city of Varanasi, for instance, is overwhelmingly rich, particularly the waters.

She uses impasto, a technique where one paints with a palette knife, to render almost a three dimensional texture to the Ganges river in the painting. The canvas made using acrylic, gold and copper on linen, is colourfully chaotic in its juxtaposition of the multi-layered blues of the river, with multi-coloured boats.

"Like I have a lot of different roles other than being an artist, a mother, a wife, similarly in my painting I want to use different mediums. I don't want a single flat painting. Instead, it needs to have depth in it. I need my works to be layered because they represent many histories combined with a lot of my imagination," says she.

Oil is her favourite medium even if it takes longer to dry out. She says that it is rich, soft and offers a distinctive depth to the works.

Vinita recreates similar imaginary cities with her work on sculptures too, at the risk of making a viewer feel her work was repetitive, but not in a boring way, largely because of the judicious use of colours.

Vinita has painted landscapes as she strongly believes that it will always be an important part of any art discourse, despite the rising trend in conceptual and digital art.

(The exhibition is on display till January 5 at Gallerie Ganesha.)



Above: Sky meets Earth; Below: Nocturnal dream

**CONVERSATION 30 MINUTES**

# 'Need to respect our culture first'

The first Indian chef-restaurateur to get a Michelin star, VINEET BHATIA believes that combining our nation's rich heritage and vibrant food legacy makes for the best of everything. AYUSHI SHARMA spoke to him about being a part of the Tasting India Symposium

**How does the Tasting India Symposium initiate a dialogue on India's gastronomic heritage and culinary tourism?**

It's a fantastic concept to have something like this as it gets plenty of people from across the country to come and discuss various issues and that's what the industry needs — to reach not only the chefs but also the suppliers. It also gives chefs exposure and enlightens them with what's on the market and to come and interact with. In the end it's a journey in process. The symposium has done an amazing job in getting everybody under one roof to initiate the advocacy initiative.

**What are the ways that can promote culinary tourism potential in India?**

Tourism in India is on a rise and we need a lot of support from the government. It is a land of plenty with its history and heritage and culture. Food is a very important part in tourism because wherever we go we want to eat and enjoy the diverse cuisine of India, right from Rajasthan to Kanyakumari to Nagaland and Sikkim. If you combine the scenic beauty with some amazing food, there is nothing more than one needs.

**What are the challenges to a sustainable food culture in India?**

Education and awareness are very important. We talk about sustainability but we also need to have fair trade for farmers. They have to be looked after and given exposure. Train the people at grassroot level from farmers to people working at lower positions in hotels and pay them decent salary. The farmers must be edu-



cated about new methods and techniques.

**What is your idea of the Indian cuisine? How do you think it is being appreciated by international chefs and present in the global palate?**

India is a sleeping giant. It is just awakening. There is a change for sure, we have been trying to push this for many years in London and as chefs we do seminars and workshops. When you are there even if you are not



an am ambassador you are still representing India, and we try to show it in a very humble and approachable manner. It's a misconception that Indian food is spicy and oily as that's not the case at all. Nobody eats that on a daily basis. We have to learn to respect our culture first. The exposure and awareness has been phenomenal now with Google and the internet in place. Also the media has started appreciating what we have, which was not the case initially when I started. Journalism is very structured and constructive now.

**What are some of the global food movements and revolutions today?**

It's all going back to basics in many ways — going back to flavours, good tastes and respecting which part of the world you are from. Everyone wants to eat healthy and as local as possible. We have 14 restaurants globally and we try to incorporate ingredients from that region. You have to respect sensibilities around you. You have to also support the local communities and help them earn their bread and butter.

**What do you have to say about the current food culture in India?**

India for the past few years has been all

about molecular which had already been passed over by Europe 20 years back. It's a phase passing by. At my restaurant a lot of dishes are inspired from home cooking and mothers' cooking. They are about childhood memories, they bring nostalgia. If somebody eats something and that touches them, they always want to go back to that place. So for us if we can send our guests with one happy memory, our job is done. I am biased about food. I love the food that is cooked from the heart.

**How has your cooking evolved over the years?**

It keeps evolving. It never stops. Also from the business point of view, you have to have that USP in order to be ahead from everybody else. Why would someone want to come to my restaurant when there are 10,000 other restaurants that are doing the same job. A lot of chefs become very complacent after a while, but what we do is we step in and change the existing.

There is no new technique, but it's the approach towards food. Right from doing food which is very singular to deconstructing it. Now the trend is to enjoy a variety of food. I am a big fan of street food and we try bring that authentic flavours in our restaurant so that those who can't stand on the roadside can enjoy it too.

