

**OPINION 8**  
‘TRADE AGREEMENTS  
WILL STRENGTHEN TIES’

**WORLD 12**  
TRUMP HAS INSECURITY OF A  
TEENAGE GIRL: JOHN KERRY

**SPORT 15**  
LIVERPOOL HOST  
PSG IN CL CLASH

BHUBANESWAR, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2018; PAGES 16 ₹3

# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

ADITI WANTED  
TO BE MANI'S  
HEROINE  
13 VIVACITY



## Cong bids to end Goa stalemate

Opp stakes claim to form a Govt, but BJP leader Ram Lal says Parrikar Govt is stable

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday staked claim to provide an alternative Government in Goa, which is facing political crisis following prolonged illness of Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar.

The Congress, which has 16 members in the 40-member State Assembly, submitted a memorandum to Governor Mridula Sinha, urging her not to dissolve the Assembly and instead invite the party to form the Government. The State is being ruled by the BJP-led alliance with the saffron party having 14 MLAs.

While the Congress is in a wait and watch mode, BJP Central unit has sent three senior leaders — Ram Lal, BL Santhosh and Vinay Puranik — to meet the State party leaders and allies to take stock of the political situation.

Kavalekar said the Congress has support of legislators from other parties and can form a Government if given a chance by the Governor. “We will prove our majority on the floor of the House,” he said.

However, BJP leader Ram Lal said the Goa Government is stable and no demand has been made for a change in the leadership. He stated this after a meeting with party MLAs, former legislators and core committee members. He said the BJP's alliance partners — the Goa Forward Party (GFP), the Maharashtra



Congress MLAs submit a letter in the Raj Bhavan to stake claim to form a Government in Goa Agency

Gomantak Party (MGP) and Independents — conveyed that they will agree to any political decision taken by the BJP.

AICC Goa incharge A Chella Kumar said the party High Command is keeping an eye on the development in Panjim, and the State Congress unit is in touch with some local parties even as some of the disgruntled BJP MLAs have reached out to the Congress.

“The Congress is ready to provide a stable alternative Government provided other parties are ready to join hands with us by not compromising the interests of the people of Goa,” said Kumar, who succeeded Digvijay Singh after the Congress High Command

removed him for failing to stake claim to form the Government even though the Congress emerged the single largest party after the 2017 Assembly polls.

Leader of Opposition Chandrakant Kavlekar said the Congress party has submitted a memorandum to the Governor staking claim to form an alternate Government. All the 16 Congress MLAs, led by Kavlekar, went to the Raj Bhavan but could not meet the Governor as she is out of the State.

“The party urged the Governor not to consider dissolution of the Assembly, which is a possibility considering internal fighting in the ruling

alliance and illness of Parrikar,” Kavlekar said.

The BJP has 14 seats in the Assembly, its allies Goa Forward Party and MGP have three each. Three Independents and an MLA from Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) also support the BJP.

The MGP, which is one of the constituents of the NDA Government in Goa with three MLAs, said a “common solution” on the political situation, rising out of the indisposition of the CM has to come from the BJP. “This is a coalition Government but the decision (on governance in the absence of Parrikar) has to be taken by the BJP since it is the largest party in the State Government.

“We are waiting for a common solution, which the BJP will give us,” MGP chief Deepak Dhavalikar said.

The solution should be in sync with what the allies have been requesting, he said, adding that his party had not given any specific proposal to the BJP on a change of leadership.

“Yes, we have told them (the BJP) if they are considering it (change in leadership), then charge should be given to the senior-most Minister. We continue to stick to our demand,” Dhavalikar said.

Parrikar, 62, who is suffering from a pancreatic ailment, is admitted in AIIMS for treatment.

### POLITICAL impasse

- Goa is facing political crisis following prolonged illness of Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar
- The State is being ruled by the BJP-led alliance with the saffron party having 14 MLAs
- BJP allies Goa Forward Party and MGP have three MLAs each
- Three Independents and an MLA from Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) also support the BJP
- The Congress has 16 MLAs in the State Assembly

We are waiting for a common solution, which the BJP will give us,” MGP chief Deepak Dhavalikar said.

The solution should be in sync with what the allies have been requesting, he said, adding that his party had not given any specific proposal to the BJP on a change of leadership.

“Yes, we have told them (the BJP) if they are considering it (change in leadership), then charge should be given to the senior-most Minister. We continue to stick to our demand,” Dhavalikar said.

Parrikar, 62, who is suffering from a pancreatic ailment, is admitted in AIIMS for treatment.

## BoB, Dena, Vijaya to merge as India's 3rd largest bank

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday unveiled another important step to address the problems being faced by the public sector banks in view of shrinking credit growth and ballooning NPAs. As part of the measures, the Centre announced that State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB), Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank will be merged to create the country's third largest lender.

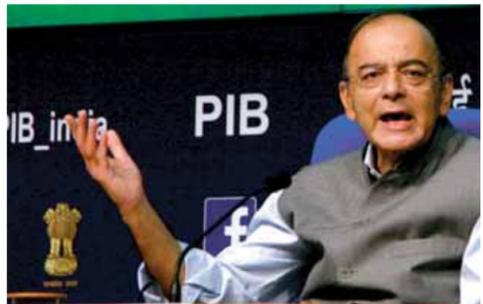
Announcing the decision, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the merger will make the banks stronger and sustainable as well as increase their lending ability.

He said bank lending was becoming weak, hurting corporate sector investments, and many banks were in a fragile condition due to excessive lending and soaring NPAs.

More such merger proposals are understood to be in the offing.

The Modi Government had constituted a ministerial committee headed by Jaitley in October to oversee merger prospects of State-owned PSU banks. The other committee also included Union Railways and Coal Minister Piyush Goyal and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

State Bank of India last year merged with itself five of its subsidiary banks and taking over Bharatiya Mahila Bank, a niche State-run lender for women. As was in case of the SBI, no employee of the three banks would have service con-



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley addresses a Press conference in New Delhi on Monday Alwin Singh | Pioneer

### The Modi Government had constituted a ministerial committee headed by Jaitley in October to oversee merger prospects of State-owned PSU banks

ditions that are adverse to their present one.

The Government owns majority stakes in 21 lenders, which account for more than two-thirds of banking assets in the Asia's third biggest economy. But these PSU banks also account for the lion's share of NPAs and need crores of rupees in new capital in the next two years to meet global

Basel III capital norms. Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar said bank boards of the three banks will examine the amalgamation proposal. “The merger will help improve operational efficiency and customer services.”

The amalgamated bank would be the third largest bank in India and will be strong competitive lender with economies of scale, he said adding the three would have synergies for network, low-cost deposits and subsidiaries.

While the employees' interest will be protected, brand equity will be preserved, he said. Capital support to the merged entity of Dena Bank, Vijaya Bank and BoB would be ensured, he said.

The three banks will continue to work independently post merger.

Basel III capital norms.

Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar said bank boards of the three banks will examine the amalgamation proposal. “The merger will help improve operational efficiency and customer services.”

The amalgamated bank would be the third largest bank in India and will be strong competitive lender with economies of scale, he said adding the three would have synergies for network, low-cost deposits and subsidiaries.

While the employees' interest will be protected, brand equity will be preserved, he said. Capital support to the merged entity of Dena Bank, Vijaya Bank and BoB would be ensured, he said.

The three banks will continue to work independently post merger.

## Death due to animal bite, says postmortem report

Case filed in NHRC for ex-gratia to deceased's kin  
Sundari won't be relocated from Satkosia

BIJAY MISHRA ■ ANGUL

The postmortem report of the woman who was allegedly killed by tigress Sundari in the Satkosia forests on September 12 confirmed the death 'due to animal bite.'

A hue and cry has been unleashed since Kailasi Sai of Hatibari village in the Satkosia Tiger Reserve in Angul district was mauled to death on September 12 by tigress Sundari which was translocated from Bandhavgarh in MP in June.

Given the mounting demand of the villagers residing in the Satkosia Tiger Reserve to shift the tigress, whom they described as hostile and their life unsafe with its free movement, Additional PCCF and Field Director, Satkosia Tiger Reserve, Dr S Panda on Monday told that all efforts will be taken to provide protection to the people living in and around the tiger reserve. Simultaneously, he appealed the people to cooperate with the tiger conservation plan.

Dr Ramesh from the Wildlife

Institute of India (WII) and his team is now observing and assessing the movement of the tigress Sundari and looking for a safe place for capture of the tigress.

WII experts said Sundari won't be relocated from Satkosia. The local people would be persuaded about it.

The locals would be involved in the project and it would be ensured that they financially benefit from it.

If required, they would be taken to the Kanha wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh to see how tigers coexist with people there. Meanwhile, there is a blame game between the local BJD and BJP leaders, with the former accusing the latter of inciting the locals.

Citizen Action Forum president RP Pattanaik filed a case in the National Human Right Commission (NHRC) for ₹50 lakh compensation to the relative of the deceased who was killed by the tigress and ₹5 lakh for each family residing in the Satkosia Tiger Reserve, those who have lost their livelihood for the tigress menace.

## Statewide lawyers' stir to continue till Thursday

PNS ■ CUTTACK

In view of an assurance from the Law Minister Pratap Jena that the Government would fulfil the demands of the striking lawyers very soon, the general body of the Orissa High Court Bar Association on Monday unanimously passed a resolution letting the Government resolve the issue.

At the same time, the association also decided that the ongoing cease-work agitation launched by the lawyers since August 29 would continue till September 20.

“As planned, a delegation of the lawyers met the Law Minister, who acknowledged our demands saying they are genuine and sought at least two or three days' time to resolve the matter,” informed association secretary Saryabrata Mohanty, adding that the Statewide lawyers' strike would, however, continue until the lawyers' demands are fulfilled.

The lawyers are boycotting courts across the State demanding arrest of the policemen who brutally assaulted a Cuttack city advocate on the middle of a busy road in full public glare on August 28 following a series of road accidents involving the car of the lawyer.

The Commissionerate police have, however, suspended three policemen in this connection for alleged misconduct and put a Home Guard on one-month notice period.

## Assembly passes ₹12,790-cr Appropriation Bill

Centre, State Govt not fulfilling assurances: Narasingha

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Assembly on Monday passed the first Supplementary Budget-related Appropriation of ₹12,790 crore following a marathon discussion.

While Finance Minister Shashi Bhushan Behera presented the Bill for discussion and passing, Leader of Opposition Narasingha Mishra initiated the debate. He rapped both the State and Union Governments for making assurances and not fulfilling them.

Commenting on proposed NTPC Talcher project, Mishra advised the State Government to ensure that project would protect the interest of people of the Odisha. “Prime Minister Narendra Modi has failed to fulfill his assurances he made for Odisha, be it Rourkela hospital upgradation or construction of a bridge.

The State exchequer must not bear expenses going by false assurances,” he said.

Mishra too alleged that the State Government failed to create irrigation facility for 35 per cent of cultivable land and provide free electricity to farmers. He also lamented that health and education sectors have worsened during the last 18 years. Law and order situation in the State is alarming, he said.

On behalf of the ruling party, Arun Sahu said the wrong economic policy of the Union Government has affected people in nook and corner of the country.

He said the NDA Government is now collecting ₹2,50,000 crore per annum by levying taxes on petrol and diesel and has closed eyes for people's welfare.

Many other members from the Opposition Congress and BJP and ruling parties participated in the discussion.

In his reply, Minister Behera said the State Government has always worked for development of people of the State and would continue to do so.

Following the Minister's reply, the Appropriation Bill was passed through a voice vote.

## House stalled over sapling scam again

Opp seeks statement from CM  
Speaker directs Minister to respond

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Assembly was adjourned thrice on Monday as Opposition Congress and BJP members tramped into the Well of the House and kept demanding a statement from Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on all allegations of corruption in the Agriculture Department.

The House was first adjourned at 10.36 am till 11.36 am. When the House reassembled, Leader of Opposition Narasingha Mishra said while the Agriculture Minister has admitted in the House that the Assistant Director of Horticulture, Mayurbhanj has misappropriated public money to the tune of ₹17.33 crore, it is disappointing that no stringent action was taken against him. He was merely suspended and then reinstated.

“If a temporary punishment of suspension is awarded in such a corruption case involving crores of rupees, officers would fearlessly misap-

propriate public funds. It means that the Government itself is involved in the corruption,” Mishra said and demanded a statement from either the Chief Minister or the Minister.

BJP Legislature Party Leader KV Singh Deo supported the issue and the demand raised by Mishra.

As Speaker Pradeep Kumar Amat didn't give a ruling, Opposition members tramped into the Well of the House again and shouted slogans against the State Government.

Unable to run proceedings, Amat adjourned the House at 11.55 am till 12.10 pm. As the situation continued, Deputy Speaker Sananda Marandi adjourned the House for the third time till 12.25 pm.

However, normalcy restored at 12.25pm as the Speaker directed the Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister to look into the issues raised by the Leader of Opposition and other Opposition members and respond to them.

appropriate public funds. It means that the Government itself is involved in the corruption,”

Mishra said and demanded a statement from either the Chief Minister or the Minister.

BJP Legislature Party Leader KV Singh Deo supported the issue and the demand raised by Mishra.

As Speaker Pradeep Kumar Amat didn't give a ruling, Opposition members tramped into the Well of the House again and shouted slogans against the State Government.

Unable to run proceedings, Amat adjourned the House at 11.55 am till 12.10 pm. As the situation continued, Deputy Speaker Sananda Marandi adjourned the House for the third time till 12.25 pm.

However, normalcy restored at 12.25pm as the Speaker directed the Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister to look into the issues raised by the Leader of Opposition and other Opposition members and respond to them.

## Democratic RSS engaged in rashtra nirman: Bhagwat

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Monday asserted that the Sangh is one of the most democratic organisations where decisions are taken with the consensus of 'swayamsevaks'.

Explaining that the RSS is singularly engaged in the construction of “vyakti nirman” in each street, ‘mohalla’ and village to awaken a society that is devoted to “Rashtra nirman”, Bhagwat said the decline of Hindus was on account of decline in “our values” for that “we should not be blaming Muslim invaders”.

Calling for shaping up individuals who are laden with good values and self-less character, he said the RSS aim is to unite Hindus.

“RSS ka kaam vyakti nirman hai aur RSS iski methodology hai”, Bhagwat said summing up the role of his organisation which has been subject of multiple scrutiny in its over 90 years existence.

He said the RSS is not concerned with as who would run the Government as this is to be decided by the people of the country who should be endowed with good character and

‘achcha acharan’ and re-ehphasised that his organisation is working to raise a society where people work for every one's progress and well-being.

“Har mohalla, Gao main aisi toli khari karna, achhe swayamsevak khare karna, Sangh yahi hain, isse jyada kuch nahin hain”, RSS leader said.

Delivering his address in the first day of the three-day lecture series here at ‘Vigyan Bhawan’, the RSS head said there was a great misconception that the Sangh was a “dictatorial organisation” and asserted that the outfit works with the consensus of all ‘swayamsevaks’ and has no place for a remote control.

He said even the founder of the RSS Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar decided on running ‘shakhas’ three months after it came into existence in 1925 when other ‘swayamsevaks’ so decided. Bhagwat said even his participation in ‘Shakha’ is monitored by the ‘Shakha’ head of which he happens to be a member in Nagpur.

The RSS chief said the RSS is self-reliant and does not take a ‘single paisa’ from outside as it is run with voluntary contribution of RSS works described as “gurudakshina”.

## W ODISHA HC BENCH DEMAND Lawyers' cease-work to continue till Sept 26

AGITATORS TO MEET PM DURING J'SUGUDA VISIT

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The lawyers all over the region resorted to cease work on Monday reiterating their demand for establishment of an Orissa High Court Bench in western Odisha. They decided to continue their agitation till September 26.

The Central Action Committee (CAC) of the All Western Odisha Bar Association has taken the decision of continuing the agitation so that the Government can feel the gravity of the situation and sentiment of the people here.

“The lawyers of 37 bar

associations of the region have resorted to cease work over the demand of establishment of the HC Bench.

It is a genuine demand of the lawyers and people of western Odisha as a whole,” said CAC convenor Ashok Dash.

Dash further said that they were planning to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Jharsuguda on September 22 and apprise him of their demand.

“We have requested the PMO for an appointment with the Prime Minister even for a short while,” he added.

