



# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



MUSIC IS MY  
SERIOUS HOBBY:  
LUCKY ALI  
13 VIVACITY

## PM Fasal Bima losing appeal

Number of farmers availing scheme falls by 1.05 cr in Maharashtra, UP, MP, Rajasthan

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The much-vaunted Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is losing its appeal as the number of farmers under the scheme has fallen by 1.05 crore in BJP-ruled States — Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

The numbers of farmers who had availed the insurance cover stood at 5.7 crore in 2016-17, but it came down to 4.9 crore in 2017-18.

Despite the fall in the number of farmers insured and coverage area, the profit of the insurance companies has not fallen. In 2016-17, these companies paid a compensation of ₹17,902.47 crore and earned a profit of ₹6,459.64 crore. In 2017-18, they paid over ₹2,000 crore less in compensation. This made their profits swell to ₹9,335.62 crore.

The outgo in compensation during 2017-18 stood at just ₹15,710.25 crore. For the 2017-18, as many as 3.73 crore farmers have applied under the PMFBY for the Kharif crops, while 1.52 crore farmers applied for rabi crops.

According to a RTI reply



A farmer threshes his paddy harvest on the outskirts of Gauhati on Friday

AP

by the Ministry of Agriculture, BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh witnessed the maximum fall in the number of beneficiaries, registering a decline of 40.47 lakh in 2017-18, followed by Rajasthan which saw reduction of 31.25 beneficiaries. Maharashtra registered a decline of 19.47 lakh, from 1.09

crore in 2016-17 to 89.53 lakh in 2017-18. Uttar Pradesh came next, where the numbers dipped by 14.69 lakh, from 37.17 lakh to 22.48 lakh during the time period. The RTI was filed by Jalandhar-based activist PP Kapoor.

Officials of the Agriculture Ministry said the scheme suf-

fered setback from waiver of farm loans in different States as the farmer who whose loans were waived did not insure their crops. The number of farmers also declined due to cumbersome process of settlement of insurance claims.

Officials said time-taking process of physical verification

of insured crop is the major reason which deprived the farmers of the benefit from the scheme. In many cases, insurance companies did not investigate losses due to a local calamity, and therefore, did not pay claims. Another reason for the low claim settlement could be delay in States releasing their share of the subsidy.

As per rules under the PMFBY, farmers need to be paid 12 per cent interest by insurance companies for any delay in settlement of claims beyond two months of the prescribed cut-off date, while States will have to pay 12 per cent interest for the delay in release of their share of premium beyond three months.

This penalty provisions came into effect on October 1 and will be applicable for all seasons in the future.

In Madhya Pradesh, the insurance companies had insured over 71.81 lakh farmers in 2016-17 and earned a profit of ₹1,862.32 crore. The following year, over 2.90 lakh fewer farmers insured their crops and the profit of these companies plummeted to just ₹39.21 crore.

Continued on Page 4

## 6 Africans face lynching over cannibalism canard

Cops rush to spot, rescue foreigners from mob baying for their blood

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After coming to know that six African nationals, including four Tanzanian women and two Nigerian men, were being harassed by a hostile crowd gathered outside their homes in Hari Vihar in Dwarka following rumours that they were cannibals and abducting children, police landed at the spot and rescued the embattled Africans, police said Friday.

A call was made to the Police Control Room by the mother of a 16-year-old boy about his disappearance and subsequent fear that he was eaten by the Africans residing on rent for the last two months in the area.

Police's timely intervention saved the situation from turning violent. During investigation, police found out that the woman, who had called up



PCR alleging that her son was kidnapped by two Nigerians, lied to us, and the cannibalism charge was nothing but a mischievous rumour. The woman turned off her phone after son was found in a hale and hearty condition, police said.

Police said there was no evidence or information with the locals about the Africans' involvement in the alleged kidnapping. Police dismissed allegations of foreign nationals being assaulted or mob vandalising their house and stated that no injury was reported on their rescue.

"After receiving five calls on the PCR, local police rushed to the spot. Although there was no assault on the foreign nationals, police brought them

to police station for their safety. The rumour of kidnapping was later verified and found false," Deputy Commissioner of Police Anto Alphonse stated.

No family members of the woman who complaint about kidnapping came forward to the police station to take cognizance of the PCR call.

The Tanzanian women were identified as Assifa, Riziki, Fatima and Esta Joshva. The Nigerians are named Nwaogu (38) and Ogbuewu (34). Nwaogu does not possess an Indian visa, hence will be deported accordingly, said a police official. "Though they do not want any case to be registered but we have decided to take suo motu action and lodge an FIR and investigate it," said Madhup Tiwari, Joint Commissioner of Police.

"We have in so many ways championed for society devoid of prejudices, it is disheartening to hear such occurrences. Although there's been a drastic fall in such cases, we believe there is need to do more. We appreciate the assistance of police," said Merveil Ntambwe Ngongo, president of Association of African students in India, Delhi NCR Chapter.

## Terrorists target Chinese consulate in Pak, 7 dead

PTI ■ KARACHI

Three heavily-armed suicide bombers on Friday stormed the Chinese consulate in Pakistan's largest city of Karachi, killing four people, including two policemen, before being shot dead by security forces which foiled the daring attack in the high-security zone, police said.

The attack was soon claimed by the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) which said it would not tolerate "any Chinese military expansionist endeavours on Baloch soil".

Resource-rich Balochistan is at the heart of ambitious China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Three suspected suicide bombers were killed by security forces before they could enter the consulate, located in the posh Clifton area, Karachi Police Chief Amir Shaikh said.

Nine hand grenades, Kalashnikov assault rifles, magazines and explosives were recovered from the possession of the terrorists, Geo News reported.

"Food supplies and medicines were also recovered from their possession," officials said.

"We have received two bodies of policemen and an injured Chinese security guard who is under treatment," said Seemi Jamali, the executive director at the Jinnah Hospital.

Two civilians, a father and his son, too were killed, officials said. The Sindh Government and the Pakistan Army confirmed that three terrorists were killed in the operation.



Pakistani troops move in the Chinese Consulate in Karachi on Friday

AP

The heavily-guarded E-Street neighbourhood, which is considered a red zone, is home to a number of upscale restaurants, diplomatic missions and schools. The Bilawal House of Pakistan People's Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is in the area. Schools and eateries have been locked down.

Residents said they first heard firing and explosions around 9.30 AM (local time).

"The terrorists first attacked the checkpoint outside the consulate and detonated a hand grenade in the area," Shaikh said.

Shaikh said the attackers had parked their vehicle at some distance from the consulate before moving towards it.

Defence analyst and security contractor Ikram Sehgal, whose company's guards have been posted at the consulate, said that the attackers had first engaged in an exchange of fire with policemen.

After the policemen and

civilians were killed, he said, the attackers proceeded towards the gate of the consulate. However, the guards were quick to usher civilians with consular business into the building and shut the gates.

Continued on Page 4

### 3 Sikhs among 31 killed in Pak fidayeen attack

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

At least 32 people, including three Pakistani Sikhs, were killed and more than 40 others injured on Friday when a suicide bomber triggered a powerful bomb blast at a busy market outside a religious seminary in the country's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said.

Detailed report on P12

## Bike flies off Signature Bridge, 2 would-be docs die

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Crash for speed and faster bikes snuffed out two lives on Friday morning after two medical students riding on Signature Bridge lost control over their KTM Duke bike and fell down on the Yamuna riverbed. This was the first accident on this 3.5-km long bridge that is hailed as an engineering marvel constructed at a height of 154 metres above the river.

The victims have identified as Satya Vijay Shankaran (23), and Chandra Shekhar (22). Shankaran, who hailed from Ranchi, was pursuing internship with Hindu Rao Hospital while Shekhar, a resident of Khanpur in South Delhi, was a second year

MBBS student of Hindu Rao Medical College and used to stay in hostel.

Taking cognisance of the incident, the Delhi Government has directed all Public Works Department (PWD) officials and engineers to ensure roads and footpaths are repaired by November 30. The Government also asked officials to submit status report.

Jasmeet Singh, Additional DCP, East district, said, "They were riding KTM Duke bike towards Timarpur from northeast Delhi side. They were obviously speeding while taking a turn towards Majnu Ka Tila. It appears that they lost control and the bike hit a road divider and the bike skidded and crashed into the central verge.

Continued on Page 4



Spot where the bike hit a divider on Signature Bridge and the bikers (insets) fell off the bridge to their death

Ranjan Dimri

## Shujaat Bukhari's killer eliminated

Besides LeT top commander, 5 other ultras shot in encounter

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Six ultras, including a top Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) commander who had killed journalist Shujaat Bukhari, were killed in a surgical operation by the security forces in south Kashmir's Bijbehara pocket on Friday morning.

Commander of Srinagar based XV Corps Lt Gen AK Bhatt described the encounter as "big achievement" as there was no collateral damage in the "surgical operation".

The operation was carried out in Setkpora-Shalagund

area of Bijbehara in Anantnag district, around 45 kilometre from here.

The slain terrorists included Azad Malik, alias Dada Malik, a top commander of LeT. The other five were also locals from Bijbehara, Anantnag, Awantipora and Pulwama areas of south Kashmir. Malik was among three terrorists who were accused by police for conspiring and executing the killing plot of noted journalist Shujaat Bukhari in June this year.

Police had said that Pakistani Lashkar Commander Naveed Jutt was also involved in the killing. Jutt had escaped from police custody from a civil hospital in Srinagar after killing two policemen who were escorting him.

Detailed report on P6

## Kartarpur corridor: Sidhu gets invite from Pak PM again

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

What Punjab Cabinet Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu renewed with a hug in Pakistan three months ago would finally turn into reality on November 28 with his "friend" and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan all set to lay the foundation stone of much-awaited Kartarpur corridor project. And for that, Imran has invited Sidhu to join him.

Imran Khan has reportedly invited Sidhu by personally making a telephonic call to invite him to join for the ground-breaking ceremony for the project on Pak side.

"I would definitely visit Pakistan if I get authorization from the Centre. I personally want to thank my friend," Sidhu told The Pioneer.

Sidhu raised a dust of controversy during his visit to Pakistan to attend Imran Khan's swearing-in ceremony on August 18, after he embraced Pak Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa at a time when the Indian soldiers were getting killed every day on the border.

He was criticised not only by his rivals but also his party-men. He was dubbed as "traitor" and "anti-national".

Defending his hughomacy, Sidhu described it as "emotional" reaction to General Bajwa's talk regarding opening of Kartarpur corridor. He also claimed that Pak was ready to give Indian pilgrims direct access to the gurdwara, and the ball was now in India's court. However, the Centre denied receiving any formal request on the issue from the neighbouring nation.

But on Thursday, the Union Cabinet cleared a proposal to develop a corridor

### Initiate steps to facilitate visa formalities, Sidhu urges Centre

Chandigarh: Welcoming the Central Government's move to construct the infrastructure for Kartarpur corridor, the State Cabinet Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu on Friday urged the Centre to initiate steps with the Pakistan Government on working out visa formalities once the corridor is completed.

"It fills my heart with joy unspeakable on learning that the Government of India has agreed to build a corridor for pilgrims to visit Kartarpur Sahib on 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji," said Sidhu in a letter to the Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

"As a Sikh devotee and as a man committed to the cause of Punjab and its people, I am extremely grateful and indebted for the steps initiated by the Government of India," he added. He said that the move will "write a new chapter of faith and love for the region" and "will act like a soothing balm for two neighbouring countries".

Sidhu said that this has been a long standing demand of the Sikh community across the globe and a step in this direction has brought a new ray of hope among pilgrims who are anxiously waiting for paying obeisance at the historical Gurudwara Sahib across the border.

Former cricketer, in his letter, said that these positive steps by both the nations are a great respite for the followers of Guru's timeless teachings, and for the people of Punjab and I wish that Government of India writes formally to Pakistan on visa and other related issues for easy passage for pilgrims once corridor is complete.

PNS

### HUG WITH BAJWA LED TO OPENING OF CORRIDOR

Bhopal: Amidst the rat race over credit for Kartarpur corridor, Punjab Cabinet Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu on Friday took credit for the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur corridor in Pakistan saying that it was his hug to Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa during Islamabad visit that has pushed the Centre to take initiative in developing the proposed corridor. Sidhu, speaking to media on the sidelines of a poll rally, said: "My hug turned out good for 15-16 crores of people as the Central Government is now making move to develop the corridor from the international border to Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib. At least this deal was not similar to Rafale deal."

from Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab's Gurdaspur district to the international border to facilitate Indian pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur in Pakistan.

Hours later, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi stated that Islamabad has conveyed to India its decision to open the Kartarpur corridor.

Reacting, Sidhu tweeted: "I welcome this auspicious step by the Union Cabinet... Thank you @ImranKhanPTI Bhai, we welcome the positive step, it means the world to us. You're a gem! This is a great service to mankind. Kudos to you!"

Kartarpur Sahib Gurudwara is located around three km from the Indo-Pak border, and is visible from the Indian side. Establishing a corridor was a long-pending demand of the Sikh community.

## RaGa forces casteist CP Joshi to eat crow

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress high command has sent a strict message to its leaders, particularly election campaigners, to refrain themselves from using statements related to religion, caste and people of historical eminence.

In a damage control, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday disapproved party leader CP Joshi's "casteist" statement that only Brahmins can speak about Hinduism and not people like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP MP Uma Bharti and Hindu activist Sadhvi Ritambhara.

In a video tweeted by Harsh Sanghavi, a BJP MLA from Gujarat, Joshi is heard saying, "Does anyone know

what is the caste of Uma Bharti? What is the caste of Sadhvi Ritambhara? In this country, if anyone knows about religion, it is the pandits and the Brahmins. Uma Bharti is a Lodhi, and she talks about Hinduism, Modi ji talks about Hinduism. It's only Brahmins who don't talk about it. The country is being misled. Religion and governance are two different things. Everyone has the right to practise their religion."

"Talking to social media, Rahul said Joshi's remarks do not reflect and are contrary to the ideals of the Congress. "CP Joshi's remarks are contrary to the Congress party's ideals. Party leaders should not give such statement that hurts any segment of the society. While



respecting the Congress party's principles and the sentiments of party workers, I am sure Joshi ji will realise his mistake. He should express regret over his remarks," the Congress chief said on Twitter.

Soon after Rahul's advice and BJP's furore, Joshi apologised. "Respecting the principles of the Congress party and

the sentiments of party workers, I feel sorry if my statement has hurt the feelings of any section of society," Joshi said in a tweet in Hindi. His remarks came ahead of Assembly elections in Rajasthan on December 7 and Madhya Pradesh on November 28, and have the potential of alienating lower caste voters from the Congress party.

The BJP has rejected his apology, saying the remarks "insulted" Indian culture and the Hindu religion. The BJP has already taken advantage saying Congress leaders are stooping very low and making such repulsive comments.

The Congress has been grappling with similar controversies with its leaders competing with each other to make

scandalous comments against the BJP brass.

From the "chaiwala" jibe to "neech" and now casteist remarks and comparing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother's age with the falling rupee have led to serious concerns in the Congress leadership brass in the midst of crucial Assembly polls in three significant Hindi heartland States.

Kicking up another controversy, a senior Congress leader and yesteryears actor dragged Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother in poll campaign comparing the rupee's falling value against the US dollar with her age. The BJP has sought an immediate apology from party chief Rahul Gandhi.

Continued on Page 4



# PG teachers to be called lecturers in Himachal now

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Friday said the nomenclature of PGT of the School would be changed into Lecturers in the Education Department.

The Chief Minister said the promotion quota for school lecturer would be increased from 50 percent to 60 percent and posts of Vice Principal would be created in Government Senior Secondary Schools in the State. He also announced one time withdrawal in holding annual increment of teachers having low result.

Addressing the State Level Education Conference on Universal, Free, Compulsory and Quality Education for all at Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Agriculture University, Palampur in Kangra district, Thakur said that he was particularly proud of the strides the State has made in the field of education.

"We have achieved a significant shift in education, both in qualitative and quantitative terms," he says, pointing



to major infrastructural improvements in educational institutions. Recruitment of thousands of trained teachers was in pipeline so as to ensure that every institution has adequate staff, he added.

The Conference was organized by the Himachal Pradesh School Lecturer's Association (HPSLA).

Thakur said the State

Government has introduced several schemes for making Himachal Pradesh as an education hub of the country. He said Medha Pratshan Yojna has been launched to provide financial assistance to meritorious students to prepare for various competitive examinations, adding that Atal Adarsh Vidya Kendra would be opened in the State for imparting qual-

ity education to the students. Remembering his school days, the Chief Minister said that he had to travel about 18 Kms daily, but today there were educational institutions in almost three Kms distance in the State.

The Chief Minister also released a souvenir on Universal, Free and Quality Education on the occasion.

- ♦ Nomenclature of PGT of the School would be changed to Lecturer
- ♦ Promotion quota for school lecturers would be increased from 50 percent to 60 percent
- ♦ Posts of Vice Principal would be created in Government Senior Secondary Schools

This souvenir has been edited by Prem Sharma.

Education Minister Suresh Bhardwaj said the State has been awarded as the "Best State" amongst the big states of the country in the 'State of the State Survey' conducted by a reputed weekly of the country. He said that the State today can boast of about 24 Government and Private Universities and over 18,000 educational institutions, but now it was need of the hour for qualitative improvement in the field of education.

Former Chief Minister and Member of Parliament from Kangra, Shanta Kumar said that teachers have been

entrusted with the biggest responsibility to transform the society. He said that he was happy to know that Himachal Pradesh has been awarded as the best State of the country in the field of education for which he congratulated the Chief Minister and the Education Minister.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Vipin Singh Parmar said that State was poised to emerge as the most progressive State of the country.

State President of Himachal Pradesh School Lecturer's Association Kesar Singh Thakur said that access to quality education can bring a sea change in the society.

## IN BRIEF

### GOVERNORS OF HARYANA AND HIMACHAL MEET



Chandigarh: Himachal Governor Acharya Devvrat on Friday called on Satyadev Narayan Arya, Governor of Haryana at Raj Bhawan Chandigarh. Officials said it was a courtesy call.

**SJVN CONFERRED WITH AQUA FOUNDATION AWARD - Shimla:** SJVN has been awarded with Aqua Foundation Excellence Award 2018 in the category of 'Sustainable Development in Hydro Power Sector (Public Sector)' during XII World Aqua Congress International Conference 2018. The award was given by UP Singh, Secretary, Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, in a function held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Nand Lal Sharma, chairman & managing director, said that hydro power is the core strength of SJVN and the company has the distinction of implementing India's largest 1500 MW NathpaJhakri hydro power station in Himachal.

### PGIMER HOSTS SNMICON 18

Chandigarh: The Department of Nuclear Medicine, PGIMER is hosting SNMICON'18, the annual conference of Society of Nuclear Medicine, India from November 22-25. The 2nd day of the conference commenced with invited talks on thyroid cancer, radiopharmacy and radiation safety. Sessions on thyroid cancer were directed towards recognizing the disease early using the diagnostic tests so that early treatment can be initiated. Thyroid cancer is one of the cancers which has a significantly high survival rate, provided that the patients are managed properly and at an early stage. The talks, delivered by renowned national and international faculties stressed on the need to develop awareness regarding thyroid cancer and involvement of Nuclear Medicine physicians early in the management of these patients.

**AGRI, FOOD, DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCT AT CII AGRO TECH Chandigarh:** The 13th Edition of the CII Agro Tech India this time has a lot of new agro and food products in store for the farmer community, which holds apt with its theme for this year, 'Technology in Agriculture: Increasing Farmers' Income'. CII Agro Tech India 2018, India's Premier Biennial four-day Agri and Food Technology Fair, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is being held from December 1 to December 4, at Parade Ground in Sector 17 here. The participating countries include Great Britain, China, Canada, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Spain. A number of first time launches would take place at the four-day fair. While Canada would be showcasing its products like swine genetics, grain handling and storage systems, instant quick freezers, etc. to name a few, the country would also be launching new technique for soil testing, ovine genetics, and bacterial treatment equipment.

**KHUSHIAN AAPKE DWAR MEDITATION BEGINS TODAY Mohali:** Long cherished 'Khushian Apke Dwar' Meditation Shivar (camp) will be inaugurated by 21 dignitaries like judges, senior administrators, doctors, industrialists, social leaders, political leaders, defence personnels, educationists, engineers, youth leaders and spiritualists etc. by lighting candles in Brahma Kumaris Complex, Sukh Shanti Bhawan, Phase 7 here at November 24, said Brahma Kumari Prem Lata, Director, Rayogya Centres, Mohali Circle. While describing the objective of the Shivar Brahma Kumari, Prem Lata said that retreat will enable the participants to enjoy inner peace and happiness by making them disease free.

## Teachings of Guru Nanak more relevant today: Himachal CM

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The teachings of Guru Nanak Dev stands out for their relevance even after 550 years of his birth, Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said on Friday.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion of 550th Prakash Utsav celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev at Sri Gurudwara Sahib at Palampur in Kangra district after he paying obeisance, Thakur said that Guru Nanak Dev dedicated his life to spread the word of God, fight ritualism, orthodoxy and bigotry.

He urged all sections of the society to promote cult of good and honest living preached and practiced by Guru Nanak Dev. Thakur said that the Guru preached that all religions had merits and it was necessary to learn from each other for harmonious livings, he said all sorts of fundamentalism were inconsistent with the message of the Sikh Guru.

Former Chief Minister and MP Shanta Kumar also spoke on the occasion.

## PSPCL detects power theft

PNS ■ LUDHIANA

Punjab power utility is acting strict against those indulging in power theft. In two recent cases, the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has imposed a penalty of over Rs 67 lakhs against the defaulters in Ludhiana.

A penalty of Rs 56.44 lakhs was imposed in a case of theft, detected by the operation staff of estate division under west operation circle of PSPCL Ludhiana, by direct LT Cable from fuse unit of transformer by consumer of MS-connection with sanctioned CD-99 KVA.

"On receiving telephonic complaint, SDO U-2, Estate Amit Yadav visited the premises of MS category consumer Jaswinder Singh at Sua road Kanganwal in Ludhiana on November 21 (Wednesday) along with AAE Harjinder Singh and AAE Inderpal Singh where he found theft of electricity by laying underground cable and tapping it to the LT fuse unit," said the spokesperson.

## Gurugram city bus service begins on second route

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

On the auspicious occasion of Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev on Friday, Public Works Minister, Rao Narbir Singh inaugurated the second route number 112 of the Gurugram city bus service in Gurugram.

He flagged off the bus from Sector 10 City Bus Depot and also travelled in the bus. The Minister said that like-wise the first route, 25 buses would also be plied on the second route. The route would begin from Krishna chowk in sector 2 to village ghata. On either sides of this route, 38 each and a total of 76 bus stops have been constructed. This route number 112 is about 20 km long, he said.

Rao Narbir said that the city bus service is already being run on route number 212, on which 25 buses are being plied. Now, a total of 50 buses of Gurugram city bus service are being plied on road, he added. He also said that the second route, starts from Krishna Chowk in Sector-2- Dharam

## Rao Narbir Singh said that likewise the first route, 25 buses would also be plied on the second route. The route would begin from Krishna chowk in sector 2 to village ghata. On either sides of this route, 38 each and a total of 76 bus stops have been constructed. This route number 12 is about 20 km long

colony, covers Katarpuri, Columbia Hospital, Rezanla Check, Sector 23, Tau Devi Lal Park, HSPV Market Sector 22, Palam Vihar Check, Krishna Check, Hanuman Temple, Ram Check, Udhog Vihar Phase 5, 2 and 3, Shankar Check, Mollari Avenue Metro Station, DLF Phase 3, village Nathupur, Sikanderpur, Khushbu Check, Shiv Nadar School, Sector

42/43 metro station, Genpact check, Sector-53/54 metro station, Vatika Business Center, Vatika Tower, Sector 54 Check Metro Station, Sector 55/56 Metro station, golf course extension road and the route ends at village Ghata.

In order to provide the people of Gurugram city with the facility of public transport, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) has been created by the government, GMDA, Gurugram Municipal Corporation and HSIIDC, he said.

The first route of this city bus service was inaugurated by the Chief Minister Manohar Lal on September 2. In the current financial year, 200 buses would be provided for the bus service, in the first phase, the Minister said.

He said that the passengers of this bus service would have to pay Rs 10 till 5 stops, then Rs 20 from 5 to 20 stops and Rs 30 over 20 stops. Digital ticketing facility has been started in these buses, where a discount of Rs 2 is being given on the purchase of a digital ticket, he added.

## PUNSUP detects bogus purchase, registers case against arhtiya, miller

### MANDI INSPECTOR PLACED UNDER SUSPENSION

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Continuing its efforts to check bogus billing, Punjab Food and Civil Supply Department has once again detected bogus purchase of 86,939 bags of paddy worth Rs 5.6 crore.

PUNSUP has placed the Mandi in-charge Sh. Hansa Singh Inspector under suspension with immediate effect.

While cases have been registered against all the commission agents (arhtiyas) and the millers involved, PUNSUP has placed its Mandi in-charge Hansa Singh under suspension with immediate effect.

Informing this, the state Food and Civil Supplies

Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu said that as inputs were being received that there is movement of paddy or rice from other states to Punjab.

"PUNSUP held a meeting of its district managers on November 20, and they were specially instructed to re-check the purchases done and verify the same with the stocks in the premises of the Millers personally," said Ashu.

He said that Ferozepur District Manager on November 21, while scrutinizing the purchase, detected abnormal purchase at Jiwan Arain and Panje Ke Uttar mandis by arhtiyas — M/s Reet Enterprises owned by Jaswinder Singh and M/s Jagdish Chander and Sons owned by Sandeep Kumar and Dhruv Commission Agent owned by Rishu Mutneja.

"They had made bogus purchases of 86,939 bags of paddy in connivance with M/s Sunrise Rice Mill, Jiwan Arain,

**While cases have been registered against all the commission agents (arhtiyas) and the millers involved, PUNSUP has placed its Mandi in-charge Hansa Singh under suspension with immediate effect**

Tehsil Guru Har Sahai, against which payments to the tune of Rs 5.6 crore have been taken," said Ashu adding that it was suspected that the miller was planning to buy paddy from other states like UP and Bihar, where it is much cheaper than MSP and then deliver it during milling to make a quick profit. A team headed by General Manager (Procurement) was also sent from the Head Office, which conducted the physical verification in the rice mill and found a shortage of 86,939 bags of paddy.

Further investigation by the head office team revealed that there is money trail of funds diverted from bank account of M/s Reet Enterprises owned by Jaswinder Singh to M/s AM Industries Jiwan Arain owned by Harpreet Singh who is real brother of M/s Jaswinder Singh.

M/s AM Industries further distributed these funds to SS Industries, GS Trading Company, MJ Industries, Harpreet Kaur and Amandeep.

Notably, with the latest nab, the Punjab Food and Civil Supply Department in a record of its kind has been successful in checking bogus billing of about five lakh bags of paddy and rice in the ongoing Kharif Marketing Season.

Enterprises owned by Jaswinder Singh, Jagdish Chander & Sons owned by Sandeep Kumar and Dhruv Commission Agent owned by Rishu Mutneja and M/s Sunrise Rice mill owned by Jasmeet Singh along with concerned mandi inspector Hansa Singh.

Further the police has been given the information regarding diversion of funds to include the name of M/s AM Industries Jiwan Arain owned by Harpreet Singh who is real brother of Jaswinder Singh in the case and also investigate further the role of SS Industries, GS Trading Company, MJ Industries, Harpreet Kaur and Amandeep.

Notably, with the latest nab, the Punjab Food and Civil Supply Department in a record of its kind has been successful in checking bogus billing of about five lakh bags of paddy and rice in the ongoing Kharif Marketing Season.

## Punjab PWD assures to provide all support

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/KAPURTHALA

Appreciating the goodwill gesture of Centre as well as the Pakistan Government towards construction of Kartarpur corridor, Punjab PWD Minister Vijay Inder Singla on Friday said that the Department will extend all out support to construct approximate two kilometer stretch of the corridor which falls in the Indian territory.

He said that the roads of the historic and the sacred town of Sultanpur Lodhi will be upgraded by Public Works Department in a record time of 10 months.

The Minister said that 19 roads have been identified for broadening and strengthening as per the survey of the department team and the input received from the local MLAs as well as public.

"An amount of Rs 90 crore would be spent in the first phase of the upgradation work," he said while informing that the tendering process has already been done and the work allocation will be done in a day or two.

"Work on ground will commence within a fortnight...I would personally oversee the entire work and deploy a dedicated team of officials departmental officials to ensure timely completion of the work for the convenience of the pilgrims," he said.

## Palampur to be developed from tourism point of view: Thakur



PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Friday said efforts would be made to develop Palampur area from tourism point of view and for this work on Himani Chamunda and Palampur ropeways would be started soon.

Addressing a public meeting at Nagri in Palampur, Thakur said the present State Government during its tenure has ensured balanced and equitable development of all areas of the State with special focus on development of those areas which have remained neglected so far.

Taking a dig at the opposition leaders for making hue and cry about his Delhi visits, Thakur said it was due to better coordination between the Centre and the State

Government that the State succeeded to get developmental projects worth ₹ 9000 crore sanctioned from the Centre. The Chief Minister said that the Bindh Nala Drinking Water Scheme at Ghuggar to be completed at a cost of ₹ 25.08 crore, would help in augmentation of 12 schemes and would benefit over 67000 population of 98 habitations of the area.

He announced that car parking and Circuit House would be constructed in Palampur and also sanctioned water supply and irrigation schemes worth ₹ 6.67 crore and ₹ 3.34 crore for the area for funding by NABARD. Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated 30 meter long double lane bridge over Moul Khad constructed at a cost of ₹ 4.47 crores. He also announced three tubewells for the area.

**CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**  
e-TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer C.P. Divn No. 1, Chandigarh on behalf of President of India invites sealed Percentage rate tender from approved & eligible contractors enlisted with Chandigarh Admn., and those of Chandigarh Administration, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, CPWD State PWDS of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal and their boards and Corporations and shall be downloaded from the site <http://www.etenders.chd.nic.in/> so as to reach in the office of the undersigned situated in Additional Deluxe Building, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh.

Sr. No.	NIT No.	Name of Work and location	Estimated cost put to tender	Earliest money	Time of completion	Last date & Time		Time & date of opening of tender
						For online submission of tender	For Submission of documents in Physical form by the lowest bidder.	
1	9759	Providing and fixing of Guard Rail (STD) Along Edge of Road Berm and Construction of Table Top at V-S Road, at Entry of ISBT -43 Chandigarh.	Rs.83.43.697/-	Rs.1.66.874/-	Two months	29.11.2018 2.00 P.M.	Within a week after opening the tender	29.11.2018 3.00 P.M.

CONDITIONS  
The tender document can only be downloaded/up-loaded by the contractor/bidders from the website <http://etenders.chd.nic.in/>.

Executive Engineer,  
C.P. Division no. 1,  
Sector 9, Chandigarh, Tel. No. 0172-2740620

RO 8836-38 Dt 22.11.18

**PRESS NOTICE**  
**CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**  
e-TENDER NOTICE

Percentage rate e-tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. 1 on behalf of President of India from the eligible Class 'A' & B contractors enlisted with the Chandigarh Administration, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, CPWD State PWDS of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal and their boards and Corporations and shall be downloaded from the site <http://www.etenders.chd.nic.in/> so as to reach in the office of the undersigned situated in Additional Deluxe Building, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh.

Sr. No.	Description of item	Estimated Tender Amount	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Bid Submission End Date	Date of Opening of Bid
1/M/242	PROPOSED EXTENSION IN EXISTING SERVICE, SHOPS, BLOCK AND EXISTING WORKSHOP IN CTU WORKSHOP DEPOT NO. 2, CHANDIGARH (E.I. WORK).	Rs 7,26,388/-	Rs 14,530/-	3 Months	23.11.2018 Upto 3:00 PM	29.11.2018 At 3:00 PM

The DNIT with detailed terms and conditions can be downloaded/Uploaded by the bidders from the website at <http://www.etenders.chd.nic.in/>.

Executive Engineer,  
Electrical, Divn. No.1,  
Additional Deluxe Bldg.,  
2nd Floor, Sector-9, Chandigarh.  
Office Ph. No. 0172-740307

RO 8858-60 Dt 22.11.18

**The Nawanshahr Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd; Nawanshahr, (Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar)**  
Phone No.01823-222024, 222039, Fax No.222539,  
E-mail: dcsmsnr@yahoo.com Website: www.nawanshahrsugar.com  
GSTIN No. 03AAAPD5602K2ZV

**Short Term Tender Notice**  
**Regarding Sugar Bag Handling**

The Nawanshahr Coop. Sugar mills Ltd, Nawanshahr invites online e-tender for the Sugar Bag Handling Contract for the year 2018-19 according to DNIT. Last date to submit the tender is 03.12.2018 upto 11:00 AM and will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM. To participate in the said E-Tender process, the bidders shall have to get themselves registered with website: <http://proc.punjab.gov.in/> and get User ID, Password & Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the E-Tendering process. Regarding any clarification/difficulty of a tendering process flow, parties can contact us on telephone no 0172-2791326/0172-2791226 / 9815701410. Detailed Notice inviting tenders and other terms & conditions are available on website: <http://proc.punjab.gov.in/> Any Contingendum / Addendum / Corrections will be published on the above said website. The undersigned reserve the right to reject/Postpone any or all of the tender without assigning any reason.