**What are some of the most successful food experiments that you have mastered?**

We always keep trying — the smoking technique from Rajasthan to samosas or making biryanis in dum. Fortunately I have travelled a lot in India because of the travel shows and I picked up a lot on the way. It's a constant process, we never stand still.

**How do you think cooking food is an art?**

It is a big art form and it is also a science. You have to have the basic understanding and learn the things, and then you can learn to modify it. Everybody can cook but if you can transform basic food into something very special, it's an art. There is a whole technique and understanding of variety of ingredients you use. As chefs we try to learn the food in the best way. It's not only cinematic art but it is also an art for your palate.



# Aus face Dutch in last 4 tie

Two-time defending champion play Netherlands while Belgium to take on England in WC semifinal



PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Rare history awaits two-time defending champions Australia as they chase a record hat-trick of titles, taking on Netherlands in the semi-finals at the Kalinga Stadium on Saturday.

World No 1 Australia is second only to four-time champions Pakistan, having won the world title thrice before, which includes back-to-back Gold medals in the last two editions of the tournament in 2010 and 2014.

Come on Saturday, the Kookaburras will be chasing their third consecutive world crown.

But it would be easier said than done as in world No 4 Netherlands a tough contest awaits Australia.

The Dutch, who have won the title thrice before — the last time being in 1998 — too would be desperate to break their 20-year-old jinx.

Netherlands would be high on confidence especially after their hard-fought 2-1 win over home favourites India in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

Going by form and world ranking, it is expected to be an edge of the seat thriller between the two teams, who

prefer to play totally contrasting style of hockey.

While attacking hockey is the back bone of Australia, the Dutch mostly prefer to play waiting game with a compact defence and relying more on counters to surprise their opponents.

There is hardly anything to differentiate between the two sides going by recent head-to-head record.

Since 2013, Australia and Netherlands have played each other 11 times with the Kookaburras winning five and losing four while two ended in draws.

The Australians made a slow start but grew in confidence as the tournament progressed.

After a hard-fought 2-1 win over Ireland in their opener, Australia stepped on the gas and registered convincing wins over England (3-0), China (11-0) and France (3-0).

The Dutch, on the other hand, started with a bang and mauled Malaysia 7-0 before losing 1-4 to Germany.

They defeated Pakistan 5-1 in their last pool match before beating Canada 5-0 in the cross-overs and eking out a close 2-1 win over India in the quarterfinals.

The Australia-Netherlands match has all the makings of a classic. In 2014 at The Hague, Australia came out on top against Netherlands 6-1 in front of home crowd to lift their second consecutive World Cup.

AUSTRALIA-HOLLAND IN WORLD CUP			
Year	Venue	Result	Score
1971	Barcelona	Holland beat Australia	1-0
1978	Buenos Aires	Holland beat Australia	3-2
1981-82	Mumbai	Australia beat Holland	3-2 (league)
1981-82	Mumbai	Australia beat Holland	4-2 (third place match)
1990	Lahore	Australia beat Holland	1-0
1994	Sydney	Holland beat Australia	3-1
1998	Utrecht	Holland beat Australia	6-2
2002	Kuala Lumpur	Australia beat Holland	4-1
2010	New Delhi	Australia beat Holland	2-1
2014	The Hague	Australia beat Holland	6-1

ENGLAND-BELGIUM IN WORLD CUP			
Year	Venue	Result	Score
1973	Amsterdam	England beat Belgium	5-2
1978	Buenos Aires	Belgium beat England	1-0
2014	The Hague	England beat Belgium	3-2

*Faisal Features*

And Saturday's encounter will provide the Dutch an opportunity to avenge their loss four years ago.

But in the last four years since they met in the final of 2014, much has changed.

The likes of Jamie Dwyer, Mark



Knowles and Glenn Turner have retired but the Kookaburras have rebuilt brilliantly under coach Colin Batch since the disappointment of Rio Olympics and have returned to the top of the world rankings.

The Dutch, on the other hand, are unquestionably much tougher under Max Caldas now than they were four years ago.

Australia's Daniel Beale too agreed that it would be a tough, exciting battle on Saturday for a place in Sunday's summit clash.

"We are into the crucial stage of the tournament. We got to watch last night's match between Holland and India. So we have learnt a lot from that. We are expecting a very tough match tomorrow," he said.

"We have very proud history. There is no special formula. We work hard, we train hard. We are fiercely competitive. Every tournament we go we go to win."

Beale said what happened four years ago will hardly have any impact in Saturday's must-win game.

"In 2014 Australia had great success in the final but that was a long time ago and this group has changed immensely. So we are looking to create a bit of history," Beale said.