Earlier, a delegation of

## Cuttack youth victim of 'Momo' challenge

PNS ■ CUTTACK

An unemployed youth is now undergoing treatment after slitting his left wrist with a sharp weapon apparently as part of a challenge of the deadly online game called ‘Momo’, to which he was addicted since about a week ago. Doctors at the SCB Medical College Hospital here maintain that the youth is now out of danger from the self-inflicted injury but needs psychological counselling.

The youth was identified as Sunil Das (30) of Jharakuta village in the Bayalish Mouza area in Cuttack Sadar. Family members said Sunil was hooked to his mobile phone for past several days and was remaining detached from the family and neighbours. “In the wee hours of Monday, he initially tried to cut his wrist through a blade



but later used a sickle,” said a relative of the victim.

Sunil's father Basudev Das said his son was working in a private company. But over the past week, instead of going to his workplace, he was busy with his mobile phone.

Police have seized his mobile phone and preliminary investigations revealed that he was playing the Momo challenge as the same was downloaded in his phone.

# State's loan burden may cross ₹1L cr

Now ₹76,428.41 cr; per-head debt ₹16,451

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

The State's loan stood at ₹76,428.41 crore by July 31, 2018 and the per-head loan was ₹16,451 by end of 2017-18.

This was revealed from information furnished by Finance Minister Shashi Bhushan Behera in the State Assembly in response to a question of BJP MLA Dilip Ray on Monday.

The Minister informed that the Government's loan burden was ₹36,430.54 crore in 2008-09, which was increased to ₹39,136.91 crore by the end of 2010-11 and to ₹73,864.66 crore by end of 2017-18.

Earlier, the Government had stated that the Odisha

## State's per capita income ₹80,991

Against nat'l average of ₹1,12,835

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

The State's Per capita Net State Domestic Product (per capita income) per annum stands at ₹80,991 against ₹1,12,835 at the national level, as per the Advance Estimate 2017-18.

Finance Minister Shashi Bhushan Behera informed this in the State Assembly in response to a question of BJD MLA Priyanshu Pradhan on Monday.

The Minister further informed that the average annual income of a farmer family in Odisha was ₹59,712 as per the 70th round of the National Sample Survey 2012-13 and ₹92,772 in 2015-16 as per the All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey 2016-17.

# ₹39,645 cr to be spent on salary, pension this yr

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

The State Government is spending a major part of tax and nontax amount towards payment of salary, allowance, pension and office expenses.

This was revealed from information furnished in the State Assembly by Finance Minister Shashi Bhushan Behera in response to a question of BJP MLA Dilip Ray on Monday.

The Minister informed that in 2017-18 the State Government paid a total of ₹18,335.58 crore towards salary and allowance, ₹8,692.86 crore towards pension and ₹454.23 crore towards office expenses. During the current year, the Government has targeted to spend ₹27,240 crore towards salary and allowance, ₹11,912 crore towards pension and ₹492.75 crore towards office

**So far, the State Government has collected a total tax of ₹9,448.49 crore and nontax of ₹3,600.18 crore against targets of ₹28,550 crore and ₹10,300 crore, respectively, set for the current year, the Minister informed**

expenses, totaling at ₹39,645.02 cr.

So far, the State Government has collected a total tax of ₹9,448.49 crore and nontax of ₹3,600.18 crore against targets of ₹28,550 crore and ₹10,300 crore, respectively, set for the current year, the Minister informed.

Earlier, during six years from 2010-11 to ₹2015-16, the State Government had collected tax and nontax of ₹1,43,378.54 crore and as spent a total of ₹1,13,789.71 crore towards salary, allowance, pension and office expenses.

## pioneer interview of the week

# Cong to win minimum 85 Assembly seats



□ People have forgotten BJP in State  
□ Mahagathbandhan at national level under Rahul leadership certain

**A powerful political potentate, Bhakta Charan Das is a Congress heavyweight having pan-India acclaim. Currently, he is the chairman of the PCC Campaign Committee, a member of the AICC Publicity Committee and a senior spokesperson of the AICC. Das began his political career after he came in contact with the Yuva Chhatra Sangharsh Bahini of the JP movement in 1977. He waged a relentless struggle under this banner against the all-pervading corruption in his Kalahandi district. He carried a virtual war against indiscriminate cutting down of trees in the Niyamgiri Hills and some other hilly ranges of the district. He exhorted the primitive dwellers to save forests from the illegal timber contractors and corrupt forest officials. He organised farmers' rallies in 1983 under the leadership of veteran socialist leader Kishan Pattanaik. Soon, his name spread like wildfire among the common masses. He opened his innings to the State Assembly in 1985 from the Bhawanipatna constituency. He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1989, 1996 and in 2009. In 1990, he was inducted as Union Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports. In 1991, he was elevated to the rank of Minister of State for Railways in the Chandrasekhar Government. The significant trait in his leadership is that he picked up the issues which hit headlines both at home and abroad, be it the untold tale of the starvation deaths of Kalahandi and the agitation of "Save Niyamgiri Hills". In an interview to The Pioneer, Das spoke to Sugyan Choudhury on the political scenario in Odisha ahead of the 2019 elections.**

**How far is it wise as per the collective wisdom of the Congress to project Rahul Gandhi as a Prime Ministerial candidate in the event of the party coming to power?**

Rahul Gandhi has struggled a lot since his youth. He has had been gathering a lot of experiences and has emerged as a matured leader. He has worked both at the State and the national levels with a rare vision and has been received with wide acclaim. You see his leadership during the 2009, 2012 and 2014 elections; and now, you may analyse his parts played in the Gujarat and Karnataka elections. His experience and aggressiveness clarifies that he can provide a strong and stable leadership to the nation and solve any issue or challenge facing the nation.

**What are your views on the State's political scenario post Niranjan Patnaik taking over as PCC chief?**

Niranjan Patnaik is a senior Congress leader and is trying his utmost to take all kinds of leaders into confidence. We are all working around him having kept all our personal and ideological differences, if any, at bay. The people of the State now understand that the entire Congress rank and file stand united. Niranjan Patnaik too possesses the ability to carry seniors and juniors under one platform. I am sure Niranjan Patnaik will do his best in creating not only a convivial atmosphere in the PCC but shall lead the party to a comfortable victory in the generation elections.

**In the 2019 elections, do you think the Congress will achieve a comfortable victory against the popularity of the Naveen Patnaik Government and against the Modi factor?**

The Congress will form Government in Odisha. If we sustain the tempo by working in the southern, western and coastal regions, we must reach our goal unflinchingly. The BJP tried its best to woo Odisha people by holding its national executive at Bhubaneswar, by celebrating its four years of power at the Centre at Cuttack and by intermittent visits of Amit Shah, but it all ended in fiasco. Their failure due to GST, demonetisation, hike in fuel prices, neglecting Odisha in the Mahanadi issue and the like have forced the Odisha people to forget the BJP. In other words, the BJP has not been accepted by the people of our State. Only, there were some development at the panchayat elections in western Odisha, but that euphoria died down after the Bijuapur by-election. Now, the mood of the people is in favour of the Congress. We must form Government by winning a minimum 85 Assembly seats.

Under the BJD Government, corruptions has reached its nadir. In any tender work, big purchase or huge procurements, there is always corruption and tender-fixing. BJD agents and workers are ruling the roost everywhere and are favoured with such profitable assignments at the cost of the people by creating such outfits as "Mu Hero", "Biju Yuva Vahini", "Mo Gaon", "Mo Bikas" and the like. Youths are turned into slaves. These young man are not entitled to salary but are getting the money to dance to their tunes. The bureaucracy has been politicised and the responsible characters of the IAS and IPS officers have been destroyed by forcing them to lose their independent thinking. The MLAs and MPs have no role to play. They can't offer their advice or opinion to the CM. We used to scold Bijuababu in harsh languages, but the next movement he used to embrace us; he was a great democrat. There were values of legislature during the Congress regimes and even during Bijuababu's tenure. But during his son Naveenbabu's regime, there is no value of MLAs and MPs. Naveenbabu has killed democracy during his 18 years of rule. When Rome was burning, Nero was playing fiddle. So, Naveenbabu is moving with his jocular company of young men and women with their heads filled with straws making them dance to his tunes, finally ending their careers as slaves before the final fall of his authoritarian BJD empire in the 2019 elections.

**The grapevine is agog that both you and your son will contest in the elections. How far is it true?**

I am going to contest from my own Kalahandi Parliamentary constituency. I'm not sure if my son Sagar Das will contest. If the party takes his winnability into consideration and decides in his favour and in absence of other eminently eligible candidates, he may contest. I can't help in this regard.

## IN BRIEF

**SCHOOL CADETS HOLD 'SWACHHTA HI SEWA' RALLY**  
**Bhubaneswar:** Junior Division NCC Cadets of Sainik School led by ANOs Lt HS Das, Lt B Pradhan, D Goolani, BN Patra and Sub MN Hembram took out a mass awareness rally here on Sunday. The rally was taken out as part of a 15-day cleanliness drive titled "Swachhta Hi Sewa" which would culminate on October 2, birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The cadets carrying posters on maintenance of cleanliness in surroundings urged citizens to join the initiatives of Prime Minister Modi to make a Swachh Bharat. The rally was held from the school premises to Acharya Vihar.

**KISS STUDENTS CELEBRATE PM'S BIRTHDAY**  
**Bhubaneswar:** Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) students celebrated the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he turned 68 on Monday. The students prayed for his long and healthy life. A drawing competition on the PM was held among students. A live painting of Modi was also made by a student. Students wrote their good wishes messages on the wall of experience. The students also watched a documentary on Modi.

## Modi, Naveen in unholy nexus: Niranjan

**'NO ROADS IN 10,166 VILLAGES, YET ODISHA AWARDED AS NO.1'**

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

Odisha has got award from the Government of India for construction of highest rural roads in 2017-18. But still 10,166 villages remained untouched in terms of road construction. The BJD Government led by Naveen Patnaik has failed drastically on this front in last 18 years of its rule, but the Government of India is felicitating the State Government, alleged PCC president Niranjan Patnaik on Monday.

"This is how their relation is going on and they are in support of each other," told Patnaik.

Patnaik said many far flung, hilly and forested tribal villages in the State are having no road connectivity. Pregnant women are giving birth by road because ambulance cannot reach their hamlets, he lamented.

Fire service vehicles are also not reaching their villages in the time of emergency. But the BJD Government is announcing one after another scheme only to mislead the common men in the name of development, told Patnaik.

In a Press statement, the PCC Chief has said the Modi Government has maintained relations with Nitish Kumar in

Bihar and Naveen Patnaik in Odisha for their personal and political benefit. The Modi Government rewarded Bihar in 2017 June for rural road construction. In the same function, Odisha was felicitated for constructing highest number of houses under Prime Minister Awas Yojana. But the fact remains that only 9 per cent of the houses have been completed in the State out of the allotted numbers, lamented Patnaik.

Patnaik further said that while farmers in Odisha are committing suicide, the State is getting award in agriculture production. This unholy alliance of BJD and BJP is ruining the economy and social sector of the State, charged Patnaik.

## Modi's visit to State

# PM to dedicate 5 welfare projects: Pradhan

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Jharsuguda visit on September 22, would dedicate five people welfare and economically important projects. The projects are a Nuakhai gift for the people of whole western Odisha, said Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday.

Pradhan, who visited Jharsuguda on the day to review the arrangements for the Prime Minister's visit, said the Prime Minister during his visit would inaugurate the new Jharsuguda airport. Under the Udan scheme Jharsuguda would be connected with Bhubaneswar and Raipur by flight services.

Besides, two coalmines and a railway line would also be



inaugurated by the Prime Minister. After the completion of the official programmes, the Prime Minister would address a public meeting, informed Pradhan.

Answering queries of mediapersons, he said that till

the development of western Odisha, inclusive growth can't be imagined for the State. Indigo and Spicejet would operate their flights to Odisha. By air services to prominent cities, the areas economy would get a boost, said Pradhan.

## OPAF joins Delhi rally for private school law

To submit today memo to CM

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

Parents from 22 States under different forums on Sunday held a rally from the India Gate to the Rastrapati Bhavan in New Delhi and submitted a memorandum to the President demanding implementation of Regulation Act for the private schools in the country.

The parents alleged that the private schools in the different States are exploiting parents in guise of quality education. They also said that even if different parents' forums are demanding the State Governments to implement

the same but to no avail.

The parents threatened that if the law is not implemented to regulate the private schools in the country, over a lakh of parents from across the country would hold a demonstration in New Delhi and create a situation like the Emergency of 1975.

Dr Gagan Bihari Rout, Sanjukta Panigrahi, Satyasis Swain and other members of the Odisha Parent Associations' Forum (OPAF) took part in the national-level stir and presented their demands.

In this context, the OPAF on Tuesday would submit a memorandum to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, informed OPAF vice president Madhusudan Biswal.

## Dolagobinda Pradhan passes away

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

Freedom fighter and former Odisha Minister Dolagobinda Pradhan passed away at his residence here on Monday at around 3.50 am. He was 90 and is survived by his wife, four sons and three daughters.

As the news of his demise spread, many eminent personalities, freedom fighters and politicians reached his house to pay last respect to the departed soul. Pradhan's body was buried at his ancestral village Dihasahi (Gatiroutpatna) in Cuttack in the afternoon.

Born on June 7, 1929, Pradhan was elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly from the Cuttack Sadar constituency twice between 1980 and 1990. He also served as the Urban Development Minister from 1989 to 1990.

Being inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, he had left school in 1942 to join the Quit India Movement. He was imprisoned by the British for three years and two months in



**"His contribution to the Freedom Struggle and to our social life will be remembered forever. He was a true Gandhian and had dedicated his life to uphold Gandhian values in words and actions"**

Pradhan's body was buried at his ancestral village Dihasahi (Gatiroutpatna) in Cuttack in the afternoon.

ues in words and actions," said Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik also condoled the death of Pradhan and conveyed his deep sympathy to the bereaved family. PCC president Niranjan Patnaik, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Samajwadi Party State president Rabi Behera and many other leaders too expressed his condolence over the demise of the freedom fighter.

The State Assembly also mourned Pradhan's demise and conveyed deep condolences to his bereaved family.

Bringing an obituary reference, Chief Minister Patnaik said Odisha lost a freedom fighter and a good leader. Leader of Opposition Narasingha Mishra said Pradhan fought against injustice in the interest of common men. BJD Legislature Party Leader KV Singh Deo remembered him as a true freedom fighter. A one-minute silence was observed for the departed soul.

## Maoist flees from N'pada court premises

□ Fugitive carries bounty of Rs 4L on head  
□ Seven cops suspended for neglect of duty

**PNS ■ NUAPADA**

A hardcore Maoist managed to escape from police custody while he was being produced in the SDJM Court here on Monday. The fugitive was identified as Manoj Madkami of Chhattisgarh.

Sources said Manoj shoved the cops escorting him to the court and scaled the boundary wall of the SDJM Court to flee from the spot.

Manoj has more than 12 cases pending against him in Odisha and Chhattisgarh. He is involved in cases of murder, torching of contractors camp and attack on security forces.

He carries a bounty of Rs 4 lakh on his head.



Earlier, the Balangir police and the Special Operation Group (SOG) personnel had arrested Manoj from a forest on the Nuapada-Balangir border during a combing operation on May 30, 2018.

Police have launched a massive manhunt in the Nuapada town and surrounding areas to trace the fugitive ultra.

Meanwhile, the authorities suspended as many as seven policemen on the ground of neglect of duty, for which the Maoist fled.

**Do you think a "Mahagathbandhan" shall take shape under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi before the elections?**

Rahul Gandhi's leadership is of paramount importance at the national scenario. There are other progressive parties which have their own stars to project, but in the larger interest of the nation they should enter into an alliance to dethrone the BJP at the Centre. In the larger interest of the people, the Congress should take them into confidence. The call of the hour is to remove the BJP from power. So, all like-minded parties should be united under the powerful leadership of Rahul Gandhi. I'm sure this act of Mahagathbandhan shall be completed at the right moment.

## 38 of 237 IAS posts vacant

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

The State has a total of 237 sanctioned posts in the IAS cadre and, of them, 38 posts are now lying vacant.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik informed this in the State Assembly in response to a question of BJD MLA Pranab Prakash Das on Monday. The Chief Minister said the Union Government is being consulted for filling up the vacant posts.