Sd/-  
General Manager  
DPR/22NOV18/C-3366 Dt 22-11-2018



550TH PARKASH PURB OF GURU NANAK DEV

# Foundation stones for ₹150 cr of projects to celebrate prakash purb

PNS ■ SULTANPUR LODHI

To mark the launch of year-long celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev's 550th anniversary, former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore and Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Friday laid the foundation stones for 26 development projects worth Rs 150 crore, including upgradation of infrastructure in three historic towns of Sultanpur Lodhi, Dera Baba Nanak and Batala.



Capt Amarinder, who further announced projects and welfare schemes of Rs 3312 crore to facilitate pilgrims and to commemorate the historic occasion, also launched a tree plantation drive to plant 550 trees in every village throughout the state in the next one year at a total cost of Rs 10.50 crore.

The cost for the same shall be met through greening Punjab Mission and maintenance shall be done through MNREGA. Indigenous variety of trees shall be planted at appropriate places in consultation with Gram Panchayats, said the Chief Minister, appealing to all Punjabis to plant at least one fruit tree each in their homes.

Besides, the Chief Minister announced the release of 32 prisoners and remission of term for another 2,952 to mark the occasion.

Punjab Government has decided to set up a Committee under Additional Chief Secretary (Home), with Principal Secretary (Jails), DG Intelligence and ADGP (Jails) as members, to review all cases of prisoners who have had good conduct and can be con-

sidered for early release. The Committee shall submit its report in 60 days.

In addition, it is also proposed to build a Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji Marg, to be finalized by the Group of Experts from the Department of Religious Studies, which has been assigned the task to study and propose alignment for the same.

The foundation stones laid relate to three high-level bridges and two Foot Over Bridges of Rs 24 crore, high level bridge on creek of river Beas (Rs 13 crore), New Rest House at Sultanpur Lodhi (Rs five crore), widening of plan roads (Rs 42 crores), special repair of plan roads (Rs 38 crores), which shall be completed by July 2019.

Others are development projects being undertaken by Local Government Department for upgradation of civic infrastructure in Municipal Council, new bus stand and sewerage treatment plant (STP) and other sewerage works in Sultanpur Lodhi, besides upgradation of civic infrastructure in Municipal Council in Batala and Dera Baba Nanak. All three towns

are associated with the first Sikh Guru.

Chief Minister also announced Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana, under which 43 Lakh families would be brought under insurance cover of Rs five lakh at a cost of Rs 371 crores from January 1, 2019.

The State Government has also embarked upon an ambitious programme to spruce up the village infrastructure under Smart Village Campaign (SVC) in a phased manner, across the state, at a cost of Rs 1000 crore in the first phase.

Wide variety of developmental works (like sewerage system, paving of streets, gyms, parks, CCTV, village Secretariat etc) shall be taken up in these villages over the next 3.5 years. The project's aim is to make the villages self-sustaining by creating an environment to enable the local communities to achieve their capabilities through contextually appropriate technologies, systems, structures and processes, said the Chief Minister.

Besides, 36 villages and 11 Nagar Panchayats visited by Guru Nanak Dev have also been identified for development at Rs 150 crore,

announced the Chief Minister.

Capt Amarinder also announced an Institute of Inter-faith Studies will be set up at GNDU, Amritsar at Rs 510 crore, while 'Pind Babe Nanak Da' Museum will be established at Sultanpur Lodhi to commemorate the historic occasion.

"Bebe Nanki College for Girls in Mahablipur village, five km from Sultanpur Lodhi, in addition to a project for lining and cleaning of Kali Bein, to be undertaken in Sultanpur Lodhi in association with Sant Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal of 'Ek Onkar Charitable Trust' through Kar Seva," he said.

A sum of Rs 180 crore has been allocated for upgradation of roads and bridges to improve connectivity to Sultanpur Lodhi with Majha, Doaba and Malwa areas, to cater to huge rush of sangat expected to converge during the celebrations. These works in and around Sultanpur Lodhi Kapurthala shall be completed by September 30, 2019.

A Government Medical College and Super-Specialty Hospital will be established at Kotli Nangal village in Gurdaspur district for Rs 400 crore, in PPP mode, to be completed by 2021, and Sri Guru Nanak Devji Centre for Invention, Innovation, Incubation and Training (CIIT) will be established as a hub in main campus of PTU at Kapurthala, with a Spoke to be developed in Jabbowal village, Sultanpur Lodhi (total Rs 739 crore).

A Guru Nanak Dev Ji Auditorium in PTU Kapurthala and a Bio-diversity Park and Village Kanjli, District Kapurthala are among the other projects announced by the Chief Minister.

# Amarinder launches year long celebrations

PNS ■ SULTANPUR LODHI

Calling upon all people to set aside their religious and political differences to join his government in making the commemorative events memorable, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Friday launched the year-long celebrations of the 550th parkash purb (birth anniversary) of Guru Nanak Dev.

Capt Amarinder, addressing a large gathering, greeted one and all on the auspicious occasion of Gurpurab and exhorted the people to reconnect with the teachings, principles and ideals enunciated by Guru. He also invited people from across the world to participate in the celebrations.

Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, along with various other prominent Congress leaders, including AICC secretary in-charge of state affairs Asha Kumari and Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar, were also present on the auspicious occasion.

Governor VP Singh Badnore joined the year-long celebration to launch ceremony and inaugurated an exhibition 'From Rabab to Nagara', curated by historian and Delhi-based National Institute of Punjab Studies director Dr Mohinder Singh.

Promising that his government would do its best to observe this occasion in a befitting manner, the Chief Minister said that the State Government considered itself fortunate to be given the opportunity to observe the historic event in Punjab.



The Government will observe the event as a non-political and bi-partisan affair, he said, appealing to all people to shed their political and other differences to come together to observe this event.

Today, considerations of caste, creed, inequality are again rampant in our society, he lamented, adding, "We need to rise above these on the path shown by Guru Sahib." If Punjab has to regain its number one position in the country, we need to maintain bhairava and saanjh and not get divided on different lines, asserted the Chief Minister.

Capt Amarinder said his Government would also welcome and respect the valuable suggestions from the sangat, and would leave no stone unturned to make the event an

occasion to cherish and remember.

Recalling various submissions made by his government to the Prime Minister for supporting the state's initiative for the special events, the Chief Minister thanked Narendra Modi, and the Central Government, for acceding to the requests of the State Government on behalf of the people of Punjab and Punjabis living across the world.

The Chief Minister said that money would be no constraint for the various development and welfare projects launched or announced on Friday, to ensure befitting commemoration of the historic celebrations.

Dr Manmohan Singh expressed hope that all would rise above the petty consider-

ations of communalism and hatred to celebrate the event in a befitting manner.

At the same time, he cautioned the people against attempts by communal forces to divide the nation, and exhorted them to participate in the year-long celebration with full enthusiasm and gaiety, regardless of caste, colour, creed and religion.

Governor Badnore said that it was a matter of pride for him to be part of the auspicious occasion, while calling for universal brotherhood as the key message of the commemorative events.

Former cricketer Kapil Dev presented his book, 'We the Sikhs around the world', relating to 100 Gurdwaras across the globe, to Dr Manmohan Singh, Badnore and Capt Amarinder.

# Capt thanks Indian, Pak Govts, assures all support for timely completion

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Friday congratulated all Punjabis on the Centre's decision to develop the Kartarpur corridor saying that a long pending demand of Punjab was on the verge of fulfilment on November 26, when he would join the President of India to lay the foundation stone for the corridor.

At the same time, he also thanked the Government of Pakistan for reciprocating on the issue saying that his Government will also contribute, as may be required, to ensure timely completion of the project.

Capt Amarinder had tweeted, "Happy to share that I'll be joining President Ram Nath Kovind ji in laying foundation stone for Kartarpur Corridor to International Border at Dera Baba Nanak, Gurdaspur, on November 26. It will be a great moment indeed for all devotees of Sri Guru Nanak Dev."

A day before, the Union Cabinet on Thursday decided to develop the corridor from Gurdaspur in Punjab to the international border (IB) to facilitate the passage of pilgrims to the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara in Pakistan as part of the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev,

# BADAL ASKS POLITICAL PARTIES TO TRANSCEND RACE FOR CREDIT

**Chandigarh:** Former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal on Friday asked all the political parties to "rise above the temptation of engaging in a race for credit on this shared aspiration of every Sikh because this is a great achievement for all and it has happened because of the blessings of the Gurus".

Badal, after paying obeisance at Gurdwara Ber Sahib at Sultanpur Lodhi on the 550th parkash utsav of Guru Nanak Dev, asked one and all, "Let us all celebrate this achievement together without getting into a race for credit, even though I know that this has been one of the longest standing demands of the SAD and the SGPC and they have waged struggle for it."

"But this occasion transcends politics. It is a victory of the Khalsa Panth and it is something beyond party lines," said Badal. Badal said that the credit for the opening of the corridor to Kartarpur Sahib must go mainly to every member of the 'Nanak Nam Leva Sangat' who had been praying daily for the past over 70 years for khulle darshan deedar and seva sambhal (free access and service) of all the Gurdwaras from which the Sikh sangat (community) had been weaned away.

"Everyone among us is free to take credit, but the true credit goes to akal purakh and the great Guru Sahib who answered the prayers of Sikh Sangat in this regard," he said.

"But since the final official and formal decision in this regard has to be taken by the government of the day, I must express my gratitude for the official decision to the NDA Government and especially to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi who took the initiative to announce the construction of a state-of-the-art corridor on the Indian side of the access. However, even the Prime Minister would be the first to give credit for this to the great Gurus," he added.

next year. However, the Centre clarified that India's decision was not in response to any proposal from Pakistan. The resolution was passed after many weeks of internal consultations and preparations within the government. The gurdwara is significant for the Sikh community since Guru Nanak Dev spent 18 years of his life in Kartarpur till he died in 1539. It is located around three km from the international border between both countries and can be seen from the Indian side.

# Hry to organise Gita Jayanti from Dec 7-23

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

International Gita Mahotsav 2018 will be organised from December 7-23 in Haryana's Kurukshetra city.

Announcing this, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Friday said for the first time, Gita Mahotsav will also be organized in Mauritius in the month of February 2019. Besides, Mauritius will be the partner country in the celebrations of upcoming International Gita Mahotsav 2018 at Kurukshetra, he said.

The State Government's efforts to promote the teaching of sacred 'Srimad Bhagavad Gita' at the global level has started yielding fruitful results with countries showing interest to partner with Haryana for celebrations of Gita Mahotsav, Manohar Lal said while talking to the mediapersons at New Delhi.

While national BJP President Amit Shah would be the chief guest on inaugural programme on December 13, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and former President Pranab Mukherjee would remain present on December 18.

He said that the present State Government has been organising the Gita Mahotsav at international level since 2016. This year, the International Gita Mahotsav -2018 to be organised from December 7 to 23, would have Mauritius as partner country and Gujarat as partner state.



Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal at a press conference regarding International Gita Mahotsav (IGM), to be organised from December 7-23, at Kurukshetra

The International Gita Mahotsav, an annual event, is organized every year in collaboration with Kurukshetra Development Board (KDB) at Kurukshetra.

On this occasion, he also greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima and 550th Parkash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev.

He said the KDB who has been organizing programmes and events for the promotion of Gita has also completed its 50 years on November 23.

The programme of Gita Jayanti started in the year 1989. Gradually, the Gita Jayanti Mohtsav was started organizing at national level. However, the present State Government has been organizing Gita Mahotsav of international level since 2016, he added.

The Chief Minister said

that the main event would be organized from December 13 to December 18. Haryana Governor Satyadeo Narain, Tripura Governor Prof Kaptan Singh Solnaki, Odisha Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal and other prominent personalities would also grace the event with their presence.

He said that besides the Art and Culture Minister of Mauritius, the event would be attended by diplomats of 15 different countries.

While underlining the significance of Gita in the mental and spiritual development of human being, he said that the Lord Krishna had delivered the celestial message of Gita on the holy land of Kurukshetra 5156 years ago.

The episode was unique in itself as the battlefield saw simultaneous use of weapons

and scripture. Various prominent personalities including the astronaut Sunita Williams has acknowledged the significance of this holy book, Manohar Lal said.

The Chief Minister further said that the International Gita Mahotsav which would saw the participation from prominent saints like Shri Shri Ravi Shankar, Swami Ramdev, and Shankracharya and various social and religious organizations would also be organized at district and block level.

For the first time, it has been decided to organize "Gita Sansad" in more than 30 colleges of the state in which discussion would be held on the sacred scripture so as to effectively disseminate the message of Gita among the students. Apart from this, to spread the message of global peace and

harmony, Ashtadashi Shaloki Gita would be recited by 18,000 students simultaneously in Kurukshetra at 12 noon on December 18, he added.

International Crafts and Saras Mela would be inaugurated on December 7 in which artist and artisans of national and international repute would add colour to the event. Similarly, Sant Sammelan would be organized on December 16 in which renowned saints from country and abroad would participate.

Also, Gita quiz competition, essay writing and declamation contest would be organized. Online competitions would also be organized in which Gita followers of the country and abroad could participate. Paint the wall competition would also be organized in which about 200 prominent painters would paint the walls of Kurukshetra on the subject of Mahabharata.

Haryana Pavilion would be set up showcasing the culture of Haryana. Apart from this, evening aarti and light and sound show at Brahmavar, cultural programmes by national and international artists on Kurukshetra, Gita, Krishna and Mahabharata and Gita Book Fair are the other event that would attract the people visiting the Mahotsav.

Member of KDB Shyam Kishore informed that this year, Kumbh Mela would also be organized in Kurukshetra for the first time from December 3 to December 7.

# Kirron Kher Inaugurates Chandigarh Carnival 2018

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

One of the most awaited annual event of the City Beautiful, the Chandigarh Carnival 2018 was inaugurated by Kirron Kher, Member of Parliament, at Leisure Valley on Friday.

Jitender Yadav, Director Tourism and other officers from Chandigarh Administration and Municipal Corporation were present on the occasion.

Kher flagged off the Carnival Parade showcasing the beautiful and creative floats designed by the students of Arts College, CITCO and Chandigarh Tourism (depicting the major tourist spots in Chandigarh), Education Department and Home Science College.

The floats designed on the Gandhi theme had different components depicting the lifestyle of the iconic leader. The colorful rally went around the



Chandigarh MP, Kirron Kher, at the inaugural function of the three-day Chandigarh Carnival which began at Leisure Valley, Sector-10 on Friday. T Sharma | Pioneer

City and attracted the denizens to the much loved Chandigarh Carnival. For car lovers, a Vintage car display has been set up at the Government Museum

& Art Gallery, Sector 10. As a special gesture to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Kher released a huge

bunch of white balloons to spread the message of peace and harmony.

The Chandigarh Carnival 2018 consist of stalls exhibited

by various academies, NGO's & Govt. Departments who have displayed various art & crafts. The day long cultural programmes by various artists and performers, amusement park, joy rides with various fun & frolic activities & Cartoon characters attracted the people.

Fort the food lovers, stalls have been installed by CIHM, AIHM, CITCO and others. The first day of the Carnival witnessed a Bollywood Musical Nite Live by Shaan in the evening. Shaan performed on his famous melodies which enthralled the audience.

All the three days of the carnival are packed with numerous activities. Competitions and events for every generation and taste of people are framed, so that everybody gets a chance to showcase their talent.

On Saturday, there will be a performance by Punjabi singer Harbhajan Mann.

# Religious fervour marks Gurdwarab in Pb, Hry

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Devotees thronged gurdwaras of Punjab and Haryana on Friday to pay obeisance to first Sikh guru Guru Nanak Dev on his 550th birth anniversary on Friday.

Braving the chill, people from different faiths offered early morning prayers on Gurpurab and took part in 'langars' and 'shabad kirtans'.

There was a huge rush of devotees since early morning at the 'Harmandir Sahib' in Amritsar, popularly known as the Golden Temple.

A security ring was enforced around all leading Sikh shrines in both the states, including Chandigarh, officials said.

In Haryana, devotees thronged gurdwaras at various places, including Karnal, Ambala and Yamunanagar while there was huge rush of devotees at Sector 34 Gurdwara in Chandigarh.

Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, was born in 1469 at Nankana Sahib near Lahore, now in Pakistan.

Earlier this week, over 3,000 Sikh pilgrims had left for Pakistan to take part in festivities ahead of the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, with the main function being held on

the occasion at Gurdwara Janam Asthan in Nankana Sahib.

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh and his Haryana counterpart Manohar Lal Khattar had extended greetings to people of the states on the occasion of Gurpurab.

**R.S. MEMORIAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**  
 (Approved by the Government of Punjab, Chandigarh)  
 (Recognized by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi)  
 OFFICE: 0180-259515, 4018244, 94160-17615

Application are invited for the following Regular Posts:

B.A. B.Ed. Principal/ HOD-1, Education-4, Science-2, Maths-2, Social Science-2, Hindi-1, English-1, Health and Physical Education-1, Fine Arts-1, Performing Arts-1

B.Sc. B.Ed. Principal/HOD-01, Perspectives of Education-2, Science & Its Pedagogy-2, Mathematics & Its Pedagogy-2, Social Science-1, Health & Its Pedagogy-1, English & Its Pedagogy-1, Health and physical Education-1, Fine Arts-1, Performing Arts-1, Linguistics-1

B.K. B.Ed. Principal/HOD-01, Perspectives of Education-4, Pedagogy of Maths-2, Pedagogy of Science-2, Pedagogy of Social Science-2, Pedagogy of Hindi-1, Pedagogy of English-1, H.A.P.-1, Fine Arts-1, Performing Arts (Music/Dance/Theatre)-1

D.D. B.Ed. Principal/HOD-1, Perspectives of Education-1, Science-1, Humanities & Social Science-1, Mathematics-1, English-1, Hindi-1, Fine Arts & Performing Arts-01, Health and Physical Education-1

Non-Teaching Staff for above courses: LDC/Office Superintendent-2, Office Manager-01, Computer operator-1, Store Keeper-02, Computer Lab Asst-01, Librarian-01, Lib. Asst-01, Resource Centre Co-ordinator-01, Lab. Assistant-01, Office Cum-Asst-02, Office Asst. Cum-Computer Operator-02, Store Keeper-01, Technical Asst-02, Lab. Attendant/Helper/Support Staff-02, Sweeper, 02, Chowkidar-02.

Qualification and the date will be on our website at: [www.rsmce.edu](http://www.rsmce.edu) from 15.11.2018 till 30.11.2018 to ensure authenticity.

NOTE: Candidates who have applied must reach registration point (Email to the Secretary/President) before 15.11.2018. After this date of the advertisement, the applicant must be sent a copy of the same to the Date of College, CSO and (Examination) Cell, College Enno 12, mohindernagar@rsmce.com

Secretary/President



Dushyant and Digvijay preparing for a show of strength at Dec 9 Jind rally

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After their father Ajay Chautala announced to float a new political party, Hisar MP Dushyant Chautala and INSP chief Digvijay Chautala have geared up to stage a show of strength at Jind rally on December 9, when the name of their party will be announced.

In absence of former INLD leader Ajay Chautala, who is facing a 10-year jail term along with his father INLD chief OP Chautala since 2013 in a teach-

ers' recruitment scam, Dushyant and Digvijay have been regularly holding meetings to muster support for their Jind rally.

Dushyant Chautala has taken the responsibility of Hisar and Jind districts to maximise the mobilisation of people to attend the Jind rally while his younger brother Digvijay has been given Kaithal to ensure large number of participation from the district.

Dushyant is also visiting various districts to meet his supporters and invite them for

the rally.

The rebel INLD MLAs, Anoop Dhanak from Uklana and Rajdeep Phogat from Dadri will also be working to mobilize people for the rally.

While Anoop Dhanak will look after Fatehabad district, Rajdeep Phogat has been given responsibility of Dadri and Jhajjar. Apart from this, supporters have been given responsibility of 22 districts to ensure maximum participation at the rally.

Former INLD national spokesperson, KC Bangar said that Ajay and Dushyant's supporters have also decided to visit villages of the state to invite people for Jind rally. Dushyant will also be visiting Sonapat on November 27 to invite people for the rally, he said.

Ajay Chautala will announce the name of his party at the rally following a split in the Indian National Lok Dal, a result of the power struggle between him and his younger brother Abhay Chautala.

Abhay is Leader of opposition in Haryana Assembly and INLD's MLA from Ellenabad.

Notably, the announcement to float the new party was made by Ajay at Jind on November 17 days after INLD patriarch OP Chautalahlad expelled three family members from the party—first his grandsons Hisar MP Dushyant and Digvijay, and then Ajay—for alleged "anti-party activities".

Ajay's wife and Dabwali

MLA, Naina Chautala has been spared from any disciplinary action as of now.

Ajay, who was recently out on parole for 15 days had also announced that his party will contest both Lok Sabha and assembly polls scheduled next year in the state. He had also hinted at attending the December 9 rally to launch his party.

Meanwhile, the resignations continued to pour in the support of Ajay Chautala. Several INLD workers in Bhiwani announced resignation from the party.

BJP's state executive committee member Jai Bhagwan Sharma has also resigned from his post on Friday and announced to join the new outfit which would be floated next month by Ajay Chautala.

Sharma, while talking to the mediapersons in Kurukshetra said that when he joined the BJP before the 2014 assembly polls, he was assured a party ticket from his hometown Thanesar.

"However later on, I was asked to contest from Pehowa against my wish. Later (after losing the polls), I was not only ignored by the BJP government but also humiliated," he alleged.

Showering praise at Ajay Chautala and his son Dushyant Chautala, he said leaders like them have the vision to take the state ahead.

Sharma added that he will hold a big rally at Kurukshetra grain market on December 3 to welcome Dushyant Chautala to the town.

AAP BLAMES CENTRE FOR PLAYING WITH PEOPLE'S FEELINGS WITH THEIR FAKE PROMISES

Chandigarh: Terming the Central Government as an "alliance of jumlebaazs", the Aam Aadmi Party on Friday raised question over the Akali-BJP Government's decision to scrap Banga-Mata Naina Devi road project, costing ₹470 crores.

Just before Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections, the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, addressing a poll rally at Ropar, promised to build 58.40 kms long Sri Anandpur Sahib-Mata Naina Devi road line but the Centre has now stepped back from the promise, said AAP Ropar MLA Amarjeet Singh Sandoa and party candidate for Anandpur Sahib Lok Sabha seat Narinder Singh Shergill, in a joint statement.

They said that the Government, by doing it, has played with the feelings of lakhs of devotees visiting the shrine every year. At the same time, they accused Sri Anandpur Sahib MP Prem Singh Chandumajra of being partner in making fake promises to the people of Punjab.

AAP leaders said that it is shameful that Chandumajra is now trying to hide the fact by accusing the officers of stalling the project while people know that it is just an act of eyewash.

Sandoa and Shergill asked Chandumajra if he accept that the officer lobby is running the Central Government, and the elected representatives have no say in its functioning.

"If the situation is that worst, why don't Chandumajra and Harsimrat Badal resign from their seats and scrap the alliance with BJP. The project carries historical, religious and financial importance so it should be built at any cost," they said.

Hry to bring ordinance to give statutory status to KDB

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Friday said that the State Government would soon bring an ordinance to accord statutory status to the Kurukshetra Development Board (KDB) so as to enable the Board to work independently and make International Gita Mahotsav, a regular feature.

Apart from this, a 'Sathayi Ayojna Samiti' under the chairmanship of Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Maharaj would also be constituted for this purpose, said Manohar Lal while talking to the mediapersons in New Delhi.

On being asked whether the State Government would declare Kurukshetra as a heritage city, he said that the State Government has already declared Thanesar as holy city.

In reply to another question, he said that an exhibition on 'Srimad Bhagavad Gita' has been organized at Red Fort so that maximum people could visit the same. The Red Fort has a huge footfall of visitors from other parts of the country as well as from abroad and organizing exhibition at such a place would provide an extended opportunity to such visitors to know more about relevance of 'Srimad Bhagavad Gita', the Chief Minister said.

Asked about the steps taken for the promotion of 'Srimad Bhagavad Gita' in the state, the Chief Minister said that the present State Government has given international shape to the Gita

Ordinance for Ram Temple unlikely, says Manohar Lal

Chandigarh: Amid a clamour within the BJP for bringing an ordinance for early construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Friday said that an ordinance in this regard seems unlikely.

"The talks are ongoing and the issue could be settled mutually. But if not, the Supreme Court will decide on the issue," he while responding to a question.

However, making a pitch for building the Ram Temple at the birthplace of Lord Ram, the Chief Minister said that the issue is related to belief of large number of people.

The question is not about making a temple or any place of worship somewhere. Rather, it is about building it at the place of birth of the deity, he added.

Meanwhile, BJP MP Ravindra Kushwaha on Friday claimed a Bill allowing the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya will be introduced in the coming session of Parliament and the Centre will bring an ordinance in case it falls in the Rajya Sabha.

On the other hand, BJP's ally Shiv Sena has asked the BJP to come out with an ordinance and declare a date for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. PNS

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ramesh Kumar S/o Late Gangra Saran R/O #1476 Mohalla Churiana wala, Manimajra Chandigarh declare that my son Akash Kumar is out of my control. I disown him from my moveable/immovable properties. Anybody dealing with own risk.

I, Het Ram S/o Atama Ram and Vimala Rani W/o Het Ram R/O 23, Ashok Nagar, Tehsil Camp, Panipal declared that our son Brijbushan and his wife iksha are out of our control. We disown them from our moveable and immovable property. If anybody deals with them own his Risk.

I, Jatin Grover S/o Naveen Grover / Geeta Chopra Residence 84, Chopra Garden, Yamunanagar, declares that I am breaking all my relations with Father Naveen Grover, Mother Geeta Chopra, Sister Sonam Grover and other relatives belongs to them. I can take care of myself. I will not be responsible for their any act in my life.

I, Mamta D/o Khushi Ram R/O Meriala Chowk Amritsar Road Tehsil Batala Distt Gurdaspur declares that in my insurance policy my date of birth and my father name wrongly written as 01-06-1984, Khushi Ram Instead of 01-01-1981, Bagwandas Sani

I, Molar S/o Sh. Diwan Singh R/O VPO Narnand Teh. Narnand Distt. Hisar declare that in some documents the name of my wife wrongly mentioned as Beeru Mathi. Her correct name is Beermati. In future she should be known and written as Beermati.

I, Lajo Devi W/o Sh. Hans Raj R/O Village Pratapgarh, Near Pashu Hospital, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra declare that Lajo Devi & Lajwanti are the name of one & same person. In future called me Lajo Devi & Lajwanti. Note all concerns.

I, Sandeep Kumar S/o Birbal R/O #199, Block No.1, Village- Kheri Masania, Tehsil- Uchana, Distt- Jind declare that Sandeep B Sheekand S/o Birbal (PAN No. BSKPS2084P) one and same person. But in future I know as Sandeep Kumar S/o Birbal.

I, Chandni Ram S/o Fateh Singh R/O Village Mehanda Tehsil Hansi, Distt Hisar declare that in my Service Book Record my son name is written as Yes. But my Son real name is Yash. I want to record my son name in my service book record as Yash.

CHANGE OF NAME I, Meenu W/o Satish Kumar R/O House No. DF-448, Arya up Nagar Narwana, Distt. Jind (HRY) have changed my name from Meenu to Meenu Goyal.

I, Vikas S/o Rajinder Singh R/O Village fazilpur Tehsil Indri Distt Karnal declare that I have changed my name Vikas to Vikas Kamboj, all concern may note.

I, Braj Mohan Vishwakarma S/o Sh. Shyam Sunder Vishwakarma Chandimandir Cantt have Change my daughter Name From Srishti Braj Mohan Vishwakarma To Srishti Vishwakarma.

I, Braj Mohan Vishwakarma S/o Sh. Shyam Sunder Vishwakarma Chandimandir Cantt have Change my Son Name From Abhinav Braj Mohan Vishwakarma To Abhinav Vishwakarma.

I, Ashwani Kumar S/o Vijay Kumar, R/O HIG 829, Phase 2 (Sector 54) S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), have changed my name from Ashwani Kumar to Ashwani Kumar O.Hr. Concerned Note.

I, Lata Kumari W/o Deepak Kumar, Krishna garh, Ward-8, Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur have changed my name from Lata Sharma to Lata Kumari.

I, Sanjay Bhatia S/o Prem Nath R/O 17 Phase 2 Jaggi Colony Ambala City have changed my name from Sanjay Kumar Bhatia to Sanjay Bhatia.

I, Renu Sharma W/O Raj Kumar R/O # 75, Mathura Nagar, Nr Police Line, Ambala City, Declares That I Have Changed My Name From Sneh Lata To Renu Sharma.

I, Sukhdeep Singh S/O EX No 4465384a NK Hardev Singh R/O Village Shahpur Po Pakhowal Teh Raikot Distt Ludhiana (Punjab) Have Changed My Name To Jasdeep Singh My Aadhaar No Is 245524591083.

I, Harinder Singh S/O EX No 4465384a NK Hardev Singh R/O Village Shahpur Po Pakhowal Teh Raikot Distt Ludhiana (Punjab) Have Changed My Name To Harwinder Singh My Aadhaar No Is 245524591083.

I, Rishma Mehta W/O Rishabh Longani R/O 26, Longani Niwas Lawrence Road Amritsar have changed my name from Rishma Mehta to Rishma Longani After Marriage.

I, Karanjit Singh S/O Jagjit Singh R/O VPO Chawinda Devi Block Majitha District Amritsar have changed my name to Karanjit Singh.

I, Versha Rani W/O Shri Satpal Arora R/O H.No.159, Tungpal Jawahar Nagar Amritsar have changed my name to Versha Arora.

I, Divya Kapoor W/O Rohit Dhawan R/O 451-452, Green Avenue Amritsar have changed my name to Divya Dhawan.

I, Jobanpreet Singh S/o Angraj Singh R/O H.No.128, Nagina Avenue Majitha Road Amritsar have changed my name to Singh-Jobanpreet.

I, Neelam Sharma W/o Anuj Manchanda R/O H.No.3433-C, Gali no.3, Azad Nagar Fullighar Amritsar have changed my name to Neelam Manchanda After Marriage.

I, Simranjeet Singh Babber S/O Prem Singh R/O L-127/66, Kot Karnal Singh Sultanwind Road Amritsar have changed my name to Simranjeet Singh.

I, Gopal Sharma S/o Vishal Mani R/O 559/12-A Village Bahri Distt. Kurukshetra, have changed my name from Gopal to Gopal Sharma.

I, Lovandeep Kaur W/O Navdeep Singh R/O Vpo. Chotian Kalan Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Lovandeep Singh Erar.

I, Balbahadur Singh S/O Chamkaur Singh R/O Vill. Budh Singh Wala Distt. Moga Changed Minor Son's Name Robinpreet Singh To Robinpreet Singh Gill.

I, Arvinder Kaur Alias Jaswinder Kaur Matharu W/O Rajinder Singh R/O 1950/J, St.No.-4 Guru Gobind Singh Ruar Ludhiana Changed My Name To Arvinder Kaur.

I, Baljinder Kaur W/O Jasveer Singh Sandhu R/O Vill. Chhapkiti, P.O. Budhsingh Wala Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Baljinder Kaur Sandhu.

I, Harpal Singh S/O Chand Singh R/O Vpo. Kotha Guru Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Harpal Singh Maan.

I, Harpal Singh Maan S/O Chand Singh R/O Vpo. Kotha Guru Distt. Bathinda Changed Minor Son's Name Gurleen Singh To Gurleen Singh Maan.

I, Paramjit Kaur W/O Bohar Singh R/O Vill. Ratti Rori Distt. Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Paramjeet Kaur.

I, Gurpreet Singh S/O Bakhar Singh R/O Vpo. Bihelwala Distt. Faridkot Have Changed My Name To Gurpreet Singh Dhalwal.

I, Jaspal Singh S/O Harjant Singh R/O Vpo. Daudhar Sharki Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Jaspal Singh Sidhu.

I, Karanjit Kaur W/O Jaspal Singh Sidhu R/O Vpo. Daudhar Sharki Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Karanjit Kaur Sidhu.

I, Tarsem Masih S/O Piara Masih, R/O H.No.508 Improvement Trust Colony Batala Road Gurdaspur. Have Changed My Name From Tarsem Masih To Tarsem Masih Sahota.

I, Tarsem Masih S/O Piara Masih R/O H.No.508 Improvement Trust Colony Batala Road Gurdaspur. Have Changed Name Of My Daughter Anchal To Anchal Sahota. She Is Studying In +1 Class St. Soldier School Gurdaspur.

I, Mamta Rani W/o Sh. Rajesh Kumar R/O H.No. 574/7, New Colony, Kurukshetra have changed my name from Mamta Rani to Varsha Nani. Note all concerns.

I, Rajveer Daughter Of Resham Lal R/O Vill. Nangal Jamal, Po Ghorewaha, Distt. Jalandhar Have Changed My Name To Rajveer Kaur.