"Holland are a very tough team. They have quality players. Billy (Bakker), (Robert) Kemperman, (Valentin) Verga. We will do our homework and try to nullify them."

Meanwhile, Olympic Silver medalist Belgium too would be looking to create history by making their maiden World Cup final appearance when they take on England in the first semi-final earlier in the day.

## SINGLES

**PINK PANTHERS BEAT PUNERI PALTAN 36-23**  
**PANCHKULA:** Jaipur Pink Panthers began their home leg with a comprehensive win as they beat Puneri Paltan 36-23 in Vivo Pro Kabaddi Season 6. Deepak Hooda with 8 raid points and Sunil Sidhghavale with 8 tackle points were the heroes of the match for Jaipur. Puneri Paltan lost their way after the first 10 minutes of the match. GB More top scored for Pune with 5 raid points. Jaipur Pink Panthers still have an outside chance of making it to the playoffs while Puneri Paltan are not in contention.

**AGUERO, BRUYNE CLOSE TO CITY RETURN**  
**MANCHESTER:** Sergio Aguero and Kevin De Bruyne are both on the verge of a return to action for Manchester City as a busy December programme gathers pace, manager Pep Guardiola said on Friday. Aguero, City's leading scorer, has missed their past four matches with a groin problem but has been able to train without discomfort and could face Everton at the Etihad Stadium on Saturday. Belgium midfielder De Bruyne suffered ligament damage to his right knee in August and although he returned in October, he then injured his left knee during the League Cup win over Fulham on November 1.

**TOKYO IN LINE TO HOST ATP FINALS**  
**LONDON:** Tokyo and Singapore are battling London to host the ATP Finals from 2021 to 2025, the governing body of men's tennis announced on Friday. The shortlist for the end-of-season showpiece also includes the northern English city of Manchester and Italy's Turin, while the London deal, which runs until 2020, could be extended. The announcement of the candidates follows an extensive bid application process that began in August, in which more than 40 cities worldwide expressed an interest in hosting the event. The final phase will see the ATP visit the cities, with a decision on the successful candidate to be made no later than March 2019.

**RANJIT SINGH EMERGES AS TOP PICK**  
**NEW DELHI:** Indian attacker Ranjit Singh emerged as the top pick in the first Pro Volleyball League auction which also saw six foreign and 117 Indian players going under the hammer here on Friday. Singh was the costliest Indian player with Ahmedabad Defenders shelling out ₹ 13 lakhs for him. The Pro Volleyball League (PVL) scheduled to begin from February 2 in Chennai and Kochi will have six franchisees that includes Ahmedabad Defenders, Chennai Spartans, U Mumba Volley, Black Hawks Hyderabad and the Kochi Blue Spikers. Each of the six teams will have 12 players including two foreign players, one Indian icon player and two Indian U-21 players.

**50 PUGILISTS CALLED FOR BOXING CAMP**  
**NEW DELHI:** Asian Games Gold medalist Amit Panghal, CWG winner Gaurav Solanki, Mandep Jangra, Sachin Sivach, Shiva Thapa and Gaurav Bidhuri are among the 50-odd boxers selected for the elite men's camp. The camp, which continues until January 15 next year, will be supervised by 14 coaches and headed by performance director Santiago Nieva. As per the standard guide line, the list will be pruned to 46 players and 12 coaches at the end of a trial conducted along with the performances review of the selected 50 players at the camp. The selected boxers then will be part of a camp starting from January 16, as the players will be trained for the upcoming Asian Championship in April and World Championship in September, which also happens to be an Olympic Qualifier. **Agencies**

PTI ■ GUANGZHOU

Olympic Silver medalist P V Sindhu continued her unbeaten run while debutant Sameer Verma also qualified for the knockout stage with a straight-game win in his last group B match at the BWF World Tour Finals, here on Friday.