## 141 of 189 inspection bungalows dilapidated

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

The State has a total of 189 inspection bungalows across 25 of 30 districts and, of them, 141 are in dilapidated conditions.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Maheshwar Mohanty informed this in the State Assembly in response to a question of BJD MLA Sanjib Kumar Sahoo on Monday. All 10 in Angul district, all five in Bargarh, all 14

in Boudh, all 15 in Gajapati, 14 out of 20 in Gajapati district, 10 out of 19 in Kandhamal district, all five in Keonjhar district, eight out of nine in Koraput district, 10 out of 14 in Mayurbhanj district, all nine in Nabarangpur district and all four in Sundargarh district are in dilapidated condition, according to the information.

There are no inspection in districts of Bhadrak, Deogarh, Jagatsinghpur, Nuapada and Rayagada districts

# Process to disenfranchise illegal B'deshis begins

## 137 STRUCK OFF VOTERS' LIST IN KENDRAPADA

**PNS ■ KENDRAPADA**  
With the political parties getting ready for elections due early next year, the district administration in the coastal town of Kendrapada has begun a process to strike out illegal Bangladeshi immigrants

from the voters' list. As per official sources, as many as 137 Bangladeshi nationals have been detected in the electoral list in the district so far during the revision process. These Bangladeshis' names have found mention in the list in Mahakalpada tehsil. The district administration has removed these individuals from the list after a thorough verification of their antecedents. The Election Commission has begun the voters' list veri-



fication process, which is set to conclude on September 27. "While the verification of the voters' list is on, 137 Bangladeshi immigrants have been detected so far. Their names have been

struck off from the list forthwith," Kendrapada Collector Dasarathi Satpathy informed. As per official data, Kendrapada district accounts for 1,649 Bangladeshi settlers of which 1,551 alone are in Mahakalpada tehsil. These suspected immigrants from 362 families living in Mahakalpada had been served deportation notice in 2005. However, the process was halted owing to intervention by the Central Government.

The official figures further reflect that as many as 3,987 Bangladeshis have settled in Odisha illegally. Kendrapada district accounts for the highest number of illegal Bangladeshi settlers followed by Jagatsinghpur. It may be mentioned that around 40 lakh people were left out in the final draft of National Register of Citizens (NRC) drive carried out in Assam, the document of which was published in July this year.

## INBRIEF

**J SPL CELEBRATES VISHWAKARMA PUJA AT ANGUL**  
Angul: Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) chairman Naveen Jindal and his son Venkatesh Jindal celebrated Lord Vishwakarma Puja at the JSPL Angul plant on Monday along with thousands of workers, employees and local villagers. Naveen Jindal offered Aarti and Pushpanjali to Lord Vishwakarma and prayed for the wellbeing of one and all. JSPL Angul unit location head and ED (i/c) Atul Misra, Jindal Mahila Samita (JMS) president Anjali Misra and others also made offerings to Lord Vishwakarma.

**KISHORE NEW NTPC TALCHER KANIHA ED**  
Talcher: Sanjeev Kishore has taken over as Executive Director (ED) of NTPC Talcher Kaniha from Monday. Prior to this, Kishore was the Executive Director Kudgi Super Thermal Power station. A mechanical engineering graduate from Bhopal University, Kishore joined the NTPC in 1984 as ninth batch Executive Trainee and has a long stint of 34 years service in the NTPC. He is a veteran power professional and brings with him rich exposure in power sector.

**INS CHILKA HOLDS INT'L COASTAL CLEANUP DAY**  
Bhubaneswar: The INS Chilka celebrated the International Coastal Cleanup Day by carrying out mass Shramdaan along the Chilika Lake front on Saturday. More than 250 naval personnel took part in the drive and cleanup mess on a mile-long Lake Front and collected garbage and non-biodegradable waste. On the occasion, the naval personnel were educated about the harmful effects of accumulated non-biodegradable waste and its severity on the prevailing ecosystem.

# Blast in house: 1 killed, 1 hurt in Rourkela

## 50 nearby houses damaged

**PNS ■ ROURKELA**  
At least a woman was killed and another critically injured when some explosive materials went off in a house at Madhusudanpalli area of Rourkela city on Monday. About 50 houses were damaged due to the blast in the vicinity.



The impact of the blast was so heavy that the roof of the first floor of the house was completely blown away and about 15 more houses of the adjacent area were destroyed. Sources said the blast took place at the house of one Jawaharlal Srivastab, a business man of the city at Telegupada area of Madhusudanpalli under Plantsite police station of the city. On Monday, Jawahar and his two sons had gone to their shop at Plantsite area whereas his wife and two daughters-in-law were present in the house. At about 12.15 pm, suddenly the explosion accompanied with a heavy sound took place. Majority of the houses in the locality have asbestos roofs, except the double storied house of Jawaharlal.

The youngest daughter-in-law of Jawaharlal, identified as Rekha Srivastab (25), died after being buried under the debris of the roof of the house, whereas the elder daughter-in-law, identified as Doly (30), was recovered in critical condition and was rushed to IGH, Rourkela. Gayatri, wife of Jawaharlal, however, escaped with just minor injuries. Injured Doly was later shifted to VIMSAR, Burla, since her condition had become critical. A team of police and fire officials and senior police officials like DIG (WR) Kavita Jalan and Rourkela SP Uma

# Puri tea seller celebrates Modi b'day

## CUTS CAKE, DISTRIBUTES FREE 3,000 CUPS OF TEA

**SAROJ KUMAR MISHRA ■ PURI**  
A tea seller in Puri observed the 68th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by cutting a cake and distributing 3,000 cups of tea to people for free.



It is his fourth year in row the tea-seller celebrated Modi's birthday with much gaiety. The stall-owner is a fan of Modi, who runs his shop near roadside in front of Puri Urban Cooperative Bank in the city. "Like Modi, I am also a small tea-seller. Since 2015 on this very day, I have been distributing tea to passersby for free. It is my fourth year," said Akhaya Jayasingh, the tea seller. He told, since Modi has come from small tea shop and become the PM, so he was inspired to celebrate the birthday in distributing tea to people. "I like Modi for his good works for the poor of the country," said Akhaya, adding that he has seen many PMs in his

life but for him, Modi is completely exceptional. At 10 am, his 6-year-old daughter Arya Jayasingh inaugurated the 'Tea for Free' by cutting 2.5 pound of cake surrounded by the invitees and fans of Modi. Then tea distribution began for which he engaged half a dozen of staff members. This year he raised the cup numbers to 3,000 which was 2,000 in 2017. In 2015, he had started with 1,800 cups.

He used earthen cups which he brought from Kolkata since Modi is spreading messages of Swachh Bharat and stressing on eco-friendliness. Asked about the expenditure in stall decoration, cake and tea, he said to have pegged a budget of ₹15,000 this year which was less last year. Enthused with works, in 2016, the State Bank of India (SBI) had sanctioned ₹40,000 Mudra loan by specially felicitating Jayasingh.

# OPERATION PAREE-II Ganjam dist tops in child trafficking

## 1,773 kids rescued across State, highest 485 from Ganjam

**PNS ■ CUTTACK**  
Ganjam topped in child trafficking among other districts in Odisha with the highest number of children rescued during Operation Paree II, launched by the State Government. According to reports, police rescued 1,773 children in total 36 police districts, out of which the highest number of 485 minor children, including 25 girls, were rescued in Ganjam and Brahmapur police districts. Koraput is ranked second in

the list of rescued children with the number 141 (64 minor boys and 78 minor girls). Out of total rescued children across Odisha, 1,486 are minor boys and 287 are minor girls. Police registered 105 cases in connection with child trafficking. As the case of child trafficking and sexual exploitation are increasing across the State, the situation is yet to be alarming in remaining 34 police districts, besides Ganjam and Koraput. While 37 minor children were rescued in the State capital under Bhubaneswar Commissionerate police limits, six in Cuttack Commissionerate, 33 in Cuttack Rural, 42 in Jagatsinghpur, 67 in

Jajpur, 52 in Kendrapada, 42 in Puri, 46 in Nayagarh, 33 in Khordha, 13 in Baleswar, 66 in Bhadrak, 19 in Mayurbhanj, 12 in Sambalpur, five in Bargarh, 28 in Deogarh, 30 in Jharsuguda, 49 in Dhenkanal, six in Angul, 70 in Balangir, 15 in Sonepur, 44 in Gajapati, 42 in Kandhamal, 55 in Boudh, five in Nabarangpur, 47 in Rayagada, 10 in Malkangiri, 59 in Kalahandi, 29 in Nuapada, 60 in Sundergarh, 36 in Keonjhar, seven in Rourkela, 51 in Cuttack GRP and 30 were rescued in Rourkela GRP, a Crime Branch report stated. As the 15-day Operation Paree II launched on September 1 to rescue missing children ended on Saturday, the second

phase of operation began from September 16 i.e Sunday with specific inputs. Total eight teams were constituted having 64 officials from the Odisha Crime Branch and Women and Child Welfare Department to gear up the second phase Operation Paree II outside the State. They have visited the States including Delhi, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand and West Bengal on the mission to rescue the children allegedly trafficked and engaged in various institutions as labourers. The teams will return to Odisha on September 30 after getting success in their operation. Police have so far arrested

# Doctors' agitation hit services in Banpur hosp

## 2 youths held for assaulting doc, cop in JSpur

**PNS ■ KHORDHA**  
Healthcare services at the Banpur hospital in the district were affected on Monday as doctors resorted to a dharna demanding arrest of the persons who had allegedly thrashed a doctor on Sunday after the death of a patient. ASHA Workers and hospital staffs also staged a dharna along with the doctors with demands of security and arrest of all the culprits. Expressing solidarity with the agitating doctors, medicine shop owners in the area kept their shops closed. Police have so far arrested

six persons in connection with the incident, reports said. Notably, one Prashant Sahu (22) of Khuntapalli village under the Banapur police station got electrocuted at his house. He was rushed to the Banapur hospital, where the doctor on duty declared him brought dead. Tension gripped the hospital premises after the incident as the family members of the deceased allegedly beat the doctor claiming that the youth was still alive. A complaint in this regard was lodged by the doctor with police.

# 2 youths held for assaulting doc, cop in JSpur

**PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR**  
Police on Monday arrested two youths and forwarded them to court for allegedly assaulting a doctor and a policeman in the District Headquarters Hospital here two days ago. The youths were identified as Soumya Ranjan Mohanty and Subash Das of the Naugaon area. They were attendant of a patient who had come for treatment on Saturday. While the patient's condition turned critical, the doctor advised taking him to Cuttack for better treatment. The attendants searched for a Government ambulance for the purpose, but it was unavailable. They urged the doctor to arrange an ambulance. When doctor expressed inability, the enraged attendants attacked him and even a police officer present at the spot. Later, the police officer Rashmi Ranjan Mallick lodged an FIR at the Jagatsinghpur police station, basing on which police conducted a probe and arrested the two attendants.

# Slew of new-gen infras inaugurated at PPT

## Man held for sexual abuse, cheating

**PNS ■ PARADIP**  
As part of port modernisation and infrastructure development, a series of new developmental infrastructures were inaugurated by Paradip Port Trust (PPT) Chairman Rinkesh Roy on Sunday. Roy inaugurated a large electronic display board at the entrance of the PPT Administrative Building. These boards will showcase the PPT's various functions of from time to time. Roy also inaugurated a new state-of-the-art 132/33/11-

effective power distribution to the deep-draught iron ore and deep-draught coal terminals undertaken on a BOT basis. Besides, a new 11-KV load centre was also inaugurated near the marine jetty, which will facilitate effective power supply to the newly-commissioned clean cargo terminal of the PICT-PL which recently come up a BOT basis. Lift systems at the PPT Hospital and Administrative Buildings were also inaugurated. A departmentally-built cantilever/cable-stayed bridge across the creek was dedicated to the public. This state-of-the-art design is one of its kind in the locality and mostly built with scraps and discarded materials.

her son a Government job, boasting he had connection with high officials of various departments. The police could learn that Santosh, a tout, used to trap gullible women and exploit them. "Accused Samal was arrested and forwarded to court after being booked under various sections of IPC and Section 3 of SC, ST Act," said Simulia police station IIC Sanjay Parida. "Samal admitted that he took money from the victim. Similarly, complaints were received against him from other persons too," he added.

# Murderer released on good behaviour kills man

## Victim a married woman

**PNS ■ BALESWAR**  
On the charge of sexually exploiting a married woman and further cheating her financially, the Simulia police arrested a 45-year-old man. The accused was identified as Santosh Samal, a resident of village Digi under Andrai panchayat of Simulia. The accused after the trapping the victim of Remuna area not only sexually exploited her for months, but also took Rs 2.15 lakh from her promising that he would get

her son a Government job, boasting he had connection with high officials of various departments. The police could learn that Santosh, a tout, used to trap gullible women and exploit them. "Accused Samal was arrested and forwarded to court after being booked under various sections of IPC and Section 3 of SC, ST Act," said Simulia police station IIC Sanjay Parida. "Samal admitted that he took money from the victim. Similarly, complaints were received against him from other persons too," he added.

Giri Mandal (56), a convicted murderer of Jajpur district, who was released two years back from the jail for good behaviour, allegedly killed a man at village Sankharidaha under the Dharmasala police station on Sunday night. Mandal killed 33-year-old villager Sanatan Samal, who was beaten to death. Samal was rushed to the Dharmasala hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

**IN JAJPUR**  
"After killing Sanatan, the accused had managed to flee from the village. But we arrested him on Monday at Jaraka," said IIC of Dharmasala police station Umakanta Nayak. Agitated locals blocked the road at Sankharidaha demanding stern action against Mandal. Notably, Mandal had been sentenced to life in prison by the District and Sessions Judge of Jajpur in 2004 for killing his wife Chandi in 2003.

# A'garh: Aspirants begin lobbying for tickets

**DINESH DAS ■ ATHAGARH**  
As the general and Assembly Apolls are drawing close, the selection of candidates for ticket distribution stands an important issue for all parties. In Athgarh, BJD MLA Ranendra Pratap Swain seems to be a worried lot as whether he would get a BJD ticket in 2019 or not is clear. Since getting a green signal from the Third Floor, one Abhaya Barik continues organising the BJD in the Athagarh Assembly constituency. Rout has been active in the BJD for at least a couple of years

with a good response. On the contrary, Swain is in a fix over his ticket prospect. His suspicion for the same also arises for the creation of the Legislative Council in the State where he could be adjusted by the party, opine political observers here. Some also say that since Swain is not in the good book of the coterie advising the BJD boss, he may be denied a nomination this time. Meanwhile, the grapevine also has it that in the event Swain is not given a ticket from the BJD, he may join the BJP with his band of supporters.

Howver, leaders are also

vying for a ticket from the BJP as its position is good in Athgarh. Former nominees of the party from here like Ramnarayan Mohanty, Bikram Dash are in the lobby. Others like singer Manmath Mishra, newly inducted former Congress leader Bibhuti Bhusan Mishra are also trying hard to get the party ticket. Mostly singer Mishra is seen getting good support from the people. Party observer Kamal Giri has been appointed here to judge the popularity of the candidates. Similarly, the competition in the Congress for ticket is no less fierce. As Athagarh was a

citadel of Congress during the

Chief Ministership of JB Pattnaik in 1980s, it has its pocket votes. The Congress lost the confidence of the people here when it did not choose the right candidate in 1990 election. Ever since, Athagarh has remained a Congress-free constituency. Nevertheless, Congress has at least 30 per cent pocket votes here. Everything depends on selection of a right candidate this time. During 2012 by-election, when Suresh Mohapatra was the Congress nominee from Athgarh, he had got over 40,000 votes.

# Woman cop assaulted during idol immersion in Gop

**PNS ■ PURI**  
Tension prevailed in Gop area in the district after a group of youths allegedly manhandled a woman cop during immersion of Ganesh idols on Sunday. Later, police arrested a youth in this connection. Sources said some youths of Senapati Sahi under the Gop police station were carrying out a procession for immersion of Ganesh idol. In the meantime, the youth did not allow a truck to cross the road, which led to a traffic jam. On receiving information, a police team led by ASI Swarna Prabha Jena reached the spot to control the situation. However, the youths allegedly abused the ASI in filthy language, manhandled and even thrashed her. Later, police arrested a youth identified as Babu after registering a case in connection with the incident. Search is on to nab others, who are on the run.