I, No 14811081H Hav Sanjaev Kumar S/O Chain Singh Unit 5371 ASC EN C/O 56 APO declare that in my service record my son name wrongly written Harash Kumar please correct it Harsh Kumar.

I, Ranjit Singh S/O Amrik Singh R/O Vill. Harigarh, Bhorakht, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed Minor Son Name Daljit Singh Ghotra To Daljeet Singh Ghotra.

I, Ranjit Singh S/O Amrik Singh R/O Vill. Harigarh, Bhorakht, Pehowa, Kurukshetra Have Changed Minor Daughter Name Anmol To Anmol.

बेदखली सूचना मैं, जोगी राम पुत्र श्री राम सिंह निवासी गांव निवाण, तहसील बठिंदा जिला सिस्सर अपने पुत्र विकास को कहे सुने से बाहर होने के कारण अपनी चल अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल करवा हूँ। उसके कितनी कार्य, लेन-देन या बचत विवाद के लिए मैं या मेरा परिवार जिम्मेवार नहीं है।

बेदखली सूचना मैं, राजित राम पुत्र बट्टी नारायण निवासी मकान नं० ४१९, सेनी बिलार, केज-१, बल्लभगंज, जिकरपुर घोषणा कला हूँ कि मेरा पुत्र राहुल कुमार व उसकी पत्नी सुश्रुता से कहे सुने से बाहर हूँ। इसलिए मैं उनको अपनी चल-अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल करवा हूँ। भविष्य में उनके लेन-देन करने के सम्बन्ध रखने वाला स्वयं जिम्मेवार हूँ।

Disclaimer The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisement (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own.

Classified Contact 94174-19351

Monitoring team to be constituted for Mewat development, says Haryana CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Friday said that a special monitoring team would be set up to prepare and implement development plans for Mewat area.

Commissioner Gurugram

division and Deputy Commissioner would be included along with senior officers of the Additional Chief Secretary level in the team to effectively monitor and implement the schemes, the Chief Minister said while addressing the officers and the represen-

tatives of the major steel industries of the country, in a review meeting, regarding development works of district Nuh.

Nuh is Haryana's sole district in the 115 ambious districts of the country. Union Minister of Steel, Ch. Birender Singh appointed by Niti Ayog for Nuh district was also present at the meeting held at Nuh.

At the meeting which continued for five hours, the Chief Minister said, "There is a need to do a lot for improving the living standard of the people, along with development works in district Nuh. And, this can only be done by a good leader and a good team. A special monitoring team is being appointed here and entrusted with the major responsibility of bringing change, he added.

He said that under Parivartan scheme, so far, two blocks have been included but now all the seven blocks would be included in the scheme.

He also said that the team of this monitoring group would monitor all infrastructural, educational, health and agricultural facilities.

There is a huge shortage of employees in all departments in Mewat area and whoever employee is appointed here, they immediately try to transfer. For the purpose, a separate cadre had been made for the district but now, this would also be ensured after new recruitments, service would be made mandatory for some years in this district, the Chief Minister said.

At the same time, facilities for present employees and officers posted here would also be increased. Strictness would be observed while transferring any employee from the district, he added.

DEFENCE P.G. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Tohana-Fatehabad (Hry) Affiliated to CDLU, Sirsa, Recognized by NCTE, Jaipur. Accredited with NAAC 'A' Grade with 3.25 CGPA

D.E.Ed.: Lecturer- perspective in Education-2, English-1, Mathematics-1, Social Sci.-1, Fine Art-1, Science-1

M.Ed. Nonteaching Staff

- 1. Office Manager -1
2. IT Executive/ maintenance Staff -1
3. Library Assistant/ Resource Centre Coordinator -1
4. Office Assistant -2
5. Helpers/Support Staff -1

Qualifications, terms & conditions as per NCTE/SCERT/CDLU, Sirsa/State Govt. Norms. Apply within 21 days to Chairperson, Defence PG College of Education, Tohana and Deans of Colleges, CDLU, Sirsa.

Email - defence.2009@rediffmail.com Contact- 9254205303, 9254205310 Chairperson

UNITED TEXTILES LIMITED

Regd. Off:- 7th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar

CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092

EXTRACT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Table with columns: Particulars, Quarter Ended 30.9.2018, 30.9.2017, Half Year Ended 30.9.2018, 30.9.2017. Rows include Total Income from operations, Net Profit (Loss) for the period before tax, Total Comprehensive Income for the Period, etc.

Note: (1) Basic (0.001) 0.031 (0.078) 0.030 (0.070) 0.098 (2) Diluted (0.001) 0.031 (0.078) 0.030 (0.070) 0.098

Date: November 14, 2018 For United Textile Ltd. Director

PUBLIC NOTICE/INTIMATION ABOUT CANCELLATION OF AGREEMENTS TO SELL DATED 04.01.2018 AND SUBSEQUENT EXTENSION ENDORSEMENT TO VENDEE ASHWANI DUA.

It is intimated to the public at large that my clients, 1.Parmeshwari 2. Binia wives of Sh. United Singh S/o Sh. Baldev, r/o village Chhiteera Bahadurpur, Tehsil and District Sonapat are owners in possession of 1/2 share each in the land comprised in Khawat No. 46 Khata No. 49 recd. and Killa 7/16 (8-0), 17/8(0-), 24/8(0-), 25/7-15), 28/0-5); 8/19(0-5), 20/7-14), 21/8(0-), 22/1-14), total measuring 49 Kanal 13 Marla, situated in the revenue estate of village Ladpur, Tehsil and District Sonapat on the basis of Jamabandi for the year 2016-17 and had entered into an agreement to sell with Ashwani Dua S/o Sh. Suraj Parkash Dua, r/o West Punjabi Bagh, Delhi (M. No.9810016700) on 04.01.18 and final day for performance was fixed upto 06.06.18 and on that day my clients got marked their presence in the office of Sub Registrar, Sonapat, but you noticee did not come present in the office of Sub Registrar, Sonapat alongwith balance sale amount and stamp and registration charges and other misc. charges and thereafter, my client served a legal notice upon you noticee/vendee on 07.08.18 to come present in the office of Sub Registrar, Sonapat on 21.08.18 alongwith balance sale amount and stamp and registration charges and other misc. charges, but you did not come present again and my clients remain present in the office of S.R., Sonapat till its closing hours and got marked their presence and act and conduct of you noticee shows that you are not in position to perform your part of contract. After your request my clients agreed to extend the final day of performance from 06.08.2018 to 06.11.2018 as you agreed to pay 24% per annum from 06.08.2018 to 06.11.2018 and my clients were present in the office of sub registrar Sonapat, despite your affidavit/undertaking in written you remained fails to perform your part of contract and despite all these things my clients gave 15 days time from 06.11.2018 upto 20.11.2018 to arrange balance sale consideration along with interest and cost of notices, but you noticee remain fail even pay the balance sale amount, costs and interest upto 20.11.2018 and your act and conduct shows that you have no funds to make the balance payment, cost and interest and act and conduct of my clients so that my clients always performed their part of contract. Hence, you have lost your right to enforce the agreement to sell against my clients and your agreements stand cancelled and earnest money also forfeited in favour of my vendee.

A separate legal notice is also sent to vendee and if you vendee have any objection regarding cancellation of agreements to sell and forfeiture of earnest money in favour of my clients in that case you are free to submit the same in the form of written objections upto 06.12.18 after my clients are free to sale their land to anybody else except you vendee and after that your objections will not be entertained at all cost.

Chambers No.71-72, Block-C, District Courts, Sonapat Mob.No. 9812341644

Public Notice

I, Dinesh Goel S/o Sh. Raj Kumar Goel R/O 469/9 Babra Mohalla, Rohtak do hereby declare that my previous original sale Deed No. 12786 dated 08/02/2006 which favour of Smt. Saroj Jain & Sale Deed No. 39 Dated 17/04/2001 which favour of Smt. Sumita Devi has been actually lost anywhere. If any person has found/ information above said documents then submit above said address. Declarant

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that H. No. 203-MIG, O.H.C. Devi Mandir, Panipat stands in the name of Smt. Sita Rani W/o Sh. Sita Ram as per record of this office. Due to death of allottee/purchaser on dated 29.06.1992. Now the legal heir of the deceased Sh. Madan Mohan Saini & Sh. Ram Mohan Rai Sons Sh. Sita Ram has submitted the documents to get the allotment/ownership transfer in his/her favour with this office. An opportunity is given through this notice to site any objection regarding the transfer of allotment / ownership of the house with strict documentary proof with this office. An opportunity is given through this notice, otherwise this house will be transferred in favour of Sh. Madan Mohan Saini & Sh. Ram Mohan Rai Sons Sh. Sita Ram legal heirs of the deceased. Estate Manager Housing Board Haryana, SBS Mkt. Shop No. 35 to 38, Panipat

Kejriwal to hold public meeting at Gurugram today

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Eying 2019 Lok Sabha polls, AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal will hold a public meeting in Gurugram on November 24.

Kejriwal is scheduled to address public meetings in all 10 Lok Sabha constituencies in Haryana and this would be his first such meeting on Saturday.

AAP chief will also address a rally on Nov 25 in Jind

The party has announced to contest both the Lok Sabha and the state Assembly elections in Haryana.

For the past few months, Arvind Kejriwal has been active in attacking his Haryana counterpart Manohar Lal Khattar on various issues including the conditions of schools and hospitals in the state.

AAP Haryana chief Naveen Jaihind said Kejriwal will address a Jan Sabha (public meeting) on November 24 in Gurugram.

After this, he will address a public meeting on December 2 in Faridabad, December 3 in Narnaul (Bhiwani-Mahendragar constituency) and December 9 in Karnal. The party plans to cover all 10 Lok Sabha constituencies by December, he added.

The AAP chief is also scheduled to address a rally on November 25 in Jind on the issue of enhancement charges levied by HUDA.

Hry Govt, roadways unions at loggerheads again

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The roadways employees' unions and Haryana Government are at loggerheads again, this time over the issue of overtime policy for employees.

Following the order by State Government to discontinue the overtime policy for Haryana roadways employees, the unions have now asked the government to allow the employees to work overtime without providing any benefits.

The Haryana Roadways employees' coordination committee in its meeting held at Hisar decided that employees will continue to work overtime till January 5 without taking any benefits under the work overtime policy.

Employees will continue to work overtime till Jan 5

The unions have written to Haryana Transport Department asking them to recruit staff in the Department by January 5 so that the plying of roadways is not affected due to discontinuation of overtime policy.

Transport Minister Krishan Lal Panwar had recently announced that the government has discontinued the overtime policy for Haryana Roadways employees to ensure safety of passengers.

PM Fasal Bima...

From Page 1

In Maharashtra, nearly 1.20 crore farmers were insured in 2016-17 and the companies made a profit of ₹2,424.23 crore for the year. In 2017-18, only about one crore farmers were insured. Yet the companies made a profit of ₹1617.94 crore.

Gujarat was probably the only State where the number of farmers who insured their crops increased during these two years. In 2016-17, the figure was 5.20 lakh but it grew exponentially to over 17.63 lakh the following year.

Simultaneously, the profits of the insurers also shot up from ₹40.07 crore in 2016-17 to ₹2,222.58 crore in 2017-18. The period also saw the number of farmers insuring their crops and profits of insurers rising in Haryana. While 13.36 lakh farmers had insured their crops in 2016-17, as many as 13.51 lakh got them insured the next year. The profits of the insurance companies rose even more sharply from 71.83 crore to ₹95 crore in these two years.

According to data, the number of beneficiaries under the PMFBY in West Bengal declined from 41.17 lakh in 2016-17 to 39.09 lakh in 2

# DIPLOMATS HARASSED, DENIED CONSULAR ACCESS TO SIKH PILGRIMS Pak's actions infuriate India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Friday lodged a protest with Pakistan over the alleged harassment of Indian High Commission officials in Islamabad and the denial of access to Indian Sikh pilgrims visiting that country. New Delhi also expressed "grave concern" over reported attempts to "incite" communal disharmony and "promote secessionist tendencies" during the ongoing visit of pilgrims with an aim to undermine India's sovereignty and territorial integrity during the ongoing visit of pilgrims there.

This development signalling further worsening of bilateral ties took place a day after India and Pakistan agreed to develop a corridor on their respective sides of the international border to link a historic Sikh shrine in Kartarpur in Pakistan. Meanwhile, Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu thanked the Government for developing the infrastructure for the pilgrims for the Kartarpur shrine. The decision



to develop infrastructure was taken in a Union Cabinet meeting on Thursday.

As regards the protest, an External Ministry statement said here "India has today lodged a strong protest with the Government of Pakistan that despite having been granted prior travel permission by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, the Consular officials of the High Commission of India in Islamabad were harassed and denied access on November 21 and 22 at Gurudwara Nankana Sahib and Gurudwara Sacha Sauda." There were reports that pro-

Khalistani banners were shown to the Indian pilgrims while they were on their way to the two Sikh shrines.

"Pakistan has been called upon to take all measures to not allow its territory to be used for any hostile propaganda and support for secessionist tendencies against India in keeping with the commitments made under the Simla Agreement, 1972 and endorsed in the Lahore Declaration, 1999," the statement said. The Indian pilgrims are visiting Pakistan under a bilateral protocol.

"Pakistan has been remind-

THERE WERE REPORTS THAT PRO-KHALISTANI BANNERS WERE SHOWN TO THE INDIAN PILGRIMS WHILE THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO THE TWO SIKH SHRINES

ed that such actions are not in consonance with the stated intentions of Pakistan to facilitate the visits of Indian Sikh pilgrims, especially as we commemorate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji," the statement said.

On the issue of denial of access, it said the access was denied despite the Pakistan Foreign Ministry granting the Indian officials prior travel permission. As a result of the

harassment, the officials were compelled to return to Islamabad without performing their diplomatic and consular duties vis-a-vis Indian pilgrims, it added. Indian officials said this is the third consecutive visit of Indian Sikh pilgrims when Pakistan has prevented the Indian High Commission officials from meeting the Indian nationals on the pretext of security.

The External Affairs Ministry termed the denial of access an attempt to deflect attention from Pakistan's violation of international legal instruments and conventions like the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Pakistan has been reminded that this is in contrast to the treatment meted out to their High Commissioner and the Consular officials in New Delhi who have been provided full access to meet the Pakistani pilgrims who are currently in India on pilgrimage to Kalyar Sharif, the statement said.

# J&K polls to be held within next 6 months: EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner OP Rawat on Friday said that Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir will be held within the next six months. Rawat did not rule out the possibility of holding polls in the State before the Lok Sabha polls scheduled to be held next year. The EC is expected to meet next week on this issue.

"SC has ruled whenever such dissolution takes place, the Commission should hold elections on 1st occasion and in no case, later than 6 months. For commission, 6 months is good enough for getting preparedness at satisfactory level. Law and order situation in Jammu & Kashmir will also be kept in mind," Chief Election Commissioner OP Rawat said.

The CEC said that the Commission came to know about dissolution of J&K



assembly on November 21.

"Now commission will have to gather all other facts relating to the State. Next week we'll deliberate upon as to how should we go about planning for elections to that house", the CEC said.

The Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik dissolved the Assembly on Wednesday evening, after People's Democratic Party leader Mehbooba Mufti staked claim to form Government along with her arch-rival Omar Abdullah's National Conference (NC) and the Congress. They claimed the support of 56 lawmakers in the 87-member State Assembly.

# Left sees BJP, RSS hand behind House dissolution



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Left parties on Friday condemned the dissolution of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly, "at the behest" of BJP and RSS. The CPI(M) Polit Bureau in statement that Governor Satya Pal Malik has no business to decide on the ideologies of political parties in the valley even as CPI General Secretary Sudhakar Reddy accused the Governor of becoming a tool in the hands of Sangh Parivar.

"The action of the Jammu & Kashmir Governor, dissolving the legislative Assembly, at the behest of the Centre, is an illegal and unconstitutional step. The Governor has no business to decide that parties with 'opposing ideologies' cannot form a suitable Government. By this yardstick, the PDP-BJP Government should not have been allowed to be formed after the elections. All that the Governor can do is to ask the leader who is staking claim with majority support to prove that majority on the floor of the house," said CPI(M) Polit Bureau.

"Governor Malik acting under Modi-Shah dictates not only switched off the fax machine but also switched off democracy in J&K. The Modi administration has shown scant respect for democratic institutions and this act has only shown that they will go to any extent to retain power. Shame on the anti-democratic attitudes of Modi-BJP-RSS brigade," said Sudhakar Reddy.

# SC saves man from death for rape, murder; gives life term

New Delhi: A man, who was on death row after being convicted by the High Court of raping and murdering an eight-year-old girl in Rajasthan over five years ago, has got a reduced sentence of life term from the Supreme Court which acquitted him of the charge of sexually assaulting the minor.

The court observed that since the man was acquitted for offence of raping the girl under provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, it was not a "fit case" to impose death penalty on him as he was neither a habitual offender nor having any criminal background.

"Be that as it may, since the offence of rape is not proved and as the offence of murder is proved beyond reasonable doubt, the accused (Prahlad) is liable to be convicted for the offence under section 302 (murder) IPC," a bench of justices N V Ramana, MM Shantanagoudar and M R Shah said.

Prahlad was awarded capital punishment by the trial court in September 2015 after being convicted for the offences of sexual assault under the POCSO Act and murder under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The Rajasthan High Court in September 2016 had confirmed the trial court's judgement and upheld the death penalty given to him in the case which was lodged in July 2013.

# New tech to assess rise of water level in rivers by rain

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the deadliest deluge in Kerala, the IMD on Friday said a new technology has been developed to assess the rise of water level in rivers and reservoirs by rain and which can help State Governments to minutely monitor the impact of rainfall. The technology called the 'Impact Based Forecasting Approach' shows "pre-event scenario" that can help authorities in taking real-time decisions.

At an event organised by the Centre for Science and Environment, IMD Director General KJ Ramesh said the new technology will be helpful



for every state authority to take decision. "We can run this system in pre-event scenario. We are now in a position to use to this technology into service. We should be able to generate a scenario where we can take decisions to release water or not release it," he said. The IMD DG admitted that excessive rainfall that led to floods in Kerala were

a result of climate change and in terms of rainfall it was very heavy.

The heavy downpour that ravaged Kerala for a fortnight ending August 21 caused death of around 500 people and economic damages worth over Rs 40,000 crore. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had said in the State Assembly that there were "lapses" on the part of the IMD's rain forecast.

The IMD had forecast an estimated 98.5 mm rain in the state between 9 and 15 August, but Kerala received was 352.2 mm of rainfall, Vijayan said.

"The number of cyclones have increased from 10 to 18 every year as reported in Nature

magazine and secondly quantum of precipitation which was 13 days has come down to 10 days," he said.

IMD issues its forecast for the June-September monsoon season in April, which is based on the Ensemble Statistical Forecasting System that uses five predictors. These predictors along with some equations are used by scientists to carry out a statistical analysis to finally come out with a forecast.

The problem is that this method uses data from the past 100 years to come up with a forecast when many of the relationships between global climate factors have changed.

The dynamical forecast sys-

tem, on the other hand, is based on current physical observations of the atmosphere, cloud properties and oceans, which can then be used to get a forecast. The observations are used to run the model on a supercomputer at IITM Pune to arrive at a rainfall forecast.

There is another technology which would help in identifying warm ocean segments that are contributing to the rapid intensification of the systems.

Cyclone Ockhi's unpredictability was due to such warm ocean segments, following which the technology was developed in October, Ramesh said.

Ockhi is the first severe cyclonic storm in almost 40 years to have travelled about 2,400 kilometres from the Bay of Bengal to as far as the Gujarat coast, a senior Met Department official said.

CSE Director General Sunita Narain stressed on the need to plan "deliberately for drainage" to prevent disasters like Kerala floods.

"Every river, pond, paddy field and city should be mapped and protected at all costs," Narain said.

"Every home, institution, village and city must be required to do rainwater harvesting so that rain can be channelised and recharged," she said.

# No scope for ordinance on Ram Temple: Khattar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who was here to announce the 17-day-long Gita Jubilee festival in Kurukshetra from December 7, said on Friday that there was no scope for an ordinance on building Ram Temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya.

He, however, asserted that the temple should be constructed at the birth place of Lord Ram and efforts were there to build consensus on the issue.

Addressing a press conference at the Red Fort, the Chief Minister said a number of dignitaries, including BJP president Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and former President Pranab

Mukherjee attend the event. "The Haryana Government's efforts to promote the teachings of holy book at the global level has started yielding results as for the first time the festival will be organised in Mauritius in February next year. Mauritius will be the partner country in the celebrations of upcoming International Gita Mahotsav," Khattar said.

To a question on building Ram temple in Ayodhya, he said, "The temple should be built at the birth place of Lord Ram. Efforts are being made to build consensus on this issue to ensure that temple is built at the birth place of Lord Ram."

"There is no scope for ordinance on it," he said.

On the Gita Jubilee Festival, Khattar said the main event

would be organised from December 13 to December 18, which would be attended by Haryana Governor Satyadeo Narain, Tripura Governor Kaptan Singh Solnaki, Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal and others.

Shri Shri Ravi Shankar, Swami Ramdev, Shankracharya, various foreign dignitaries, including the Art and Culture Minister of Mauritius and diplomats of 15 countries would attend the event, he said.

The Haryana chief minister also informed reporters that 'Gita Sansad' would be held in more than 30 colleges of the state for the first time, in which discussion would be held on the scripture to effectively disseminate the message of the Gita among students.

# Ban on export of beef sought

New Delhi: A group of citizens under the banner of 'Hindu Charter' demanded on Friday the Government earmark ₹10,000 crore for restoration of dilapidated temples and heritage of the country, and put a ban export of beef.

A workshop was held here where participants discussed an eight-point charter of demands, including equal rights for practitioners of various religions in the country.

Addressing the gathering, former Delhi Minister and rebel AAP legislator Kapil Mishra alleged Hindus were being treated as "second class citizen" in the country by successive Governments. He demanded a complete ban on export of beef. Speakers at the workshop demanded the Government set up a body with a seed money of at least ₹10,000 crore for restoration of dilapidated temples and heritage institutions.



Former President Pranab Mukherjee with former Vice-President Hamid Ansari and BJP senior leader Murli Manohar Joshi during the National Conference on 'Towards Peace, Harmony and Happiness: Transition to Transformation' in New Delhi on Friday

# CSIR to conduct trial of cannabis-based drugs

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

A year after obtaining a license for cultivation of cannabis (marijuana) in Jammu & Kashmir to study their medicinal properties, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has now an ambitious plan to conduct clinical trials of the drugs on terminally ill patients of cancer, epilepsy and sickle cell anemia—a blood disorder disease that afflicts over 2 crore people, particularly in tribal areas in the country.

"We want to conduct clinical trials of the drugs on terminally ill patients at the Tata Memorial Hospital for cancer, at AIIMS for epilepsy and Sickle Cell Institute Chhattisgarh (SCIC) for sickle cell anaemia to find its efficacy," said Dr Ram Vishwakarma, a director of the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), a J&K based lab of the CSIR.

He was speaking at an event 'Cannabis R&D in India: A Scientific, Medical & Legal Perspective' held here on Friday. Last year, the CSIR-IIIM got research approval to grow cannabis for medicinal usage in Jammu & Kashmir in collaboration with Bombay Hemp Company (BOHECO), a



Mumbai-based firm. Dr Vishwakarma said that not all cannabis plants can be used for medical purpose. We have already started collecting and cultivating selected breed of cannabis. Trials are also being conducted on animals and once it is completed, we will place it for approval from the Drug Controller General of India for trial on humans.

The IIIM Director explained that all drugs obtained from marijuana plant have an important medical ingredient called cannabidiol, but the plant itself has been banned because of another component, called tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). In other words, Cannabidiol is one of more than 80 active cannabinioid chemicals, yet unlike THC, it does not produce a

high. Also the IIIM, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) will soon sign an agreement to carry ahead the research programme on a larger scale.

While India is yet to start any human trial, the US drug regulator has already approved a cannabis-based drug Epidiolex recently for the first time to treat epileptic syndromes.

Experts including scientists at the event called for tweaking the legal regulatory system on the lines of countries like Canada and the Netherlands to expand the interpretation and definition of cannabis and its by-products so that cannabis-based medicines become more widely available.

The cannabis plant and its commonly used forms like ganja, bhanga, charas etc. contain many chemicals which are not psychoactive, and are seen to have opposite actions to that of THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), Dr Vivek Benegal, Professor, Centre for Addiction Medicine, NIMHANS said.

"One such chemical, Cannabidiol, is arousing interest in the scientific community due to its medical and therapeutic capabilities. But the molecule must be subject to stringent and scientifically rigorous testing. This is difficult due to its current ambiguous position under the law in India, especially the NDPS Act," he said.

Earlier, Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office Dr Jitendra Singh too favoured the medical usage of cannabis noting that there have been several indications of its benefits for the management of chronic diseases like diabetes which cause excruciating neurological pain and for which currently there is hardly any relief.

"There is a very thin line between use, misuse and abuse of a substance, and it is our responsibility to draw that line," the Minister said.

# Bring statutory time limit for detaining irregular foreigners in Assam: Report

New Delhi: Global rights body Amnesty and a group of activists on Friday alleged that individuals declared as "irregular foreigners" were living in "deplorable conditions" in detention centres in Assam, and sought introduction of a "statutory time limit" on their confinement.

Amnesty India Friday also released a report here titled — 'Between Fear and Hatred: Surviving Migration Detention in Assam' and urged the Assam Government to ensure that an "operations manual" for detention centres is created that addresses the specific circumstances of detainees.

Asmita Basu, Amnesty India's Programs Director, said, the nearly 30-page report draws from "empirical data gathered through semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders and informants, including six individuals who had been formerly detained, and families of seven individuals who had been or are in detention."

"There is no statutory limit on the period for which individuals declared as 'irregular foreigners' can be detained. Also, such people are kept inside criminal prisons along with convicts and undertrial prisoners," Amnesty India has alleged in its report.

The circumstances and conditions of detention "cause harm" to individuals' mental and physical health, and the for-

eigners tribunals, which adjudicate citizenship cases, "follow flawed processes" to identify "irregular foreigners", it alleged.

As on September 25, 2018, there are 1,037 people detained for being "irregular foreigners" in detention centres housed inside prisons in Assam, Basu said.

"There are children who grow up with their mothers inside prison. Many detainees suffer from mental and physical health issues associated with the conditions of their detention. Healthcare services are inadequate, and there are few avenues for recreation," according to the report.

Amnesty India researchers also interviewed two persons who visited detention centres as part of a mission conducted by the NHRC, two doctors who have worked in detention centres, three academicians working on the political economy of Assam and representatives of three civil society organisations in Assam who work on land rights, minority rights and corruption, Basu said.

The rights body in the report has urged the Centre to "ensure, that in any given case, migration detention is lawful, necessary, proportionate and used only as a last resort and a statutory time limit for detaining irregular foreigners be introduced".

It has also asked to "significantly

reduce" the use of detention for 'irregular foreigners', ensuring that far fewer people are detained and that anyone who is detained is held for a far shorter time.

"The Government of Assam should ensure that persons detained under the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946, are segregated from convicts and undertrials, and housed in separate detention centres with basic amenities," the report said.

It also asked to "ensure that an operations manual for detention centres is created that addresses the specific circumstances of detainees".

"Ensure the right to the highest attainable standard of medical care to all detainees, including access to appropriate mental health care through psychiatrists, psychologists and torture and trauma counsellors," the report said.

The Amnesty India also urged the Assam Government to "permit periodic audits of detention centres by independent auditors".

Social activist Harsh Mander, and a few other activists, at an interaction hosted by the rights body here after the launch of the report, also alleged that the condition of the detention camps in the state were "extremely bad" and system is such that it means practically an "infinite detention" for them.



# Surgical op kills 6 J&K ultras

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Six local terrorists, including a top Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) commander, were killed in a surgical operation by the security forces in south Kashmir's Bijbehara pocket on Friday morning. There was no casualty on the security forces side in the operation that triggered protests and shutdown in the area.

Commander of Srinagar based XV Corps Lt Gen AK Bhatt described the encounter as "big achievement" as there was no collateral damage in the "surgical operation."

The operation was carried out in Setkpora-Shalagund area of Bijbehara in Anantnag district, around 45 kilometers from here.

The slain terrorists included Azad Malik alias Dada Malik, a top commander of LeT outfit. The other five terrorists were also locals from Bijbehara, Anantnag, Awantipora and Pulwama areas of south Kashmir. Malik was among three terrorists who were accused by the police for conspiring and executing the killing plot of noted journalist Shujaat Bukhari in June this year.

Police had said that Pakistani Lashkar Commander Naveed Jutt was also involved in the killing. Jutt had escaped from police custody from a civil hospital in Srinagar after killing two policemen who were



Security forces arrive to take positions near the house where ultras were hiding during an encounter at Bijbehara area of Anantnag district on Friday

Security forces shot dead 6 Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militants during an encounter in Wagahama forest area of Bijbehara in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir



PTI

escorting him. He surfaced in south Kashmir with a group of terrorists later.

Talking to media persons in Baramulla Gen Bhatt said that the encounter was a "surgical operation and is a big achievement for security agencies" as there were no casualties of forces or civilians in this operation.

Sources said the gunfight erupted in midnight hours as security forces' joint team launched cordon and search operation (CASO) on the basis of specific input about the presence of terrorists in the area. They said as the forces zeroed in on the suspected place and the terrorists hiding inside the area fired indiscriminately towards the forces triggering gunfight.

Police said there was no collateral damage in the counter terrorist operation. "Incriminating materials including huge quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. Police has registered a case and initiated investigation in the matter," police said in a statement. "Citizens are requested not to venture inside the encounter zone since such an area can prove dangerous due to stray explosive materials. People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosives materials," police said.

Reports said multiple rounds of funeral prayers were held for slain LeT commander

Azad Malik at his native village Arwani. Reports said that thousands of people from various areas of the south Kashmir reached Arwani and participated in the funeral prayers. Some terrorists reportedly appeared in the funeral and offered gun salute to the slain commander.

Sources said that Bijbehara and Anantnag towns observed shutdown while the authorities suspended train services in the area.

Clashes between protesters and security forces were also reported near encounter site and Anantnag town. At least three persons were injured in the violent incidents. The mobile internet services also remained affected in many parts of Anantnag district as a precautionary measure.

# Bihar Assembly introduces online questions for MLAs

PNS ■ PATNA

Even as Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary is trying to bring reforms in the functioning of the House and come up to the expectations of the peoples' representatives and the public at large he is not getting required cooperation from the bureaucrats.

Choudhary who has introduced many reforms in bid to streamline the functioning of the parliamentary practices has introduced the system of receiving questions from the members online and replying them through same channel. The questions received are forwarded to the departments concerned online and the officials are supposed to provide replies online. It has been named as Question Reply Management System.

But what shocked Choudhary was that several departments who had been forwarded questions did not take them seriously and almost avoided them. This angered the Speaker who pulled up the bureaucrats.

Choudhary said for the five days session beginning on Monday, 471 questions had been filed online by the members but reply to 310 questions



**The Speaker said that in order to bring transparency in the recruitment policy, some changes have been affected and that now the Speaker and the Assembly Secretariat will no longer have any role in the appointments**

were yet to be received from ten major departments including education, water resources and energy. He directed the Development Commissioner to take the issue with the officials concerned and himself monitor the compliance.

The Speaker said that in order to bring transparency in the recruitment policy, some

changes have been affected and that now the Speaker and the Assembly Secretariat will no longer have any role in the appointments. Earlier there had been practice of appointment in the Assembly by the Speaker and hundreds of cases are lying in the courts against the decisions.

Now the recruitment job has been awarded to a Central agency, which is also responsible for recruitments in the Parliament, which has advertised posts and sought applications. For 70 vacant posts of assistants more than 1.68 lakh and for 70 vacancies of Group C grade over 5.07 lakh applications have been received online. For 60 posts of junior clerks 70,120 and for 55 posts of reporters 6379 applications have come.

# CMO unleashing orchestrated campaign to keep me behind bars, says Surendran

PTI ■ PATHANAMTHITTA

BJP general secretary K Surendran on Friday alleged that the office of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has been "unleashing" an "orchestrated" campaign to keep him behind bars.

Surendran was speaking to reporters at a court complex at Raanni in Pathanamthitta district from where he was remanded to 14-days judicial custody for his alleged involvement in the protests at Sabarimala.

"This is a false case. Chief Minister's office has unleashed an orchestrated attack on me. They are planning to put me in the Kannur Central jail where dreaded criminals are lodged," Surendran said.

He was taken into custody earlier this week from Nilackal, the base camp of Sabarimala, after he refused to go back despite the police request.

He was arrested for violating prohibitory orders and preventing the officers from doing their duty.

Surendran was granted bail on Wednesday in one of the cases, but another non-bailable warrant in Kannur, pending against him, prevented his release.

# Mysuru inks indelible mark in 5 Assembly polls

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

The southern city of Mysuru inks its indelible mark on the ongoing Assembly elections in five States. The Mysuru-based State owned Mysore Paints & Varnish Ltd has supplied indelible ink which is popularly called election ink to the election commission of India for the five States which are going to polls.