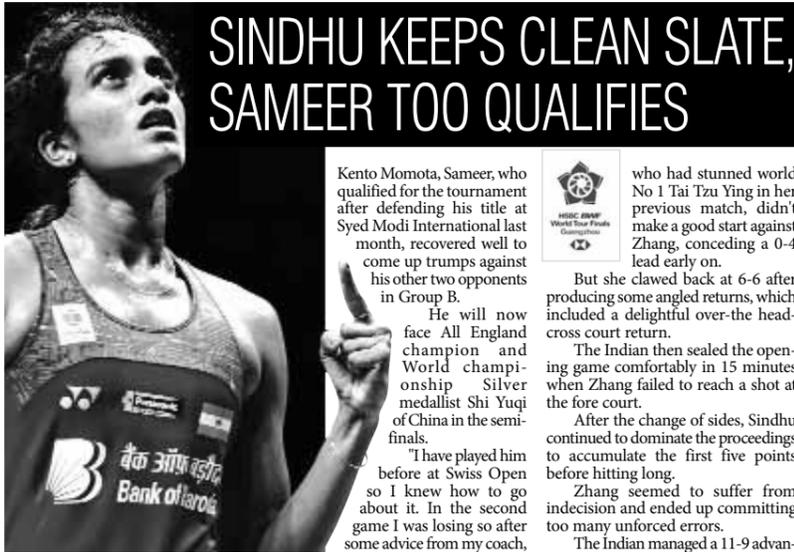
Playing her third successive year-ending finale, Sindhu dished out some deceptive strokes and showed precision during the 35-minute contest to prevail over world No 12 Beiwen Zhang 21-9, 21-15 in a one-sided women's singles contest to top Group A.

"I was down 2-6 initially but I picked up the lead, so after that I was fine," Sindhu, the last edition's runner-up, said after the match.

"I have played a few matches against her after the Indian Open final, so I took it as a fresh match," said the 23-year-old referring to her Indian Open final loss to Zhang at New Delhi early this year.

"I am happy with the three wins, it is a positive thing. I hope to move forward with the same positivity and do well in the semifinals," added Sindhu, who won all the three matches of her group and will now take on world No 8 and 2013 world champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand in the semifinals.

On the adjacent court, 24-year-old Sameer showed great athleticism and produced a masterful performance to



## SINDHU KEEPS CLEAN SLATE, SAMEER TOO QUALIFIES

Kento Momota, Sameer, who qualified for the tournament after defending his title at Syed Modi International last month, recovered well to come up trumps against his other two opponents in Group B.

He will now face All England champion and World championship Silver medalist Shi Yuqi of China in the semifinals.

"I have played him before at Swiss Open so I knew how to go about it. In the second game I was losing so after some advice from my coach, I kept my patience and now long again.

The Indian managed a 11-9 advantage at the interval after Zhang went long again.

The Indian committed three unforced errors before sealing the contest, following her opponent's mis-cued shot which went long.

who had stunned world No 1 Tai Tzu Ying in her previous match, didn't make a good start against Zhang, conceding a 0-4 lead early on.

But she clawed back at 6-6 after producing some angled returns, which included a delightful over-the-head-cross court return.

The Indian then sealed the opening game comfortably in 15 minutes when Zhang failed to reach a shot at the fore court.

After the change of sides, Sindhu continued to dominate the proceedings to accumulate the first five points before hitting long.

Zhang seemed to suffer from indecision and ended up committing too many unforced errors.

The Indian managed a 11-9 advantage at the interval after Zhang went long again.

demolish Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen 21-9, 21-18 in a match that clocked 44 minutes.

After losing the opening match to world No 1 and world champion

I am ready to play the semifinals," said Sameer.

"It has been a great experience playing my first world tour finals."

In the women's singles, Sindhu,



## AC Milan crash out of Europe

AFF ■ PARIS

Olympiakos dumped AC Milan out of the Europa League on Thursday after beating the seven-time European champions 3-1 in a pulsating clash in Greece, while Eintracht Frankfurt fans riot during the German side's win at Lazio and Celtic made the knockout stages despite losing to Salzburg at Celtic Park.

Captain Kostas Fortounis' penalty nine minutes from time saw the Greeks move into second place in Group F ahead of Gennaro Gattuso's Milan, who thought they had squeaked through when Cristian Zapata had pulled a goal back less than two minutes after putting the hosts 2-0 up with a comical own goal.

Olympiakos finished level on 10 points with Milan but qualified ahead of the Italians thanks to their superior goal difference following Milan's 3-1 win over the Greeks in October, and they end the group stage two points behind group winners Real Betis, who drew 0-0 at Dudelange.

Eintracht had already comfortably taken top spot in the group thanks to winning all five of their previous games, while Lazio were also in the last 32 regardless of the result of the match, won 2-1 by the away side as they came back from a goal down thanks to second-half strikes from Mijat Gacinovic and Sebastian Haller.

Last year's runners-up Marseille finished bottom of that group after losing 3-1 at home to Apollon Limassol and ending the group stage with just a single point.

side fell 1-0 at Rapid Vienna earlier on Thursday, but Tore Reginussen's equaliser four minutes from time for Rosenborg at RB Leipzig allowed Brendan Rodgers's side to qualify second from Group B, two points ahead of the Bundesliga outfit.