# 'Odisha primary healthcare in bad shape'

PEOPLE'S HEALTH ASSEMBLY HELD

SUDARSHAN CHHOTORAY ■ BHUBANESWAR

A State-level 'People's Health Assembly' was conducted here on Sunday which was organised by the Jana Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA), part of the Global Health Assembly. Speakers at the meeting stressed the need for a comprehensive health policy which will guarantee healthcare for all. "Despite spending crores through scheme based preventive and curative programmes, the Government's focus on strengthening pri-

mary health services is still not adequate," said joint convener of Jana Swasthya Abhiyan, India, Amit Sengupta. He further added, "Shortage of health workers and services, particularly in rural areas, continues to have its negative impact. Communicable diseases like TB, HIV, HCV and malaria continue to be a leading cause of morbidity and mortality even as non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases etc in both urban and rural areas are on the rise." "Lack of enforcement of the Clinical Establishment Act, shortage of specialists doctors



in Government hospitals and non availability of free medicines have been the major area of concern as far as basic health

services are concerned," stated convener of Odisha Chapter of JSA Gouranga Mahapatra. While speaking at the inaugural session, health rights activist Bijayalakshmi Routray highlighted the discrepancies in the primary health services like improper diagnostics, lack of care for the newborns, private practices of Government doctors and shortage of medicines. She alleged that though the Government has with good intention started the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, the Biju Krushaka Kalyan Yojana and the Biju Swasthya Bima Yojana, but there are evidences that a major chunk of money goes to the corporate hospitals

and insurance companies. Executive director of Odisha Voluntary Health Association (OVHA) Ajay Tripathy spoke on ensuring basic entitlements of people and urged the Government to give more emphasis on providing clean drinking water, besides ensuring health and hygiene in the Government hospitals. The JSA is in process of preparing a status paper on state of healthcare in Odisha to be presented in the National People's Health Assembly to be held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh on September 22 and 23 and the Global Health Assembly scheduled for November 15 in Dhaka.

# Tech Conclave held; awards given away

ORGANISED BY EVER GREEN FORUM



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An 'Odisha Technological Conclave' was organised by the Ever Green Forum on the Engineers' Day here. Minister of Women and Child Welfare and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Prafulla Samal inaugurated it on Monday. Principal GM, BSNL Er Avinna Kumar Pahi, Odisha Private Engineering Schools' Association general secretary Er Saroj Sahoo attended the event as guests of honour. A panel discussion was organised on the theme 'Technology and Development'. A souvenir was released and a model exhibition for students also held.

Dr Debahuti Mishra, Dr Sakuntala Mahapatara and Dr Sachi Nandan Mohanty were awarded with Best Researcher Award while Prof Bikash Pattanaik and Prof Jnana Ranjan Nayak were awarded with Best principal award for diploma education. Dr Sagar Mishra, Binaya Panigrahi, Dr Nilima Shukla, Dr Satyabrata Dash, Prasanna Dixit were awarded with Best Teacher Award.

**A panel discussion was organised on the theme 'Technology and Development'. A souvenir was released and a model exhibition for students also held**

# B'pur love triangle murder: Doc nabbed from BBSR

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

Cracking the 'love triangle' murder case, the Brahmampur police arrested the prime accused doctor Prushikesh Tripathy from Bhubaneswar on Sunday night. Police managed to arrest Tripathy by acting upon inputs received from another accused in the case Ganga Behera, who is in police custody. As per the allegation against the accused doctor, he loved the same nurse with whom the victim banker Bishnu Gouda was having an affair. Out of jealousy, the accused hatched a conspiracy and invit-

ed Gouda to his residence on the day of the incident and killed him brutally. He also cut the dead body of the deceased into three pieces and stuffed it into a sack. Later, with the help of Behera the accused took the body pieces to a dumpyard located at Badagumula and buried them. After Gouda's wife lodged a complaint regarding missing of her husband at the Baidyanathpur police station, police swung into action and nabbed Behera. Based on the information received during Behera's interrogation police exhumed the decomposed body after 25 days of the incident.



3:22 PM

# International Kho Kho star Sasmita felicitated



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

International Kho Kho champion Sasmita Nath Sharma was felicitated at the State secretariat by State Planning Board Deputy Chairman Bishnu Charan Das on Saturday. Sasmita has made India proud in general and Odisha in particular as she bagged the gold medal in the first International Kho Kho Championship held at Birmingham in London. Daughter of Kalyani Nath Sharma and Saroj Kumar Nath Sharma, Sasmita hails from a remote village Gopiakuda of Tirtol block in Jagatsinghpur district and is a student of +3 Humanities of the

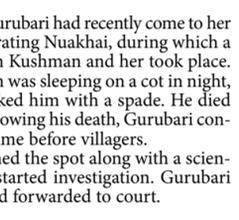
**A panel discussion was organised on the theme 'Technology and Development'. A souvenir was released and a model exhibition for students also held**

# Woman hacks son to death in S'garh

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

A woman allegedly murdered her son at Ataparia village under the Hemgiri police limits in Sundargarh district on Sunday night after being irritated over his annoying behaviour. Kushman Badhek (35) used to quarrel with his mother Gurubari (55) after consuming liquor, for which the latter was staying at her

sister's house. Gurubari had recently come to her house for celebrating Nuakhai, during which a dispute between Kushman and her took place. While Kushman was sleeping on a cot in night, his mother hacked him with a spade. He died on the spot. Following his death, Gurubari confessed to the crime before villagers. Police reached the spot along with a scientific team and started investigation. Gurubari was arrested and forwarded to court.



# No seaplane in Chilka; it's a rumour!

HELICOPTER FLYING OVER THE LAKE TERMED AS SEAPLANE

PNS ■ PURI

After cancellation of a water Aerodrome project in Chilka lake on ecological grounds, a helicopter flying in the sky triggered a rumour of seaplane landing on Friday. As the news spread, many turned up to watch it in the lake. However, they returned in vain when they came to know that it was only a rumour by some miscreants. "The water aerodrome project has already been cancelled in Chilka. It might be a rumour," told IIC Krunaprasad Prashant Kumar Swain. He said he has no idea even of a helicopter flying around the lake the same day. Sources said a helicopter had passed over the lake at about noon hour on Friday last. While flying over Arkhakuda village, some local youths caught sight of it. Watching the helicopter rounding up in their area, the rumour-mongers sent messages of seaplane landing in the lake to multiple mobile phones. That ultimately drew people in droves of Parikud, Satapara and Alupatana etc to Arkhakuda to watch a new machine, which can fly in the air and boat in the water. Even some news reporters were said to have received messages with photo of seaplane surfacing on the water. "It was a helicopter, but some rumour mongers colouring it as a seaplane spread messages," said Prashant Dash of Deulapada village of Parikud island. He said a helicopter had made some rounds in Chilka area on Friday to assess the flood situations after demands were made for compensation

of loss of crops in the recent rain. Sometimes, a helicopter comes here to map the climate, said Dash to The Pioneer. It is worth mentioning here that after the reports of seaplane in Chilka came in media, Tourism and Culture Minister Ashok Panda replied that he would talk to the Minister, Forests and Environment. He had said since the lake comes under the Forests and Environment Department, he would seek a report on the fact. A higher official of the Chilka Development Authority (CDA) also dubbed it as a rumour only. Notably, the water aerodrome project initiated by the Centre has been canceled after oppositions from the locals and environmentalists on its adverse impact on the lake's ecology. As the project would badly affect the habitats of Eravadi dolphins, crabs and birds of Nalabana, the Chilka Development Authority (CDA) did not allow the project in the lake. Initially, the State Government had agreed to the pilot project of the Centre for growth of tourism, however, due to stiff opposition within the BJD, it ultimately cancelled the plan.

of loss of crops in the recent rain. Sometimes, a helicopter comes here to map the climate, said Dash to The Pioneer. It is worth mentioning here that after the reports of seaplane in Chilka came in media, Tourism and Culture Minister Ashok Panda replied that he would talk to the Minister, Forests and Environment. He had said since the lake comes under the Forests and Environment Department, he would seek a report on the fact. A higher official of the Chilka Development Authority (CDA) also dubbed it as a rumour only. Notably, the water aerodrome project initiated by the Centre has been canceled after oppositions from the locals and environmentalists on its adverse impact on the lake's ecology. As the project would badly affect the habitats of Eravadi dolphins, crabs and birds of Nalabana, the Chilka Development Authority (CDA) did not allow the project in the lake. Initially, the State Government had agreed to the pilot project of the Centre for growth of tourism, however, due to stiff opposition within the BJD, it ultimately cancelled the plan.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**SUNDARGARH IRRIGATION DIVISION, SUNDARGARH**  
 E-mail-ID - [irreesng@yahoo.in](mailto:irreesng@yahoo.in)  
**'e' Procurement for Civil Works**  
 Bid-Identification No. NCB 02/ORDRIPW12A & ORDRIPW12B /2018-19(On-line), Dt.11.09.2018  
**No.11313 Dt. 11.09.18**

1. No. of works	:-	Two (02 Nos.)
2. Estimated Cost	:-	Rs.9.20 Lakhs & Rs.11.30 Lakhs
3. Period of completion	:-	One Calendar Month
4. Date & Time of availability	:-	Dt.22.09.2018 at 10:00 AM to Dt.22.10.2018 up to 05:00 PM
5. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:-	Dt.22.10.2018 up to 05:00 PM
6. Date and time of opening of tender	:-	Dt. 26.10.2018 up to 11:30 AM

Further details can be seen from the State Govt. Portal:- [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)  
 Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.  
 Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**Sundargarh Irrigation Division**  
**Sundargarh**

32134/11/0010/1819

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, KENDRAPARA**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (SHORT NOTICE)**  
**'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.RWD-II/KPD-04/18-19 DTD 04.09.2018**

1. Name of work	:-	Construction of building work in the District of Kendrapara for the year 2018-19
2. Total No of building	:-	1 No building
3. Estimated Cost	:-	Rs.55.00
4. Period of Completion	:-	12 (Twelve) months
5. Class of contractors	:-	A & B class

Other details as follows :  
 a) Procurement officer : Executive Engineer Rural Works Division-II, Kendrapara  
 b) Availability of tender online & submission of bid : 19.09.2018 at 11:00 AM to 04.10.2018 up to 5:00 PM  
 c) Last date & time of seeking of tender clarification : 03.10.2018 up to 5:00 PM  
 d) Opening of Technical Bid : 05.10.2018 at 11:00 A.M.  
 e) Opening of Financial Bid : 10.10.2018 at 11:00 A.M.  
 Further details can be seen from the Govt. website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
 Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**Rural Works Division-II, Kendrapara**

25098/11/0007/1819

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B) NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR**  
 E-mail [seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com](mailto:seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com)  
**Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice**  
**Bid Identification No.:- S.E.E.C (R&B) 03/2018-19**  
**No. 2456 /Date 11.09.2018**

1. The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha Bhubaneswar on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible bidders for the works as mentioned below :	
2. Nature of work	:- Shifting of 11 KV, LT line and S/S.
3. No. of work	:- 1no.
4. Estimated cost	:- As per DTCN.
5. Period of completion	:- 3(three) calendar months.
6. Date and Time of availability of bid document in the portal.	:- from 19.09.2018 to 03.10.2018.
7. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal	:- 5.00PM of 04.10.2018.
8. Date and time of opening of bids	:- 11.30 A.M of 03.10.2018.
9. Name and address of the officer	:- Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle Inviting Bid (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
10. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <a href="https://tendersodisha.gov.in">https://tendersodisha.gov.in</a> . Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	

Sd/-  
**Superintending Engineer**  
**Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR**

34107/11/0003/1819

# S'garh co-op bank supervisor held taking bribe

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Monday caught Sundargarh District Central Cooperative (SDCC) Bank, Hemagir branch Assistant Manager-Cum-Supervisor Tapan Padhan red-handed for demanding and accepting illegal gratification of ₹7,000.

HE WAS CAUGHT TAKING BRIBE IN HIS OFFICE FROM COMPLAINANT SHRABAN KUMAR GARDIA OF KUND VILLAGE IN SUNDARGARH DISTRICT

He was caught taking bribe in his office from complainant Shraban Kumar Gardia of Kund village in Sundargarh district, now working as Sundargarh Gopalpur LAMPS MD for processing the loan documents of Sonali Self Help Group and Shree Laxmi Joint Liability Group. The groups had applied for loan through Gardia and Padhan demanded Rs 7,000 for forwarding the loan application to bank head office with favorable remarks for sanction of loan. His residential house at Gandhinagar, Belpahar was searched. Padhan was arrested and forwarded to court.

# VSS Nagar's various problems discussed PARISHAD DEMANDS STREETLIGHTS ON ROB, STAFF FOR HOSP



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Veer Surendra Sai (VSS) Nagar Unnayan Parishad executive committee meeting was held here on Monday, under the chairmanship of Paishad president Krupasindhu Sahu, where discussions were held on various problems. Parishad general secretary Dilip Dashsharma said even if the railway over bridge (ROB), connecting Postal Colony of VSS Nagar to Mancheswar, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in 2016, it doesn't have streetlights for which the commuters are facing problems at night. Similarly, he said though construction of a hospital building in VSS Nagar has been finished but doctors and other staffers have not been appointed and equipment not purchased. Lashing out at the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, he said even after

# Rout's seat in Assembly changed

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The seat of Paradip MLA Dr Damodar Rout was changed in the State Assembly following his recent dismissal from the BJD. Rout is now allotted Seat 10 of Block-8 in the House. Speaker Pradeep Kumar Amat made an announcement in the House in this regard on Monday. It may be noted that the number of BJD MLAs is now reduced to 117 with expulsion of Rout

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 General public is hereby informed that our client, M/s. Muthoot Finance Ltd. (GSTIN 32AABCT0343B1Z7), Registered Office: 2nd Floor, Muthoot Chambers, Banerji Road, Kochi - 682018, Kerala, India CIN: L65910KL1997PLC011300, Ph: +91 484-2396478, 2394712, Fax: +91 484-2396506, [mails@muthootgroup.com](mailto:mails@muthootgroup.com), [www.muthootfinance.com](http://www.muthootfinance.com) is conducting Auction of ornaments (Spurious/Low purity accounts for the period up to 31.01.2018), pledged in its favour, by the defaulting Borrowers, as detailed hereunder. All those interested may participate.  
**Auction of Spurious/Low purity ornaments, (Accounts for the period up to 31.01.2018)**  
 Date of Auction: 21.09.2018  
 Bhubaneswar - Lewis Road: MGL-411, MUL-469, 705, 1096, 1238  
 The auctions in respect of the loan accounts shown under the branch head will be conducted at the respective branches.  
 However, please note that in case the auction does not get completed on the given date(s), then in that event the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted/continued on 24.09.2018 respectively at Third Floor, MJ Plaza, Plot No. 760, Cuttack-Puri Road, Bhubaneswar, Orissa - 751006 and further in case the said ornaments are still not successfully auctioned on these dates then such auction shall be continued on subsequent days thereafter, at this same venue. No further notices shall be issued in this respect.  
 Date of Auction: 21.09.2018  
 Cuttack-Link Road: MUL-64, 1174, Balasore (OR): MUL-1823, Sambalpur - Gole Bazar: MUL-1595, Nayagarh Town (OR): MGL-915, Pattamunda Town (OR): MGL-419, MUL-1159, 1244, Balasore - Remuna Golei Chhak: MDL-30, Soro Town (OR): MUL-2146  
 The auctions in respect of the loan accounts shown under the branch head will be conducted at the respective branches.  
 However, please note that in case the auction does not get completed on the given date then the auction shall be continued on subsequent days thereafter, at this same venue. No further notices shall be issued in this respect.  
**Kohli & Sobti, Advocates, A 59A, First Floor, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi - 110024**  
 Note: Customers can release their pledged ornaments before the scheduled auction date, against payment of dues of our client. Customer can also contact Email ID: [auctiondelhi@muthootgroup.com](mailto:auctiondelhi@muthootgroup.com) or Call at 7834886464, 7994452461.

# Jawan kills 2 colleagues, commits suicide in HP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the first case of fratricide in the Army this year, a soldier allegedly shot dead two of his colleagues and then killed himself in Dharamshala Cantonment, Himachal Pradesh on Monday morning. A court of inquiry has been instituted to find the cause leading to this action. This is the seventh case of fratricide in the last five years.