Chhattisgarh has already completed the election process and the other four States Mizoram, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana have already received the ink through election commission of India. The four States will complete election process by December 2018.

According to an email communication received from A. Harakumar, General Manager of the Mysuru based company, Mysore Paints &



Varnish Ltd has supplied indelible ink to five States at a cost of ₹5.20 crores.

In his reply he said that they have supplied 10 ml phials of ink to these States and a total of 4,12,940 (10 ml) phials for the ensuing elections. In this Mizoram has received 2,500 phials, Chhattisgarh 52,000 phials, Madhya Pradesh 1,45,000 phials and Telangana State received 1,27,440 phials of indelible ink to the process of

democracy in the country.

An ISO 9001-2015 and 14001-2015 certified company is part of the history of Mysore kings. Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar who ruled the State giving impetus to industry and development has founded this company in 1937 to give jobs to local youth.

The election commission of India has authorised the Mysore Paints to supply election ink for the elections in the

**An ISO 9001-2015 and 14001-2015 certified company is part of the history of Mysore kings. Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar who ruled the State giving impetus to industry and development has founded this company in 1937 to give jobs to local youth**

country. This is the only company in the country which is producing election ink since decades. The election ink technology is developed by CSIR. The company is also developing marker pen for the elections which is in R&D stage.

In addition, the company manufactures Lead Free (Eco Friendly) paint, Road Marking Paint, Polyurethane Paint. The Company has been rated as "High Performance Capacity and High Financial Unit" by the National Small Industries

Corporation Ltd. The Government of Karnataka has awarded the "Annual Chief Minister's Ratna Award for the year 2010-11 and for the year 2015-16" for its Performance Excellence.

The rationale behind the establishment of the factory was to provide employment opportunities locally and for effective utilization of the natural resources of the forest nearby. Since 1962 the company is supplying indelible ink to elections in the country and abroad.

According to official sources the formula of the ink is a closely guarded secret and have been sending ink to 30 countries, including India, Thailand, Singapore, Nigeria, Malaysia, Cambodia, and South Africa. The company has around 100 employees and making profit since 1995. Made in Karnataka ink is an indelible component in the election process of the country.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves during an election roadshow in Aizawl, Mizoram on Friday

PTI

# Hardcore Naxal from Bihar nabbed by Gujarat ATS

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad on Friday nabbed a "hardcore naxal" who was involved in the killing 10 CRPF commandos in Aurangabad district of Bihar in 2016 and was now working as a factory labourer in Valsad district by concealing his identity, police said.

The 33-year-old Rajesh Ravidas, who was declared 'wanted' by the Bihar government, was arrested from Vapi town in Valsad district, the Gujarat ATS said.

Among other crimes, Ravidas, a key member of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) outfit, was involved in the killing of 10 commandos of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in a Naxal ambush in the Aurangabad forests in 2016, the anti-terror squad said in a statement.

Based on a specific tip-off, an ATS team nabbed him from the industrial town of Vapi in South Gujarat, where he was working as a labourer in a factory by concealing his real identity, said police officials.

According to the ATS, Ravidas, also known as Uttamji, is a "hardcore naxal" involved in over 50 crimes, including attacks on security forces, and the Bihar government had declared a reward of ₹50,000 for information on him.

Ravidas was considered the 'right hand' for Pradyuman Sharma, the head of 'special area committee' of the CPI (Maoist), Bihar and Jharkhand, the agency said.

The ATS claimed Sharma had appointed Ravidas as the

**Ravidas was considered the 'right hand' for Pradyuman Sharma, the head of 'special area committee' of the CPI (Maoist), Bihar and Jharkhand, the agency said**

'Zonal Commander' of Rajgir area of Bihar.

Ravidas, a native of Bahoma village in Gaya district of Bihar, fled to Gujarat earlier this year, said the statement.

As per the ATS, Ravidas came in contact with Naxals at the age of 17 in 2002 following a land dispute among his family members.

After resolving the land row with the help of Naxals, he became an active member of the banned outfit and started engaging in anti-national activities, the statement said.

In March 2017, Ravidas was injured in a retaliatory fire by CRPF commandos in the forests of Gaya district. In that operation, four Maoists were gunned down. However, he managed to flee with injuries, the ATS said.

He changed his name to 'Gopal Prasad' and started working as a security guard at a factory in the Union Territory of Daman near Gujarat at the beginning of 2018. Later, he came to Vapi, which is close to Daman, and started working at a factory, the statement said.

Before handing him over to the Bihar police, the ATS is questioning him to find out more about his works in Gujarat and whether he was in contact with Sharma during his stay in the State, it added.

# EPS urges Goyal to waive freight charges for cyclone relief material

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Government Friday urged the Railway Ministry to waive freight charges for relief material meant for cyclone Gaja affected districts in the state.

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami wrote to Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, saying this "has been done in the case of recent Kerala floods."

"I request the Railways to waive the freight charges collected from donors for the relief materials sent to the stations in disaster affected areas addressed to the District Collectors, as has been done in the case of recent Kerala floods," Palaniswami said in his letter to Goyal.

He told the Union Minister that seeing the plight of the



'hapless victims,' relief material were being mobilised from all over the country.

He said the cyclone, which crossed the Tamil Nadu coast on November 16, has 'devastated' the affected districts, with people having lost their homes, livestock, plantation and livelihood.

Cyclone 'Gaja' had crossed the Tamil Nadu coast early on



November 16 between Nagapattinam and Vedaranyam, about 300 km from Chennai. It left behind a trail of destruction in Nagapattinam district and also in several other districts.

The cyclone has claimed 63 lives, with Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur and Pudukottai being the worst affected districts.

# Relief work in cyclone-hit areas not satisfactory: Stalin

Chennai: DMK President MK Stalin Friday alleged the relief activity was "not satisfactory" in the Cauvery delta areas that were ravaged by Cyclone Gaja last week.

The Leader of the Opposition in the state assembly demanded that Chief Minister K Palaniswami convene a meeting of stakeholders from the region to take forward the relief activities in an effective manner.

He also said Palaniswami should stay put in the delta region to oversee the relief work.

"The people in the delta region have lost their livelihood. The relief work is not satisfactory for them. Palaniswami should actually stay there and expedite and

regulate the relief activities," he told reporters here.

Further, Palaniswami should convene a meeting of stakeholders in the delta region--farmers' and political parties' representatives and welfare organisations, and discuss further streamlining and expediting the relief and rehabilitation efforts, he added.

Cyclone Gaja had crossed the Tamil Nadu coast between Nagapattinam and Vedaranyam on November 16, claiming 63 lives and leaving behind a trail of destruction, severely affecting the farming, fishing and power sectors.

Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Pudukottai districts had suffered the worst damage. PTI

# Dumping garbage may cost Kolkata citizens up to ₹1L

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Citizens may have to shell out a maximum fine of ₹1 lakh for littering in public places, as the West Bengal Assembly passed a Bill to enhance the penalty for offenders.

The penalty has been raised through an amendment to section 338 of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (second amendment) Act which was passed in the Assembly on Thursday.

The move comes after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed her displeasure after finding out the newly inaugurated Dakshineswar skywalk was stained with betel juice.

The Bill proposed to impose a minimum fine of ₹5,000 and a maximum penalty of ₹1 lakh fine on litterbugs.

The earlier law stipulated that minimum penalty for dumping garbage was ₹50 and the maximum fine was ₹5,000.

It also came on a day, state Urban Development Minister Firhad Hakim was elected the new mayor of Kolkata after the exit of Sovan Chatterjee, on the directions of Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee.

Banerjee had formed a 11-member committee on Wednesday to check spitting and littering in public places.

Hakim said, he will take up a major awareness drive to keep the city clean.

A senior citizen, who did not wish to be named, said "The city had earlier failed to impose a fine of ₹50 for littering. I am not sure how effective it will be this time."

# Madras HC for restricting free rice to BPL families alone

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has observed that free PDS rice given to ration card holders should be restricted only to families below the poverty line, noting that doling out freebies to all sections of people have made people "lazy".

While it was obligatory on the part of the government to provide bare necessities like rice and other groceries to the needy and poor people, successive governments had extended such benefits to all people for political benefits, it said.

"Consequently, people began to expect everything for free from the Government. As a result, they have become lazy, and migrant workers were being brought for even menial works," a bench comprising

Justices N Kirubakaran and Abdul Quddus lamented.

It made the observations Thursday on a petition challenging detention under the Goondas Act of a person accused of smuggling and selling PDS rice, while taking note of the government's submission that free rice was given to all holders of ration cards, irrespective of their economic status.

In the year 2017-18, ₹2,110 crore had been spent for distribution of free rice, the Government said.

The judges said it was high time to restrict the distribution of free rice only to BPL families and directed Advocate General Vijay Narayan to get instructions from the Government as to whether the public distribution scheme could be amended so that others could be excluded.



value of the rice.

Observing that the amount spent on free rice scheme was huge, the bench said, "This court is not against the distribution of rice to the really deserving, economically backward and poor people. However, it should not be

given to people irrespective of their economic status."

The Government spent more than ₹2,000 crore which would be like "capital loss" and the expenditure occurs every year and it is "recurring capital loss", the bench added.

"If the scheme benefits people other than poor people/BPL family, it would amount to unjustly enriching other people at the cost of public exchequer," the court said.

The free rice should be given to the families which are below the poverty line alone and they have to be the beneficiaries," it said.

The bench directed the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation to file its annual reports for the past 10 years and posted the matter for further hearing to November 30.

# MANDIR PITCH IN AYODHYA VHP asks Ram Bhakts to join Dharm Sabha

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad wants to replicate 1992. Twenty-six years ago, it mobilised kar sevaks to bring down Babri mosque, and this time around, it has asked Ram bhakts to join Dharma Sabha on November 25 so as to pressure the Union Government and the Supreme Court into paving the way for the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya.

"This will be the last congregation before the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya begins. The Dharma Sabha is aimed at conveying to the Supreme Court that they cannot take Hindus lightly. We have waited for long for the construction of a Ram temple. Our patience is running out," VHP spokesman Sharad Sharma said. Immaculate planning has gone into making the Dharma Sabha a success and volunteers have been recruited. Silent whisper campaign has started in villages where women are holding Sandhya aarti for the construction of Ram temple. With the BJP in power both at the Centre and UP and RSS backing it, the VHP is going full throttle to lead a decisive push to Ram temple campaign.

It all started a couple of months back when over a lakh Bajrang Dal volunteers were recruited in a vigorous three week drive. Incharge of recruitment and training of Bajrang Dal volunteers in the Awadh region Bholendra said that they were the sipahi (warriors) of Hindu Samaj and were ready to do anything for the religion and culture. "It is very natural that we are focusing on the youth. Even in family, at the time of crisis, members look towards the youth. Now, the pride of



Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) international vice president Champat Rai (R) and Ram Vilas Vedanti inspect the preparations for 25 November Dharm Sabha in Ayodhya on Friday

Hindu Samaj is at stake. These Bajrang Dal workers will define this agitation," he said. Bajrang Dal activist from Sitapur, Shekhar Pandey said: "We consider ourselves as disciplined soldiers who are ready to go to any length to protect our Hindu heritage."

VHP leader Devendra Mishra told this reporter: "The main issue for us is to make Hindu Samaj aware of the problems staring at us. You have seen how the court is delaying the construction of Ram temple. The time has come to show the world where we stand," he said.

Words are spreading thick and fast asking Ram bhakts to participate in the Dharma Sabha at Ayodhya. Messages like 'Hindu Samaj being ignored by Supreme Court' forms the crux of the campaign and people were being swayed by these talks.

Devesh (19), pursuing a technical course in Industrial Training Institute in Lucknow, said that he was unaware of the vastness of the Hindu religion. "I respect all religions but it

does not mean that Hindus should bow down to the demands of people from other religion," he said.

In small village congregations, people are being told about the Ram temple and its struggle. Interestingly, lectures in these meetings are not overtly anti-Muslim but veers around how Hindus have always remained divided.

Villagers are told that history is replete with examples as to how a number of temples were demolished to build mosques but not a single temple was built after razing a mosque. Volunteers have ensured that wherever such meetings take place, the presence of women is substantial as they intently listen to sermons and agree with the speaker.

In fact, the RSS started the whisper campaign. Small evening prayer meetings are being held in villages where women light lamps (diya) at prominent temples and pray for the early construction of Ram temple. It started with 7-10 women and the same has now substantially gone up.

# Tamil Nadu's fear over Kerala's waste war

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Hot on the heels of the humiliation of Pon Radhakrishnan, Union Minister of State for Finance, Shipping and Surface Transport by a junior police official at Sabarimala on Wednesday where the former had gone for pilgrimage, Kerala has resumed the "waste war" on neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

Officials of the Tamil Nadu Regional Transport Authority and the Department of Health on Thursday seized 27 trucks carrying hazardous hospital and plastic waste from Kerala meant for dumping in Tirunelveli district. Local residents and people in Kerala are worried that this could be a kind of biological warfare by Kerala because of the callousness with which hazardous waste is dumped in Tamil Nadu.

The drivers of these trucks refused to divulge the details of the sources from where these wastes were brought to Tamil Nadu, said the Regional Transport officials.

"We found surgical wastes,

used syringes medical dressings and expired drugs in the consignments. These wastes have the potential to cause Hepatitis A, B and even AIDS," said S Senthil Kumar, deputy director, Health Services. He disclosed that the department has taken enough steps to prevent the spreading of any contagious diseases from these wastes.

The Transport officials have slapped a fine of Rs 27 lakh on these vehicles and said that they would write to their counterparts in Kerala to cancel the permit of these vehicles. Local residents said that dumping of medical and hospital wastes generated in Kerala has become a major nuisance in Tirunelveli and surrounding areas.

"The hospitals in Kerala should set up arrangements to dispose their medical waste as per biomedical waste management rules. These hospitals have chosen the easy way out by dumping it in Tamil Nadu," said Senthil Kumar.

Tamil Nadu farmers have been accusing Kerala of waging a waste war against them for quite sometime now. The Pioneer had reported in

November 2016 about seizure of 27 trucks laden with hospital and medical waste which were on their way to Coimbatore and Erode districts of Tamil Nadu. "The region was undergoing one of the worst farm crisis those days and the hospital owners in Kerala chose the villages in these districts to dump the waste. The hapless farmers were told by these agents that the waste would make the farm land fertile and they fell for their words. But we staged relentless campaign against such dumping and the Kerala people made a hasty retreat," said G K Nagaraj, a farm leader from the South Western Tamil Nadu who staged a relentless campaign against dumping of toxic and hazardous hospital waste from Kerala.

He said since there was sufficient rain in the region, the farmers are back in their fields and they have formed committees to monitor the predators from Kerala who have now opted for the dry lands of southern Tamil Nadu.

Nandita Krishna, director, CPR environmental

Foundation decried the attitude of Kerala hospitals. "Previously they were trans shipping truckloads of stray dogs from Kerala to Tamil Nadu. Kerala authorities should set up their own waste management system instead of dumping it in Tamil Nadu," said Nanditha Krishna.

Social activists in Kerala blamed the State government and the local bodies for their failure in establishing waste management system. "Kerala, which is described as God's Own Country has become Devils Own Hell. Residents dump their household waste in nearby alleys without bothering about the inconvenience it causes to others," said M S Giri, writer and social activist based at Thiruvananthapuram.

PG Gopalakrishnan, a school teacher at Kottayam too echoed the words of Giri. "Even swanky cars are used to transport the waste including the waste from slaughter houses and dumped it near our residences. Since the operations take place during night hours, it is difficult to catch the culprits," said Gopalakrishnan.

# J&K Bank brought under purview of RTI, CVC, State Legislature

PTI ■ JAMMU

In a far-reaching decision, the Jammu and Kashmir bank has been brought under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) act, the Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) guidelines and the State Legislature, an official said Friday.

The State Administrative Council (SAC) which met here Thursday evening under the chairmanship of Governor Satya Pal Malik approved the proposal for treating the J&K Bank Limited as a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), the official said.

The SAC approved that the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Right to Information Act, 2009 shall be applicable to the bank like other PSUs. Besides, the bank shall follow CVC guidelines, he added.

The J&K Bank Ltd shall be accountable to the State Legislature like other state PSUs, he said, adding that the Annual Report of the bank shall be placed before the State Legislature through the State Finance Department.

Established in 1938, the J&K Bank Ltd is the only state government promoted bank in the country, with the Jammu and Kashmir Government currently holding 59.3 per cent of the shares.

Being the major shareholder, the government felt that the bank should have a character of a PSU which is subject to general supervision and access for enhanced transparency in the transaction of its business to promote public trust, the official said.

The purpose of the SAC's decision was not to question the day to day activities of the bank management but a step towards strengthening better corporate governance, he added.

# Raut questions delay in temple construction

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Attacking the Narendra Modi Government at the Centre, Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut sought to know that at a time when the BJP held sway from Rashtrapati Bhawan to Lok Sabha, why there was inordinate delay in passing a law in favour of the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya.

Talking to mediapersons at Ayodhya on Friday, Raut said that the BJP was given four years to construct Ram temple but they did nothing. "Now we will not give any more time and force them to bring about a legislation for the early construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya," the Sena leader said.

Raut said that before the declaration of 2019 Lok Sabha

# Stage set for Dharavi uplift, Maha floats global tenders for 22 k project

□ Fadnavis Govt embarks upon biggest redevelopment project in Dharavi since 1972

□ BJP seeks to derive political mileage over Dharavi project ahead of 2019 ls, Maha Assembly polls

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The preparations for transforming Asia's largest slum area of the world into an integrated planned township got underway on Friday, as the Maharashtra Government floated global tenders for the ambitious ₹22,000-crore Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP).

Spread over 240-hectare area, Dharavi has remained an ugly face and a dark underbelly of Mumbai - a largest slum which has been romanticised in Indian films over the years. It has also been a cottage industry hub for decades on end.

The DRP is being seen as the biggest redevelopment effort undertaken for the region since 1972, after which there have been slum improvement Project in 1976, Slum Upgradation project in 1985, Slum Rehabilitation Scheme in 1995, and then the Dharavi Redevelopment Project of 2004.

In an apparent effort to derive political mileage in the run-up to the May 2019 Lok Sabha and the subsequent October 2019 State Assembly polls, the BJP-led saffron alliance government has

embarked upon the DRP.

In advertisements seeking international bids for the DRP put out in major news papers, the Slum Redevelopment Authority (SRA) stated that the last date for submitting the bids for the project is December 28.

As per the guidelines notified in the tender, the selected lead partner has to form a special purpose vehicle (SPV) with 80 per cent equity (Rs 400 crore), while the Maharashtra government will hold 20 per cent equity (Rs 100 crore) in the project.

The SPV will construct free houses for the eligible slum dwellers with amenities and infrastructure. The SPV will be entitled to construct houses in the free sale area and sell them in open market. The state government has fixed 4 as Floor Space Index (FSI) for the

project.

Located between Western Railway's Bandra-Matunga and Central Railway's Sion-Matunga stations in north-central Mumbai, Dharavi has the highest density of population. The Mithi River slices through a portion of Dharavi into the Mahim Creek and then onto the Arabian Sea. Currently, it is home to over anywhere from 60,000 to 70,000 families.

A mini-India of sorts where people belonging to different faiths live, Dharavi has 28 temples, 11 mosques, six churches, 50 banks, 60 government schools, a mobile design museum, several slum tourism outfits, thriving criminal groups, and a tiny dilapidated fort.

Dharavi also has a small fort known as the Riwa Fort. Better known as Kala Qilla or

Black Fort, it is currently in a dilapidated condition. It was built by the first Governor of Bombay, Gerald Aungier (1669-1677).

It was part of the larger Bombay Castle, and marked the northern portion of British-held Bombay in the 17th century. The castle was also used as a watchtower, guarding the territory against the Portuguese-held (and later Maratha-held) Salsette Island.

At that time, the entire area was a large swamp and primarily inhabited by Koli fishermen who made a living from the waters.

As the legend goes, the British built a dam on the Mithi river because of which there was no water to feed the swamp and it dried off.

The fishermen near the sea and a community of potters moved in here. In fact they

could be called the first settlers of the region.

As Mumbai turned into a hub for textiles in the post Independence era, thousands of men from north India moved in as well and the slum as we know it started to take shape. Slowly and slowly since the sixties, migrants - particularly those from south India started moving in - making what Dharavi is today.

Dharavi has several business units - right from textiles to pottery to fabrication to leather industry. Plastic recycling and garbage segregation too is done here.

Mainly a hub of cottage industries, it has an estimated 5,000 business entities and 15,000 single-room factories. Goods produced here go to Middle East, South-East Asia, United States and Europe and several other places.

# 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF MUMBAI TERROR ATTACK

# Chabad house to be renamed as Nariman light house on Nov 25

□ A memorial to honour 26/11 attack victims to be unveiled on Nariman light house terrace

□ Chabad house was one of 26/11 targets

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In another re-christening ceremony, Mumbai's Jewish outreach centre and one of 26/11 targets Chabad House - better known in the past as Nariman House - will be renamed as Nariman Light House on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the mayhem.

Announcing this, present Rabbi Israel Kozlovsky, who also heads the Chabad Trust in India, said here on Friday that the renaming ceremony would take place on November 25, the eve of 26/11 attacks, at the main Jewish social-cultural-religious hub at Colaba in south Mumbai.

The event, which comes 10 months after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the place, will also mark the unveiling of a memorial on the Nariman House terrace to honour all the victims of the terror strikes.

The Chabad House was one of the main chosen targets of 10 Pakistani terrorists who sneaked into south Mumbai, through the Arabian Sea route and disembarked at a Colaba fishing jetty, barely a stone's throw away.

The Chabad House is a partially re-built five-storey structure, a grey coloured building at Colaba in South Mumbai - which had suffered heavy damage owing to an intense firing indulged in by the two Pakistani terrorists who targeted it on its premises during the 26/11 attacks.

Rabbi Gavriel and then pregnant Rivka Holtzberg, two other Israelis, an American and a Mexican, all Jews, besides Indian security officials were among 166 people killed in the November 26-29, 2008 Pakistani fidayeen attacks on five Mumbai terror targets, including two five-star hotels, a popular cafe, a train terminus and the Jewish learning centre.

Moshe, son of Rabbi Gavriel and Rivka Holtzberg, survived the attacks. For the time after he lost his parents in the 26/11 attacks under traumatic circumstances, then Baby Moshe and now 11-year-old Moshe Holtzberg visited Chabad House in January this year, to revive his babyhood memories.



Nearly six years after the Pakistani terrorists wreaked mayhem on its premises killing six persons, the Chabad House had formally been thrown open by Jewish group Chabad-Lubavitch on August 26, 2014 in the presence of Rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg's parents and 25 Rabbis from across Asia.

Rebuilt at the cost of 2.5 million US dollars with contributions from the Rohr family in the US and the global Jewish community, the Nariman House now houses a restaurant on the first floor, a synagogue on the second floor, and a community hall on the third floor.

After the Mumbai siege, Moshe had left for Israel along with his nanny Sandra to live with his grandparents.

Moshe used to live with his parents on the fifth floor of

Emissary Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg, May Hashem avenge his blood, May his soul be bound up in the bond of life."

Eight bullet marks on the wall next to it have been kept intact as the grim reminder of the killings. The Rabbi's wife Rivka was on the top floor with three other guests who were held hostage by the two gunmen and eventually killed.

The fourth floor, which has

been refurbished, is scarred with hundreds of bullet marks on its roof, a reminder of the fierce gun battle that ensued here. However, a collapsed side wall has been rebuilt.

On the fifth floor living quarters, baby Moshe's room still bears his name in Hebrew on the wall lovingly decorated with bright paintings by his parents. One wall shows the blue markings which measured his height as he grew up.

# APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male infant was found near Samshan Ghat Road, L 2nd, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi vide DD No. 24A dated 09/11/2018 and who was admitted to AIMS Hospital, Delhi vide MLC No. 11408/2018. doctors declared dead on dated 09/11/2018. In this regard a FIR No. 479/18 u/s 318 IPC, Dated 09.11.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi. The dead body is preserved in the AIMS Hospital

mortuary. The description of the dead male infant is given as under:  
Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 4-6 months, Height: 40 cms., Face: Damaged, Complexion: Not known, Built: Normal, Hair: Black.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male infant but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male infant please inform the undersigned.

email: cbc@cbi.gov.in  
Fax: No.011-24368639  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
DP/5101/SD/18  
S.H.O  
P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi.  
Ph: 011-29551326, 29551597

# No. NIB-01/DP/EO/SE(PMGSY)EE-PMGSY Cell/2018-19 Dated 20/11/2018

The Empowered Officer, TRRDA,PWD(PMGSY), Government of Tripura invites sealed Bid(s) For "Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) as per latest PMGSY guidelines etc. for Rural Road Projects (including bridges, Cross drainage structures) under PMGSY-II in Tripura".

Time of completion of work :- 75(Seventy five) days  
Last date of dropping of bid :- 05/12/2018 upto 1500 Hrs.

For details please visit :- [www.tripuratoday.com/](http://www.tripuratoday.com/)  
[www.indigenoussherald.com/](http://www.indigenoussherald.com/)  
[www.tripuratoday.com/](http://www.tripuratoday.com/)  
[www.neindia.com/](http://www.neindia.com/)  
<http://www.pmgstyenderstrp.gov.in/>  
[www.tripurachronicle.in](http://www.tripurachronicle.in)

Bid is available to download from [www.pmgstyenderstrp.gov.in](http://www.pmgstyenderstrp.gov.in) and also may be collected from Office of the Empowered Officer,TRRDA,PWD(PMGSY), New Secretariat Complex, Agartala, during office hours of all working days from 20/11/2018 to 04/12/2018.

Sd/-  
Empowered Officer, TRRDA  
PWD(PMGSY)  
Government of Tripura  
ICA/C-1748/18

# SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo), Name: Rocha Daswani S/o Chhinku Mal Daswani R/o 11/22-23, Dada Bari Kota Rajasthan has been missing since 12.11.2018 from Krishna Gali Hotel Star Vila, Paharganj, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 4A dated 16.11.2018 has been lodged at PS Paharganj, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Age : 49 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Round, Built : Strong, Wearing : Red Colour Shirt & Jeans Pant and clothes shoes in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Paharganj, Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO

P.S Paharganj, Delhi  
Central, Distt., Delhi  
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-23524746, 23520787,  
DP/5669/CD/18 Mob No. 8750870427



## Just buying time

Maharashtra may have reconciled with farmers but our agricultural policy needs an overhaul



The Devendra Fadnavis government may have agreed to take care of distressed farmers in Maharashtra by addressing their issues in a three-month window but this seems to be a pyrrhic response to a forcing of hands. The acquiescence to their demands for loan waivers, drought insurance and enhanced minimum support price (MSP) overlooks the larger systemic overhaul required in the agricultural economy across the country. For the

recurrent protests by thousands marching into Mumbai — the third time in a year — are but symptomatic of a larger malaise that is gathering momentum as a key election issue. Punjab and Karnataka are also witnessing a resurgence of farmer agitations. And despite the firing on a farmers' protest rally at Mandsaur about a year ago, little seems to have changed on the ground there.

Already burdened by a heavy debt, the existing MSP isn't enough for the farmers to attempt a recovery. Besides record production of some crops, like the garlic glut in Rajasthan, has put a severe pressure on the price index and fuelled the demand for a higher support price or a government buyout. In Madhya Pradesh, a scheme was introduced to compensate farmers for losses incurred by selling crops at lower prices. But with compensation tied to sales within a defined window and traders using this insurance as an argument to not raise prices in the market, it encouraged distress selling of even high value crops. Which is why protesting farmers across the country are not happy with state-level interventions but insisting upon increasing the base line of the MSP. Loan repayment is a tall order as the agro-capital market, thinly banked and wholly dependent on liquidity and lending by both farmers and traders, is yet to fully recover from the effects of demonetisation. Traders still get away with cartelisation and keep the pressure on prices, argue farmers. Drought has driven farmers in Maharashtra almost to the brink of suicide, that too at a time when the monsoon has been generally satisfactory. But 'waterman' Rajendra Singh's decision to join the protesters gives credence to the theory that this problem has been largely man-made and is a policy lapse that needs to be factored in any revival strategy. Of course, there is the larger issue of implementing the Swaminathan Commission recommendations which prioritise farmers' control over resources, including land, water, insurance, knowledge management and markets. It had suggested that agriculture be included in the concurrent list, putting the onus on both the Centre and the states. Many protesters in Maharashtra were tribals, who are seeking stakeholderhood of forests and their produce and decision-making rights on the commercial exploitation of their natural wealth. Already pilot projects by Central organisations like TRIFED have shown how coopting them in harnessing forest produce and processing at the local level have given them greater leverage in markets. Besides, the needs of the agricultural economy have now moved far ahead of the Commission findings. MNREGA has meant there is a shortage of farm labour while global competitiveness has meant there are technological upgrades in crop-growing patterns, rotations and R&D. An agro-linked industry chain has to be worked out linking procurement, distribution and warehousing. We must also understand that with farmers' anxiety becoming the new normal, the farming community will parachute out with non-farming alternatives and secure greater value of their land. So no matter which political party champions the cause of farmers' rights, fact is nobody can selectively tom-tom agenda points. Rescuing the agricultural economy must be a national revival mission now.

## Justice denied

The Supreme Court comes down heavily on VIP culture in jails



Justice in the hands of the powerful is merely a governing system like any other. Why call it justice? Let us rather call it injustice," wrote French novelist Georges Bernanos. And encouragingly enough the Supreme Court has taken cognisance of the VIP culture prevalent within our jails, which are ubiquitously meant to clamp down and deter wilful offenders for causing harm to society by denying them their basic human right, that of freedom, and subjecting them to regimented incarceration. But when it comes to the rich and powerful in India, even punishment is hierarchical with no correlation to the severity of the public offence committed as they negotiate "outside" comforts within the prison rather than surrender to a life of denial. The Court came down heavily over revelations that the Chandra brothers of Unitech, who are doing their time in Tihar jail for cheating home buyers, are leading a "luxurious lifestyle" with LED TVs and sofa sets inside the country's biggest and most protected confines. Its observation, "God knows what all they are enjoying," reflects not only its angst but rather the helplessness of a justice system to bring errants, who have reduced their customers to a life of penury and distress by cheating them of their investments, to book. It further exposes the chinks in India's prison system where both fraudsters and gangsters have negotiated personal comforts through bribery and a misplaced sense of entitlement. Prison guards, who are on the lower side of a salary structure, have easily traded their role ethics for that extra dough. In fact, Tihar is one of the most open jails in the country which allows "good conduct" prisoners to avail of rehabilitative and educative pursuits and has some considerate wardens. Yet these were clearly not enough for the Chandra brothers, who without the slightest deed of repentance, are finding ways of self-gratification.

Though they are in the centre of the current storm, fact is such irreverence has been legitimised by too many precedents of politicians, celebrities and corporates. Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad enjoyed various perks that went against the jail manual. Visuals of AIADMK leader VK Sasikala enjoying delicacies from a makeshift kitchen, holding party meetings in her cell in civilian clothes have been doing the rounds. Jail officials bowed down to SAD leader Jagir Kaur. Actors Sanjay Dutt and Salman Khan have negotiated paroles on some pretext or the other that didn't apply to other convicts charged for the same violations. While mobile phones are routinely accessed by even the petty ganglord these days, in recent years more vices like the illegal supply of drugs have been reported. In sharp contrast, regular convicts are getting the harshest end of the stick in over-crowded barracks with little by way of conveniences and hygiene. Our jails are known for housing inmates in excess of their capacity. So much so that the apex court wondered whether regular prisoners were considered humans at all. While jail officials must be pulled up for a litany of failures, there is a crying need for prison reforms, transparency and most importantly, invigilation.

Malik is a former BJP leader, appointed as Governor here after imposition of President's Rule in the State following the fall of the Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP-BJP Government. He should have checked his facts. The alliance between the PDP and the BJP, too, was one of two parties having opposing ideologies. By this episode, it has once again been proved that former politicians, appointed as Governors

# opinion 08

## The Amritsar attack

The message to the world must be clear: Attempts to revive insurgency and terrorism in Punjab will be crushed



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

At the time of writing, Bikramjit Singh alias Bikram, one of the two alleged perpetrators of the grenade attack on a Nirankari congregation which left three dead and 20 wounded in Amritsar on November 18, has been arrested. The other, Avtar Singh, remains at large, with security personnel assiduously looking for him. Simultaneously, efforts are reportedly afoot to quell any attempt to revive the violence that terrorist groups, created, trained, armed and provisioned by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate (ISI), had unleashed to carve Punjab, and some adjoining territories, out of India and establish thereon a sovereign State called Khalistan (Land of the Pure). Those suspected of association with terrorist outfits are being questioned. Guest houses have been searched to ferret out suspicious new arrivals. Highway patrolling has been intensified, as has been surveillance of key installations and public places.