Second-half goals from Munas Dabbur and Fredrik Gulbrandsen meant that Salzburg topped the group with a 100 per cent record after a 2-1 win, while Olivier Ntcham's stoppage-time penalty meant nothing for the result nor the final standings.

Chelsea, who had already won Group L, looked to be on their way to a perfect sixth win from six, but could only scrape a point at eliminated Vidi thanks to substitute Olivier Giroud's late free-kick, after an Ethan Ampadu own goal and Loic Nego's sumptuous volley had put the hosts a goal ahead.

BATE Borisov qualified alongside Chelsea after winning 3-1 at rock-bottom PAOK.

Alexandre Lacazette confirmed Arsenal's dominance of Group E with the only goal of a low-key 1-0 win over bottom side Qarabag, while second-placed Sporting Lisbon cruised past Vorskla Poltava 3-0.

Malmo are in the knockout stages after snatching a 1-0 win at Besiktas that saw the Swedes leapfrog their Turkish hosts in the extremely tight Group I.

All four teams in the group were in contention for qualification on Thursday, but Genk managed to hold on to first place after hammering Sarpsborg 4-0.

Sevilla took top spot in Group J from Krasnodar thanks to a 3-0 win, while Rennes piped Astana to the knockout rounds with a 2-0 victory.

Bayer Leverkusen ensured first place in Group A with a 5-1 hammering of Larnaca, while Zurich drew 1-1 at Ludogorets.

## Saina-Kashyap tie knot

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Star Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap tied the knots in a simple ceremony here on Friday.

"Saina got married as per court rules today at about 11.30 (AM)," her father Harvir Singh said.

The wedding took place at Saina's residence in Orion villas at Raidurgam in Cyberabad.

"It was a small gathering of about 40 guests, including relatives of the Saina and Kashyap's families."

"It was a very simple ceremony and December 16th will be the reception," Singh said.

The guests included Governors

of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, according to Singh.

Saina posted a photograph with Kashyap on Friday, announcing her marriage.

"Best match of my life...#just-married," she wrote in Twitter.

Kashyap said, "We are very happy. Today was a north style wedding and 16th midnight is the mihurtam for the South Indian wedding."

While Saina wore a powder blue lehenga with minimal makeup and jewellery, Kashyap was dressed in a pink kurta and white pyjamas.

Saina and Kashyap, who met at Pallela Gopichand's academy, were in a relationship for quite some

time now. But the couple never came out in the open regarding their relation.

Saina had confirmed the news of their wedding in October but the hectic international badminton schedule kept them busy.

Last month, they started extending their wedding invitation to important personalities, including Telangana MLA KT Rama Rao, film star Chiranjeevi, owner of Hyderabad Hunters (PBL franchise) VRK Rao.

Saina and Kashyap's wedding is the latest among a string of high-profile weddings involving sportspeople. Last year, India cricket captain Virat Kohli had married Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma in Italy.



# Australia ahead despite India's strikes

Harris, Finch and Head score half centuries to put host in commanding position on Day 1



PTI ■ PERTH

India recovered from a patchy start to reduce Australia to 277 for six on the opening day of the second Test but the hosts still walked out with advantage considering the bowler-friendly conditions, here on Friday.

A 112-run opening stand between Marcus Harris (70) and Aaron Finch (50) vindicated their decision to bat on green top before Indian bowlers made a decent recovery by taking three wickets each in the last two sessions.

With the pitch offering better assistance from the post lunch session and the Indian bowlers managing to rectify their line and length, the visitors made inroads into the Australian batting line-up.

Skipper Tim Paine (16 not out) and Pat Cummins (11 not out) were unbeaten at stumps after enduring a testing spell from Jasprit Bumrah.

Pacer Ishant Sharma (2/35) and spinner Hanuma Vihari (2/53) took two wickets apiece while Bumrah (1/41) and Umesh Yadav (1/68) accounted for one batsman each.

Following a good start, Shaun Marsh (45) and Peter Handscomb (7) looked to extend their fourth-wicket partnership but could only manage to add three runs as Sharma broke through early in the final session.

Handscomb looked to cut away too close to his body, and Virat Kohli held a stunning one-handed catch at second



slip to dismiss him in the second over after tea.

Marsh and Travis Head (58) then added 84 runs for the fifth wicket, and in doing so took Australia past 200 in the 69th over. India could have broken through early, but Rishabh Pant put down a regulation catch from Marsh (on 24) off Vihari in the 67th over.

India were looking in better again when Marsh fell against the run of play, trying to cut Vihari and edging to first slip where Ajinkya Rahane made no mistake.