2017 besides the latest case. Incidentally, more than 100 service personnel committed suicide in 2016 due to issues like stress due to operating in high-pressure areas like insurgency-hit Jammu & Kashmir and north-east. However, the latest incident of fratricide took place in Dharamshala, a peacetime military station, sources said.

The incident took place at 2.30 am when a soldier of 18 Sikh fired at two of his colleagues and then shot himself with his rifle. He had joined the Army six months back. While a probe is on to ascertain the reason for this extreme action, unconfirmed reports said Sepoy Jasbir Singh was posted on guard duty. He had altercation with the other two after returning to the unit and shot them with his INSAS rifle. The soldier then committed suicide. The two soldiers were

identified as Havaldar Hardeep Singh and Naik Harpal Singh. They had finished 23 years and 18 years of service respectively, it was learnt.

The local police besides Army officials reached the spot and the bodies of soldiers were taken by the police for post-mortem, sources said.

This is the first such incident in the Army this year where a soldier has killed his colleagues. Three such cases were reported in 2014, one in 2015, two in 2016 and one in

# ACID ATTACK ON HALALA PETITIONER SC orders UP Govt to ensure medical treatment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Uttar Pradesh Government to ensure medical treatment and compensation to a Muslim woman petitioner in a case concerning polygamy and 'nikah halala', who suffered an acid attack and has sought protection.



The apex court directed the Chief District Medical Officer of Bulandshahr town, where she was attacked, to ensure proper treatment to Shabnam Rani and asked the administration to consider granting her additional security.

Rani was last week attacked with acid in Bulandshahr and it has been alleged that a close relative and his friend were involved in the attack.

While polygamy allows a Muslim man to have four wives, 'nikah halala' deals with the process in which a Muslim woman can re-marry her husband after divorce, only when she marries another person, consummates the second marriage and then gets a divorce.

In her plea against 'nikah halala' and polygamy, Rani had alleged that her husband had divorced her through 'triple talaq' and forced her to perform 'nikah halala' with her brother-in-law.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwikar and D Y Chandrachud noted the submission of Additional Advocate General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the State, that an FIR has been lodged and security has been provided to the victim.

The court said if there was a scheme for compensation and any application has been submitted, then it may be dealt with in a span of two weeks.

It also said if any further security was required, then she could submit a representation to the Superintendent of Police who shall scrutinise it and do the needful.

"That apart, the applicant shall be given adequate treatment keeping in view the injuries. The concerned Chief District Medical Officer of the district shall do the needful in

the matter when it is brought to his notice," the court said.

Officers who have been mentioned hereinabove should be sensitive enough to carry out their duties as far as such treatment is concerned, that is, in consonance with the order of this Court and the policy of the State Government and, therefore, there cannot be delay in such matter," the bench said.

With regard to other Muslim women who have challenged 'nikah halala' and apprehend similar attacks, the top court asked them to submit representations to the concerned Superintendents of Police of the area who shall look into their grievance regarding providing them security.

The bench also directed that the pleadings in various petitions, challenging the constitutional validity of the practice of 'nikah halala' and polygamy among Muslims, be completed within one month. **PTI**

## INSHORT

### PM GETS GREETINGS FROM ALL ON BIRTHDAY

New Delhi: Greetings from all quarters, including his political rivals, poured in Monday for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who celebrated his 68th birthday in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi. Modi thanked them for their wishes in a series of tweets. President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, BJP chief Amit Shah, Congress president Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, her Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah were among the first to greet Modi.

### SINGHANIA GETS MEXICAN HIGHEST HONOUR

New Delhi: Dr. Raghupati Singhania, Chairman and Managing Director, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd, has been conferred with 'Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle', the highest honour accorded to non-nationals by the Government of Mexico. On the eve of the 128th National Day of Mexico, Melba Priá, Ambassador of Mexico to India, presented the award to Dr. Singhania on behalf of the President of Mexico, a press communiqué from the company stated.

### NO CBI PROBE INTO ATTACK ON AGNIVESH: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to order a CBI probe into the recent attacks on social activist Swami Agnivesh in Delhi and Pakur district of Jharkhand, saying the State police was already investigating the matter. Agnivesh claimed that the police in Jharkhand was not probing the matter and a state Cabinet Minister had dubbed him a "fraud". The top court, however, granted liberty to Agnivesh to make a representation to the competent authority for providing security.

### SC TO HEAR KIN OF RAJIV BOMB BLAST VICTIMS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the kin of those who had died in a bomb blast along with former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991, to file additional documents in their plea objecting to the Tamil Nadu Government's decision to release seven convicts in the case. A bench of Justices Ranjan Gogoi, Navin Sinha and K M Joseph listed the matter for further hearing after four weeks.

### AWARENESS CAMP AT POSHAN MAH HELD

New Delhi: The AYUSH Ministry and its affiliated bodies conducted various activities and organised awareness camps as part of "Poshan Maah", which is being observed this September to reach every household with the message of nutrition.

### UNIFIED COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE ON SEP 28

New Delhi: The Unified Commanders' Conference has been planned for September 28 in Jodhpur. It will be attended by all the senior field commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force. It has been kept one day prior to the second anniversary of the surgical strike of 29 September 2016.

### PLEA SEEKS BAN ON HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a plea seeking ban on nearly 85 pesticides that are being used in India on the grounds that they pose health hazard. A bench of Justices Arun Misra and Vineet Saran issued notices to the Centre and other authorities concerned on the plea which also sought empowering State Governments to take decisions at their level for prohibition and restriction related to pesticides.

### CENTRE CAN IMPLEMENT BOUNDARY DISPUTE REPORT

New Delhi: It is "entirely up to" the Centre to implement the report of the Surveyor General of India to demarcate the boundary between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka passing through the Ballari reserve forest, the Supreme Court said Monday. The Surveyor General of India filed the final report with regard to the demarcation of boundary between the two states before a bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta, which is hearing a matter relating to the Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC).

# BUREAUCRATIC RESHUFFLE Sanjay Agarawal appointed Agricultural Secy

Tarun Kapoor appointed DDA Vice Chairman

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday effected a major bureaucratic reshuffle. Sanjay Agarawal will be the new Agriculture Secretary while Sanjeev Ranjan will be the new chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Tarun Kapoor the new Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

**Sanjeev Ranjan, a 1985 batch IAS officer, will be the Chairman of the NHAI in the rank and pay of Secretary.**

Welfare on superannuation of S K Pattanayak, on September 30.

Ranjan, a 1985 batch IAS officer, will be the Chairman of the NHAI in the rank and pay of Secretary. He is at present serving in his cadre state Tripura.

Kapoor, a 1987 batch IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Vice Chairman, DDA on superannuation of Uday Pratap Singh this month end.

Director General of National Archives of India, Pritam Singh, has been named

Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Castes. He is a 1984 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre.

Anita Bhatnagar Jain will be Secretary, Central Information Commission (CIC). She is at present serving in her cadre state Uttar Pradesh.

Rajeev Ranjan, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, will be Special Secretary, GST Council Secretariat under the Department of Revenue.

Sudha Krishnan, who belongs to Indian Audit and Account Service, has been named Member Finance, Space Commission. She would also hold additional charge of Member Finance, Earth Commission and Atomic Energy Commission (with headquarters at New Delhi), the Personnel Ministry order said.

Besides, over 20 officers have been promoted to the

# FB data breach: CBI writes to Cambridge Analytica, GSR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has written to UK-based Cambridge Analytica and Global Science Research (GSR) besides US-based Facebook, seeking information into alleged data theft of Facebook users of India. About a month ago, on a reference from the IT Ministry, the agency had instituted a preliminary enquiry to determine whether GSR and Cambridge Analytica had illegally harvested and misused the data of Facebook users of India.

In the letters sent to the companies, the CBI has sought the details of data collection exercise adapted by them. After reference from the Centre, the investigative agency had initiated a preliminary enquiry against Cambridge Analytica and Global Science Research last month over the alleged data theft.

It is alleged that Cambridge Analytica received data from Global Science Research which employed "illegal means" of personal data harvesting of Indians using Facebook, CBI said. Facebook has over 20 crore users in India.

A preliminary enquiry is the first step to decide whether the allegations deserve a full-blown investigation through an FIR or not, CBI added.

Data mining and analysis firm Cambridge Analytica earlier faced allegations that it used personal information harvested from 87 million Facebook accounts to help Donald Trump win the 2016 US presidential election.

Union Law and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had told Rajya Sabha in July that the probe will be handed over to the CBI.

He had said there were also reports that user data was "illegally accessed by hardware manufacturers who had tie-ups with Facebook. In regard to this issue, Facebook has reported that they are not aware of any misuse of information, including Indian users' information".

The Mark Zuckerberg-owned company had said that the data of about 87 million people — mostly in the US — might have been improperly shared with Cambridge Analytica.

New Delhi: The CBI has taken over investigation into alleged swindling of \$171 million (about ₹1,200 crore) from the Union Bank of India by hackers in 2016, officials said Monday. The case, which was being probed by the Mumbai Police, pertains to transfer of about ₹1,200 crore from the Nostro account of the bank to various countries on July 20, 2016, they said.

# Activists' house arrest extended till Sep 19

Will examine allegations against them: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said it will examine two days later whether there is material supporting the arrest of five rights activists in connection with the Koregaon-Bhima violence case.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra extended till September 19 the house arrest of the five rights activists — Varavara Rao, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves, Sudha Bharadwaj and Gautam Navlaka — at their respective homes. "Every criminal investigation is based on allegations and we have to see whether there is some material," the bench, also comprising Justices A M Khanwikar and D Y Chandrachud said.

some grave lapses, it may consider prayers like investigation by a Special Investigating Team (SIT) into the case. The plea by Thapar and others has sought an independent probe into the arrests and the immediate release of the five activists.

The bench fixed the plea by Thapar, economists Prabhat Patnaik and Devaki Jain, sociology professor Satish Deshpande and human rights lawyer Maja Daruwala for final hearing on Wednesday. The court had on September 12 extended the house arrest of the activists till today.

Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Maharashtra Government, said the court should make it clear that after adjudication by it, the arrested accused cannot avail remedies simultaneously on similar issues at other judicial fora. **PTI**

# 'Despite new PM, Pak still under Army's influence'

New Delhi: Union Minister V K Singh said Monday the army still rules Pakistan despite the election of Imran Khan as the new Prime Minister, adding that it remains to be seen whether "the person" will be able to bring about a change.

India is adopting a "wait and watch" approach after the installation of a new Government in Pakistan, the Minister of State for External Affairs told reporters.

Responding to a question on incidents of infiltration at the border after the change of government in Pakistan, he said, "Did you all expect a change? I don't know. After all, the person has been propped up by the (Pakistan) army. The army still rules. So, let's wait and watch how things go — whether the person

remains under army control or doesn't remain under its control." He did not refer to Khan by name.

Dialogue with Pakistan can happen only if the environment is "conducive" for talks, the minister added on the sidelines of the opening of a two-day conference — Smart Border Management — organised by FICCI.

"India's policy is very clear. Dialogue can happen only when the environment is conducive," Singh said when asked whether there have been any attempts from Pakistan to initiate further dialogue with India.

Referring to reports of proposals to open the Kartarpur border crossing for Sikh pilgrims, Singh said India has "not received any proposal" from Pakistan to open the route.

# Swaraj reprimanded Sidhu for messing up Kartarpur talks: Min

New Delhi: As Punjab Cabinet Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu on Monday met External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal claimed that he was reprimanded by Swaraj for "messing up" the dialogue on the issue of Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara. Badal said Sidhu was also reprimanded by Swaraj misusing political clearance granted for the "private visit" by hugging Pakistan army chief who is responsible for killing Indian soldiers.

"External Affairs Minister reprimands Navjot Sidhu for messing up Kartarpur Sahib corridor dialogue and misusing political clearance granted for private visit by hugging military Chief responsible for killing our soldiers," Badal tweeted.

Sidhu, the local Government, tourism and cultural affairs minister in Punjab's Congress government, had visited Pakistan last month to attend the swearing ceremony of Prime Minister Imran Khan. A picture of him hugging Pak

army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa had gone viral which invited severe criticism from several quarters including from his boss Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

Earlier, Sidhu had written to External Affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, urging her to "make every possible effort" on the issue of Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara and said Pakistan had shown "positive intent" in providing access to the historic shrine.

On September 7 Sidhu had claimed that Pakistan had decided to allow Sikh pilgrims direct access to the historic Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara just across the border.

In a letter written to Swaraj on September 8, cricketer-turned-politician said: "Now an opportunity has knocked on our doors. Pakistan has shown a positive intent towards the long pending demand of Kartarpur Sahib corridor. Pilgrims and we all have been demanding for this corridor since years". **PTI**

# India to reduce cooling energy demand by 25% by 2038

First country to develop draft blueprint on Cooling Action Plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has become the first country in the world to develop a draft blueprint outlining action plan to bring down cooling requirement and refrigerant demands across sectors by 20 per cent to 25 per cent by 2037-38 while slashing cooling energy requirements by 25 per cent to 40 per cent within the same period, said Union Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on World Ozone Day on Monday.

event, he released the draft India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) and a booklet on 'Montreal Protocol — India's Success Story'.

Stressing upon the need to strengthen active collaboration between the Government, industries, industry associations and all stakeholders, he said that the World Ozone Day offers an opportunity to focus global attention and action on the vital environmental issue of protection of the Ozone Layer.

He said that the Ministry has already undertaken an initiative for upskilling of 1,00,000 refrigeration and Air-conditioning servicing technicians in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)

under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) — Skill India Mission.

Environment Secretary CK Mishra said that along with energy efficiency, it is critical to identify the usage of gases and not merely replacement of gases. "There are alternative ways to cooling that should be looked at. Another issue is an army of trained manpower to handle manufacturing and maintenance", he said. He also pointed out to the criticality of the need for finances and expanding research & development (R&D).

India is the first country in the world to develop such a document (ICAP), which addresses cooling requirements across sectors and lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand. **PTI**

# Khadi launches exclusive designer 'Modi jackets & kurtas' on PM's birthday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Coinciding with prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on Monday, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched an exclusive designer range of 'Modi Jackets' and 'Modi Kurtas' at its flagship store in Connaught Place here.

KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena said it was the inspiration and vision of the Prime Minister that Khadi had achieved several milestones in the last four years.

"For Khadi, Prime Minister himself has become the biggest brand Ambassador. It was his call of 'Khadi for Fashion' that millions of youths adopted Khadi. The launch of these designer jackets and kurtas is the expression of love and gratitude from our artisans - for whom the Prime Minister has always shown his concern," he said.

These designer jackets and kurtas are available in all KVIC outlets across the nation from Monday in a price range of Rs 999 to Rs 3500. After proper washing and shrinking, expert tailors were assigned to stitch these items.

# SC stays NGT order making odd-even applicable to 2-wheelers, women-driven vehicles

New Delhi: Two-wheelers and four wheelers driven by women plying in the national Capital would be exempted from the odd-even vehicle rotation scheme with the Supreme Court on Monday staying the National Green Tribunal's 2017 direction which had made it applicable for all vehicles.

Under the scheme, which is currently not in force in Delhi, odd and even numbered vehicles are to ply on alternate days.

As per the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), the odd-even scheme comes into effect automatically whenever the particulate matter PM10 and PM 2.5 rises to 500 microgram per cubic metre and 300 microgram per cubic metre respectively for 48 hours.

The apex court's order came after the Delhi government said there were around 68 lakh two-wheelers here and it would be "impossible to accommodate" the people in public transport if the odd-even scheme was made applicable for two-wheelers also. **PTI**

# Centre employees asked to undertake cleanliness drive in office premises

New Delhi: The Centre has asked all departments under it to undertake cleanliness drive on their premises, according to an official communique. All Central Government employees have been asked to contribute six hours of 'shramdaan' (labour) during the ongoing fortnight-long cleanliness drive.

"Shramdaan activities may include cleaning of office complexes, residential colonies and public places including cleaning of drains, public toilets, waste collection drives, and awareness campaigns," the Ministry of Personnel said in the directive issued to secretaries of all central government departments. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' movement on September 15. It will continue till October 2. **PTI**

# BJP targets TRS on 70th Liberation Day

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

On the 70th Liberation Day of Hyderabad on Monday marking the merger of the erstwhile princely State of Hyderabad into the Indian Union following a military action in 1948, the BJP launched a fresh onslaught on the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti.