All this is hardly surprising. The violence, that had raged for more than a decade, had consumed as many as 21,469 lives and plunged Punjab into a nightmare before being comprehensively defeated in 1993 by the Punjab Police under the inspirational leadership of its director-general, KPS Gill. There have, however, been credible reports over several years that the ISI was trying to revive Khalistani terrorism and link it with Pakistan's unconventional war against India in Jammu & Kashmir. Indeed, shortly after the Amritsar outrage, Punjab Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh had stated that it marked an attempt by the ISI to disturb the peace in the State.

His statement gains credence from the fact that the Austria-made Arges Type 84 fragmentation hand grenade, used in the Amritsar attack, is widely used by the Pakistani army. Not just that, such a grenade was reportedly to be used in an ISI-backed terror attack which was foiled with the arrest on November 1, 2018, of one Shabnamdeep Singh alias Mohinder Lahoria. The grenade, reportedly provided by an ISI contact, was found in Lahoria's possession. The latter, who had been asked to target police posts and public places, confessed to have been receiving instructions from his handlers in Pakistan.

As pointed by Kamal Davar in *Tryst with Perfidy: The Deep State of Pakistan*, which provides a comprehensive overview of the ISI's activities in India, the outfit "has been crafting its strategy for fanning secessionism in Punjab since decades and deviously tapping some politically disgruntled elements to forge them into a potent force." It stepped up its activities in the early 1980s when it began coordinating the Afghan *jihad* against the Soviet forces with funds and weapons received from the United States and Saudi Arabia.



In *Bin Laden: The Man Who Declared War on America*, Yossef Bodansky, then Director of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare in the US, wrote, "The ISI capitalised on the rapidly expanding and lavishly funded training and support system for the Afghan Mujaheddin as cover for expanded sponsorship of and support for other insurgent groups dedicated to subversive activities in India."

Bodansky further stated, "The main reason the ISI decided to keep the CIA out of the [training] camps was the extent of training and support non-Afghan 'volunteers' and others were getting in these camps. Most numerous were the thousands of Islamist trainees from Indian Kashmir and to a lesser extent the Sikhs from the Punjab." He adds that in "1985 and 1986, as the quantity and quality of the weapons improved, Sikh terrorism and subversion in the Punjab and throughout India showed increased militarisation and radicalisation."

The ISI did not abandon its sinister efforts even after the Khalistan movement was crushed in 1993. Its attempts, however, drew a blank for a long time as Punjab had enough of murder, forcible marriages, rape and extortion by the terrorists and the collateral consequences of the campaign against terrorism, including the virtual collapse of normal life. Things have been changing in the past several years.

“ THE SPREAD OF MAJORITARIANISM, INTOLERANT OF MINORITIES AND DETERMINED TO SMOTHER INDIA'S RICH DIVERSITY AND FIT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY INTO THE CULTURAL STRAITJACKET ADVOCATED BY ITS PROTAGONISTS, MUST BE HALTED AND REVERSED ”

What warrants particular concern is the fact that the latest incidents are part of a continuum of the renewed terrorist violence in — and flow of arms to — Punjab since 2015. The arms seized include Chinese-made AK-47 and modified MP9 rifles, 7.62 mm pistols, .32 bore revolvers and hand grenades. Enormous quantities of ammunition have also been apprehended. There are also indications of an increase in support among people.

The reasons include farmers' discontent, perceived injustice to Sikhs and uneasiness over the rise of an assertive Hindu right. If all this facilitates the recruitment of militants, propaganda by pro-Khalistan groups flourishing in countries like Canada, the United States, Britain, Germany, Malaysia and Thailand, keeps the movement alive among the Sikhs of diaspora. To cite an example, a body which calls itself Sikhs for Justice organised in Trafalgar Square, London, on August 12, 2018, a rally demanding a global referendum among Sikhs in 2020 on the creation of a sovereign Khalistan.

Funds from such elements, supplementing the massive amounts from the ISI, reach Khalistani terror groups in India, as does their anti-India and pro-Khalistan propaganda. These and those generated by the ISI and indigenous terrorist sources, spread rapidly through social media, particularly WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger groups, spurring separatism.

The question is: What is to be done? The first and most important effort should be to address the genuine grievances and apprehensions Sikhs harbour. Only a few of those who murdered, maimed and looted during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots have been punished. The rest have to be brought to book. Serious attempts should be made to ameliorate the plight of farmers, which is acute in most parts of India and not merely Punjab. Equally, the spread of majoritarianism, intolerant of minorities and determined to smother India's rich diversity and fit the entire country into the cultural straitjacket advocated by its protagonists, must be halted and reversed.

Simultaneously attempts to revive terrorism and insurgency have to be defeated on the ground. Efforts to stanch the flow of funds and propaganda from abroad must be stepped up and pro-Khalistan propaganda abroad countered. The most important element here is intelligence without which no terrorist movement can be defeated. Efforts to further improve it must receive a thrust, as must those to enhance the ability of the security forces to act on the information received. Finally, terrorists must be firmly dealt with. The message to the world must be clear: Attempts to revive insurgency and terrorism in Punjab will be crushed.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an author)

## SOUNDBITE

When power becomes the law, the law is reduced to nothing in front of such power. This is what leads to dictatorship.



Samajwadi Party leader —Azam Khan

Australian business-persons and investors looking to India should borrow from the methods of cricketers.



President —Ram Nath Kovind

Life is never perfect. You have to celebrate its imperfections. Accept that there would be a void in life every time.



Actor —Ayushmann Khurrana

If aligning with the BJP is a crime then it is Omar Abdullah who first committed this crime. Siding with BJP is not bad.



People's Conference chief —Sajad Lone

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Questionable position

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Manhandling J&K" (November 23). Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik's decision to dissolve the Assembly at the stage was illegal. The Jammu & Kashmir Assembly could have been justifiably dissolved right at the fall of the PDP-BJP Government. Now, when the NC, PDP and Congress have joined hands in Jammu & Kashmir to form an alliance Government and staked claim, the Governor abruptly decided for the dissolution of the Assembly, citing the most unconvincing reasons: Political parties of opposing ideologies were coming together to form a Government and the move was to check horse-trading.

Malik is a former BJP leader, appointed as Governor here after imposition of President's Rule in the State following the fall of the Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP-BJP Government. He should have checked his facts. The alliance between the PDP and the BJP, too, was one of two parties having opposing ideologies.

By this episode, it has once again been proved that former politicians, appointed as Governors

### Twitter poster row is nothing but pointless

This refers to the editorial, "Storm in a Tweekup" (November 22). The backlash against the poster held by Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey that read "smash Brahminical patriarchy" was unwarranted. What is wrong in calling for smashing the 'oppressive social order of caste'? In these days of Hindu revivalism, it's no surprise that it has been denounced as 'hate-mongering'. It's wrong to bracket 'Brahminical patriarchy' with 'Brahmin community'. According to Dr BR Ambedkar, Brahminism is more than the 'inherited' power and privileges enjoyed by the upper castes. It is the negation of the spirit of liberty, equality and fraternity.

Brahminical patriarchy is real and it pervades the land's length and breadth. It explains why its adherents oppose women's entry into the Sabarimala temple. The notion that women of menstrual age are impure and defile a place of worship inheres in Brahminical patriarchy. To put it bluntly, Brahminism is the princi-

pal cause of our backwardness and the biggest obstacle to the emergence of a casteless society. It is from Brahminism that Hindutva and Hindu nationalism in their virulent forms have sprung. No wonder Hindutva zealots have pounced on Twitter for displaying the poster and demanded apology.

G David Milton  
Maruthancode

MC Joshi  
Lucknow

Unwanted controversy  
Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Storm in Tweekup" (November

22). It will be wrong to treat Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey's holding up of a poster, which read "Smash Brahminical Patriarchy", as a minor matter. It represents a malicious mindset that deliberately attempts to malign Hinduism, particularly, Brahmins.

It is unfortunate that some refuse to acknowledge the pioneering efforts of upper caste Hindus, including Brahmins, who rejected

age-old evils of casteism and caste discrimination while drafting the Constitution for a democratic republic in independent India and introduced reservations for scheduled castes and tribes in Government jobs and education. Impressive advances have been made but much still remains to be done.

M Ratan  
Via mail

### Transform lives

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Savaging the civilised" (November 23). John Allen Chau, an American national who tried to enter the North Sentinel Island in the Andaman, was killed by the tribesmen. As a matter of fact, inhabitants of the Sentinel islands, as also the Jarawas, have remained hostile to outsiders. They are believed to be cut off from the rest of the world, and have expressed stiff resistance to any outside intrusion too.

Chau tried to enter the island to establish contact with the tribesmen in a bid to civilise them. It was his unrequited love for humanity that usurped his life. The Sentinelese tribe must be transformed into cultured citizens by providing them education. If being an outsider, Chau had shown such a sympathy for the inhabitants, how much more can be done for these tribesmen?

TK Nandanani  
Kochi

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



**FIRST COLUMN**

## People-to-people links needed, now

The Act East policy needs to be complemented with the provision of an enabling ecosystem so as to reap comprehensive benefits



SANJIB POHIT

The Act East Policy, with a focus on extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region, has been a cornerstone for India's diplomacy in the current decade. While it was originally conceived as an economic initiative, in recent years, it has gained political, strategic and cultural dimensions, including the establishment of institutional mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation. India has upgraded its relations to strategic partnership with Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, Singapore and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and has, thus, forged close ties with all countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Further, apart from Asean, East Asia Summit (EAS) and Asean Regional Forum (ARF), India has also been actively engaged in regional fora, such as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) and Indian-Ocean Rim Association (IORA). Act East Policy has laid emphasis on India-Asean cooperation for our domestic agenda on infrastructure, manufacturing, trade, skills, urban renewal, smart cities, Make in India and other initiatives. Connectivity projects, cooperation in space and people-to-people exchanges can become a springboard for regional integration and prosperity.

The objective of Act East Policy is to promote economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop strategic relationship with countries in the Asia-Pacific region through continuous engagement at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, thereby providing enhanced connectivity to the States of north-eastern region, including Arunachal Pradesh, with other countries in the neighbourhood. The North-East has been given a priority in our Act East Policy. Various plans at bilateral and regional levels include steady efforts to develop and strengthen connectivity of the North-East with the Asean region through trade, culture, people-to-people contacts and physical infrastructure (road, airport, telecommunication, power, *et al*). Some of the major projects include Kalandan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project, Rhi-Tiddim Road Project and India-Bangladesh Border Haats among others.

As one can see, countries in the Asia Pacific region, the targets of our Act East Policy, are at various stages of development. On the one hand, it cooperates with technologically-developed countries like Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. On the other, there is something that India can offer to the developing countries. With limited Government role in the present world, it is business-to-business (BB) or people-to-people (PP) relationship that will determine whether Act East policy can be a reality. Apart from paying lip-service to augment transport connectivity with the Asia-Pacific region, the Government has been slow in creating an enabling ecosystem for the Act East policy. Let me elaborate on the missing links where pro-active action is required.

At the outset, PP connectivity is extremely important for the growth of BB connectivity. Cross-country education of students is an excellent channel for vibrant growth of PP connectivity. However, most Indian students go to the West and not to the East for higher education. Western degrees are generally highly-valued in Government and private circles. The same is not true for degrees earned from universities in the Asia-Pacific region. Moreover, we do not have an agreement of mutual recognition of degrees with many of the universities in the Asian countries.

Weak educational links are the primary reason why an Indian researcher mostly collaborates with research partners in the Western countries. Since patent filing in many cases is an outcome for collaborative research, it is not surprising that most co-partners in joint works with Indian researchers reside in Western countries. When BB linkage emerges from the commercial application of the filed patents, no doubt, the likely partnership would be between the Indian and Western partners. These hurdles need to be crossed before we can effectively gain from the Act East policy.

The relevance of ethnic network for vibrant inter-region trade and investment growth cannot be overlooked if one examines the role played by the Chinese for fuelling FDI-led growth in China. Again, ethnic Indians abound mostly in Western countries due to colonial/other linkages. Our Eastern countries score low on this front too. Hence, even if we Act East, we may have to be patient to reap real gains from our policy decisions. However, in the short-term, this policy can be a game-changer for the North-East by creating a market space for their products and reducing the transportation barriers.

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

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

THEY SAY A CONGRESS CAN'T BE A HINDU, WHO GAVE THEM THE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES? ONLY PANDITS/BRAHMINS KNOW ABOUT RELIGION.

—CONGRESS LEADER CP JOSHI



IT IMPLIES WHAT DOES A LOWER CASTE PERSON LIKE MODI KNOW ABOUT HINDUISM AS ONLY BRAHMINS ARE TRUE CUSTODIANS OF HINDUISM. IT'S SHAMEFUL.

—BJP LEADER HARSH SANGHAVI

# Revive the Modi mojo

While the ruling dispensation will primarily be judged on development, religious sentiments continue to hold weightage in the decision-making process of the BJP's core ideological voter base



BINDU DALMIA

Six months ahead of the General Election, three black swans reared their head, putting the first Government to have won with a majority in 30 years on the defensive. What is unprecedented is the timing of these serial optics wherein the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues need resolution and the Ram Mandir row needs closure. The first black swan event was the macabre feuding among senior officials of the CBI, revealing the dark underbelly of the premier investigation agency at war with itself. Casting a shadow on the institutional integrity of the CBI diminishes the credibility of an independent entity whose reports are crucial on multiple scams, which have political ramifications in the run-up to the forthcoming Lok Sabha election.

The second precursor for a Government at unease with its institutions was of the RBI at war with the Union Government. Both events have embarrassed the GOI by sending distressing signals of eroding Central authority. Subsequently came the third dark swan, an even bigger *fait accompli*: The procrastination of the Supreme Court hearing on Ayodhya, relegating its priority to a civil suit. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's signature style has been his assertive and decisive modus of governance. What the Modi dispensation now confronts is navigating through three independent institutions — the CBI, RBI and the judiciary — where any Government writ runs scant as these institutions are mandated to function on objective and evidence-based facts in the public interest.

The Modi Government, now in an election-mode, needs to retrieve its primacy by not pushing inconvenient decisions under the carpet. Yet, it must be seen upholding the autonomous functioning of independent institutions, like the judiciary, Election Commission, Central Vigilance Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, CBI and the Central Bank, which are vital to the functionality of vibrant democracies, allowing for an impartial executive to function with prudence. However, it is in the Supreme Court's deferment of the crucial Ayodhya hearing that the biggest silver lining lies for the Prime Minister to turn critical momentum back in the BJP's favour. Fulfilment of the Ayodhya promise is as vital to Modi's core ideological constituency as is the promise of development.

Conflict between Mint Street and North Block on policy matters was fraught with disagreements even during UPA years, with the apex bank remaining conservative on growth versus inflation. Such dissensions are equally prevalent in the US between the Trump Administration and the Federal Reserve Bank. At the heart of the unease between the Government and the RBI was the hint at invocation of Article 7 of the RBI Act of 1934 that was never enforced in 83 years, which empowers the Government to instruct the RBI Governor to act on issues the GOI considers in the public interest. Fortunately, this move was averted after the recent RBI meet on November 19. The Central bank's decisions will now be board-driven by 13 directors who are more sensitive to eco-political concerns of the Government.



THE REASON ASCRIBED TO DEFERRING THE AYODHYA CASE IS THAT THE SUPREME COURT FEARS A SEVERE BACKLASH FROM EITHER OF THE COMMUNITIES IF THE JUDGEMENT IS DELIVERED IN ANYONE'S FAVOUR, ESPECIALLY BEFORE THE POLL. A VERDICT ADVERSE TO THE BUILDING OF THE MANDIR, IF DELIVERED EARLY NEXT YEAR, COULD MAKE IT THE BJP'S 'SHAH BANO MOMENT' IF IT OPTS TO OVERTURN AN ADVERSE APEX COURT JUDGEMENT

The Government believes the RBI is sitting on higher reserves than needed as a buffer for contingencies. Central banks globally provision around 14 per cent of their assets as reserves, compared to RBI's 27 per cent. So as the RBI has been over-stringent in its risk-reserve assessment beyond global norms, the Finance Ministry rightly claims for transferring the extra capital that can be put to productive use to stimulate the economy with more public spending. It can also increase credit flow to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) sector that accounts for millions of jobs. Spurring growth is all the more crucial in an election year and public interest rightly remains the absolute prerogative of the sovereign, ranging from addressing the need to boost liquidity for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) or MSMEs, to provisioning for adequate capital requirements for weak banks.

While the CBI and RBI are systemic issues, it is the third issue at the forefront that has enormous emotive ramifications: The Supreme Court's decision to defer hearings on the 2010 Allahabad High Court order on the title suit that divided the disputed land trilaterally, with one-third assigned to the Sunni Wakf Board, and two-thirds apportioned to the Nirmohi Akhara and the deity. Religious polarisation is now expected to play out for the fourth time in the electoral history as a major theme in the 2019 election. The BJP has the Ram temple on its political manifesto and hence it must explore every constitutional option to break the impasse. The consensus through back-channel negotiations for an amicable resolution has clearly failed.

There is a popular mood of indig-

nation against the apex court's perceived indifference to the majority community's sentiments. The *vox populi* is aggrieved that the court had all the time to give verdicts within a month on the film *Padmavati*, Diwali crackers, entry of women into Sabarimala temple and even prioritising the PIL on Rafale by asking the Government to submit the pricing and strategic details of the deal within 10 days. But it did not take up an emotive issue. The judiciary has often been accused of overreach. But it is in the selective prioritisation of the apex court of deferring the hearing on Ram Mandir that strikes at the heart of Indian sentiments, which is clearly a case of judicial underreach.

If the Government could pursue the SC/ST Act, Triple Talaq and LGBT Act through Ordinance, what stops a majority Government with 282 MPs in the Lok Sabha and 100 in the Rajya Sabha, from "rewriting the Constitution on Indic values?" The problem of short-circuiting the judicial process through the Ordinance route is that it has legal ramifications. The matter is sub-judice, and to justify the Ordinance route by subscribing to 'faith above law', overrides the Constitution.

The reason ascribed to deferring the case, even attempting to push it beyond the General Election, is that the court fears a severe backlash from either of the communities if the judgement is delivered in anyone's favour, especially before the poll. A verdict adverse to the building of the *mandir*, if delivered early next year, could make it the BJP's 'Shah Bano moment' if it opts to overturn an adverse Supreme Court judgement.

To turn the tide in its favour, the BJP must allow the Rashtriya

Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its foot soldiers to gauge the public mood in order to rebuild momentum for the Ram Mandir before the poll. Of course, the legal advice to the Government would be against promulgation of an Ordinance. So, only a law can be enacted in Parliament through a joint sitting of both Houses, given the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) poor numbers in the Rajya Sabha. This does not preclude that the same will not be subject to appeal, even though Parliament is the ultimate in law-making, while the court is supreme in law interpretation. It is a foregone conclusion that neither 'Shiv bhakt' Rahul Gandhi nor secular parties at ideological divergence will accede to a consensus for a legislation.

However, the decisive option would be considering the viability of a referendum within the next two months on the Ayodhya issue. And the poser for the referendum is: "Should the Ram Mandir be built/ or should a Masjid be built/ or should we wait for the judicial pronouncement?" Because in a democracy, the peoples' will is supreme, and all other institutions must respect that, as *status quoism* is not the solution.

The majority community knows all too well that if this feat of building the Ram Mandir is not achieved during this regime, the case will languish in the courts *ad infinitum*. While the Modi Sarkar will be primarily judged on development and economic issues, religious sentiments, especially in the Hindi heartland, continue to hold weightage in the decision-making process of the BJP's core ideological voter base.

(The writer is author, columnist and Chairperson for National Committee on Financial Inclusion and Literacy for Women constituted at NITI Aayog)

# Has there been a semantic satiation?

Words and phrases lose their meaning when repeated *ad nauseam*. Probably the word 'corruption' too has been overused due to which it has lost its meaning and has become insignificant background noise



NADEEM PARACHA

In 1986, I went with a college friend to what was called Panorama Centre in Saddar, Karachi. Panorama at that time was a 'posh' place with lavish offices and high-end clothing shops. When we were about to enter one of the elevators in the building, the door opened and a moustachioed man emerged carrying a five or six-year-old boy. They were followed by three more burly men who seemed to be his assistants. As they were stepping out of the lift, the child announced: "Duniya gol hai" (the world is round). The assistants smiled and clapped, saying "zabardast, zabardast" (wonderful).

behold, the kid announced: "Duniya gol hai." Again, the assistants praised the kid. Some time later when we were about to exit the building from a glass door near a clothes outlet, we clearly heard it again: "Duniya gol hai." It came from inside the shop. But this time it wasn't followed by any claps or praise.

This irrelevant memory came to mind when recently I read "Verbal Conditioning and Behaviour", a book by psychologist JP Das. According to Das, when a word or phrase is vigorously repeated, it loses its meaning to the listener, who then begins to perceive it as meaningless. In 1962, Leon James, a professor of psychology, called this phenomenon "semantic satiation." Interestingly, though conducted decades ago, James' work on the subject is only now being fully absorbed by an active service industry, which for years, underlined the importance of repeated messages. That industry is advertising.

Author and journalist Zachary Petit, in his 2015 article for *Mental Floss*, wrote: "Marketers are rethinking their sales ploys, thanks to Leon's ideas." For

example, the term "Black Friday" once held a unique meaning for shoppers, but according to Petit, "thanks to its overuse, Black Friday is no longer the valuable hook it once was." Another interesting example can be the word 'revolution'. In 1995, a journalist colleague of mine and I took up a project after noticing the frequency of the word revolution/revolutionary in Press ads. We scanned various editions of *Dawn* (at the daily's library) from 1950 till 1995. Our findings indicated that the word 'revolution' was only sparsely used till the late 1960s, mainly for actual political revolutions.

However, by the late 1960s, the word was frequently repeated by both, Left and Right mainstream political parties, and even some youth groups. Then in a mid-1970s edition of *Dawn*, we came across a Press ad of a furniture brand that claimed its office chairs were made with "revolutionary Swedish technology." After that we came across ad after ad for electronics, medicines, chocolates, milk, cooking oils and detergent brands, all claiming that their ways of manufac-

turing were "revolutionary."

By the 1990s, not only the political context of the word 'revolution' had disintegrated, so had its marketing context. It meant absolutely nothing. It had reached semantic satiation. There are three more words/phrases in the context of Pakistan, which I believe, have reached semantic satiation. The first is "Islam khatre mein hai" (Islam is in danger). This was repeatedly used during the 1946 election in British India in which the All-India Muslim League was contesting to claim a separate Muslim majority country. According to historian Dr Mubarak Ali, this phrase was first used during the Khilafat Movement (1919-1924) by Islamic activists trying to resurrect the Ottoman Caliphate.

After the country's creation, the "Islam khatre mein hai" mantra became associated with religious parties who have often repeated it during various political and social episodes, such as Ayub Khan's secular policies, the rise of Bhutto's socialist PPP, the emergence of ethno-nationalism in former East Pakistan, the election of Benazir Bhutto

as Prime Minister, the growth of pop music and concerts in the 1990s, all the way to the authoring of a National Action Plan (NAP) in 2015 and the alleged reforms suggested in the country's blasphemy laws.

Not only has the phrase lost its meaning, it has come down to evoke a comical image of an enraged and contradictory cleric, foaming at the mouth. The other term that has reached semantic satiation is, "Pakistan aik nazuk morr par kharra hai" (Pakistan is standing at a critical crossroads). It meant something when Ayub used it, after coming to power, because it directly alluded to the political chaos of the 1950s. It meant something when Bhutto used it in 1971, because East Pakistan had broken away after a civil war. But ever since Gen Zia used it to justify his reactionary 1977 military coup, the phrase has gradually lost its veracity.

Almost every Pakistani ruler has used it, consequently detaching it from any convincing context other than one that has now become an unintentional self-parody. 'Corruption' as a

word, too, has been overused. Ever since the 1990s, it has been repeated so often that it now holds different meanings for different segments. In the 1990s, when it was repeatedly used by the PML-N, it meant the "corrupt PPP". When used by the PPP, it meant the "corrupt PML-N" and now when used by the PTI, it means the "corrupt PPP/PML-N mafia." When used by the PPP and the PML-N, it means the corrupt "electables" in the PTI.

Semantic satiation is also a class thing. A friend was having tea at a trendy "dhaba", which was situated right beside an actual dhaba. Incidentally, both had the same news channel on their TV sets. My friend said that when a clip came on of Prime Minister Imran Khan lamenting corruption, he noticed that some young people at the trendy dhaba raised their heads to casually watch, whereas the 'working-class' folk kept having their tea without even glancing at the TV. Probably to them, the word 'corruption' had lost its meaning. It had become insignificant background noise.

(Courtesy: Dawn)



**THANKSGIVING: CELEBRATING UNITY**

Today, Americans seem to have trouble recognising any sort of alignment beyond their own interest-group tribes. Not only are we sharply split by our divergent views about so many things, our rancor is being echoed around the globe. We can even be drawn together by things we abhor. Discord doesn't always follow party lines. (Los Angeles Times editorial)



# FinMin likely to stick to capital infusion

## Programme for PSU banks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry would not curtail its capital infusion plan for this financial year even as State-owned banks would be needing fewer funds following the RBI's decision to defer the deadline to meet Basel III norms by a year, according to sources.

Under the new dispensation, the capital infusion by the government in public sector banks for meeting the capital buffer norms would come down to around ₹15,000-20,000 crore, sources said.

However, there will not be any reduction in the capital funding plan as announced in October last year despite a lower requirement due to the extension of the deadline for meeting the CCB of 2.5 per cent until March 2020, sources said.

The capital infusion would help improve the financial health of banks, sources said, adding that some banks would

get necessary regulatory capital while others would get it for fueling growth, they clarified.

Earlier this week, the RBI in the central board meeting decided to extend the implementation of the last tranche of 0.625 per cent of capital conservation buffer by a year to March 2020.

However, the board decided to retain the capital adequacy ratio or CRAR at 9 per cent, against 8 per cent prescribed by Basel III norms.

The CCB currently stands at 1.875 per cent and the remaining 0.625 per cent was to be met by March 2019, as per the earlier deadline fixed by the RBI.

The extension of the timeline for the implementation of the last tranche of the CCB under Basel-III capital regulations could reduce the burden of public sector banks (PSBs) by ₹35,000 crore this fiscal, according to rating agency Crisil.

Generally, there is a leverage of 10 times on the capital, sources said adding that the lending capacity would increase by ₹3.5 lakh crore.

After assessing the requirement of each bank, the ministry is expected to finalise the capital infusion of about ₹54,000 crore by this month-

end or by the first half of the next month.

The ministry had earlier this year provided a capital infusion of ₹11,336 crore to five PSBs to help them meet their interest payment commitments.

Punjab National Bank (PNB), hit by the Nirav Modi scam, got the highest amount of ₹2,816 crore, while Allahabad Bank received ₹1,790 crore. Andhra Bank got the capital support of ₹2,019 crore, Indian Overseas Bank received ₹2,157 crore and Corporation Bank got ₹2,555 crore.

The infusion was part of the remaining ₹65,000 crore out of ₹2.11 lakh crore capital infusion over two financial years.

The Government announced the ₹2.11 lakh crore capital infusion programme in October last year. As per the plan, the PSBs were to get ₹1.35 lakh crore through re-capitalisation bonds, and the balance ₹58,000 crore through the raising of capital from the market.

Out of the ₹1.35 lakh crore, the government has already infused about ₹82,000 crore through recap bonds and the balance would be done during this fiscal.

# RBI likely to maintain status quo on policy rates: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India is expected to keep the key policy rates unchanged at its ensuing policy review meet next month, amid easing global crude oil prices and robust agriculture production, says a report.

According to Dun & Bradstreet Economy forecast, the robust agriculture production and softening of vegetables and fruits prices will also help in keeping the food inflation under check.

The report further said that the Government's new procurement policy will support prices of agricultural produce going ahead.

D&B expects the CPI inflation to be in the range of 2.8-3 per cent and WPI inflation to be in the range of 4.8-5 per cent during November this year.

"The risks emanating from global crude oil prices have eased to an extent as oil prices are likely to fall or remain subdued in the near term. This has partially dispelled concerns over one of the primary factors affecting India's current account deficit, fiscal slippage



and inflationary dynamics," Dun & Bradstreet India Lead Economist Arun Singh said.

Singh further said the return of foreign investors in Indian markets, stability in rupee, strengthening of industrial production and benign inflation have provided much required support to expectations of economic growth revival.

However, bad assets in the banking system continue to increase and concerns over probable tightening of regulations in the non-banking segment will also lead to some disruption in the overall financial system in the near-term till clarity emerges, he noted.

"It would be interesting to know the decision taken by the RBI in its upcoming monetary policy review. Our assessment is that RBI will maintain a status quo in the policy rate," Singh added.

# Auto retail sales down 11% in festive period, high inventory worries FADA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic automobile retail sales in the festive season declined by 11 per cent this year due to dip in offtake of passenger vehicles and two-wheelers, according to FADA.

The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said that with retail sales, calculated on the basis of total number of registrations, witnessing decline specially in two-wheeler and passenger vehicles (PV) segments, a substantially high amount of inventory has become "a matter of great concern".

According to FADA, total registrations during the 42-day festive period, which fell between October 10 and November 20 this year, stood at 20,49,391 units.

Last year, the period was between September 21 and November 1, and the industry witnessed total registrations of 23,01,986 units, it said.

PV registrations in this year's festive period stood at 2,87,717 units as against 3,33,456 units in the corresponding period last year, down 14 per cent, FADA said.

Two-wheeler registrations also fell by 13 per cent to 15,83,276 units as against 18,11,703 units in the year-ago period.

"We have not seen such a

dull festive season in the past few years, as many negative factors came into play during this season which



weakened the consumer sentiment and postponed their purchase decision," FADA President Ashish Harsharaj Kale said in a statement.

High fuel prices and insurance costs along with liquidity issues faced by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) had affected consumer sentiment.

"Overall, we have seen unusual de-growth during the combined festive period, both in two-wheelers and PVs. Dealer inventory levels in both these segments have risen substantially as a result of this and is a matter of great concern," FADA said.

The inventory levels before the festivals began, were at around 60 days and 50 days for two-wheelers and passenger vehicles, respectively.

"The same merely came down to around 50 and 45 days post festivities and still remain higher than normal," it added.

The automotive dealers' body asked the Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for further ease of liquidity for auto non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) saying "they are one of the key growth drivers in auto retail and are also operating in a less riskier business environment.."

Kale, however, said the dealers remain hopeful of recovery as overall inquiries during the festive period were robust, and postponement of purchase was the main reason for muted sales.

During the festive period, three-wheelers and commercial vehicles sales, however, grew 10 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively.

Meanwhile, FADA also said in the April 1 to November 20 period this fiscal, total vehicle registrations stood at 1,19,89,705 units as against 1,12,54,305 units in the year-ago period, up 6.5 per cent.

# Ghosh's income under-reporting 'may reach \$71 million'

AFP ■ TOKYO

Nissan's disgraced former chairman Carlos Ghosn under-reported his income by a total of \$71 million — much more than initially suspected — Japanese media reported Friday.

The Brazil-born tycoon is now reportedly set to face a new charge from prosecutors, after he was sacked as Nissan chairman Thursday to top a spectacular fall from grace for the once-revered boss whose fall has stunned the business world.

Prosecutors arrested Ghosn Monday, accusing him and fellow executive Greg Kelly of understating the former chairman's income by around five billion yen (\$44 million) between June 2011 and June 2015.

But Ghosn is now suspected of under-reporting his income by another three billion yen for the following three fiscal years, the Asahi Shimbun and the Nikkei business daily reported.

Prosecutors are now planning to re-arrest him on charges of understating his income by a total of eight billion yen (\$71 million) since June 2011, the Asahi said.

Immediate confirmation of the reports was not available. Under Japanese law, suspects in jail can face additional arrest warrants, which can impose heavier charges.

Ghosn is also suspected of failing to report a profit of four billion yen through stock appreciation rights — a method for firms to give management a bonus on strong earnings, the Nikkei said.

Separately, the Kyodo news agency has reported that Nissan had paid \$100,000 a year since 2002 to Ghosn's sister who had no record of doing advisory work for the group.

Deputy chief prosecutor Shin Kukimoto said the Ghosn case is "one of the most serious types of crime" under Japan's Financial Instruments Act, and Ghosn could face a 10-year prison sentence.

# Will ensure adequate funds for gems, jewellery sector: Prabhu

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu on Friday said he has taken up with the Finance Ministry the issue concerning credit to the gems and jewellery sector to ensure adequate availability of funds for them.

Prabhu also said the ministries are looking at the industry's demand of cutting import duty on gold to 4 per cent from the current 10 per cent.

The industry also wants a reduction in the duty on diamond to 2.5 per cent from 7.5 per cent.

"This is one of the important issues...For the industry that is export-oriented... If you have import duties, the working capital gets blocked up. So, we are already working on that."

"At the same time, the Ministry of Finance has a responsibility to curtail CAD (current account deficit), therefore they are also trying to find out how we can keep the imports under control. So, we have to balance both together," the minister told

reporters here.

On financing issues of the sector, Prabhu said meetings were held with bankers to address the matter as the genuine needs of the industry should be looked at.

"I have again taken up the issue with the finance ministry and we will make sure that the industry is not starved of necessary finances," he added.