Head reached his third Test half-century off 70 balls but threw it all away as he square cut a wide delivery off

Sharma six overs later and was caught at wide third man.

Earlier, India struck thrice post lunch as Australia were reduced to 145-3 at tea.

Jasprit Bumrah (1/41) and Umesh Yadav (1/68) struck during a tight spell in the second hour of play after lunch, as Australia lost three wickets for 22 runs.

Post lunch, Marcus Harris had brought up his maiden Test half-century off 90 balls as he took his opening stand with Aaron Finch (50) to 112.

Their 100-stand had come up in the 34th over, with India leaking another 48 runs in the hour's play after the



ASHWIN INJURY COULD UNSETTLE INDIA: HUSSEY

PERTH: Former Australia batsman Michael Hussey believes the loss of star off-spinner R Ashwin to injury could unsettle India and may prove to be a big blow to the visitors' hopes of securing victory in the second Test.

Ashwin, who took six wickets in the first Test at Adelaide Oval, was ruled out of the second Test due to a left abdominal strain. "It'll definitely throw the team balance out

quite a lot I would have thought," Hussey, who played 79 Tests for Australia during his career, was quoted as saying in *cricket.com.au*. "You could tell quite clearly in Adelaide they liked to use the spinner — much like Australia really — to bowl a lot of overs from one end and then rotate the faster men from the other end." Ashwin had returned figures of 6 for 149 in Adelaide. PTI

break. Mohammed Shami (0-63) conceded 23 runs in his four-over second spell after lunch.

Finch too reached his second Test half-century off 103 balls as Australia reached a position of strength. But things turned thereafter as Bumrah struck first up in the 36th over, trapping Finch lbw with a fuller delivery.

KL Rahul dropped Harris (on 60) off Shami in the 45th over, with the fielder failing to time his jump at second slip. It didn't cost India too much though as four overs later, he hit a surprise bouncer from Vihari straight at Rahane at slip.

In between, Yadav used the pressure built and etched out Usman Khawaja's (5) wicket, out caught behind in the 46th over as India gained the fruits of their hard work in this second hour of play.

In the morning session, Australia defied a green-top wicket and made

steady progress to reach 66-0 at lunch.

The Perth wicket at the Optus Stadium was talked up a raging green-top wicket, but the Australian openers defied all that speculation. For their part, Indian pacers chipped in with all possible help and bowled a poor first spell with the new ball.

Shami was India's best bowler of the first session as he bowled with immaculate control from the very beginning. He came on to bowl in the 12th over and immediately troubled the batsmen.

Finch survived an lbw shout on account of height as India wasted a DRS review. They had another loud shout turned down on the very next ball, but this time no review was taken.

India bowled better in the second hour of play and conceded only 19 runs in 13 overs. But the damage had already been done as the day were set and the new ball had been wasted on a fresh pitch.

## WE HAVE TO BE DISCIPLINED ON DAY 2: VIHARI

PTI ■ PERTH

All-rounder Hanuma Vihari says key for Indian batsmen will be to remain disciplined on a pitch which has got better for the fast bowlers after a good contest between ball and bat on the opening day of the second Test.

The pitch was slow in the morning, but it quickened up after lunch. The Indian bowlers adjusted well to take six wickets.

"For us the important thing is to not think about those aspects too much. If it is up and down, you can't do much about it. If we can keep that out of mind, we will be successful. As batsmen, we will try to be as disciplined as possible, just how we did in the second innings of the last Test," Vihari said.

"You have to play ball by ball. That's what matters. If you are thinking about the previous ball, you won't react perfectly to the next ball. Keep that ball out of your mind," he added.

Indian bowlers were "disciplined" after an ordinary start on the opening day of the second Test and the target for day two is to restrict Australia to 320-odd in the first innings.

"The first hour tomorrow (on Saturday) will be very crucial. If we get them out for below 320, we are right back in the game. If we bat well, we have a good chance. The first hour is crucial," said Vihari.



## Shreyas, Lad batter Baroda attack

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Shreyas Iyer slammed 11 sixes and 17 fours in a blistering knock of 178 and put on a double century stand with skipper Siddhesh Lad, who made a responsible 130, to power Mumbai to an imposing score of 439 for 8 against Baroda here on Friday.

Iyer was in punishing form, sparing no one from the visitors' ranks to compile his 12th first class hundred in his first game of the season as he rescued the hosts from 28 for 2 with a stand of 283 in just over 45 overs with Lad on day one of the elite Group A game.

Hardik Pandya, back in competitive cricket after recovering from a back spasm opened the bowling for Baroda and rocked Mumbai with a two-wicket haul for 21 in his impressive come-back spell of six overs.