As the day has come in the thick of the election campaign in the State, the saffron party has put the occasion to full use to target the TRS, questioning why it did not celebrate the day officially during its four-year long rule.

"When it couldn't celebrate the most important day in the history of Telangana how it can claim itself to be the champion of the State," asked BJP state floor leader G Kishan Reddy.

While all other parties including the TRS, Congress and the Left marked the day by hoisting national flags at their respective party offices, the BJP adopted an aggressive posture linking its programmes to the party's election campaign.

The national flag was hoisted at the State BJP headquarters in the presence of the top

State BJP leaders, including the State president K Lakshman and former Union Minister Bandaru Dattatreya.

They promised that after coming to power in the State the BJP will officially celebrate "Telangana Vimohana Day" or liberation day. A similar promise was made by the BJP national president Amit Shah during his visit on Saturday.

Kishan Reddy who paid tributes to the Telangana martyrs at the memorial alleged that the TRS was playing into the hands of the Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM). "TRS has done a great injustice to Telangana by not celebrating the day. It will be possible only if BJP comes to power. We will organize official celebration in every government office when we come to power", Reddy said.

He urged the people to stand up against the vote bank politics of K Chandrasekhar Rao. He said that KCR did not have any moral right to ask for votes when he had failed to keep any promise made to the people.

Reacting angrily to the senior TRS leader K Taraka Rama Rao describing BJP as "Bharatiya Jhootha Party",

Kishan Reddy said, "If he calls our party like that then the TRS is Telangana Razakars Party".

He was referring to the Razakars, a private militia force in Nizam reign which fought against the Indian army during the operation polo. Nizam rule had come to an end on September 17, 1948 after a three day long "Operation Polo" by the Indian army at the behest of then home minister Sardar Patel.

BJP has been demanding that the day should be celebrated officially in Telangana like it was done in the parts of Nizam dominion which were merged into Karnataka and Maharashtra.

BJP leaders also recalled statements of the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on various occasion in which he had expressed his admiration for the last Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan for his benevolent rule and the Hindu-Muslim harmony and composite culture which prevailed during his reign.

In the past KCR rejected the demand for celebration of Liberation Day saying it was a "merger day" and some people want to use it to create a discord among the people on communal lines.

# HC notice to TN BJP leader for remarks on judiciary

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Monday asked H Raja, the national secretary of the BJP, to present himself before the court in four weeks and explain why no action should not be taken against him for his derogatory comments against the judiciary.

Justices CT selvam and Nirmal Kumar on Monday took suo motu cognisance of his remarks made in Puthukottai district on Saturday when the police tried to prevent him from taking a Vinayaka Chaturthi procession through a locality which has been declared out of bound because of the communally sensitive region.

Raja reportedly shouted at the police and used derogatory comments against the judiciary, the video of which went viral in the social media.

The BJP leader has heard shouting that the whole police forces in Tamil Nadu were corrupt and the State Police Chief's residence had been raided recently by the CBI.

When the video of his out-

bursts went viral, Raja changed tracks and claimed that he had not made any comments like that.

He also claimed that the voice in the video does not belong to him and it has been dubbed by some forces who were against him and the BJP.

The Pudukottai Police have registered a first information report against Raja and five others under various sections of the Indian Penal Code ranging from unlawful assembly to criminal intimidation.

The BJP leader remained incommunicado despite many attempts to contact him over the phone.

Uma Anandan, his close associate, was the only person who came out to support Raja while other BJP leaders maintained silence over the issue. "Raja Sir has not told anything like what the DMK and VCK against Hindus in the State," said Anandan.

It may be remembered that Raja had courted controversy last year for his exhortation to the BJP cadre to destroy and demolish the statues of EV Ramasamy Naicker, founder of the Dravida movement in Tamil Nadu.

# Naicker statue desecration mars festive season in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The festive season in Tamil Nadu commenced on a stormy note with unpleasant incidents being reported from various parts of the State in connection with Vinayakar Chaturthi and the 139th birth anniversary of EV Ramasamy Naicker, social reformer and founder of the Dravidian movement.

Miscreants reportedly placed footwear on the statue of Naicker at Tiruppur in south western Tamil Nadu on Monday morning. Though the police got the footwear removed immediately, the city witnessed demonstrations condemning the desecration of the statue.

Another miscreant threw his chappals at the statue of Naicker in Chennai's arterial Mount Road. A crowd which had gathered around the statue to offer floral tributes to the late leader was taken aback by this act of vandalism and caught hold of the miscreant and was handed over to the police.

In Tiruppur, a team of police officers are scanning the entire district to nab the people who vandalised the statue of Naicker. All political parties barring the BJP came

out in the open and condemned the attack on the statues.

MK Stalin, DMK president, wanted the Tamil Nadu Government to slap National Security Act on anti-social elements who desecrated Naicker's statues. The attacks on the statues of Naicker come a day after the communal riots that rocked the southern town of Senkottai.

The town bordering Kerala saw Hindus and Muslim rioting on Thursday. Though there were no untoward incidents during the processions, the day prior to the immersion saw pitched battles between the two communities over the route through which the procession was to take place.

Many shops and vehicles were set ablaze by miscreants as there were stiff opposition to the procession scheduled through streets having Muslim population.

The district administration's orders not to use high decibel music and slogans like Bharat Mata Ki Jay were challenged by activists of Hindu Front and devotees of the Lord.

Since they did not get the desired help from the administration, Hindus in the district convened a meeting on Saturday and decided to social-

ly and economically boycott the Muslim community. "Though a peace meeting was held on Sunday at the instance of the district administration, the impasse caused by Vinayaka Chaturthi remained unresolved," said Sriram, writer and social activist.

Meanwhile, the outburst by H Raja, the national secretary of BJP, at Thirumayam in Pudukottai district against the judiciary and police has resulted in the deterioration of the communal harmony in the State. Raja accused the court and police of corruption and termed them as anti-Hindu. The outburst went viral and the police registered a first information report against him and other Hindu leaders under various sections of the IPC.

Though Raja denied that he had raised allegations against the judiciary and police, Shyamala and C Rajasekar, advocates of Madras High Court said that the BJP leader had bitten more than he could chew.

Last year also Raja was in the news for making allegedly derogatory comments against Naicker. BJP leaders in Tamil Nadu refused to come out to help their colleague. "We are helpless as this is a situation created by Raja himself," said a senior leader.

# Petrol, diesel cheaper by ₹2 in Karnataka

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

In a major decision, the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government in Karnataka captained by Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy has reduced the petrol and diesel prices by Rs 2 in the State. Karnataka has one of the highest rates of petroleum products and this has reduced the burden of the common people to an extent.

This makes Karnataka the fourth state to bring down the soaring fuel rates after Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal. Fuel prices have been on an upward swing for weeks now with union Government so far refused to cut in central taxes, while maintaining that rates would stabilise depending on the international market.

Petrol was selling at ₹84.59 per litre in Bengaluru on Monday, while diesel was retailing at ₹76.10 a litre. Addressing a rally at Kalburgi to commemorate the Hyderabad Karnataka liberation day on

Monday announced the cut in rate.

He said "Today, this coalition Government has decided to reduce both petrol and diesel prices by ₹2 per litre."

Former PM and Janata party Supremo HD Deve Gowda said in a tweet "It is a commendable decision by the Government of Karnataka to reduce fuel prices by around ₹2 per litre."

Announcing the price slash, Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy said, "Our Government has decided to reduce the cess on petrol and diesel. The fuel price will be decreased by two rupees per litre."

Deputy CM G Parameshwara also took to Twitter to hail the decision. "In a landmark move to reduce the burden of rising fuel prices on the people of Karnataka, our coalition Government has slashed the cess on petrol & diesel by ₹2. Hope the union Government too follows suit," he wrote.

# 20 to 30L names deleted from poll lists in T, alleges Cong

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress in Telangana on Monday alleged that between 20 to 30 lakh names have been deleted from the electoral rolls and that the party would work to include every eligible citizen in the voters' lists.

"The deletion of 20-30 lakh names from the electoral rolls was not incidental, but part of a conspiracy by the ruling TRS and BJP," Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president N Uttam Kumar Reddy alleged.

The Congress would not allow the conspiracy to succeed and would fight until each and every eligible citizen gets enrolled in the voters' lists, he said, speaking at Gandhi Bhavan, the State Congress headquarters here.

Reddy also alleged that the TRS government in Telangana has "crushed people's freedom".

The Congress, if elected to power in the coming assembly

**"The deletion of 20-30 lakh names from the electoral rolls was not incidental, but part of a conspiracy by the ruling TRS and BJP"**

Assembly elections, would restore 'Dharna Chowk' (a place near Indira Park here to organise protests) as protests are not being allowed there now, Reddy said.

The Assembly elections were originally scheduled to be held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls next year, but the assembly was dissolved earlier this month as per a recommendation of the TRS Government.

The Congress, which called upon all political and non-political forces to join forces

with it to end the "misrule" of TRS, has held preliminary talks with TDP and CPI on forming a broad-based alliance to defeat the TRS.

AICC incharge of party affairs in Telangana R C Khuntia had earlier indicated that a Common Minimum Programme (CMP) could be evolved for the alliance.

Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with other party leaders, later visited party leader and ex-MLA T Jayaprakash Reddy, who was arrested in connection with a human trafficking case last week, at Chanchalguda jail here.

"Reddy has been implicated in a false case by the TRS government," the TPCC president said.

Meanwhile, Congress leader A Revanth Reddy claimed that there was a conspiracy against him as he is expected to play a key role in the party's election campaign.



Shiite Muslims beat their chests in a religious procession of mourning during the holy month of Moharram in Jammu PTI

# United Opposition is not a threat to us: Maurya

PTI ■ MATHURA

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya does not view the united opposition as a threat to the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking to reporters here Monday evening, Maurya said, "Our target is 73+ seats (in the state) and we are not concerned about the opposition's strategy."

Recently, BSP chief Mayawati said her party would join the mahagathbandhan if her party was offered respectable number of seats.

"We are not bothered about Mayawati, Akhilesh

Yadav or Rahul Gandhi. We are working for 73+ seats and how we can support the prime minister," he said.

He said the opposition's main aim was to stop Modi in 2019 Lok Sabha elections. He said the opposition leaders were frustrated, dejected and sad as their efforts were not yielding desired results.

Speaking on the SC/ST ordinance, the deputy CM said he can assure the people that the provisions of the ordinance and the act in the future would never be misused.

"In spite of winning 73 seats, we could not win in the rest seven seats in the state in

2014 general polls. However, now our aim is to ensure victory in 100 per cent seats," Maurya is said to have told BJP activists during an interaction, according to media in-charge of BJP Pradeep Goswami.

Maurya told the party workers that they have to play a greater role in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections compared to the state elections held last year, Goswami said, adding that Maurya advised the people to apprise the public about varnane schemes launched by the Modi Government. Maurya later paid obeisance to the presiding deity at Banke Behari temple in Vrindaban.

# CEC meets representatives of political parties in Raj

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Chief Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat met the representatives of seven political parties in Jaipur on Monday to discuss the issues related to the upcoming Assembly election in Rajasthan.

Leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party submitted a memorandum to the commissioner, demanding elections in the state in two phases. The representatives sought adequate security and administrative force for a free-and-fair election, a BJP spokesperson said.

# Collectors in Telangana given training on election work

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

A training programme for All district Collectors in Telangana on how to deal with the process of election work, especially those involving information technology, was conducted here Monday.

According to the guidelines of the Election Commission of India, all the Collectors/District Election Officers (DEOs) of the state have been imparted training on how to deal with the process of election work.

Also, deputy DEOs with IT wing have been trained to have a clear idea to perform their duties with transparency during the process of the elections,

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer Rajat Kumar told reporters.

The ECI has deputed teams from Delhi to impart the training at the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) head office where Kumar and the civic body Commissioner M Dana Kishore monitored the programme, he said.

The ECI has made available 10 IT applications which would help the DEOs perform their duties in an appropriate way, Kumar said. Also, the ECI has introduced an application 'C Vigil' wherein any citizen can upload photos and videos during the election time, for

which time-bound response would be provided, he said.

Every citizen can utilise the application to upload and give information about the model code of conduct, malpractices etc, and the EC officials would act on the grievances in a time-bound schedule to sort the issues out immediately, Kumar said. These are some sophisticated and powerful IT tools which would be used this time in the election, he said.

Special awareness campaigns towards voter enrolment were also conducted over the last three days across the state where every booth-level officer can upload photos and videos during the election time, for

# Girl sets self afire after lover hangs himself

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

A 19-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide by setting herself ablaze after learning that her 22-year-old lover had hanged himself, near here, police said on Monday. The couple were neighbours, and the reason for taking the extreme step was not known, the police said. On Sunday, the lovers were arguing with each other over the phone while the boy was having drinks with his friend, they said. Later, the boy went home, told his family he would return on Monday, but phoned up his brother and his friend and said he was going to commit suicide, police said.



Members of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) participate in a road blockade agitation against alleged attack on BJP Bengal president Dilip Ghosh by TMC workers in East Midnapore district, in Kolkata on Monday PTI

# J&K Govt approves Single Window Act

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday approved the J&K Single Window (Industrial Investment and Business Facilitation) Act, 2018, which aims to ease flow of investments into the State. "The Governor's administration approved the J&K Single Window Act, 2018. The Act has been approved by the state administrative council (SAC), headed by Governor Satya Pal Malik," an official spokesman said.

Giving details of the Act, Principal Secretary, industries, Shailendra Kumar said enactment of the act is part of the

government's flagship initiative to improve ease of doing business indicators. "The act aims at comprehensive and unprecedented overhaul of the outdated processes and procedures involved in setting up businesses in the state," he said.

Kumar said services of more than 12 departments have been brought together in an online service. "All services from the pre-operation, pre-establishment stage to the renewal stage are present in the single window portal," Kumar said. He said the act involves setting up of three-tier committees at the state, division and district levels to ensure speedy clearance of business proposals.

# Kashmiri migrants can vote in upcoming civic polls: EC

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

The election office of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday said Kashmiri migrants can vote in the upcoming municipal polls as their names continue to be enrolled in electoral lists of the Assembly constituencies of the Valley.

"With the amendments in J&K Representation of the People Act-1957 and J&K Conduct of Election Rules-1965, the names of Kashmiri migrants continue to be enrolled in the electoral rolls of the Assembly constituencies of Kashmir Valley.

"As the Municipal electoral rolls are relatable to the legislative assembly electoral rolls, their names exist in the electoral Rolls of the municipal bodies in the Kashmir valley," a spokesman for the election office said.

He said in order to provide Kashmiri migrants facility to exercise their franchise in the municipal elections-2018, they have been notified as a class of persons who shall cast their votes through postal ballots.

The notification to this effect has been issued on 16 September, 2018, he said. "Consequent upon this

notification, a detailed scheme for voting by Kashmiri migrants by means of postal ballots in the municipal elections, 2018 stands notified," he added. The spokesman said the scheme makes available electoral rolls to the Kashmiri migrants at 16 places including six transit camps in Kashmir so that they can file an application to opt for voting by way of postal ballot.

He said the chief electoral officer has prescribed the last date for making such application as the last date for making nominations for a particular municipal body.

# Shutdown hits normal life in Kashmir



Security personnel stand guard along a barbed wire during a strike called by separatist leaders against the recent civilian and militant killings in South Kashmir, in Srinagar on Monday

**KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR**

Normal life was affected in Kashmir Valley on Monday in a shutdown called by separatists to protest against the recent killings of militants and a civilian in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. Even as the shutdown passed off peacefully, suspected militants shot dead a soldier of the Territorial Army (TA), who had been active in counter-insurgency operations.

The separatists' Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL), a grouping of prominent separatist leaders Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik, had called for day-long shutdown against the recent killings. Five local militants of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahideen outfits including top-ranking commander Gulzar Padder, all

residents of Kulgam and Anantnag districts, were killed in a counter-militant operation in Chowgam village of Qazigund on Friday. In the aftermath of the gunfight, a civilian youngster Rouf Ganaie from Anchidora Anantnag was also killed and two dozen protesters were injured.