The gems and jewelry sector, especially the diamond industry, is facing credit crunch as banks have tightened their hands following the ₹14,000-crore Nirav Modi scam in Punjab National Bank.

The Minister also stated that the Government would soon come out with a gold policy and set up a domestic gold council to promote the growth of the sector.

The country's annual gems and jewelry exports stand at about \$40 billion. The sector, which contributes 13.5 per cent to India's total merchandise exports, employs about five million people. It also accounts for 7 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

# Oil India Ltd to buy back 4.45% shares for ₹1,085 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil India Ltd will buy back 5.04 crore of its shares for a little over Rs 1,085 crore as part of the Government's push to cash-rich PSUs to part with their surplus either by paying higher dividends or through share buybacks so as to help meet revenue targets.

In a regulatory filing, OIL said its board has approved buyback of shares at an aggregate of no more than 10 per cent of the fully paid-up equity share capital and free reserves of the company.

The board approved "the buyback by the company of its fully paid-up equity shares of Rs 10 each not exceeding 5.04 crore equity shares (representing about 4.45 per cent of the total number of equity shares in the paid-up share capital of the company) at a price of ₹215 per equity share payable in cash for an aggregate consideration

not exceeding ₹1085.72 crore," it said.

The nation's second large oil explorer had a little less than ₹20,000 crore of reserves.

OIL shares closed at ₹218.78 on the BSE on Thursday. Friday was a trading holiday on account of Gurunanak Jayanti.

The Government is targeting a minimum ₹5,000 crore through share buyback offers of state-owned firms like Coal India and BHEL.

Besides OIL, at least half a dozen other central PSUs have disclosed share buyback programmes. Prominent among these include NHPC, BHEL, NALCO, NLC, Cochin Shipyard and KIOCL that could fetch the Government a little over ₹3,000 crore.

OIL said the Government holds 66.13 per cent stake in the company and has offered to tender 5.04 crore shares in the buyback offer.

# SpiceJet starts flight service from New Delhi to Hong Kong

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Budget carrier SpiceJet on Friday launched a daily direct flight service to Hong Kong from New Delhi, seeking to tap the growing business and leisure travel demand, besides eyeing the Indian students community there.

Following the introduction of the new service, SpiceJet offers over 2,500 seats per week on the Delhi-Hong Kong-Delhi route, which will be serviced by the latest 189-seater Boeing 737 Max plane, the airline said in a release.

With this, SpiceJet has become the only domestic budget carrier operating a direct flight on the route, it added.

"We are delighted to launch our direct flight on the Delhi-Hong Kong route. We see tremendous potential in this sector. We have already witnessed a huge demand on this sector and foresee that this will only grow in the coming days," said Shilpa Bhatia, chief sales and revenue officer, SpiceJet.

# Challenges & electrification of 7,614 LWE-hit villages



BY RK SINGH

We have set an ambitious goal for ourselves — the goal of providing access to 24x7 power for all in the country. Access to power here represents not only the connectivity to the network but also includes availability of requisite infrastructure across the power sector value chain to ensure supply of quality and reliable power. And we are well on our way to achieve our goal. And the scale of the transition is such as has not been seen anywhere in the world.

The country achieved 100% village electrification on 28th April 2018, a major landmark towards universal electrification. It was not merely connecting the remaining 18,500 odd villages to the electricity network but to reach out to the poorest of poor who had remained in darkness for more than 70 years after independence. The challenges involved were huge — these challenges had stood as a barrier to extending electricity to these villages for such a long period. Most of these villages were located in remote inaccessible areas with difficult terrain in hilly areas, forest areas, areas

severely affected with LWE activities etc. and transportation of material/equipment and mobilisation of manpower for execution of works required determination and perseverance. The difficulty level kept on increasing as the work progressed further. About 350 villages in Arunachal Pradesh (272), J&K (54), Meghalaya (9) and Manipur (12) located in remote and difficult terrain required head loading of materials and trekking up to 10 days. Materials in some villages of J&K and Arunachal Pradesh had to be transported by helicopter. In 2762 villages, extending grid network was not feasible due to remote and inaccessible locations. Solar based standalone systems were provided. Enormous challenges were confronted in electrification of 7614 LWE villages in Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. The electrification of these remaining villages have paved the path for their socio-economic growth. We have the satisfaction of having achieved the target before the target date. This program has also set an example of effective cooperative federalism wherein Union Government, State Governments, Distribution Companies and administration synergised their efforts for common goal.

The next step was to light up every household. The Prime Minister launched the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana — Saubhagya in Sept. 2017 with the aim to achieve universal household electrification. Achievement of this

within targeted timeline of March 2019 is the challenge we have given to ourselves. As the name of the scheme itself suggests, it has inherent features of 'Sahaj' i.e. Simple/Easy/Effortless and 'Har Ghar' i.e. inclusive universal household electrification. A targeted program of such a scale has never been attempted in the world. The progress is again exemplary in terms of speed and innovation. We are lighting up an average of a hundred thousand houses every day. No country has witnessed anything on such a scale. The happiness on the face of the people when their houses are lit up with electricity is something to be seen. I am sharing some photographs.

We crossed the milestone of lighting the lights to 2 crore households under the Saubhagya scheme (which started in Oct. 2017) on the 19th of November 2018.

In addition to providing last mile connectivity, strengthening of backup system network in distribution and sub-transmission segment along with metering, IT enablement and automation etc. is equally important to ensure supply of adequate power with desired quality and reliability. For this purpose also, Government of India has been providing financial assistance to the States under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) for rural and urban areas respectively. Projects worth ₹1,40,000 Crore have been rolled out under these schemes.

Under these schemes, creation of 1204 nos. of new sub-stations, augmentation of capacity in 1601 nos. existing substations, erection of 1,61,101 nos. new distribution transformers, 1,11,734 Kms of HT lines and 98028 Kms of LT line has been completed. System strengthening works under these schemes coupled with reforms adopted under Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) would facilitate 24x7 quality and reliable power supply for all in sustainable manner. UDAY interventions have resulted in (i) reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial Losses (AT&C) losses from 20.77% to 18.72% (ii) reduction in ACS-ARR (Average Cost of Supply - Average Revenue Realization) gap from 60 paisa/unit to 17 paisa/unit (iii) savings on interest cost of about ₹31,800 crores to utilities/statusand reduction in losses from ₹51575 crore to ₹15132 crore. NTPC and other major Gencos need to be con-gratulated for keeping the power purchase costs almost constant in spite of increase in cost of coal, freight and other costs.

The initiatives of the Government have helped our country in achieving 24th rank in 2018 on World Bank's Ease of Getting Electricity in the world as against 111th rank in 2014. This is a quantum leap and shows the result oriented approach of the Government.

At the backend of the power value chain, we have achieved 'One Nation One Grid'. The pace of grid construction has been enhanced to

an average of 24908 Kms per year in the last four and half years from an average of 4385 Kms in previous years. This ensures power transfers across the country. About 2.96 Lakh MVA transformation capacity has been added during the years 2014-18. Tariff based Competitive Bidding has brought in transparency and efficiency in the system.

The huge addition in the consumer base at the rate of one lac per day, coupled with growth in the economy has meant that our electricity demand has been growing at the rate of more than 10% in these months. The change we are making are unparalleled in scale. But we have more to do. But our vision is clear. And our determination is firm. Our estimates are that the number of households left would be less than 50 lacs. At this rate, almost 50 more days required to achieve 100% household electrification. If we do it faster, less days to achieve the goal. The world has looked on our progress with amazement and admiration. The International Energy Agency has called it one of the greatest success stories of the year.

In order to meet the growing demand of electricity in the country which is expected to increase further, addition to the generation capacity is important. During the last 4 years the total installed capacity has increased by 1 Lakh MW. This has helped in wiping out energy deficit from 4.2% to almost zero at 0.7%. India has for the first time become an exporter of electricity after meeting its

internal demand. We have helped our neighbours like Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar by exporting 7203 MUs of electricity.

In order to make our electricity clean and green, we have placed a roadmap to achieve 175 GW capacity in the renewable energy sector by 2022, which includes 100 GW of solar power and 60 GW of wind power. The overall installed capacity of Renewable Energy has been more than doubled in the last four and half years — from 34,000 MW to 72,000 MW, solar capacity increased 8 times in last 4 years. We are on the way to achieve our commitment at international fora.

While we continue to increase our capabilities for power generation, we recognize the need to explore avenues that promote energy efficiency. Concerted efforts are being made to efficiently use the energy in the demand side through various innovative and visionary policy measures. UJALA, Star labelling program, energy conservation building code, energy efficiency measures through Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) are few initiatives in this area. The first cycle of the PAT for industry achieved savings of more than 8.6 million tonnes of oil equivalent which is almost 1.23 per cent of primary energy supply of India. The second cycle is estimated to achieve even higher savings.

(The writer is Minister of Power, Government of India. Views expressed in the article are personal.)

# NTPC, ARCHERY ASSOCIATION OF INDIA PARTNER TO NURTURE TALENTS IN ARCHERY



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

NTPC Limited and Archery Association of India (AAI) have announced a landmark three-year partnership, which includes the title rights across all National Archery Championships (NACs), National Ranking Archery Tournaments (NRATs) and exclusive right to provide kits/apparels to Indian Archery team for international participation.

A three-year agreement was signed between SY Quraishi, Administrator of the AAI and Former Chief Election Commissioner and Shri MSD, Bhattamishra, Executive Director (CSR/R&R/SD/LA), NTPC on 22nd November, 2018 at the NTPC Engineering Office, Noida. This title partnership is the biggest ever of its kind in Indian Archery and now onwards all the National Archery Championships and

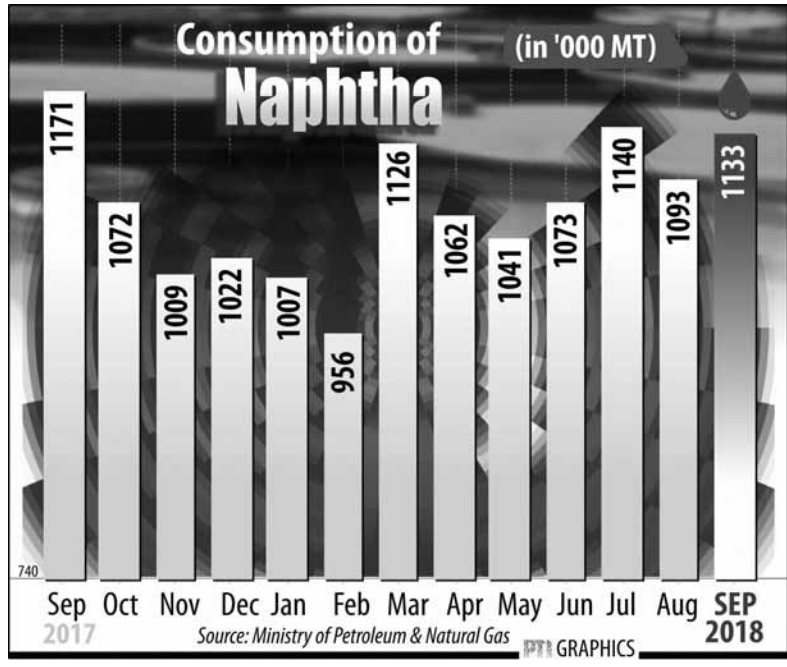
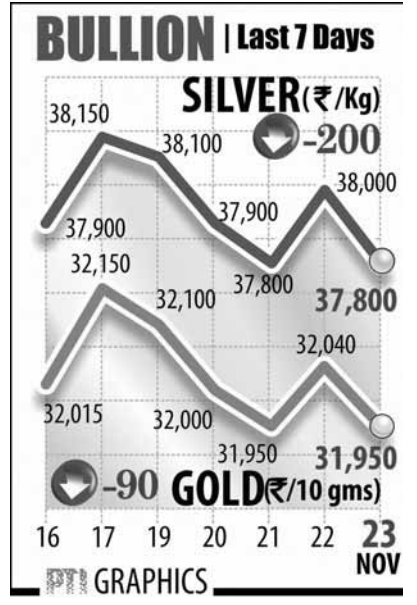
National Ranking Archery Tournaments will be named after NTPC for a period of three years.

While thanking and appreciating NTPC for coming forward to support Archery, Quraishi said, "we are proud to have support of one of the Maharatana Company as a partner and look forward to productive working relationship with them for a common vision and goal of winning medals in Olympic Games, Asian Games and other top level international events of Archery."

This partnership with AAI will go a long way in nurturing the potential of hidden talents in Archery.



Scheme	NAV	1Yr %	ICICI Pru Bluechip Fund(G)	39.52	-0.95	Franklin India Equity Fund(G)	556.88	-4.38	Tata Equity P/E Fund(G)	126.85	-7.53
Tata Digital India Fund-Reg(G)	13.44	27.44	ICICI Pru Focused Equity Fund(G)	28.64	-1	Baroda Pioneer Large Cap Fund(G)	13.28	-4.39	Aditya Birla SL Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	25.83	-7.62
ICICI Pru Technology Fund(G)	54.54	24.12	Invesco India Tax Plan(G)	47.54	-1.04	ICICI Pru Exports & Services Fund(G)	54.76	-4.43	DHFL Pramerica Diversified Equity Fund-Reg(G)	12.3	-7.73
SBI Technology Opp Fund-Reg(G)	58.79	22.74	ICICI Pru Value Fund-8(D)	10.18	-1.11	SBI Tax Advantage Fund-III-Reg(G)	22.37	-4.46	SBI Magnum Global Fund-Reg(G)	160.73	-7.77
Aditya Birla SL Digital India Fund(G)	48.27	18.95	UTI Dividend Yield Fund-Reg(G)	60.86	-1.27	BNP Paribas Large Cap Fund(G)	80.24	-4.5	Franklin India Prima Fund(G)	890.33	-7.78
ICICI Pru US Bluechip Equity Fund(G)	25.9	17.14	SBI Consumption Opp Fund-Reg(G)	112	-1.31	Mirae Asset Emerging Bluechip-Reg(G)	48.47	-4.62	SBI Magnum TaxGain'93-Reg(G)	134.1	-7.85
Franklin India Technology Fund(G)	147.4	15.81	ICICI Pru Value Fund-5(G)	14.75	-1.34	Invesco India Contra Fund(G)	44.65	-1.39	Motilal Oswal Multicap 35 Fund-Reg(G)	24.19	-7.91
Aditya Birla SL Intl. Equity Fund-A(G)	20.14	13.38	UTI India LifeStyle Fund-Reg(G)	24.83	-1.41	Reliance Quant Fund(G)	23.52	-4.64	Principal Multi Cap Growth Fund(G)	135.14	-7.94
Reliance US Equity Opp Fund(G)	13.84	12.96	Aditya Birla SL Global Commodities Fund(G)	12.06	-1.45	Tata Ethical Fund(G)	150.73	-4.7	UTI Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	59.07	-7.96
Reliance Pharma Fund(G)	152.73	12.2	Invesco India Largecap Fund(G)	26.11	-1.47	Motilal Oswal Focused 25 Fund-Reg(G)	20.09	-4.74	SBI LT Advantage Fund-IV-Reg(G)	12.16	-7.98
DSP US Flexible Equity Fund-Reg(G)	23.92	11.11	IDBI Diversified Equity Fund(G)	20.32	-1.65	HDFC Capital Builder Value Fund(G)	277.94	-4.75	Sundaram Rural and Consumption Fund(G)	39.25	-8.21
Franklin India Feeder - Franklin U.S. Opportunities Fund(G)	27.16	9.71	UTI Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)	84.72	-1.72	SBI Healthcare Opp Fund-Reg(G)	121.3	-4.78	Reliance Close Ended Equity Fund-B(G)	22.59	-8.29
ICICI Pru Global Stable Equity Fund(G)	14.87	8.46	Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)	12.94	-2.01	DHFL Pramerica Large Cap Fund(G)	152.12	-4.79	ICICI Pru Value Fund-9(G)	11.45	-8.33
Kotak US Equity Fund(G)	15.73	8.34	SBI Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)	126.52	-2.06	JM Tax Gain Fund(G)	15.53	-4.86	Edelweiss Long Term Equity Fund (Tax Savings)-Reg(G)	42.99	-8.4
ICICI Pru FMCG Fund(G)	228.33	7.12	Mirae Asset Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	16.17	-2.09	Tata Large & Mid Cap Fund(G)	185.76	-4.89	Sundaram Fin Serv Opp Fund(G)	36.65	-8.49
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr II-Reg(G)	13.68	6.09	Aditya Birla SL MNC Fund(G)	716.84	-2.09	Reliance Banking Fund(G)	252.92	-4.91	ICICI Pru Nifty Next 50 Index Fund(G)	24.09	-8.5
Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr III-Reg(G)	13.84	6.06	L&T India Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	25.07	-2.1	L&T Tax Advt Fund-Reg(G)	52.72	-4.95	Principal Emerging Bluechip Fund(G)	98.61	-8.53
Axis Bluechip Fund(G)	25.91	5.33	Aditya Birla SL India GenNext Fund(G)	76.84	-2.11	ICICI Pru Value Fund-11(G)	11.54	-5.02	ICICI Pru Value Fund-10(G)	11.09	-8.57
Tata Index Fund-Sensex Plan(G)	85.94	5.06	Reliance Multi Cap Fund(G)	92.15	-2.2	Kotak Tax Saver Scheme(G)	39.91	-5.15	Principal Tax Savings Fund	197.49	-8.6
HDFC Index Fund-Sensex(G)	309.27	5.04	Kotak Standard Multicap Fund(G)	32.19	-2.21	Tata Large Cap Fund(G)	199.64	-5.16	Principal Global Opportunities Fund(G)	26.78	-8.6
Aditya Birla SL Global Real Estate Fund(G)	18.56	5.03	UTI Value Opp Fund-Reg(G)	56.48	-2.22	HDFC Equity Fund(G)	609.56	-5.25	Principal Personal Tax saver Fund	185.48	-8.67
DHFL Pramerica Global Equity Opp Fund(G)	15.92	4.6	HDFC Top 100 Fund(G)	451.45	-2.41	Tata Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	16.15	-5.3	DSP Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	50.65	-8.74
Reliance Index Fund - Sensex Plan(G)	17.23	4.58	HDFC Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	41.83	-2.48	DSP Focus Fund-Reg(G)	21.22	-5.32	ICICI Pru Midcap Fund(G)	91.57	-8.78
Axis Multicap Fund-Reg(G)	10.43	4.3	ICICI Pru Value Discovery	139.46	-2.5	Aditya Birla SL Focused Equity Fund(G)	54.57	-5.35	Franklin India Focused Equity Fund(G)	37.1	-8.84
UTI Equity Fund-Reg(G)	130.61	4.14			DHFL Pramerica LT Equity Fund-Reg(G)	13.21	-5.37	DSP Equity Opportunities Fund-Reg(G)	203.01	-9.17	
Tata India Pharma & Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)	8.91	4.06						SBI Tax advantage Fund-II(G)	33.25	-9.3	
Reliance Japan Equity Fund(G)	12.43	3.91						Franklin India Opportunities Fund(G)	68.13	-9.33	
DSP Global Allocation Fund-Reg(G)	11.9	3.66						Reliance Small Cap Fund(G)	39.43	-9.67	
ICICI Pru Growth Fund-2(DP)	11.11	3.48						ICICI Pru Value Fund-4(G)	20.3	-9.74	
IDFC Nifty Fund-Reg(G)	21.68	3.09						L&T India Value Fund-Reg(G)	34.03	-9.82	
SBI Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	15.63	2.99						L&T Large and Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	44.69	-9.89	
HDFC Index Fund-NIFTY 50 Plan(G)	95.34	2.88						ICICI Pru Value Fund-1(D)	10.37	-9.95	
UTI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	68.35	2.85						UTI Banking and Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	88.64	-10.04	
Tata Index Fund-Nifty Plan(G)	63.38	2.7						Invesco India Multicap Fund(G)	45.09	-10.05	
DSP World Agriculture Fund-Reg(G)	16.07	2.68						Aditya Birla SL Mfg. Equity Fund-Reg(G)	13.05	-10.06	
Axis Midcap Fund(G)	33.58	2.63						Sundaram Diversified Equity(G)	93.39	-10.29	
Axis Long Term Equity Fund(G)	41.06	2.53						Kotak Global Emerging Mkt Fund(G)	14.58	-10.37	
Canara Rob Bluechip Equity Fund-Reg(G)	22.75	2.48						IDFC Sterling Value Fund-Reg(G)	49.83	-10.46	
SBI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	90.16	2.39						Kotak Emerging Equity Scheme(G)	35.77	-10.65	
Canara Rob Equity Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	59.2	2.26						L&T Emerging Businesses Fund-Reg(G)	24.3	-10.68	
ICICI Pru Business Cycle Fund-2(G)	14.08	2.1						HDFC Mid-Cap Opportunities Fund(G)	51.39	-10.72	
Reliance Index Fund - Nifty Plan(G)	17.6	2.07						IDFC Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)	35.09	-10.75	
ICICI Pru Nifty Index Fund(G)	101.37	1.94						Reliance Growth Fund(G)	1030.51	-10.76	
DSP World Energy Fund-Reg(G)	12.77	1.93						L&T Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	129.75	-10.77	
Kotak India EQ Contra Fund(G)	48.31	1.77						JM Value Fund(G)	29.31	-10.89	
Aditya Birla SL Index Fund(G)	103.21	1.76						Franklin Build India Fund(G)	38.17	-10.95	
Franklin India Index Fund-NSE Nifty(G)	83.27	1.69						HDFC TaxSaver(G)	485.02	-11.17	
DSP World Mining Fund-Reg(G)	7.78	1.62						ICICI Pru Dividend Yield Equity Fund(G)	15.91	-11.22	
ICICI Pru Multicap Fund(G)	275.95	1.5						Tata Mid Cap Growth Fund(G)	125.67	-11.25	
IDBI Nifty Index Fund(G)	19.39	1.32						Reliance Focused Equity Fund(G)	43.23	-11.27	
JM Large Cap Fund(G)	64.26	1.01						Motilal Oswal Midcap 30 Fund-Reg(G)	23.28	-11.4	
Aditya Birla SL CEF-Global Agri-Reg(G)	23.38	1.01						UTI LT Adv Fund-III(G)	13.08	-11.69	
Axis Focused 25 Fund(G)	25.52	0.95						Edelweiss Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	24.89	-11.9	
UTI MNC Fund-Reg(G)	191.37	0.87						Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series IV-Reg(G)	28.43	-12.21	
Canara Rob Equity Diver Fund-Reg(G)	122.1	0.83						IDBI Small Cap Fund(G)	9.21	-12.29	
Canara Rob Consumer Trends Fund-Reg(G)	35.98	0.78						Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series I-Reg(G)	30.64	-12.35	
ICICI Pru LT Equity Fund (Tax Saving)(G)	351.29	0.77						Templeton India Value Fund(G)	238.5	-12.37	
Mirae Asset Great Consumer Fund-Reg(G)	32.58	0.69						Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series II-Reg(G)	30.48	-12.42	
Edelweiss Large Cap Fund(G)	32.52	0.53						Kotak World Gold Fund(G)	7.65	-12.43	
Tata India Consumer Fund-Reg(G)	17.14	0.42						Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-IV-Reg(G)	12.98	-12.43	
Invesco India Feeder - Invesco Global Equity Income Fund(G)	12.2	0.41						Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series III-Reg(G)	29.9	-12.43	
SBI Magnum Equity ESG Fund-Reg(G)	95.08	0.38						UTI Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	97.81	-12.57	
DHFL Pramerica Large Cap Fund-2-Reg(G)	11.61	0.31						BNP Paribas Multi Cap Fund(G)	43.19	-12.58	
UTI Mastershare-Reg(G)	113.34	0.17						IDBI Midcap Fund(G)	10.34	-12.82	
Parag Parikh Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)	22.91	0.06						DHFL Pramerica Midcap Opp Fund-Reg(G)	17.4	-12.83	
Sundaram Large and Mid Cap Fund(G)	32.06	0.02						Invesco India Infrastructure Fund(G)	15.95	-12.89	
Sundaram Select Focus(G)	162.6	-0.08						DSP World Gold Fund-Reg(G)	10.39	-12.91	
Reliance Large Cap Fund(G)	32.44	-0.19						Baroda Pioneer Mid-cap Fund(G)	8.44	-12.99	
ICICI Pru India Recovery Fund-4(G)	16.53	-0.24						L&T Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	15.82	-13.03	
Invesco India Growth Opp Fund(G)	31.67	-0.63									
Mirae Asset India Equity Fund-Reg(G)	46.87	-0.85									
ICICI Pru Growth Fund-1(DP)	10.45	-0.88									





# Three Sikhs among 32 killed in blast in Pak

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

At least 32 people, including three Pakistani-Sikhs, were killed and more than 40 others injured on Friday when a suicide bomber triggered a powerful bomb blast at a busy market outside a religious seminary in the country's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said.

According to initial investigation, an improvised explosive device was planted in a bike that was used for transporting vegetables to the popular Friday Market (Juma Bazar) near an imambara, a Shia religious place, in Orakzai tribal district's Kalaya area, bordering Afghanistan.

"This is a Friday bazaar, where hundreds of people had gathered for groceries," Deputy Commissioner Khalid Iqbal said.

"The ground is then used for Friday prayers as well," he added.

At least 32 people were killed while more than 40 others injured, Dawn news quoted district administration officials as saying.

"Three Sikh traders and three children were also among the dead in the Orakzai blast," Iqbal told PTI.

The minority Sikh community in the area was previously displaced by the Taliban that controlled the region prior to the military operation in 2010, *Samaa TV* reported.

Officials said that most of the victims were minority Shia Muslims, who in the past were also targeted in the area.

"Three children were among those killed. The remote-controlled bomb was attached to a motorcycle," officials said.



A survivor of a bombing in Orakzai, admits at a hospital in Peshawar on Friday. AP

"I was buying vegetables at a distance from bomb site," Karam Khan, who accompanied an injured person to the hospital in Kohat, said.

"There was a huge explosion and I woke up with blood splashed all over the place and there were body parts everywhere," he said about the gory scene.

The area has been cordoned off and investigation into the incident is under way.

An emergency has been declared in the region's hospitals to handle the situation.

The explosion in lower Orakzai is the second terror attack in Pakistan on Friday. Earlier this morning, an attack targeting the Chinese consulate in Karachi's Clifton area was foiled by security forces.

Four people, including two security personnel and two civilians were killed in the attack. Three terrorists were also gunned down.

Prime Minister Imran Khan strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Orakzai tribal area and said: "My prayers go to the victims & their families."

"Let there be no doubt in anyone's mind that we will crush the terrorists, whatever it takes," he said in a tweet.

Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari blamed the US failure in Afghanistan for the attack and warned Pakistan to be prepared for more such incidents.

She condemned the horrific terror attack. "As the US fails in Afghanistan, Pakistan should be prepared for fallout and we must ensure greater security for our tribal areas especially protection of our people," she tweeted.

No group claimed responsibility of the attack so far but the Taliban terrorists often carry out such attacks.

"Our enemies are not happy with peace in the province," provincial Chief Minister Mehmood Khan said while condemning the attack.

In 2011, 30 people including 10 cops, were killed and over 50 injured when a suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden van into the building of the Communication and Works Department.

Orakzai, a terror hotbed, is one of the seven semi-autonomous tribal regions of Pakistan which has a porous border with Afghanistan.

# Blast rocks mosque on Afghan Army base

27 soldiers martyred, 57 injured

AP ■ KABUL

An explosion ripped through a mosque inside an Afghan Army base in the country's volatile eastern Khost province as Friday prayers were drawing to a close, killing 27 soldiers and wounding 57, the military said.

The blast may have been set off by a suicide bomber or a remotely detonated bomb but nothing was officially confirmed and details were sketchy. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion.

It was the latest in a relentless, near-daily onslaughts in Afghanistan, where the Taliban regularly target Afghan military and police forces throughout the country.

"There were soldiers lying everywhere and the smoke was so thick, it was difficult to see," said Abdullah, a spokesman at the base. Like most Afghans, he

uses only one name. He spoke to The Associated Press over the phone from the base.

The dead and wounded were rushed to a clinic within the army base, while the more seriously wounded were taken to a nearby hospital.

Sakhi Sardar, head of the hospital in Khost said most of the wounded were being treated for devastating shrapnel wounds.

The explosion came just days after a suicide bomber killed 55 religious scholars gathered in the Afghan capital, Kabul, to celebrate the holiday marking the birth of Islam's Prophet Muhammad. The Taliban denied involvement in that bombing, which also wounded 94 people.

After 17 years and billions of dollars spent training and arming Afghanistan's military, it is struggling against an emboldened Taliban insurgency that holds sway in nearly half of the country. As well as the Taliban, Afghan troops are also battling an audacious Islamic State affiliate which has been particularly brutal in

its attacks against Afghanistan's minority Shiites.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan on Friday, hundreds of protesters blocked roads in northern Parwan province to denounce the death of three people who they say were civilians, killed in an operation against the Taliban earlier on Friday.

The protesters said the operation by Afghan special forces involved a NATO airstrike in the Jebul Siraj district that killed the three.

However, NATO spokeswoman US Sgt 1st Class Debra Richardson said no NATO or American activity took place in Parwan in the past three days. The provincial governor's spokeswoman, Wahida Sakhar, said Parwan officials were negotiating with the protesters and promised an investigation into the incident.

Afghan special forces called in a NATO airstrike during an operation Wednesday against the Taliban in eastern Logar province. Ten people died but it's unclear how many were civilians.

## 'Well-founded' hopes for Afghanistan peace: UN

Geneva: Hopes for peace in Afghanistan are better than they have been in many years, despite a grave humanitarian crisis and persistent violence, a senior United Nations official said on Friday.

The UN's humanitarian chief in the country, Toby Lanzer, told reporters that even though some 3.6 million people are "one step away from famine" and the worst drought in decades has devastated crops, the situation was

not entirely bleak.

"Despite all of this, there are new-found opportunities in Afghanistan, and there are very well-founded hopes for peace," Lanzer said in Geneva, ahead of an international conference on Afghanistan in the Swiss city next week.

"It sounds like a paradox, but there are better opportunities today than there have been in many years for Afghanistan," he added. AFP

# Turkey says Trump turning a 'blind eye' to Khashoggi murder

AFP ■ ANKARA

Turkey on Friday said US President Donald Trump intended to turn a "blind eye" to Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder after he said it would not affect Washington's ties with Riyadh.

Trump's backing of Saudi Arabia, his key ally against Iran, comes despite global outrage over the grisly October 2 killing that has tarnished the image of both the kingdom and its de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

"In one sense, Trump is saying 'I will turn a blind eye' no matter what happens," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in an interview with CNN Turk broadcaster.

"This is not the right approach. Money doesn't mean everything," Cavusoglu said, referring to Trump's continued support for Saudi Arabia, which has committed billions of dollars in US weapons contracts.

Trump on Tuesday glossed over the Central Intelligence Agency's reported conclusion that the crown prince had authorised the killing.

"Maybe he did and maybe he didn't," Trump said, implying Prince Mohammed's culpability in Khashoggi's killing in the Saudi mission in Istanbul.

Trump was widely pilloried



Western partners.

Germany on Monday said Berlin would bar 18 Saudis from entering its territory and Europe's Schengen passport-free zone over their alleged links to the murder.

In October, Germany called for EU countries to follow its lead and suspend arms sales to Saudi Arabia, prompting a dismissive response from France, the kingdom's second-biggest customer after India.

But Denmark on Thursday followed suit, freezing all sales of weapons and military equipment to Riyadh.

Cavusoglu said "artificial measures" would not help solve the crisis.

"They (Europe) say they don't want to upset ties with Saudi Arabia. We do not want to upset our relations either," he said, but added Ankara would do anything to shed light on the murder.

Turkey insists the murder was premeditated, sharing evidence with Riyadh as well as with the US and Western allies but stops short of pointing the finger of blame at the prince.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said the order came from "the highest levels" but not from King Salman.

Ankara has not ruled out the possibility of a meeting between Erdogan and Prince Mohammed on the sidelines of the G20 meeting in Argentina next week.

**Govt. of Bihar**  
Office of The Executive Engineer  
Construction Division No-2, B.C.D., Patna  
Corrigendum  
Only on [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in).

With reference to NIT No.-06/Const 2/2018-19 Construction of IV Grade Type "A" Staff quarter at Shastrinagar Patna published in News Paper PR No.-10552 (B.C.D.) 2018-19 of this office it is notified that Downloading date, Uploading date, pre Bid meeting & Technical Bid Opening date has been Change as given below:-

- Last date and time of sale(download) of B.O.Q : From 26-11-2018 to 17-12-2018 upto 14:00 HOURS  
Only on [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in).
- Last date and time of submission(upload) of Tender : 18-12-2018 upto 15:00 HOURS  
Only on [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in).
- Date, Time & Place of Pre-Bid meeting (i) 12-12-2018 15:00 Hours at CE(Patna) Office,BCD,VisheswaraiaBhawanPatna.
- (a) Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid : 19-12-2018 16:00 HOURS  
(b) Date and time of opening of financial bid : After decision of Technical bid

**Other Conditions will remain same.**

**Executive Engineer,**  
Construction Division No-2, BCD, Patna  
PR.11753 ( B C D ) 2018-19 कम उम्र की शादी रोके, जीवन की बर्बादी रोके।

## Migrants defy Trump at Mexico border as US forces flex muscle

AFP ■ TIJUANA (MEXICO)

Hundreds of Central American migrants staged a boisterous demonstration on the US Mexico border on Thursday, screaming for President Donald Trump to let them in as US soldiers and riot police put on a menacing show of force.