Iyer smacked left arm spinner Bhargav Bhatt for three sixes in four balls to race to his century in 86 balls and then singled out veteran Yusuf Pathan for similar punishment by carting the off-break bowler for three successive sixes. A more sedate Lad, who faced 173 balls and struck two sixes and 12 fours, denied Baroda a wicket for more than four hours spread over the first two sessions.

However, Baroda grabbed five more wickets before stumps with Pandya snapping up one more victim, in-form all rounder Shivam Dube, to finish with end of day impressive figures of 3 for 74 in 15 overs.

Bhatt picked up four wickets while Pathan was the other successful bowler.

Meanwhile, at Surat, despite skipper Priyank Panchal's 94, Gujarat were bowled out for 216 against Karnataka. For the visitors, Vinay Kumar, Prateek Jain, Ronit More, Krishnappa Gowtham and Shreyas Gopal picked two wickets each.

At New Delhi, Vidarbha reached 243 for 6 against Railways with skipper Faiz Fazal top-scoring with 53.

And at Nashik, Saurashtra batsmen hammered a listless Maharashtra attack to end the opening day at 269/3.

ODISHA BUNDLE OUT RAJASTHAN

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha bowlers produced a spirited show as they bowled out Rajasthan for a meagre 135 on the opening day of their Elite Group C encounter.

For Odisha, the Mohanty duo — Basant and Rajesh — both right-arm pacers — did the job as they shared nine wickets among them. Basant returned with exceptional figures of 6-20 and was ably supported by Rajesh (3-63) as Rajasthan batters had a horrid time at the Vikash cricket ground here.

For them, only skipper Mahipal Lomror (85) played a valiant knock to ensure that the side crossed the 100-run mark.

Lomror, who was the last man to be dismissed, struck 14 fours and a six, as he waged a lone battle.

In reply, Odisha lost four wickets and were 78/4 at close of play, still adrift by 57 runs. Debasish Samantray (30 not out) and Abhishek Raut (22 not out) are holding the fort.

Meanwhile, in Agartala Pratyush Singh-led Tripura's fightback as the hosts reached to 247/7 at stumps on day 1. They were 128/6 at one stage.

At Lucknow, Ishank Jaggi (76 not out) and all-rounder Shahbaz Nadeem (70 not out) took Jharkhand to a respectable 278/6 after the side were teetering at 157/6 against Uttar Pradesh.

In Goalpara, Puducherry's Fabid Ahmed hogged the limelight with an all-round show on a day 22 wickets tumbled in their Plate Group match against Arunachal Pradesh.

The Kerala recruit top-scored with an unbeaten 41 before Puducherry were bundled out for 136.

Ahmed then foxed the Arunachal Pradesh batsmen with his off-spin on way to career-best figures of 6/29.

Former India pacer Pankaj Singh (3/20) also chipped in with crucial breakthroughs as Arunachal Pradesh folded for 82 at their adopted home venue.

Under fading lights, Arunachal Pradesh's Upadhyal Deendyal dismissed both the openers for a total of 22 wickets on the day.

At stumps on day one, Puducherry were 28/2, leading by 82 runs.

## 'AUS PACERS CAN LEARN FROM INDIA'S MISTAKE'

PTI ■ PERTH

Former skipper Allan Border feels the Australian pace battery will have the advantage of learning from the mistakes of Indian seamers, who bowled a "little bit short" on the opening day of second Test.

"Given the amount of deliveries that went past the outside edge India will feel they could have had a better day. They bowled well but if I'm being supercritical they were a little bit short," he wrote in a column for *Foxsports*.

"With so many balls passing the outside edge you've got to err on the fuller side. You may occasionally get hit down the ground but any ball that moves off the seam is good chance of catching the edge."

"The good news for Australia is their bowlers will have learned from what worked and what didn't, and when it is their turn to bowl they will be confident. There



were just enough balls bouncing awkwardly or moving off the seam to encourage them."

With R Ashwin injured, India drafted in Umesh Yadav in the playing XI, making it a four-men pace attack — only the third time in their Test history.

Part-time spinner Hanuma

Vihari, who was included in the team in place of the injured Rohit Sharma, took two wickets and Border hinted India might have missed a trick by not opting for a specialist tweaker, looking at the variable bounce.

"Moving forward in this Test we'll see whether or not India has missed a trick by not picking a specialist spinner," he wrote.

"Despite part-time off-spinner Hanuma Vihari's two bonus wickets, I still think this is a seamer's wicket."

The former Australia batsman said the hosts' first-innings runs might prove to be gold on this pitch.