Shops, fuel stations, business establishments and educational institutions remained closed in Srinagar and other areas of the city while public transport was generally off the roads. Very scanty private and public transport vehicles were seen plying on some Srinagar roads.

The shutdown also impacted attendance in government offices including the Civil Secretariat.

The authorities deployed police and paramilitaries in

sensitive areas of capital Srinagar to prevent any law and order situation.

The train services were suspended between Banihal and Baramulla for the third consecutive day since Saturday following killings in Kulgam. The speed of mobile internet has been reduced in south Kashmir areas and elsewhere in the Valley as a precautionary security measure.

Meanwhile, unidentified militants shot dead a Territorial Army (TA) man Mukhtar Ahmad Malik alias Mukhtar Gola at his home in Shurat area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Saturday afternoon.

Mukhtar Gola was a former cadre of pro-government militia known as Ikhwan, a counter-insurgent group that killed hundreds of militants in Kashmir Valley between late 1990s and early 2000.

# Three more Hizbul ultras held in Assam

**ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI**

The Assam police arrested three more suspected link men of Hizbul Mujahideen from Nagaon and Jamunamukh areas of central Assam on Monday.

A senior official of the Assam police said that the Hizbul Mujahideen had managed to set up a module in Assam.

The arrests came after the recent arrest of Qamar Uz Zaman, a Hizbul terrorist from Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, and the subsequent arrest of his close aide Shahnawaj Alam from Hojai last week.

"We have arrested Saifudin, who is the brother of Qamar-uz-Zaman. He was produced in the court and was sent

to 10 days police remand. We believe that Saifudin has a big role in spreading the Hizbul network in Assam," he said adding that the police are interrogating him to get vital details.

"Three linkmen arrested included Riazudin Bhuyan, Jainal Ahmad and Bharul Islam," he added.

It may be mentioned here that a team from Kanpur police visited Lanka police station after the arrest of Qamar Uz Zaman and Assam police had also sent a team to Kanpur. Police is trying to place various inputs together for Hizbul Mujahideen interest in Assam was for recruiting the youths or procuring arms.

"We are analysing various inputs as to for what this outfit was here," he said.

# KAPS unit 2 nuclear plant in Surat attains criticality

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

The Unit 2 of the Kakrapur Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Surat district in Gujarat attained criticality — which in other words means the initiation of self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction in the reactor - in the early hours of Monday.

Announcing this, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL)'s Associate Director (CP&CC) AK Nema said: "The 220 MW KAPS-2 went critical at 2.22 am today, after undergoing a renovation and modernisation programme, encompassing En-Masse Collant Channel Replacement, En Masse Feeder Replacement and other safety upgrades. The task was com-

pleted three and a half months ahead of the schedule."

According to Nema, the NPCIL, Nuclear Fuel Complex (manufacturer of coolest channels), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and various vendors and contractors contributed to the KAPS-2 attaining criticality.

"The approach to criticality was undertaken after adhering to all the stipulated regulatory requirements, and shall be followed by conducting various tests, connection to the grid, increase in power level to full power as per laid down procedures and regulatory clearances," Nema said.

The KAPS comprises two units of indigenous 220MW (KAPS-1&2) Pressurised

Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR), which commenced commercial operations in 1993 and 1995 respectively. Two more units of 700 MW PHWRs (KAPP-3 & 4) are under construction.

The NPCIL currently operates 22 nuclear power reactors, including the 100MW RAPS-1, owned by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), with a capacity of 6780MW.

Additionally, eight reactors with a capacity of 6200MW are currently under construction in different parts of India, while work is underway for 12 more nuclear reactors with a capacity of 9000MW for which all administrative and financial sanctions have been received from the government.

# Many angles to 'honour killing' of Dalit in Nalgonda

**OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD**

The "honour killing" case of Nalgonda has taken many sensational twists and turns, adding a political angle to the brutal murder.

While Nalgonda district police has claimed that it was very close to achieving break through in the case by identifying the main killers, the victim's wife Amruthavarshini has alleged that her father T Maruti Rao had paid a whopping ₹10 million to get her husband Pranay Kumar killed.

According to police sources, 9 or ten people were involved in the killing of Pranay last week. Maruti Rao was the main conspirator, as he wanted the Dalit youth killed for marrying his upper-caste daughter.

The police have already arrested five people, including Maruti Rao, his brother Shraavan, friend Kareem.

There were speculations that the police have also taken Abdul Bari and Shafi into custody and Abdul Bari confessed that he had given the responsibility of eliminating Pranay to Shafi.

Abdul Bari is a notorious rowdy in Nalgonda and he was also accused in the case of murder of former Gujrat Home Minister Haren Pandya.

According to the police sources, Maruthi Rao, a prominent businessman from Bania community, had come into contact with Abdul Bari a few years ago when Bari had kidnapped in a land grabbing case.

Maruti Rao gave him the contract to kill Pranay who had married his daughter in January in Hyderabad.

Rao approached Abdul Bari two months ago and hired his services to eliminate Pranay Kumar.

Police sources said that

during the questioning Maruti Rao admitted his hand in the killing and also justified it. "For me nothing is more important than my social status and name, not even my daughter or her happiness," he reportedly told the police.

Police officials said that Maruti Rao was one of the richest business and politically very influential personality of Miryalaguda town of Nalgonda district.

He was reportedly worth ₹100 crores as he had his finger in many pies including the real estate and kerosene business. He and his brother had also recently joined the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti and had his photographs with a minister G Jagdeesh Reddy and TRS MLA Vemula Veeresham.

There was a big hoarding in the town with the photo of Maruti Rao with the minister. Amrutha, whose husband

was hacked to death in front of her eyes has alleged that her father spent a huge amount of money to get her husband killed. She also alleged that her father had tried to pressurize her through the TRS MLA Veeresham to desert her husband and return to her parents which she refused.

Amrutha alleged that the MLA took money from her father and threatened her as well as parents of Pranay.

Nalgonda district superintendent of police AV Ranganath confirmed that Maruti Rao had approached political leaders of different parties including Veeresham for their help to get his daughter back.

"But there is no evidence to link the MLA to the killing," he said.

According to the investigation Maruti Rao had quite a shoddy background. Belonging to a lower middle class family

Maruti Rao originally belonged Kakinada but settled in Miryalaguda about two decades ago.

Starting as a kerosene dealer he gradually developed his business as a dealer of jiggery and expanded it to real estate.

There were also allegations that through the manipulation and forgery of documents and revenue records he grabbed prime lands including those allotted to freedom fighters.

He also developed many ventures and earned a lot of money to emerge as one of the richest persons in the town.

At one stage he was involved in a confrontation with the dreaded naxalite turn mafia don Nayeemuddin over a piece of land. But the two later compromised and cooperated with each other.

Nayeem was killed in an encounter with the police a couple of years ago.

# BJP will be thrown out of power in '19: Didi

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

The Narendra Modi Government's days are numbered as the people of India have made up their mind to throw it out in the 2019 polls, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Monday.

The Chief Minister, who is currently in Frankfurt for a business trip, told reporters how a "comeback for the BJP Government will be catastrophic for the country." Calling the Modi Government "anti-people" to the core, Banerjee said the BJP came to power by peddling loads of promises but kept none.

Instead of the promised "acchhe din" they only gave distress, inflation and

persecution of those who dared to raise their voice against them. "This Government is insensitive towards people's daily woes which can be proved by the hike in petroleum prices on a daily basis. Though the price of crude has gone down in the international market they are increasing prices of petrol, diesel, LPG.

They have slapped petroleum cess on nine occasion which is inhuman and cruel. This is not a people's Government but a Government of the rich," Banerjee said.

"Under this regime every protest is met by repression: that may come either through levelling of false charges, lynching or CBI and ED. Just because I had always been vocal against



their anti-people policies they sent our leaders to jail on false charges," she maintained adding the people had been watching their activities and "they are sure to be thrown out of power in 2019."

On whether she saw the Opposition parties coming together to defeat the BJP, she said "everyone is fighting against the BJP in his or her own way. But I have told the Opposition

leaders to first think of defeating the BJP.

"Different parties which are strong in different places should be allowed take on the BJP. The Opposition parties must stop the division of votes and unite to pull down this Government."

The Modi Government had no original thoughts and only survived on aping the States. For instance she said, "they have stolen the Kanya Shree and other similar projects from us and have started their Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao programme. Look at what they spend on their scheme what we do."

Alleging that absolute power had made the BJP arrogant she said, "they are not only arrogant but also vindictive.

They will not allow democracy to operate in India. If they come for the second time India will be finished. So it is better to finish the BJP before they finish India."

On the BJP's target of 22 seats from Bengal she said "this is only their pipedream. Let them dream and when it will come to the reality they will get nothing. At present they have two seats. But let me tell you that when they come to power they will not be able to win even that two seats."

Bengal was a culturally advanced, peaceful state which had witnessed the renaissance in real sense of the term, she maintained adding it would not be easy for the BJP to penetrate that ring of renaissance.

# Burrabazar fire rages on

**PNS ■ KOLKATA**

The fire at Kolkata's Burrabazar continued to rage on even after 38 hours on Monday while helplessness of firemen said it could take another 72 hours for the inferno to die down. Meanwhile, parts of the imposing 150-year-old structure had developed cracks threatening the adjoining buildings, sources said, adding there were about 700 shops inside the 7-storey whole-sale market. "About ₹200 crore is lost to the fire ahead of Durga Puja," a shop owner said adding it could take years for the businessmen to rebuild their business.

# Abuse of minor girl: Owaisi plea to close down school

**OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD**

As the incident of sexual abuse of a minor girl in a private school rocked Hyderabad, the local MP on Monday urged the State Government to close down the school and take stringent action against the school management for negligence and attempt to cover up the heinous crime.

Accompanied by the family members of the four-year old victim, Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen president and Member of Parliament from

Hyderabad Asaduddin Owaisi met the Police Commissioner Anjali Kumar and district collector Yogita Rana and demanded that school should not be allowed to open till the probe was completed.

He urged the commissioner to transfer the case to the Central Crime Station from the local police station and also book a case against the school and seize it.

After the case of sexual abuse in Azan International school came to light the police arrested a school supervisor Mohammed Jeelani.

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age : 55-60 years approx., Height : 5'7", Complexion : Shallow, Wearing: Kurta Pajama.** He was admitted in SGM Hospital due to accident at Surajmal Stadium Metro Station, Delhi on 27.08.2018 and during the treatment he was died on 28.08.2018. In this regard a FIR/DD No. 323-18 u/s 279/304 IPC dated 28.08.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found dead body may kindly inform to the following:-

**SHO : P.S. Nangloi, Delhi Outer Dist., Delhi Ph. 011-25947225, 25949470**

DP/1398/OD/18

# Rajnath inaugurates smart fence pilot project in Jammu



Home Minister Rajnath Singh addresses the media as MoS in PMO Jitendra Singh and DG BSF KK Sharma look on, after the inauguration of the first 'Smart Fence' pilot project along International Border in Jammu on Monday

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

Adding teeth to the border guarding capacity of Indian border guards, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday inaugurated the 'smart fence' pilot project developed under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) programme in Jammu.

After attending an e-inauguration function here at the frontier headquarters of BSF, Union Home Minister briefly chatted with the jawans deployed along the five km long stretch where 'SMART' fencing has been made operational.

Addressing a separate press conference, the Union Home

Minister announced since it is a 'pilot project' "we will monitor its performance and depending upon the feedback we will further improve it and make it more effective." Singh said that the technology would be introduced along a 2026 km long border stretch that has been identified as 'vulnerable'.

"As I said, this is a pilot project. When I went to Israel, I came across this technology. It was discussed, and finally, it is being implemented," Singh said, adding that making the borders 'foolproof' was the primary motive of his government behind starting two pilot CIBMS projects.

Rajnath Singh also dedicated the SMART fence pilot project to the jawans who

made supreme sacrifices in the line of duty while guarding frontiers of the nation.

"Today is birthday of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and on this occasion, I dedicate this 'smart fence' pilot project to the jawans who attained martyrdom for the nation while guarding borders," Singh told reporters during the Press briefing here at the frontier headquarters.

Speaking during the launch ceremony Singh said the Centre has been making maximum use of technology to make the security system at the borders stronger and effective.

The Minister said that smart fencing at the borders is a technological solution devised to address the security issues in the border states and the two projects in five kilometers areas each have been installed along the Indo-Pak International Border in Jammu on a pilot basis. He said the number of casualties of our jawans on borders would get minimised and the stress level among the jawans would also reduce to a large extent. The Union Home Minister further added that with the digital smart fencing, our borders would become absolutely safe since it would virtually make it impossible for the terrorists to breach it and infiltrate across the borders.



Muslim women and BJP members celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday at Azad Park in Varanasi

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (SOUTH) III  
A BLOCK GREATER KAILASH I NEW DELHI-110048.

N.I.T. NO. 31/S-III/(2018-2019)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost/ Earnest Money	Date release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Improvement of water supply by P.I. 200mm dia D.I. Water line from E-2 G.K. II to DDA Park in Chitranganj Park under South _III (AC-50)	Rs.33,59,382/-	2018_DJB_158441_1 15.09.2018	01.10.2018 Up to 3.00 PM
2.	Improvement of underground tank located at Gali No. -30 & Gali No.-13, Tughlakabad Extn. under EE(South) -III (AC-49)	Rs.4697,078/-	2018_DJB_158441_2 15.09.2018	01.10.2018 Up to 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 377/2018-19

Sd/  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WEST) I (SOUTH) III

Perils of Internet

Social media monitoring has become a new burden for the EC, one that it must execute with toothcomb efficiency

f managing the world's greatest democratic exercise fairly was not enough — the general elections of 2019 — the Election Commission of India has an added responsibility of tackling the perils and evils of social media and ensure that misinformation campaigns don't aggravate or create flagrant situations that might be worked on by political parties for their benefit.

However, due to international and domestic imperatives, he was defeated in his bid for a third term in the 2015 presidential election by Maithripala Sirisena. An ex-aide, Sirisena had been the Minister of Health in Rajapaksa's Government and the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) before defecting to the Opposition coalition. Later, Rajapaksa unsuccessfully sought to become the Prime Minister in the 2015 parliamentary election, where the United People's Freedom Alliance was defeated.

The larger concern is of monitoring the authenticity of campaign claims and counter-claims. WhatsApp representatives, during their meetings with the officials of the Election Commission of India, had suggested bringing about the Verificado model in India, a collective fact-checking exercise by a consortium of mainstream newspapers to weed out rumours and doctored news.

The larger concern is of monitoring the authenticity of campaign claims and counter-claims. WhatsApp representatives, during their meetings with the officials of the Election Commission of India, had suggested bringing about the Verificado model in India, a collective fact-checking exercise by a consortium of mainstream newspapers to weed out rumours and doctored news.

50 WORDEDIT Don't spew hate

Vile trolling is not new to celebs. But fanatics touched a new low by attacking Shah Rukh Khan for posting son AbRam's photo in front of a Ganesha idol as part of Chaturthi celebrations.

Road to nowhere

With 39 per cent of India's premier highway considered unsafe for users, just how dangerous are India's roads?

A study conducted by several global bodies along with the National Highway Authority of India found that almost two-fifth of the Delhi-Mumbai national highway was unsafe for car users and even more dangerous for pedestrians and two-wheelers.

Additionally, putting the same onus on manufacturers as the Government doesn't absolve them from building safer roads. Even on several new, modern stretches of highway, global standards of safety have not been followed.

The need of the hour is to use more of environmental-friendly products and less of products emitting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). To be honest, the Earth without the ozone is like a house without roof.

'Race agreements will strengthen ties'

Ex-Sri Lankan President MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA says he is positive about his country's relationship with India and is looking forward to build on this bond through sustained dialogue. By PRASHANT TEWARI

There are a few leaders in contemporary global polity who have successfully changed a war torn country to a vibrant progressive democracy in their lifetime. Former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa, a charismatic leader, accelerated the pace of development in nationalistic spirit by pushing various infrastructure projects that transformed the growth rate and the GDP of the country from 2009.

However, due to international and domestic imperatives, he was defeated in his bid for a third term in the 2015 presidential election by Maithripala Sirisena. An ex-aide, Sirisena had been the Minister of Health in Rajapaksa's Government and the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) before defecting to the Opposition coalition.