The increased tension over the presence of a thousands-strong migrant caravan came as Trump marked Thanksgiving Day by threatening to close the border if he thinks Mexico has lost control of it. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic at the busy San Ysidro crossing came to a halt for 40 minutes as dozens of US police wearing helmets and holding rifles formed a line facing the Mexican side of the frontier.

Separately, riot police rehearsed deployment movements. US Customs and Border Protection called all of this a "large-scale readiness exercise."

American soldiers in khaki-coloured uniforms set off rockets that exploded with a pungent-smelling white smoke. Helicopters hovered overhead.

Trump has already deployed nearly 6,000 troops along the border and he threatened to go even further.

"If we find that it gets to a level where we are going to lose control or where people are going to start getting hurt, we will close entry into the country for a period of time until we can get it under control," Trump told reporters, before firing a warning to Mexico.

"The whole border. I mean the whole border," he said, adding that "Mexico will not be able to sell their cars into the United States."

At almost the same time as the police and troop exercise, at another nearby border crossing called El Chaparral, Central American migrants from the caravan emptying into Tijuana defied the president with a loud rally.

**Govt of Bihar**  
**PATNA SMART CITY LIMITED**  
(SPV formed by Government of Bihar & Patna Municipal Corporation)  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
Dated-19.11.2018

NIT No.- 22/MD/PSCL/2018  
Patna Smart City Ltd. (PSCL) is an SPV formed by Bihar Government & Patna Municipal Corporation for planning and implementation of Patna Smart City Project. PSCL invites Request for Proposal for "Redevelopment of Railway Station Area" near Patna Junction Railway Station under Smart City Mission. Important dates for the RFP are as under.

Sl. No.	Activity	Timeline & Address
1	Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From 29.11.2018 (10:00 Hrs) Till 21.12.2018 (14:00Hrs) ( <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> ) (Under Patna Nagar Nigam)
2	Pre-bid Meeting date (Only two members per bidder are allowed).	07-12-2018 (15:00 Hrs.) (At Patna Municipal Commissioner's Office, Patna)
4	Last date for submission of Bids (online) and hard copy.	22-12-2018 Till 15:00 Hrs
5	Opening of Bids	22-12-2018 At 16:00 Hrs
6	Date of opening of Commercial bids	To be informed later to technically qualified bidder.
7	Estimated Project Cost	Rs.225,00,00,000/- (Rupees Two Hundred and Twenty Five Crores Only)
8	Cost of Bidding Document(Tender Fee)	Tender Fee Rs. 10,000 (Non Refundable) to be paid through online mode on <a href="https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON">https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON</a> .
9	EMD	Rs.2,35,00,000/- (Rupees TwoCroresand T hirty F ive Lakhs Only) (Refundable), in the form of Bank Guarantee (BG).

**Instructions for Online Bid Submission**

- The RFP document containing the project profile, invitation for qualification and criteria for evaluation may be obtained from the website: [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) (Under Patna Nagar Nigam)
- For support related to e-tendering process, bidders may contact at following address "e-Procurement HELP DESK, First Floor, Plot No.- M/22, Road No.-25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Bank of India Compound, Patna-800001, Contact No: 0612-2523006; 7542028164". Vendor may visit [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in).
- PSCL will not be responsible, in case of any delay, due to any reason whatsoever, in receipt of Bid Documents by the Bidders.
- The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids or cancel/withdraw the Invitation for Bids (IFB) without assigning any reason whatsoever and in such case, no Bidder/intending Bidder shall have any claim arising out of such action.

**Address:** Patna Municipal Corporation, 2nd floor, Block-C, Mauryalok Complex, Budha marg, Patna-800001, Tel: 0612-2200634 Email: [patnasmartcity.psc@gmail.com](mailto:patnasmartcity.psc@gmail.com) Website [www.patnanagarnigam.in](http://www.patnanagarnigam.in)

ई-निविदा के नियम, शर्तें, अहंता, विशिष्टियाँ एवं ई-टेंडरिंग से संबंधित विशेष जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट <http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है तथा मुख्य नगर अभियंता, पटना नगर निगम, पटना के कार्यालय में संपर्क किया जा सकता है।  
Note:-वेबसाइट <http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in> पर Department Name में Patna Municipal Corporation को Select करनेपर ही ई-निविदा को देखा जा सकता है।  
For queries & Clarifications, send E-mail to [patnasmartcity.psc@gmail.com](mailto:patnasmartcity.psc@gmail.com)

PR No. 11852 (Ni.Ni.) 2018-19 अवैध शराब एवं मादक द्रव्य के संबंध में शिकायत टॉल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें  
Managing Director,  
Patna Smart City Limited, Patna

## Ebola in Congo now infecting newborn babies: WHO

AP ■ LONDON

The World Health Organisation says a worrying number of the newest Ebola cases amid Congo's ongoing outbreak are in patients not usually known to catch the disease: babies.

In an update published this week, the UN health agency reported 36 new confirmed cases of Ebola, including seven in newborn babies and infants younger than 2 years old. Six cases were reported in children aged between 2 and 17 and one case was in a pregnant woman.

While Ebola typically infects adults, as they are most likely to be exposed to the lethal virus, children have been known in some instances to catch the disease when they act as caregivers. Few cases of Ebola in babies have been reported, but experts suspect transmission might happen via breast milk or close contact with infected parents. Ebola is typically spread by infected bodily fluids.

WHO noted that health centers have been identified as a source of Ebola transmission, with injections of medications "a notable cause." WHO called Congo's current epidemic "complex and challenging."

Congo's health ministry says there are 346 confirmed cases, including 175 deaths, in what has become the worst Ebola outbreak in the country's recorded history.

The outbreak has been plagued by security problems, with health workers attacked by rebels in districts where the virus has been spreading.

Earlier this month, Ebola containment operations were paused after seven UN peacekeepers and 12 Congolese soldiers were killed, but all activities have resumed.

The increasing number of cases in children and health workers — 39 health workers have been infected to date — suggests outbreak responders are having major problems stopping the virus in health clinics and convincing people to seek help when they develop symptoms. This is the first time this part of Congo has faced an Ebola outbreak.

WHO said the risk of the outbreak spreading to neighbouring countries remains "very high" but it does not recommend travel restrictions. Uganda this month started vaccinating health workers against Ebola in a heavily traveled border district near the outbreak.



SHORT CIRCUITS



GOVINDA

I don't see any controversial scenes which are there in the film (*Rangela Raja*). It has been deliberately done to stop release of the film and it's not a good environment in the film industry to release it. I have started my film career with Pahlaj Nihalani's film, so I hope this film gets released without any difficulties.



MITHILA PALKAR

Initially it took me time to realise that I am sharing screen space with Irrfan Khan. But when we started working, I'd end up laughing a lot of times. I have never been to an acting school and on the sets of *Karvaan*, Irrfan was my acting school. By observing him, I learnt to improvise in the scenes along with focussing on the smallest of the details.



TAAPSEE PANNU

I am very happy with the way the audience has received the film (*Mulk*) but at the same time disturbed with the way some communities are picked out and targeted by the society. I took up the film to stand up for them and initiate a change. I hope people realise and step against it creating a difference.



CLAUDIA KIM

Everyone gets their story. Before Hollywood, I took a break to think about whether I belong in the industry or I should be listening to other people. Also with my identity, being Korean, not American, I had to take time to think about things, that these insecurities could work better and be a blessing.

SYLVESTER STALLONE

I had a feeling about Florian (Munteanu). It's very hard to get the whole package when you're casting a role like this. We could find big guys who could fight but couldn't act. Or guys who looked great but couldn't fight. Florian is unique.



ENCOUNTER 30 MINUTES

THE PHILOSOPHER BARD

Singer, composer, actor LUCKY ALI is involved not just with his music but with the larger universe around him, says SAIMI SATTAR



Photo: Panikaj Kumar

It has to have spirit and that alone will call out to me," says sagely singer, songwriter, composer and actor Lucky Ali about the reason why he decided to sing a song. He is dressed in a long black overcoat with a matching T-shirt inside, brown trousers and grey shoes, while his shoulder length salt and pepper hair blows in the wind as he stands on the terrace of a radio channel.

For anyone growing up in the 90s, Ali's songs featured prominently in the play list. But it was this preponderance that made the gaps when he dropped off the radar felt more acutely. Ali, who was named Maqsood Ali by his actor father Mehmood, says, "For me, music is not a profession. It is a serious hobby and I want to keep it like that. Because the moment it becomes a business, you lose the love of it. You start working for different purposes and I don't want to do that. The joy that I get from what I do and the form that I do gives me that energy that I wanted in the first place when I started out." So in between making music, he could be going to the mountains, travelling abroad and 'chin wagging'.

"I like to talk about things that are relevant. There is a lot to do and very less time," he says as he places his hand on his head to tame his unruly hair which is swept by the wind.

While travel does influence his music and he is often on a globe trot, he feels that he has not gone around the globe as much as he wants to. "I haven't gone to Antarctica or the Arctic region. But travelling opens up your perspective even if you go from your home to the next village."

Ali believes that his songs are not about nostalgia. "They are about what I hope to see, what I will see and what I will make possible to see because that is what I have told myself," he says.

The 60-year-old, who will be playing at the two-day Riders Music Festival in the capital is not a hardcore biker but does like riding as was often seen in many of his music videos. He says, "The kind of music that I play here or any other concert depends on the mood. There is no set format. Our music changes from concert to concert." Just like his set list is not fixed, neither is his process of composing music. "There is no

process that I will sit down and write. It can happen any time, even just now. It depends on the moment. It mainly happens when I am in love," he says.

And that is one of the reasons why he disappears time to time from the scene of music-making. "If I find that there is no love in a place, I just leave."

While his last film collaboration was *Safarnama* from *Tamasha*, he is currently working on an Indian-Israeli collaboration. "These guys researched me. I didn't even understand that they listen to our music but they did. They sent one of their top artists and we recorded an album called *Himala* which is set for release world over."

Ali has his reasons from staying away from the music industry, especially the Hindi film industry, which he thinks has "devoled" rather than evolving. "I was not there to see the changes but I know whatever they are doing is not working for anyone there probably because of the way they perceive it. It is not organic. If it was, people would subsist and a lot more musicians would come out to express themselves. There is so much of great music outside which has not been discovered and I am fortunate to be playing with them."

His special groove is reserved especially for film music which he feels is 'dead'. Ali says, "They killed all the musicians, the violinists that formed a part of the industry. Everything is a cut and paste job which is stolen from here and there. If the music belongs to someone else's spirit, you can't just take it," says Ali and goes on to add, "Art is not about money. That is just a by-product. It is about the music whether we are getting better while playing a riff or while practising."

Ali does not find the Hindi film industry bundled off as Bollywood acceptable to him. "My family was never a part of Bollywood. It was the Hindi film industry that they were part of which died or is half dying. By referring to it as such, people are making it dirtier," says Ali who made his debut with *Chote Nawab* in 1962 directed by his father.

Besides his father, his paternal aunt Minu Mumtaz and maternal aunt Meena Kumari were actors. So didn't acting ever occur to him as a natural choice of career? Ali, who acted in *Sur* and *Kaante*, says, "Of course my family background impacted me. I did not get a break till I was 36. Everywhere that I went, people said that I was Mehmood's son so

I didn't need any work. But my father was a disciplinarian and he did not believe that I was entitled to anything, including driving his cars. I travelled in buses and at the end of the day even gave him details of the money that I spent."

But Ali looks back fondly at the earlier era of film-making. He says, "Some of the current movies are exploring issues and newer ideas but the grandeur of the cinema, where you can get abreast of technologies or ideas, does not happen any more. It happened very early during the time of Bombay Talkies when you had German film directors, directing Hindi films. And look where we have landed now — in Karan Johar's lap."

So while he stays away from music, "the project that I work on mainly is taking care of things that I have. There is a farm and then there are children (he has five from three marriages). You give your time to certain things," he says trailing off.

When asked about his interest in organic farming, Ali replies, "There is nothing organic in my country now. If you are going organic and your neighbour is putting pesticide and that pollen comes on to your farm, how can it be organic? I think our country needs education for us to grasp the potential that we have." Ali goes on to quote the example of Ganga which is only five metres deep now in places while it was 100 metres some 10 years ago. He is concerned about the rapid degradation that is taking place in the country. "The change is very fast and drastic. I walked into Delhi and smelt smoke. I look at this not from a general point of view but as an artiste and it disturbs me sometimes to see the direction that we are headed to. Where are we going? To me, this seems like the end of Kalyug," says the singer who first captured popular imagination with *O Sanam* from the album *Sunoh*, which featured his first wife.

But he does not believe in just expressing his disenchantment but suggesting solutions. Ali believes that the power of changing what is going wrong lies within us. "While the newer things are calling you to the malls, movies and bikes, there is an older self inside you that is telling you about the weather. Nature gives you the best of itself to you but you abuse it, get drunk, do drugs and litter the place." His mantra to break out of it is not to lose your humanity and do things ethically.

CAUSE 20 MINUTES



The unfamiliar revolution

LGBTQ+ activist MOHNISH MALHOTRA tells ASMITA SARKAR how nurturing an often overlooked community can bring them dignity and pride

A mini revolution is afoot on heels, wheels and mobile phones. The LGBTQ+ community is no longer an underground culture but is grabbing the bull by the horns and has begun to enter popular culture. It has also become co-optive of other social groups. "I remember the first time when the drag performance began at Keshav Suri's Kitty Su and Violet Chachki had come, two lawyers told me that they too do drag but in secret. They wanted a chance to showcase their talent as well," said Mohnish Malhotra, organiser of the Delhi Pride Parade and the creative head of a public relations company.

Currently, there are many in contemporary performative artists like Mandeep Raikhy's Gati Dance Forum, Vasu Primlani — an openly gay comedian — and Sushant Divgikar aka Rani Kohinoor, who are making people sit up and take note. In literature, poet Akhil Katyal waxes lyrical about everything from same-sex relationships to Partition and politics. But this recognition and acknowledgement has been hard-earned through decades long struggle. Drag, for instance, was seen as deviance 10-15 years ago

but now Suri works with 30-40 Indian drag queens who earn a decent living, entertain and have star power. The community has risen up to include all minority rights under its purview and demands among the many policy changes, removal of the marital rape exception that affects both heterosexual and homosexual relationships.

"Queer is not just LGBT but maps a large landscape of all minorities whether it's trans, adivasi, Dalit, women or Black people. In the past, we have been affirmative about making a statement and these are movements that are growing in tandem. They are not alone and we are not alone in this," said Malhotra. But how does one make homosexual partners accountable when the marriage is not acknowledged by the law?

"We do discuss these issues. When we were talking about pride, nobody knew that the Supreme Court would actually strike down Section 377. From here, we can only go ahead. Acknowledging is important and we don't know when same sex marriages will be legalised, if it's done in two years or 10. But are we going to quit? No. We are going to do it together."

er," said he.

Among other demands that the Delhi Pride Parade would put forward is seeking legislation on hate crimes. "What we would like is that these cases are taken seriously in the court of law and whatever the law decides we will accept. Most of the cases don't even make it to the FIR stage. It's a very common thing," he said. And he doesn't absolve society from accountability by putting the onus on the judiciary alone. "The Supreme Court advised that the judgment should be sent to government offices, police stations and hospitals. Sensitisation training should be conducted throughout departments, that's step number one. Step two is developing campaigns. That is something I am personally working towards by creating a talk show format web series — *Unfamiliar Families* (UF) — that will be launched at the World Dignity Forum, where the likes of Ted Turner, Leonardo DiCaprio and Al Gore will be present in India. The forum will speak of issues and offer and exchange solutions about what the situation is and how we go about sensitisation. The web series covers real life stories and struggles of people," he said.

Another demand of equal employment opportunities. "As a society, the utmost need is inclusion and empowerment. Even though the third gender identification has been granted by the apex court, the implementation of that has not penetrated the layers of society. Majority of trans-people are still beggars and are engaged in sex work, which is why there is an urgency to create employment with dignity," he said.

On property and healthcare rights of same sex couples, he said, "It's time we look at homogenous policies for all citizens regardless of their sexuality. A lot of private corporates are beginning to offer mediclaim policies to same sex couples already. It's time to extrapolate."

On November 25, the Pride walk will begin from Tolstoy Road at 3 pm in its colourful glory till it reaches Parliament Street, where the stage has been set up for anybody and everybody to voice themselves. To those who find themselves alone and struggling with their identity, he said, "You're not alone and reach out. It might feel like it's lonely but spread your wings and you will find someone to listen to you."

and that's why the show worked in the first place. These people are all really good. You can see that when you watch the show. When I watched the show before I joined the series, I always found it cool. When I started working on the show, I didn't expect it to be as great as it was — but it was phenomenal.

How much have you enjoyed interacting with the fans of the show?

That's been really fun, too. I did my first convention this past summer and I was super nervous about it — but it was one of the most incredible experiences that I've had. It was amazing because there were so many people coming up to me saying things like, 'I love this. I went through this really hard time in my life, but the first time I smiled again was when your face fell off in that first episode.' It's great to hear things like that. What more can you ask for? Forget your worries. Tune it out and enjoy yourself. That's very, very special to me. My experience with the fandom comes down to the fact that they love the show. I grew up as a comic book fan, too. That's what I keep thinking about. I love all this stuff. I'm really excited to be a part of it.

(The Flash Season 5 airs on Colors Infinity every Wednesday at 10 pm.)

DIALOGUE 40 MINUTES

*The Flash* is a fast-paced superhero series that follows the high-speed adventures of Barry Allen (played by Grant Gustin). With season five about to premiere, we catch up with actor Hartley Sawyer — who plays Ralph Dibny in the show — to find out what fans can expect from the epic DC Comics drama...

What is Ralph's main focus in season five of *The Flash*?

In season five, I think Ralph's main focus will be finding his place in the team. Last year, it was all about, 'Am I a hero? Can I do this? Can I not do this?' This year, it's about finding his place and finding out what that means to him and what he can bring to the table.

Where do we find Ralph at the start of the season?

Every year, it's immediately back to business for the team. It's exactly the same for Ralph, too. He's an extremely resilient guy and he's been through a lot but he's going to spend a lot of time figuring out, 'Okay, who am I now?' Who he was last year is very different from who he is now. It wasn't a development from boyhood to manhood but there was definitely some kind of development. It's going

'Relationships make the show successful'

Actor HARTLEY SAWYER's role as Ralph has transitioned from questioning actions to finding oneself. By TEAM VIVA

to be fun to see where he goes next.

Ralph evolved from a down-on-his-luck private detective into a full-on superhero in season four. What challenges will he face now?

Even though he's come so far, people still don't take him seriously, and that's fair. He understands why people don't take him seriously, but he's going to struggle with that because he will want to be taken more seriously as a hero and also as a member of the team. It's easy to write him off, but he has a lot to bring to the table that we haven't explored yet. For example, the detective aspect of the character. That's something I've wanted to explore for a long time. That's something that we're definitely going to get into this year.

Does the mysterious arrival of Nora West-Allen (played by Jessica Parker Kennedy) make Ralph want to use his detective skills?

Well, Ralph's definitely going to get

into that with Nora. He's definitely going to have some questions about what's going on there. He's going to be sceptical of her but not in a malicious way. He'll be thinking, 'Wait, I think there's more here than she's revealing.'

Are fans going to see more of the Ralph and Barry dynamic from last season? At first, the two characters couldn't stand each other but then a bromance blossomed...

We're not going to see too much of them together in the first part of the season because Barry is going to be up to his eyeballs with his daughter, Nora. Barry and Nora will be busy figuring out their relationship. That will be Barry's priority.

What do you think of the relationship between Barry and Ralph?

It's been fun to see them evolve. Barry and Ralph can be more self-sufficient now, although I would love to do more scenes with Grant. Unfortunately, everybody can't



always get loads of time with Barry on the show. It would be nice to see their relationship develop and we'll get to see them together this season, but not as much as last year.

If Barry is going to be busy, who would you like to see Ralph interact with in season five?

There is going to be a lot of Ralph and Caitlin (played by Danielle Panabaker) in season five. I think they have a really discreet relationship and friendship, which is fun. There's also going to be a lot of Ralph and Cisco (played by Carlos Valdes), because they are both bachelors and single. We haven't talked about it, but I would love to see Ralph and Joe West (played by Jesse L Martin) hang out more. There's a lot that could happen there. Joe's known Ralph for a really, really long time. He knows exactly who he is and what he's capable of doing. He was the first person that ever defended Ralph to anybody.

Ralph had a major impact on Joe West, when he was about to cross that line...

That's a great scene. It was so pivotal for the character. That was something that really drew the line in the sand for a lot of viewers. It also drew the line in the sand for me as an actor. I felt, 'Cool, this is going to dig into who this guy really is. There's a lot more there than just the wackiness.' I would love to see more of Ralph's relationship with Joe. I always love working with Jesse. I'd love to see more of them together.

How new does this season feel?

It feels like there's a natural progression towards this season. I know the tone and the scripts change every season but the reason why this show works well is because the people in the cast work well together.

Is that the secret behind the success of the show?

These relationships are always there



IMMERSIVE 60 MINUTES

# WHERE THE MIND IS WITHOUT FEAR

SHABANA BASIJ-RASIKH tells ASMITA SARKAR why setting up a private boarding school for girls in Afghanistan was important

Her parents knew the dangers of sending their daughters, dressed as boys, to school under the rule of Taliban and yet they did it. Back then, Shabana Basij-Rasikh thought them cruel but years later when she was able to go to school openly and without fear she realised how crucial those hours spent in a secret school were. She carries the lesson her parents inculcated in her even today and that gave birth to the idea of School of Leadership Afghanistan (SOLA), a private boarding school for girls, teaching them how to become future leaders.

**What was the turning point of your life because of which you set on the current course of educating women?**  
I spent six years studying in secret during the Taliban years. When the regime was driven out in 2001, girls could go back to school openly but the Taliban had destroyed all student records for girls, so before any of us could return to class, we had to take a placement exam to determine which grade we should enter.

The day we got our exam results back is the day that changed the course of my life. I'd been in the equivalent of 1st grade when the Taliban came and when I got my scores back, I saw that I was going to be placed in the 7th grade but all my fellow 7th graders were six years older than me.

Do you see the significance? I'd been able to study for six years under the Taliban, but these girls hadn't. They'd been in the 7th grade when the Taliban came, and now, six years later, they were going right back into 7th grade. They hadn't had the opportunities that I had. I felt so fortunate, so lucky but maybe more than anything, I felt a sense of duty. I felt that I needed to find a way to ensure that girls wouldn't ever be deprived of the chance to study. It was still several years before I founded SOLA...but certainly, the seeds of our school were planted on that day.

**As a child, were you ever scared of the consequences if you were caught dressed like a boy?**

Oh yes. Absolutely. My sister and I would vary our routes so no one would get suspicious seeing us every day, and we'd sometimes spend up to an hour walking to and from school. I remember we'd come home in tears some evenings. We'd beg our parents not to make us go back to school the next day; we'd say we were scared and didn't want to go. They never listened.

People tell me, sometimes, that they think my sister and I were very brave for doing what we did during those years. I'm going to tell you exactly what I tell those people: I don't think



we were brave. The brave ones were my parents. At the time, of course, I thought my parents were so cruel, but imagine what it would be like to send your daughters to a secret school every day, never knowing when they'd come home or even if they'd come home. But you do it anyway, because you know that education will be the key to a better life for them. My parents taught me to believe in the transformative power of education; quite simply, there would be no SOLA without them.

**What challenges did you face when setting up SOLA?**

I created SOLA a decade ago while I was still a college student. It's been my life's work, and the challenges we faced at that time are in some ways still with us.

Certainly, back in 2008, our chief challenge was convincing our various stakeholders that SOLA, as an educational model, could work: keep in mind that there was no precedent in my country for a private boarding school for girls. We had to convince politicians that our model was effective and scal-

able, we had to convince donors that we could provide our students an education like none other in Afghanistan and maybe most importantly, we had to convince mothers and fathers that their daughters would be safe with us.

Ten years later, we've proven the power of the school's model. It's effective. It works and other organisations within Afghanistan are adapting our model to their own programmes. But there are times even now when I go to meetings with high-level officials in Afghanistan who tell me that the

school is a remarkable accomplishment and then they tell me it's a shame I'm wasting it on girls. We've come a long way, but we're not there yet.

**What are your future plans for SOLA?**

We're entering a very exciting period of growth where we intend to more than double the size of our student body. We have 62 girls in grades six to eight right now, representing 23 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. Our model is to add a new sixth grade class annually. We're in the middle of recruiting 2019's class right now — so that by the year 2022, we'll have roughly 175 girls in grades six to 12, ideally representing all 34 provinces. Parallel with this expansion, we're moving forward with plans to build a new, secure campus in Kabul where our students can learn safely and grow to become Afghanistan's new generation of female leaders.

**How can Asia go forward in giving a safe and nurturing environment to its girls?**

I think the first step is one that sounds quite easy but is in fact quite difficult: we need to make clear that everyone benefits when girls are given a safe environment in which to learn and grow.

I feel that many people look at girls' education purely as a women's issue and I don't think that's the correct view. Girls' education impacts women and girls certainly, but it's profoundly significant in men's lives as well. Educated girls bear fewer and healthier children, earn higher wages, and direct the majority of their earnings back into their families — there are enormous social and economic benefits to these facts, and these are benefits that all of society's members can share. There are other benefits that cross all national borders: recently, an international consortium of climate scientists and policymakers ranked 'educating girls' as the sixth most effective means of reversing climate change, even more effective than rooftop solar panels or electric cars.

More than 25 per cent of Indian girls are married before they turn 18; that number is 33 per cent in Afghanistan, and maybe even higher. Those are remarkable statistics, and ones that should give us pause. Girls who marry at a young age, and who have children at a young age, are extremely unlikely to complete their education, which means that their societies lose out on the extraordinary benefits created by educated women. We can start to change things when we help men realise how important they are in this discussion, and how much their lives will improve when they support and encourage the women and girls in their lives to never stop studying.

*(The educationist will speak at the 10th edition of TEDxGateway on December 2 at the DOME@NSCI Mumbai)*

CONVERSATION 10 MINUTES

## Beyond magic

Actor MANISH GOEL says that there is visible interest in supernatural shows in India. By AYUSHI SHARMA

The roots of black magic are lodged in ancient myth and folklore which continues to be a part of popular consciousness on account of superstitions that are rampant in the society. Despite the emergence of the horror genre, the idea of black magic, which incorporate elements of the supernatural, still remain more popular in Indian entertainment industry, says actor Manish Goel who plays Prithvi Khanna in *Tantra*, Colors latest series offering. It is an occult practise that involves meditation, yoga and is popularly believed to have negative connotations for some brutal rituals.

Weaving in the concept of tantra, the focal point of this story is a house — the Khanna mansion and its members who become unfortunate victims of this practice. While the life of every member of the family is at threat, there is only one soul, Niyati, Prithvi's daughter, who can save her home and family from incurring the wrath of an evil curse.

Manish feels that there is no one who can tell you without a doubt whether magic exists or not. This question has been debated on for a long time and people still cannot come up with a definite answer.

"I believe that there are things which happen and cannot be explained, and it is up to you to decide whether or not to believe the mystical explanations," says the actor who has been a part of shows like, *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki*, *Kasautii Zindagii Kay* and *Nach Baliye*.

Manish's character is a contemporary one. The show seems to delve in the dark art of witchcraft. The actor says, "I play the role of Prithvi Khanna. He is a businessman who builds his dream home after a lot of hard work. However, the spot they select is cursed by witchcraft." He denies that it is an out and out supernatural show. "The serial is a social drama with supernatural elements. It tells the story of Niyati and her father. There is an element of mystery, which will intrigue the viewers. People will see a special father-daughter bond," says Manish.

He adds, "The show has multiple subplots running parallel to each other. The main track is of Prithvi building his dream house and then there is his beautiful relationship with his daughter. Lastly, there is an undercurrent of black magic. However, there is more of *tantra vidya* involved in this show. There's an eye constantly watching the family. You will see how everything starts unfolding when we move forward. Who does it and why



will be revealed."

Despite definite policies in the Anti-Superstition and Black Magic Act of Maharashtra, which criminalise practices related to black magic, there have been a spate of supernatural shows lined up on all channels. The actor says that the TV industry caters to the demand and puts out shows that get the TRPs. Manish opined, "I think there is a definite liking for such shows. There was a time when family dramas ruled which were followed by the serials on social issues. This is the time for supernatural shows. Though I am not in favour of this herd mentality, we can't deny that there is visible interest."

Despite having done so many shows, Manish doesn't get affected when it comes to TRPs and numbers. His main concern is that one should be appreciated for the work they are doing. He also explains, "On TV, women constitute the major part of the audience and TRPs of a TV show largely come from the ladies in the house."

He is a believer that a man has the potential to make or break his own destiny. He has done everything on TV from reality shows to hosting and acting in the fictional shows, but he's still not satisfied. "I want to play Devdas on TV. It's an iconic role. I even have asked my dear friend Sumeet (Mittal, writer, director and producer), about making Devdas for TV. I'll definitely propose it to the channel. It's my dream role, hope I would get to play it someday," he says.

*(The show airs from December 3 at 11 pm.)*

FACTOID 10 MINUTES

## Power of nomenclature

The Oxford English Dictionary has been made more colourful and richer with the addition of words that are Indian in origin

The words of Indian origin in the Oxford English Dictionary span categories such as people and places, food, clothing and accessories, society, wildlife and nature, and so on. Some of the most commonly used Indian words are raita, pashmina, bhelpuri, dal and chutney among others.

The British Council, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary, has released a list of 70 words of Indian origin in the Oxford English Dictionary. The occasion highlights how the English language has evolved with words of Indian origin ranging from a few words that date back to the pre-independence period and many that have been added recently (like bhelpuri, churidar).

There are many points of connection over the centuries in which people, ideas, language, goods and services have moved between Britain and India. The British



Council has been one such point and as we celebrate our 70th year, we are proud to say that we have been inspired by India everyday of those 70 years and hope that in a small way, we inspire young people in both our countries to imagine what the next 70 years could be. Our 70

Words is a momentary reminder of the layers of connection and fluid nature of the English language," said Alan Gemmill OBE, director India, British Council.

"For the cashmere we drape and pyjamas we sleep in; the bangles we wear; the shampoo that

cleans our hair; the cheetahs we watch whose speed we admire; and, the curry and kedgeree we might eat on a verandah — we thank the rich languages of India, and the people who have mixed and shared over the generations of those last four hundred years," he said.

**CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES**  
Bandana, bangle, churidar, cummerbund, pashmina, pyjamas, shawl

**FOOD**  
Bhelpuri, chutney, curry, dal, kedgeree, mulligatawny, raita

**HIGH SOCIETY AND THE STATE**  
Chit, gymkhana, khaki, palanquin, polo, pukka, tiffin

**HOUSE AND HOME**  
Bungalow, chintz, cot, lacquer, shampoo, tank, veranda

**PEOPLE AND PLACES**  
Blighty, calico, cashmere, doolally, dungarees, Jodhpurs, jungle

**PEOPLE AND SOCIETY**  
Mandarin, mogul, pundit, purdah, swami, thug, yaar

**RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY**  
Avatar, dharma, guru, karma, mantra, nirvana, yoga

**TRADE AND THE SEA**  
Atoll, catamaran, cowrie, dinghy, godown, gunny, jute

**WILDLIFE AND NATURE**  
Cheetah, langur, lilac, mongoose, myna, patchouli, teak

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
Cheroot, choky, coir, cushy, loot, punch, roti

TRAVEL 15 MINUTES



## Salman pedals in Arunachal

The superstar has promised to make his next movie in the state

Actor Salman Khan went cycling with Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju in Arunachal Pradesh to promote an adventure festival here.

Rijiju posted a string of photographs and captioned it, "Hearty congratulations to the winners of Dalmia MTB Arunachal Hornbill's Flight 2018 Cycling Race. Hats-off to the para-cyclists, women cyclists and the local participants who competed with some of the top cyclists of the world." Salman was attending the concluding

ceremony of Dalmia MTB Arunachal Hornbill's Flight 2018 and the beginning of Adventure at Mechuka in Arunachal's West Siang District.

The *Dabangg* star donated ₹22 lakh for the event. The 52-year-old star promised to shoot his next film in the scenic state.

Mechuka is about 29 km from India-China border and around 500 km from Arunachal's capital Itanagar.

The actor was first seen cycling in his 1989 film, *Maine Pyar Kiya*.



# SONIA JOINS MARY IN FINAL

Chahal enters summit clash in style by banging Korean opponent in semifinal bout, Simranjeet settles for Silver

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Unheralded Sonia Chahal stormed into the finals of Women's World Boxing Championships by outclassing her North Korean opponent Jo Son Hwa but Simranjit Kaur had to settle for a Bronze after losing the semifinal bout here on Friday.