"Both teams went hard on Friday but Australia finished it with their noses in front. On a surface like this runs on the board, particularly in the first innings, are like gold."

"At the same time, we won't have a true sense of where this game stands until India has also had the chance to bat on it."



## Malinga back as SL skipper

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Friday brought Sback Lasith Malinga after a long hiatus as captain of its limited-over squads to lead the national team against New Zealand.

Sri Lanka Cricket said the 35-year-old right-arm fast bowler was named skipper of a 17-man squad for three one-day internationals and one T20 starting January 3.

Malinga led Sri Lanka to the T20 World Cup in 2014. But since captaining Sri Lanka against the UAE in February 2016, he has not led the national team.

He had lost his captaincy as well as his place in the team after recurring injuries which forced him to sit out many tournaments.

However, he captained an ODI match against India in August last year.

The latest squad for the shorter forms of the game was ratified by President Maithripala Sirisena in the absence of a sports minister, the cricket board said.

Sri Lanka is effectively without a government since a disputed cabinet appointed by Sirisena



was defeated in a no-confidence motion last month.

**Sri Lanka squad:** Lasith Malinga (captain), Niroshan Dickwella (vice captain), Angelo Mathews, Danushka Gunathilaka, Kusal Janith Perera, Dinesh Chandimal, Asela Gunaratne, Kusal Mendis, Dhananjaya de Silva, Thisara Perera, Dasun Shanaka, Lakshan Sandakan, Seekuge Prasanna, Dushmantha Chameera, Kasun Rajitha, Nuwan Pradeep and Lahiru Kumara.

## Lyon will enjoy bowling at Perth: Finch

PTI ■ PERTH

Australian opener Aaron Finch believes the second Test against India is going to be a "real grind" and off-spinner Nathan Lyon will play an important role considering the amount of bounce on offer at the Perth wicket.

"It's going to be one of those games that'll be a real grind for both sides. The position we're in we would have taken at the start of the day, no doubt, especially winning the toss and batting," Finch told reporters.

"I think Nathan Lyon will enjoy bowling with the amount of bounce on this track, no doubt he will be excited to bowl here," added the opener, who scored 50 in Australia's first innings on Friday.

Asked about making the Indian bowlers work hard, Finch said, "Our plan was to bat on this wicket regardless of what happened in Adelaide, the heat and



getting miles into their legs.

"That was our plan to bat first anyway and take that challenges head on. No doubt it might play a factor later in this game, or third or fourth Test, but it was always our plan to bat (after winning the toss)."

Talking about his partner young Harris, who scored his maiden Test half-century at his home ground, Finch said, "I think what everyone's seen from him so far, not a lot fazes him. He's a pretty chilled out character who just goes with the flow and that's the way he's always been."

## B'desh cruise to series win

AFP ■ SYLHET

Tamim Iqbal and Soumya Sarkar slammed half-centuries as Bangladesh cruised to an eight-wicket win over the West Indies in the third and final one-day international to take the three-match series 2-1 on Friday.

Tamim hit an unbeaten 81 while Soumya added 80 off 81 balls to guide Bangladesh to 202-2 in 38.3 overs after Mehidy Hasan's career best 4-29 helped the home side restrict the West Indies to 198-8 in 50 overs.

Shai Hope fought a lone battle for the tourists, scoring his second successive hundred of the series but it was in vain as no other batsman provided support.

Fresh from an unbeaten 146 off 144 balls in the previous match, Hope struck another unquaranteed knock of 108 off 131 to prop up the visitors, taking his tally in the series to 297 runs.

Bangladesh made a steady response, with Tamim and Liton Das hitting 45 runs for the



opening wicket before Liton offered a catch to Rovman Powell at mid-on off Keemo Paul.

Soumya and Tamim denied the West Indies any momentum, putting 131 runs in their second wicket stand, which all but sealed the contest and the series.

Mushfiqur Rahim was unbeaten on 16 at the other end.

Earlier, skipper Mashrafe Mortaza and spinner Shakib Al Hasan claimed two wickets each after man-of-the-match Mehidy rattled the West Indies' top-order.

"It was a good match — Hope played an excellent innings," Mashrafe said after the

match. "Our bowlers have been very good. Spinners have been tight and pacers also stuck to the plans," he added.

Earlier, Hope defied the spirited Bangladesh attack, hitting Shakib over the long off to bring up his fourth ODI century after the ninth wicket had fallen for 177 runs.

The opener, who was named player of the series, also hit 10 fours in his fine innings.

Bangladesh won the first match by five wickets on Sunday before the West Indies levelled the series with four-wicket win in the second match two days later.