The 21-year-old Sonia, who began competing at the senior level only since 2016, registered a unanimous 5-0 win over her more fancied North Korean opponent, a Silver medallist in the Jakarta Asian Games, in the 57kg semifinals to reach the final in her debut World Championships.

The rookie boxer joins Mary Kom (48kg) in Saturday's finals.

Simranjit lost to fleet-footed Chinese Dan Dou, a Silver medallist in the Asian Championships last year, on a split 4-1 decision in her first World Championships.

Sonia now faces Wahner Ornella Gabriele of Germany in the final on Saturday. The Haryana boxer can fancy her chances as Gabriele does not have a big reputation.

Seeking a historic sixth Gold, Mary Kom will take on Ukraine's Hanna Okhota in the 48kg summit bout on Saturday.

Assam boxer Lovlina Borgohain had won a Bronze in 69kg after los-

ing her semifinal bout on Thursday.

For Sonia, who hails from Bhiwani district in Haryana, it was a stupendous achievement to reach the World Championships final with little experience under her belt.

She began her boxing career in 2011 when she was 14 and rose through the ranks by competing at the school and sub-junior levels. She first won a senior level medal in 2016. Last year, she won a Gold in Serbia Cup and bagged a Bronze in the Ahmet Comert tournament in Turkey earlier this year.

With two Bronze medals already won and two Gold medal bouts yet to come, India has produced its best ever show since the 2008 edition when the country won 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze.

That time also, two Indians were in the final and two were beaten in the semifinals.

India can beat this 2008 performance if both Mary Kom and Sonia win a Gold each on Saturday.

India's best performance ever was the eight medals, including four Gold, it won in 2006. After that, India won four medals in 2008, two in 2010, one in 2012, two in 2014 and one in 2016.

Sonia was slow to start but soon picked up steam. She was particularly aggressive in the third round and clearly dominated the semifinal bout



Sonia Chahal celebrates after beating her opponent 5-0 in women boxing semi final

in the end.

Both the boxers showed their attacking intent in the first round itself and they exchanged quite a few punches. In the second round, Sonia tried to seize control of the bout and threw a flurry of punches but still the North Korean held her ground.

The third round, however, clearly went Sonia's way. On the advice of the coaches, she went all out and the North Korean was at the receiving end.

"I have never imagined that I will reach the final. But it is happening and I am in the World Championships final at such a young age. I am doing this in front of my home crowd. I am very happy," Sonia said later.

"My coaches said my opponent won the first round and it was an even affair in the second round and so I have to be aggressive in the third if I have to win the bout. So I changed my game and played aggressive in the third round with 1-2."

Asked about her opponent in the final on Saturday, she said, "My opponent in the final is a hard-hitting boxer and I have to plan accordingly. I want to win the gold in front of my home crowd."

For Simranjit, it was a tough job from the beginning as she was trailing in the first two rounds. She had to go all out in the final round which she won but that was not enough to win the bout.

"It was a tough fight. Chinese boxers are very quick and I was having problems in catching her," she said.

"The first round was not mine and the second round was also very tough. So, the coaches told me to go all out in the third round. I did that but it was not enough."

Asked if she was satisfied with the result, she said, "Yes, it is all right. The result could have gone either way. I have no issues."

"This is my first World Championships and I won a Bronze. I have to be satisfied with this."



## Dipa qualifies for Vault Final

**NEW DELHI:** Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar qualified for the Vault Finals but B Aruna Reddy suffered a knee injury to end her campaign in disappointment at the Artistic Gymnastics World Cup in Cottbus, Germany.

Dipa, who had an injury-marred campaign at the Asian Games, scored 14.100 to finish at the 6th place out of 16 gymnasts in the qualification.

However, Aruna, who had won a Bronze medal in the women's individual vault event at the Melbourne World Cup, hurt her knee during the first vault and was ruled out of the competition.

Aruna was going to perform a higher difficulty vault. In warm up, she was confident but unfortunately during the competition, her landing was little early and it hurt her knee. So she didn't perform the second vault," Gymnastic Federation of India (GFI) president said.

Among Indian men gymnasts, Rakesh Patra scored 14.000 points on the Rings and finished at the 14th place out of 29 gymnasts, while Ashish couldn't produce his best, signing off at the 24th spot out of 37 gymnasts with a score of 13.200.

The second day of the competition will see Dipa on Beam, Rakesh on Parallel Bars and Ashish on Vault.

The Cottbus event is part of an eight-event qualifying system for the 2020 Olympics under which the gymnasts will make the cut based on their top three scores.

## Sameer, Saina enter Syed Modi semis

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Sameer Verma stayed on course for his title defence while three-time former champion Saina Nehwal too reached the semifinals with an easy win at the Syed Modi International World Tour Super 300 tournament here on Friday.

Besides Sameer and Saina, Ashwini Ponnappa and Satwik Rankireddy too notched up twin victories to keep India's title hopes alive in all the three doubles categories.

Sameer, who won the Swiss Open and Hyderabad Open this year, eked out a 21-18, 16-21, 21-11 win over China's Zhou Zeqi and will square off against Indonesian Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo in the semifinals.

Saina, who claimed a second Gold at Commonwealth Games and an Asian Games Bronze this season, beat former national champion Rituparna Das 21-19, 21-14 to set up a meeting with Indonesia's Ruselli Hartawan.

In men's doubles, Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty defeated Chinese combination of Ou Xuanyi and Ren Xiangyu 15-21, 21-19, 21-17 to set up a semifinal clash with London Olympics Silver medalists Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen of Denmark.



Sameer Verma and Saina Nehwal play badminton during the Syed Modi International tournament.

Feng Xueying next.

Ashwini too combined with her women's doubles partner N Sikki Reddy to prevail 19-21, 21-8, 21-18 over Indonesia's Tania Oktaviani Kusumah and Vania Arianti Sukoco. The duo will square off against Russian pair of Ekaterina Bolotova and Alina Davletova.

However, there was disappointment in store in men's singles as former two-time champion Parupalli Kashyap and 2017 Singapore Open champion B Sai Praneeth bowed out after suffering contrasting defeats.

Kashyap went down 16-21, 19-21 to eighth seeded Thai Sitthikom Thammasin, while Praneeth's fight ended with a 10-21, 21-19, 14-21 loss to sixth seeded Chinese Lu Guangzu in another quarterfinal.

Young Sai Uttejitha Rao Chukka also showed the stomach to fight as she went down 9-21, 21-19, 12-21 to former Olympic champion Li Xuerui.

## India among favourites to win title: Spain's coach

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Spain's head coach Frederic Soyez believes the men's hockey World Cup will be evenly-contested with more than seven teams vying for a medal but said India will be among the favourites to lift the championship trophy.

Spain, ranked No 8 in the World, arrived Friday afternoon for the hockey World Cup to be held from November 28 to December 16 at the Kalinga Stadium here.

"I think this will be a very closely contested event with more than six to seven teams on par with each other fighting for a medal," said Soyez.

"Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Australia and India will be good contenders for Championship Title," he added.

Grouped in Pool A along with Olympic Champions Argentina, New Zealand and France, Spain will begin their campaign on November 29.

"We have had good preparations for



Frederic Soyez poses for a photo

this tournament. We are focused on our first game, and it is important to do well in the Group stage. We have played at the Kalinga Stadium last year and the atmosphere here is electrifying," said Soyez.

China, who are grouped with England, Australia and Ireland in Pool B, also arrived early morning.

England and New Zealand will arrive late night the Biju Patnaik International Airport here.

## SINGLES

IND A TOIL ON OPENING DAY AGAINST NZ

**NEW DELHI:** Will Young scored an unbeaten 117, steering New Zealand A to 221 for five against India A on the opening day of the second unofficial Test here on Friday. India A captain Karun Nair opted to field but he did not get the early wickets he was hoping for. The three India A pacers - Rajneesh Gurbani (2/36), Mohammed Siraj (2/26) and Navdeep Saini (1/66) - shared the five wickets amongst themselves. From 100 for two, the visitors bounced back to make it 141 for five before an unbeaten 80-run stand between Young and Theo van Woerkom (32 batting) helped New Zealand regain control of the innings. The opening unofficial Test of the three-match series had ended in a draw. Australia-bound India Test players like Ajinkya Rahane, Murali Vijay, Hanuma Vihari, Prithvi Shaw and Parthiv Patel had taken part in the game. They are all now preparing in Sydney ahead of the first Test beginning December 6 at Adelaide.

INJURED NGIDI TO MISS PAK SERIES

**CAPE TOWN:** South African fast bowler Lungi Ngidi will miss all South Africa's matches against Pakistan this season after suffering a knee injury. In a statement on Friday, Cricket South Africa said Ngidi, 22, had sustained a right knee ligament injury while fielding in a Twenty20 international against Australia last week. Team manager and doctor, said investigations and assessments on his return to South Africa had revealed a "significant" injury which will require a minimum of 12 weeks rest and rehabilitation. Ngidi will miss three Tests, five one-day internationals and three Twenty20 internationals during Pakistan's tour between December 24 and February 6.

ALCACER SET TO SIGN DORTMUND DEAL

**DORTMUND:** In-form Prajnesh Gunneswaran dished out yet another impressive performance to make the semifinals of the KPIT-MSLTA Challenger, taming Alexander Nedovysov in straight sets, here on Thursday. Prajnesh tackled the seasoned Kazakh, who once figured in top-100 but is now 186, with ease, winning 6-4, 6-4 in one hour and 23 minutes at the \$ 50,000 hard court tournament. Prajnesh stood out with his fluent stroke-making, specially with his free-flowing forehand which is his biggest weapon. Earlier, Brayden Schnur prevailed in a tense marathon match against Frederico Ferreira Silva 7-6(4), 2-6, 7-5 after battling hard for two hours and 26 minutes. It was a nerve-wracking contest with both the players playing solid from the baseline. In another intense quarterfinal, third seed Elias Ymer had to dig deep to tame German qualifier Sebastian Fanselow 5-7 6-3 6-4.

KANTE SIGNS NEW CHELSEA DEAL

**LONDON:** Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante has signed a new five-year contract at Stamford Bridge, the Premier League club announced on Friday. The France international, signed from Leicester in the summer of 2016, has been an ever-present in the league for Maurizio Sarri's side this season. "N'Golo Kante has today extended his stay at Stamford Bridge by signing a new five-year contract," Chelsea said on their official website. Kante, 27, who won the World Cup with France in Russia in July, said: "I'm happy to extend my time with Chelsea. It has been two beautiful years and I wish for more to come. Kante, whose new deal will keep him at Chelsea until 2023, signed a five-year contract when he joined the club in 2016 for a fee reported to be around £30 million (\$38.5 million).

MANE PENS LONG-TERM CONTRACT

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool forward Sadio Mane has signed a new long-term contract with the Premier League giants, the club announced on Thursday. The 26-year-old joined Jurgen Klopp's side from Southampton in June 2016, and has scored 40 goals for Liverpool, forming a deadly frontline alongside Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah. "I am very happy, very happy to extend my time at Liverpool," Mane said. "It is a great day for me and now I am looking forward to everything — to helping the team, to helping the club achieve our dreams and, especially, to win trophies. "For me, I have made the best decision in my career."

Agencies



Atletico Madrid players train during practice session ahead of their La Liga clash against Barcelona

## Atletico look to leapfrog Barca

AFP ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid have a chance to take advantage of a topsy-turvy La Liga campaign when they host champions Barcelona on Saturday with the chance to take top spot this weekend despite their own patchy form.

Diego Simeone's side are just a point behind leaders Barca despite having drawn five times and lost once, together as many matches as they have won. They are battling to overtake Barca alongside Sevilla and surprise package Alaves, who are both level on 23 points with Atletico.

Alaves, promoted in 2016, finished 14th last term but will go top if they win away at Leganes on Friday night, while Sevilla could potentially be leaders on Sunday night despite languishing in 13th place in September.

Even Real Madrid are in touch, just four points back despite having gone more than eight hours without a goal at one point and having been without a permanent coach for two weeks before Santiago Solari was upgraded from interim to full-time boss.

Atletico may have put a miserable start behind them but last month, they suffered their heaviest defeat under Diego Simeone, a 4-0 loss to Borussia Dortmund. Before the international break, they needed two goals in the last 10 minutes to beat Athletic Bilbao.

The last time Atleti prevailed over Barca in the league was 2010, when they had Spain keeper David de Gea in goal and Argentina striker Sergio Aguero up front.

Lionel Messi proved the difference in March with a bending free-kick, and in the summer too for Antoine Griezmann, who decided he would be better off in the lead role he holds with Atletico rather than playing second fiddle at Barca.

There will be a battle of old against new in midfield, where Sergio Busquets, 30, goes up against Rodri Hernandez, eight years his junior.

Any result at the Wanda Metropolitano will benefit sixth-placed Real Madrid, whose first game with Santiago Solari as their permanent coach comes at Eibar early Saturday afternoon.

Four wins, 15 goals scored and only two conceded point to nothing less than a transformation, which gave Madrid president Florentino Perez an easy solution to fill the vacancy left open by the sacking of Julen Lopetegui.

Solari has a kind run of fixtures until Christmas, broken only by a league clash against Valencia and Roma in the Champions League next week, which gives his side the chance to re-emerge as serious challengers to Barca's crown.

## Drogba picks Mbappe for Ballon d'Or

HARSHIT BISHT ■ NEW DELHI

Chelsea great Didier Drogba feels French wonder kid Kylian Mbappe should win prestigious Ballon d'Or trophy this year on the back of his tremendous performance at the World Cup in Russia, where the 19-year old played a major role to help France lift its second world title.

"It would be nice to see Kylian Mbappe winning it this time. It would be refreshing," Drogba, who finished on the fourth spot in 2007 said during the promotional tour as global ambassador of Yokohama Tyres, a sponsor of the English Premier League side Chelsea.

However, the 40-year old star striker, who announced his retirement from football on Thursday heaped praise on ever so shining Cristiano Ronaldo and feels the Juve man is still there and could be one of the possible one challenging for it.

"I think Ronaldo is still there. You know, he is still the machine and has won UCL. He changed league to go to Juventus, and still scoring goals. The man is just Unbelievable."

The Ivory Coast great, who spent nine years at Stamford Bridge in two spells, feels that it was the right time to bid goodbye to his illustrious career, where he won four premier league titles in England along with Champions League glory in 2012.

Sharing about the best memory of his 20 years in top flight, the veteran said that the Champions League win at Munich against hosts Bayern Munich was the finest moment of his career and he wants it to happen every day.

"Most memorable moment for me as a player, I think was winning the champions league. It was a totally different experience and the celebration with the fans when we come back to



London was unforgettable. It was an amazing day for us.

In the final of the 2011-12 season at Allianz Arena, the ace striker first brings Chelsea on level terms after a late equalizer in the 88th minute of the game and then converted the decisive penalty to help English club win it's only European Championship.

The former Blues was also full of praise for his former Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho, who is facing a lot of criticism after Manchester United's struggling form in the English top flight.

Speaking about him, he said, "I can only speak well about him. I think if you know me at Chelsea it is because of him. He decided to sign me and to give me a chance to play in one of the biggest clubs in the world."

On being asked about, who's better among Messi, Ronaldo, and Neymar, he said that there's no comparison between the three as they have achieved a lot in their career and he would like to have them all in his team.

"Well, I would never compare those three players because they are different, they are all very talented. Messi and Ronaldo have won everything and Neymar is possibly going to win everything if he continues like this. So I think the best answer is I would love to have all three in my team."

Discussing his future goals, he said that he hasn't thought about it yet but is open to some interesting projects in the coming future.

It is widely believed that he may soon follow the footsteps of his former colleagues Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard and Thierry Henry's footsteps, who are now starring in their second stint as managers.

However, he has ruled out the possibility of coming out of retirement and playing in the Indian Super League, saying there is nothing left for him to achieve in his illustrious career.



# All-round England, Australia set final date

Once again, England crush India's dream of lifting maiden world title by beating below par Eves by 8 wickets to enter World T20 final

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

India's dreams of winning a maiden global title lay in tatters after a questionable omission and an inexplicable batting collapse saw them crash to an eight-wicket defeat against England in the semi-finals of the ICC Women's World T20.

Reigning ODI World Champions England will now meet Australia in the summit clash after the Southern Stars beat defending champions West Indies by 72 runs.

India decided to leave their senior most player Mithali Raj, a move that will certainly be questioned, after India lost their last eight wickets for 24 runs to end up scoring a below-par 112 in 19.3 overs.

It was a walk in the park for England as seasoned campaigners Amy Jones (53 no, 47 balls) and Natalie Sciver (52 off 40 balls) added 92 runs for the unbroken third-wicket stand to finish the match in only 17.1 overs.

It was yet another story of Indian women not showing enough temperament during big match days, having lost the 50-over World Cup final to England at Lord's last year and the Asia Cup T20 final to Bangladesh, earlier this year.

As many as seven players failed to get double digit scores and the spin-attack was unable to adapt to a different surface at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium after playing all their matches at Providence in Guyana.

On a track where the ball wasn't coming on to the bat, it was the Englishwomen, who came up trumps with left-arm spinners Kirstie Gordon (2/20 in 4 overs) and Sophie Ecclestone



AE Jones and Natalie Sciver hug each other after England beat India in the second semifinal of Women's T20 World Cup at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda

(2/22 in 3.2 overs) varied the pace of their deliveries, something their Indian counterparts completely failed.

Skipper Heather Knight's off-breaks also came in handy as she had the best figures of 3 for 9 in two overs as none of India's middle and lower-order batters could force the pace.

Once Smriti Mandhana (33, 24 balls), Jemimah Rodrigues (26 off 26 balls) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (16, 20 balls) were dismissed, there wasn't any Plan B with Veda Krishnamurthy completely out of form and Deepti Sharma (7, 10 balls) in-

capable of hitting big shots. Poor game sense of not reading the pitch also played its part as most of the Indian batswomen charged at the deliveries rather than playing deep inside the crease.

That was the ploy that Jones and Sciver deployed while facing the Indian spin quartet, who were below average on the day.

At Guyana, it was a slow track where the ploy of taking pace off the deliveries worked for the likes of Poonam Yadav (0/29 in 4 overs), Deepti (1/24 in 4 overs) and Anuja Patil (0/27 in 3.1 overs).



English batswoman plays a shot during second semifinal match against India

## Australia thrash Windies to reach final

AFP ■ NORTH SOUND

Australia dethroned the West Indies and booked a place in Saturday's Women's World Twenty20 final with a crushing 71-run victory in the first semi-final on Thursday at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.

Stunned by the Caribbean side in the 2016 final in Kolkata, the three-time champions were at their most ruthless to the dismay of a huge home crowd as they reached 142 for five batting first on a turgid pitch and then routed the West Indies for just 71 off 17.3 overs.

Australia will face England in Saturday's championship match at the same venue.

Put in to bat on a pitch where the experienced three-time former champions found free scoring difficult, the Aussies were indebted again to the prolific Alyssa Healy, the opening batter top-scoring with 46 to earn her fourth 'Player of the Match' award in five games so far in this tournament.

Healy and captain Meg Lanning produced the best partnership of the innings, putting on 51 for the second wicket.

After Healy fell to leg-spinner Afy Fletcher and Lanning was bowled by all-rounder Deandra



Dottin, Rachael Haynes struck a flurry of boundaries to reach an unbeaten 25 off 15 balls to give her side a fighting chance against the title-holders.

West Indian hopes of a strong reply evaporated in the early overs of their innings with openers Hayley Matthews and Dottin dismissed cheaply.

Matthews was run out by wicketkeeper Healy while champion seamer Ellyse Perry accounted for Dottin, adding the scalp of Shemaine Campbelle to finish with the outstanding figures of two for two from two overs.

She was not required by Lanning to return to the attack as the rest of the West Indies batting folded meekly, only captain Stafanie Taylor (16) getting into double-figures as all the bowlers shared in the rout, with seamer Delissa Kimmince and spinner Ashleigh Gardner also taking two wickets each.

No regrets, decision was for team: Harmanpreet on Mithali's omission

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

The decision to drop a player of Mithali Raj's calibre backfired during India's humiliating semi-final loss to England in the World T20 but skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said that she has "no regrets" as it was decision taken keeping team's interests in mind.

At the toss, Harmanpreet said: "It's not about not selecting Mithali, it's about keeping a winning combination."

The decision was questioned by former England captain Nasser Hussain and former Indian Test player Sanjay Manjrekar on air.

However the Indian skipper defended her decision.

"Whatever we decided, we decided for the team. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, no regrets. I'm proud of the way my girls played through the tournament," Harmanpreet said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Mithali's strike-rate was always an issue but considering that Taniya Bhatia hasn't been able to accelerate and Veda Krishnamurthy in poor form, the decision to drop a seasoned campaigner boomeranged on India.

The skipper said that she wanted someone to bat in the middle-order as Mithali's preferred position is opening and she didn't want to tinker with the combination that won against Australia.

"We did really well against Australia, and that is the reason we just wanted to go with the same combination," she explained at the press conference.

"She (Mithali) opens. We need someone after Smriti (Mandhana) and me who can



bat for us. Sometimes you click, sometimes it doesn't click." Harmanpreet agreed that the team was at least 30 runs short of what could possibly have been a winning target.

"Definitely, it was not enough to tell you, but still I had enough faith that, if we could have bowled better, we could've won the game," said Kaur.

"But it's part of the game sometimes. I think if we had 140-150 then definitely we would have won the game."

The Indian captain termed it as a learning curve for her young team.

"This is a learning for us because we are a young team. Sometimes you have to change your game according to the wicket. England bowled really well, read the wicket really well. It was not an easy total to chase, and our bowlers bowled really well. We stretched the match till the 18th over," Harmanpreet explained.

She did admit that mental strength in big games is an issue and her young team needs to garner a bit more of it.

"I think we are a young team and we still need to work on our mental strength. If we can work on how to play under pressure, that will change how we play these games."

## RANJI TROPHY

KARNATAKA TAKE 3 PTS AGAINST MUMBAI

**Belagavi:** Hosts Karnataka amassed three points on the basis of their crucial first-innings lead as their Elite Group A game against Mumbai ended in a tame draw. Domestic giants Mumbai had to be content with a single point after their batsmen flopped in the first-innings and conceded a huge 195-run lead. Karnataka resumed the day on 81/3 in their second essay and declared their second innings for 170/5 to set a challenging 366-run target for Mumbai. But instead of going for the target, Mumbai batted 64 overs in their second essay with opener Akhil Herwadkar and experienced Surya Kumar Yadav, both scoring 53 each. Meanwhile, at Raipur, the Chhattisgarh versus Railways game too ended in a draw, with Railways grabbing three points on the basis of their first innings lead. The hosts had to settle for one point. At Nadiad, the game between Saurashtra and Gujarat also ended in a draw. But Saurashtra salvaged three points as they took the first-innings lead and Gujarat had to settle with one point. At Nagpur, Vidarbha grabbed three points against Baroda on the basis of their first innings lead as the match ended in a tame draw.

**UTTARAKHAND THRASH SIKKIM**  
**Bhubaneswar:** Uttarakhand jumped to the top of the Plate Group table with a thumping 178-run win over Sikkim on Friday. Overnight 27/2 after following on, Sikkim folded for 140 in just 48.5 overs with Deepak Dhapola claiming 4/44 to help them secure a third win on the trot. Uttarakhand bagged seven including a bonus point to consolidate their position atop the standings with 20 points from three matches. Meghalaya (13 points) also climbed past Sikkim on net run rate, following their six-wicket win over Nagaland in Shillong with left-arm spinner Aditya Singhania bagging his maiden five-wicket haul. Sikkim batsmen provided hardly any resistance with eight of their batsmen failing to get even double digits. In Shillong, left-arm spinner Singhania's impressive 5/52 helped Meghalaya bowl out Nagaland for 371 following-on. Set a target of 89, Meghalaya had a jittery start to be 12/3 inside five overs but Puneet Bisht steered the team to victory with an unbeaten 34.

**TN SECURE 1ST INNINGS LEAD AGAINST AP**  
**Ongole:** Tamil Nadu's lower order helped the team secure the first innings lead and three important points against Andhra on the final day of the Elite Group 'B' match. The visiting side flirted with danger before going past Andhra's total. Tamil Nadu slipped to 208 for 7 and 214 for 8 before going past the line. Apart from B Aparajith (57, 184 balls, 6X4), knocks by J Kousik (33), batting at No 7 and R Sai Kishore (27 not out), batting at No 9, ensured that Tamil Nadu got three points from the drawn encounter. Tamil Nadu now has five points from three games.

**DELHI CONCEDE FIRST INNINGS LEAD TO HYD**  
**Hyderabad:** Delhi conceded the first innings lead to Hyderabad before the Group B match ended in a draw on Friday. Delhi, resuming at 245 for six, did well to reach 339 courtesy Lalit Yadav, who scored a gritty 77. However, his effort was not enough to overcome Hyderabad's first innings total of 460. Hyderabad had reached 156 for one in their second innings when umpires called off play on day four. Hyderabad fetched three points for gaining the first innings lead while Delhi took just one. In their Ranji opener against Himachal Pradesh, Delhi had lost out on the opportunity of posting an outright win and settled for a draw at the Ferozshah Kotla.

**RAJASTHAN, JAMMU AND HARYANA WIN**  
**Ranchi:** Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar grabbed a five-wicket haul to help Rajasthan defeat hosts Jharkhand by 92 runs in their Elite Group C match. The win is even more special for Rajasthan as they had conceded the first-innings lead. Rajasthan have now taken 6 points and topped the group as it was their third victory in as many games. Their fight-back was first led by Ashok Menaria who hit a stroke-filled 125 in the second innings, and then it was Chahar (5-77) against whom Jharkhand batsmen surrendered. In Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir ticked all boxes to thrash Tripura by 8 wickets. In Rohtak, Haryana bundled out Goa for 141 in their second essay to record an emphatic 143-run victory.

# RAIN PRESERVE AUSTRALIA'S LEAD

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

The second T20 International between India and Australia was called off due to intermittent rain on Friday, undoing the visitors' good work with the ball and denying them an opportunity to level the three-match series.

India were naturally disappointed at not getting a go at the target which was revised thrice due to rain. Australia had scored 132 for seven in 19 overs when the first spell of rain arrived at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

India's target was initially revised to 137 runs in 19 overs before more rain made it 90 runs from 11 overs and then 46 from five overs. Nearly 90 minutes were lost due to the fickle weather before the game was eventually called off at 10.02 pm local time.

Rain playing hide and seek was not just frustrating for the players but also for the 60,000 plus crowd gathered at the iconic venue.

With the match not producing a result, India now can only level the series in the final game in Sydney on Sunday.

Virat Kohli and his team had come into the T20 series after winning six bilateral contests in a row.

India put up a much improved with the ball on Friday, following the disappointment of the series opener at the Gabba on Wednesday.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2-20) and Khaleel Ahmed (2-39) shared four wickets to rock the Australian top-order and reduce them to 41-4 at one stage.

This was after India won the toss and opted to bowl. The visitors went in with an unchanged side while Australia made one change, bringing in Nathan Coulter-Nile for Billy Stanlake who picked up an ankle niggle during warm-up.

Kumar then struck with his second delivery, dismissing

Aaron Finch (0) caught behind. From there onwards, India exerted themselves on the field and there was never any let up.

But there were hiccups. The swing bowler should have had at least a couple of more wickets, but was twice unlucky in the third over.

First, Rishabh Pant spilled a difficult diving catch behind the wickets with D'Arcy Short (14) getting a life on 7. Two balls later, Chris Lynn (13), on nought, should have been caught at fine leg, only for Jasprit Bumrah (1-20) to spill it over the rope and for a six.

Ahmed did strike in the fourth over and pegged Australia back as Lynn was caught in the deep going for another big one. Two overs later, he bowled Short and India's missed chances didn't cost them too much.

The longer boundaries further aided India as Bumrah had Marcus Stoinis (4) caught in the deep in the seventh over to put

the hosts under more pressure.

Glenn Maxwell (19) and Ben McDermott (32 not out) added 21 runs for the fifth wicket to stem the rot, but Krunal Pandya (1-26) struck to remove danger-man Maxwell.

The spinner found some grip and a hint of turn as Maxwell was bowled in the 11th over. Kuldeep Yadav (1-23) too made his presence felt, chipping in with Alex Carey's (4) dismissal, sending the prominently Indian crowd into raptures.

Australia somehow managed to cross the 100-mark in the 16th over, thanks to a 27-run partnership between Nathan Coulter-Nile (18) and McDermott.

Coulter-Nile hit two sixes and a four during his nine-ball stay. McDermott held one end together and put on 31 runs off 20 balls with Andrew Tye (12 not out), providing a little impetus to the innings before rain halted proceedings.



Bhuvneshwar Kumar celebrates after dismissing Aaron Finch for golden duck

## Windies hit back after Hasan sets new record



AFP ■ CHITTAGONG

Teenage Bangladesh off-spinner Nayeem Hasan became the youngest ever player to take five wickets on debut but West Indies' spinners matched him to restore parity in the first Test in Chittagong on Friday.

Nayeem, who was 17 years 355 days old at the start of the game, finished with 5-61, as Bangladesh bowled out the West Indies for 246 to take a 78-run first innings lead.

But the hosts were unable to cash in on the advantage, slumping to 55 for

five in their second innings at stumps on the second day for a lead of just 133 runs.

Jomel Warrican and Roston Chase each took two wickets to help the West Indies claw their way back into the contest.

Mushfiqur Rahim remained unbeaten on 11 alongside Mehidy Hasan, on what looked like a batting minefield at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Nayeem, who surpassed Australian Pat Cummins's five-wicket haul on debut at 18 years and 193

days, took care of the West Indies lower middle-order after senior spinners provided the initial breakthroughs.

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan, who finished with 3-43, dismissed Shai Hope and Kraigg Brathwaite at the start of his spell after Tajjul Islam removed Kieran Powell for 14 to help the hosts reduce West Indies to 31-3.

Roston Chase and Sunil Ambris tried to rebuild the innings but Nayeem soon struck, removing both batsmen in successive overs for 31 and 19 runs respectively.

Shimron Hetmyer then launched a counter-attack to score 63 off 47 balls with five fours and four sixes for a brief respite from the spin onslaught.

Hetmyer shared 92 runs with Shane Dowrich to lift West Indies from a precarious 88-5 but the side collapsed again once Mehidy broke the stand.

Nayeem then dismissed Devendra Bishoo, Kumar Roach and Warrican to complete his five-for before Sakib removed Shannon Gabriel to wrap up the West Indies innings.

Dowrich held one end firm to stay unbeaten on 63, his third Test fifty which came off 101 balls with the help of two fours and three sixes.

Earlier in the day, Bangladesh were bowled out quickly for 324 in their first innings after resuming on their overnight score of 315-8.

Left-arm spinner Warrican took the remaining two Bangladeshi wickets as the hosts added just nine runs.

Bangladesh owed their first-innings score to Mominul Haque, who struck 120 off 167 balls while Imrul Kayes and Shakib made 44 and 34 respectively.

## Bairstow's 110 headlines Day 1

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Jonny Bairstow laid down a marker to be England's permanent number three on Friday but Sri Lanka clawed their way back into the final Test with late wickets.

At stumps on day one, England, 2-0 up in the series, were 312-7, Bairstow having made 110 after valuable partnerships with Joe Root and Ben Stokes, who made a half-century.

Bairstow, playing his first Test of the series having been injured at Galle and left out at Kandy, then passed his century, removing his helmet and celebrating with gusto.

But he fell for 110, bowled by Sandakan, and was soon followed by Buttler for 16, caught and bowled by Sandakan, and by Ben Foakes who nicked Malinda Pushpakumara to the keeper for 13.

Moeen Ali, who has had a woeful tour with the bat — in contrast to with ball in hand — then survived an lbw review. He ended on 23 and Adil Rashid not out on 13.

England have rested fast bowler James Anderson to give Stuart Broad his first Test of the series.

Sri Lanka also made two changes, bringing in left-arm wrist spinner Lakshan Sandakan to replace Akila Dananjaya who is in Brisbane having his bowling action tested.

Under-performing opener Kaushal Silva was left out in favour of Danushka Gunathilaka.

England's permanent number three on Friday but Sri Lanka clawed their way back into the final Test with late wickets.

Stokes and Bairstow then made hay, Stokes hitting five fours and two sixes before Sandakan got the Durham all-rounder to edge to slip, sending him back to the pavilion for 57 off 88 balls.

Bairstow, playing his first Test of the series having been injured at Galle and left out at Kandy, then passed his century, removing his helmet and celebrating with gusto.

But he fell for 110, bowled by Sandakan, and was soon followed by Buttler for 16, caught and bowled by Sandakan, and by Ben Foakes who nicked Malinda Pushpakumara to the keeper for 13.

Moeen Ali, who has had a woeful tour with the bat — in contrast to with ball in hand — then survived an lbw review. He ended on 23 and Adil Rashid not out on 13.

England have rested fast bowler James Anderson to give Stuart Broad his first Test of the series.

Sri Lanka also made two changes, bringing in left-arm wrist spinner Lakshan Sandakan to replace Akila Dananjaya who is in Brisbane having his bowling action tested.