The larger concern is of monitoring the authenticity of campaign claims and counter-claims. WhatsApp representatives, during their meetings with the officials of the Election Commission of India, had suggested bringing about the Verificado model in India, a collective fact-checking exercise by a consortium of mainstream newspapers to weed out rumours and doctored news.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

Pavan washed my feet and drank the water out of respect. One day I will wash-drink the feet of a BJP worker like Pavan.

Has the arrogance of BJP leaders reached such a zenith that now they want their karayakartas to wash their feet and drink that water?

—BJP leader NISHIKANT DOBEY

—Congress spokesperson RAJDEEP SURI,NEWALA

Striking a fine balance

With the launch of PARIVESH app, the Environment Ministry has shown its commitment towards achieving development goals, keeping in mind environmental security, but challenges remain

process under the Central and State Government for all four clearances viz. environment, forest, wildlife and coastal regulation zone. One of the highlights of the portal is the auto-generation of minutes of the meetings which will remove any scope for backroom modifications by expert bodies.

The Ministry has also for long been blamed for prevaricating on delays in finalising the declaration of eco-sensitive zones near national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The Supreme Court in 2002-2003 had asked the Government to declare these zones, and till then, in a radius of 10 km, most of the developmental activities were forbidden by the Court.

However, everything is not hunky-dory in the Ministry's working, considering the emerging challenges, especially the land position is critical. The country is facing serious threats from climate change, which is now visible in the form of devastating floods/landslides, like the ones we witnessed in Kerala this year and Tamil Nadu last year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WORLD OZONE DAY Sir — The world celebrated September 16 as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer to commemorate the date of the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone in 1987.

Province of Xinjiang (formerly Sinkiang). Having successfully enslaved the Tibetan Buddhists, now they are bent upon doing the same to the Uighur Muslims.

ISRO spy case: It is more than compensation

This refers to the editorial, "Hurt pride" (September 17). The grudge that the Indian government has against ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan to come out clean from the fabricated espionage case. As it was pointed out in the editorial, no amount of monetary compensation can substitute the trust and traditions and the mental agony Narayanan was subjected to by the officials who



—BJP leader NISHIKANT DOBEY

—Congress spokesperson RAJDEEP SURI,NEWALA

POINT COUNTERPOINT

Pavan washed my feet and drank the water out of respect. One day I will wash-drink the feet of a BJP worker like Pavan.

Has the arrogance of BJP leaders reached such a zenith that now they want their karayakartas to wash their feet and drink that water?

—BJP leader NISHIKANT DOBEY

—Congress spokesperson RAJDEEP SURI,NEWALA

Striking a fine balance

With the launch of PARIVESH app, the Environment Ministry has shown its commitment towards achieving development goals, keeping in mind environmental security, but challenges remain

process under the Central and State Government for all four clearances viz. environment, forest, wildlife and coastal regulation zone. One of the highlights of the portal is the auto-generation of minutes of the meetings which will remove any scope for backroom modifications by expert bodies.

The Ministry has also for long been blamed for prevaricating on delays in finalising the declaration of eco-sensitive zones near national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The Supreme Court in 2002-2003 had asked the Government to declare these zones, and till then, in a radius of 10 km, most of the developmental activities were forbidden by the Court.

However, everything is not hunky-dory in the Ministry's working, considering the emerging challenges, especially the land position is critical. The country is facing serious threats from climate change, which is now visible in the form of devastating floods/landslides, like the ones we witnessed in Kerala this year and Tamil Nadu last year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WORLD OZONE DAY Sir — The world celebrated September 16 as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer to commemorate the date of the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone in 1987.

Province of Xinjiang (formerly Sinkiang). Having successfully enslaved the Tibetan Buddhists, now they are bent upon doing the same to the Uighur Muslims.

that flowed directly into the campaign and related activities. The perception was created that Rajapaksa had agreed to Chinese terms and was seen as an important ally in China's efforts to tilt influence away from India in South Asia.

Domestic imperatives with regard to Tamil Nadu compelled New Delhi to keep an arm's distance from Rajapaksa, forcing him to tilt towards China during his second term of presidency. In fact, the Sri Lanka Government offered preferential infra-projects to India but received a lukewarm response from the Indian side.

It is for the post-Congress Governments, whether in the States or the Centre, to correct the misleading impression created of Muslims. This provokes one to think as to what path the Muslim community of India could now tread in order to be stakeholders in amity

POINT COUNTERPOINT

Pavan washed my feet and drank the water out of respect. One day I will wash-drink the feet of a BJP worker like Pavan.

Has the arrogance of BJP leaders reached such a zenith that now they want their karayakartas to wash their feet and drink that water?

—BJP leader NISHIKANT DOBEY

—Congress spokesperson RAJDEEP SURI,NEWALA

Striking a fine balance

With the launch of PARIVESH app, the Environment Ministry has shown its commitment towards achieving development goals, keeping in mind environmental security, but challenges remain

process under the Central and State Government for all four clearances viz. environment, forest, wildlife and coastal regulation zone. One of the highlights of the portal is the auto-generation of minutes of the meetings which will remove any scope for backroom modifications by expert bodies.

The Ministry has also for long been blamed for prevaricating on delays in finalising the declaration of eco-sensitive zones near national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The Supreme Court in 2002-2003 had asked the Government to declare these zones, and till then, in a radius of 10 km, most of the developmental activities were forbidden by the Court.

However, everything is not hunky-dory in the Ministry's working, considering the emerging challenges, especially the land position is critical. The country is facing serious threats from climate change, which is now visible in the form of devastating floods/landslides, like the ones we witnessed in Kerala this year and Tamil Nadu last year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WORLD OZONE DAY Sir — The world celebrated September 16 as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer to commemorate the date of the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone in 1987.

Province of Xinjiang (formerly Sinkiang). Having successfully enslaved the Tibetan Buddhists, now they are bent upon doing the same to the Uighur Muslims.

that flowed directly into the campaign and related activities. The perception was created that Rajapaksa had agreed to Chinese terms and was seen as an important ally in China's efforts to tilt influence away from India in South Asia.

Domestic imperatives with regard to Tamil Nadu compelled New Delhi to keep an arm's distance from Rajapaksa, forcing him to tilt towards China during his second term of presidency. In fact, the Sri Lanka Government offered preferential infra-projects to India but received a lukewarm response from the Indian side.

It is for the post-Congress Governments, whether in the States or the Centre, to correct the misleading impression created of Muslims. This provokes one to think as to what path the Muslim community of India could now tread in order to be stakeholders in amity

POINT COUNTERPOINT

Pavan washed my feet and drank the water out of respect. One day I will wash-drink the feet of a BJP worker like Pavan.

Has the arrogance of BJP leaders reached such a zenith that now they want their karayakartas to wash their feet and drink that water?

—BJP leader NISHIKANT DOBEY

—Congress spokesperson RAJDEEP SURI,NEWALA

Striking a fine balance

With the launch of PARIVESH app, the Environment Ministry has shown its commitment towards achieving development goals, keeping in mind environmental security, but challenges remain

process under the Central and State Government for all four clearances viz. environment, forest, wildlife and coastal regulation zone. One of the highlights of the portal is the auto-generation of minutes of the meetings which will remove any scope for backroom modifications by expert bodies.

The Ministry has also for long been blamed for prevaricating on delays in finalising the declaration of eco-sensitive zones near national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The Supreme Court in 2002-2003 had asked the Government to declare these zones, and till then, in a radius of 10 km, most of the developmental activities were forbidden by the Court.

However, everything is not hunky-dory in the Ministry's working, considering the emerging challenges, especially the land position is critical. The country is facing serious threats from climate change, which is now visible in the form of devastating floods/landslides, like the ones we witnessed in Kerala this year and Tamil Nadu last year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WORLD OZONE DAY Sir — The world celebrated September 16 as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer to commemorate the date of the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone in 1987.

Province of Xinjiang (formerly Sinkiang). Having successfully enslaved the Tibetan Buddhists, now they are bent upon doing the same to the Uighur Muslims.

that flowed directly into the campaign and related activities. The perception was created that Rajapaksa had agreed to Chinese terms and was seen as an important ally in China's efforts to tilt influence away from India in South Asia.

Domestic imperatives with regard to Tamil Nadu compelled New Delhi to keep an arm's distance from Rajapaksa, forcing him to tilt towards China during his second term of presidency. In fact, the Sri Lanka Government offered preferential infra-projects to India but received a lukewarm response from the Indian side.

It is for the post-Congress Governments, whether in the States or the Centre, to correct the misleading impression created of Muslims. This provokes one to think as to what path the Muslim community of India could now tread in order to be stakeholders in amity

POINT COUNTERPOINT

Pavan washed my feet and drank the water out of respect. One day I will wash-drink the feet of a BJP worker like Pavan.

Has the arrogance of BJP leaders reached such a zenith that now they want their karayakartas to wash their feet and drink that water?

—BJP leader NISHIKANT DOBEY

—Congress spokesperson RAJDEEP SURI,NEWALA

Striking a fine balance

With the launch of PARIVESH app, the Environment Ministry has shown its commitment towards achieving development goals, keeping in mind environmental security, but challenges remain

process under the Central and State Government for all four clearances viz. environment, forest, wildlife and coastal regulation zone. One of the highlights of the portal is the auto-generation of minutes of the meetings which will remove any scope for backroom modifications by expert bodies.

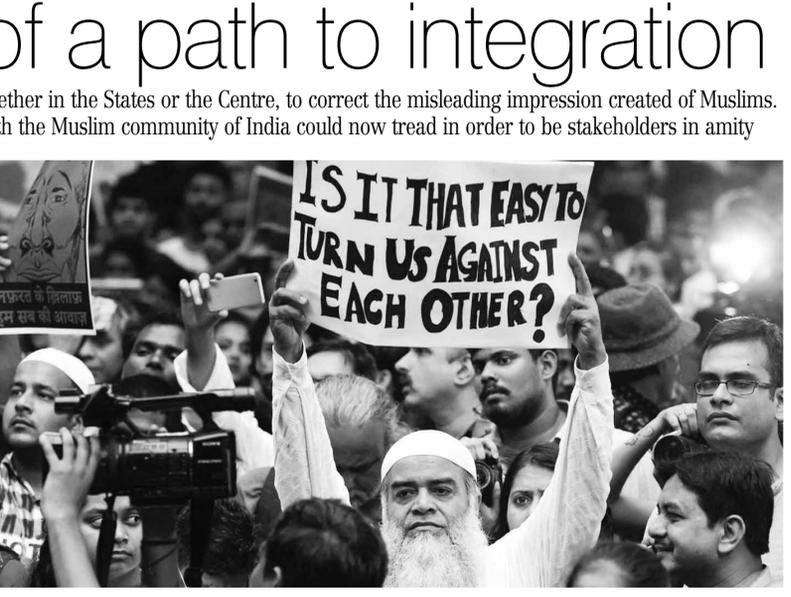
The Ministry has also for long been blamed for prevaricating on delays in finalising the declaration of eco-sensitive zones near national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The Supreme Court in 2002-2003 had asked the Government to declare these zones, and till then, in a radius of 10 km, most of the developmental activities were forbidden by the Court.

However, everything is not hunky-dory in the Ministry's working, considering the emerging challenges, especially the land position is critical. The country is facing serious threats from climate change, which is now visible in the form of devastating floods/landslides, like the ones we witnessed in Kerala this year and Tamil Nadu last year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WORLD OZONE DAY Sir — The world celebrated September 16 as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer to commemorate the date of the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone in 1987.

Province of Xinjiang (formerly Sinkiang). Having successfully enslaved the Tibetan Buddhists, now they are bent upon doing the same to the Uighur Muslims.



—BJP leader NISHIKANT DOBEY

—Congress spokesperson RAJDEEP SURI,NEWALA

Striking a fine balance

With the launch of PARIVESH app, the Environment Ministry has shown its commitment towards achieving development goals, keeping in mind environmental security, but challenges remain

process under the Central and State Government for all four clearances viz. environment, forest, wildlife and coastal regulation zone. One of the highlights of the portal is the auto-generation of minutes of the meetings which will remove any scope for backroom modifications by expert bodies.

The Ministry has also for long been blamed for prevaricating on delays in finalising the declaration of eco-sensitive zones near national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The Supreme Court in 2002-2003 had asked the Government to declare these zones, and till then, in a radius of 10 km, most of the developmental activities were forbidden by the Court.

However, everything is not hunky-dory in the Ministry's working, considering the emerging challenges, especially the land position is critical. The country is facing serious threats from climate change, which is now visible in the form of devastating floods/landslides, like the ones we witnessed in Kerala this year and Tamil Nadu last year.

Purvanchal: A manifest destiny

After suffering years of neglect, a slew of measures undertaken by the Modi-Yogi duo will ensure that the best of the region's natural resources is utilised

Purvanchal has fertile land, tracts and huge natural resources. The irony is that despite having all these positives, it remains the most backward region not only in Uttar Pradesh but the entire country.

The Modi-Yogi duo has been focussed on this region. The reason is simple: It sends more than two dozen members to the Lok Sabha, more than what the entire State of Gujarat sends. The inauguration of Purvanchal Expressway, which was touted as the lifeline of development of the region by the Chief Minister, is a major step in this direction.

It also needs to be mentioned here that emphasis on infrastructure improvement and industrialisation is not at the expense of agriculture, which employs the largest number of people, and is a sectoral laggard all over the country.

Finally, it is for the first time that the political class has not got serious regarding the development of Purvanchal. It may be recalled that in the recent past, a great deal was said about the backwardness of Bundelkhand but Purvanchal somehow couldn't attract the attention of the politicians. This has changed now perhaps because the Chief Minister is from that region.

The writer is a well-known columnist and an author

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Gourang Naryani Ujjain



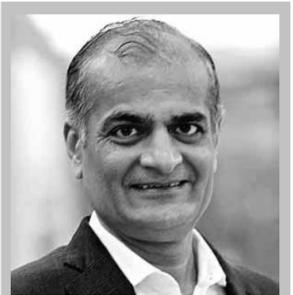
**I'm looking forward to working with USISPF's Board of Directors to build upon the key relationship between India and the US. The Tata group has been at the forefront of US-India business ties, and USISPF will be an important platform to further develop this relationship**

**S Jaishankar, President, Global Corporate Affairs, Tata Sons**

## BUZZ FROM GOVT/CORP

**This is a progressive move and signifies the Government's determination to strengthen the banking sector in the country for a better performance and service delivery. A stronger banking sector is vital for the overall health of the economy and we hope to see more such measures in the times ahead**

**Rashesh Shah, President, FICCI**



# Adani, IOC, BPCL, Torrent bag city gas licences

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Oil regulator PNGRB Monday declared the final list of winners of city gas retailing licences that had billionaire Gautam Adani's group, state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Torrent Gas as the big winner.

Adani Gas won rights to retail CNG to automobiles and piped cooking gas to households and industries in 13 cities on its own and another nine, including Allahabad, in a joint venture with IOC, according to results of 84 cities that were bid out in the country's biggest city gas distribution (CGD) bid round.

According to the list of winners put out by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), IOC on its own won rights to seven cities, including Coimbatore and Salem in Tamil Nadu and Guna in Madhya Pradesh.

Bharat Gas Resources Ltd, a unit of state-owned BPCL, won a licence for 11 cities like Amethi and Rai Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh and Ahmednagar in

Maharashtra, while Torrent Gas Pvt Ltd made 10 winning bids that included ones for Chennai, Alwar in Rajasthan, Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh and Karaikal in Puducherry.

State gas utility GAIL's retailing arm, GAIL Gas, managed rights for five cities, including Dehradun.

Indraprastha Gas Ltd, the firm that retails CNG in the national capital, won city gas rights for Meerut and Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh.

Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) and Gujarat Gas won rights for one city each while Green Gas got licences for two and Maharashtra Natural Gas Ltd that for three.

Other winners included smaller players like IRM Energy, Haryana City Gas, Essel Gas, Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Ltd, Tripura Natural Gas, and Assam Gas.

PNGRB said a total of 4,346 CNG stations have been committed to be set up in the 84 Geographical Areas (GAs) in eight years. Also, the entities have committed to provide 2.1 crore piped natural gas con-

nections to households kitchens by September 30, 2026.

When the ninth CGD bidding round closed in July, IOC, BPCL and Adani Gas were the top bidders. As many as 86 cities were offered in the bid round but results of two have been withheld pending legal challenge mounted by certain bidders.

Of the 86 cities offered for retailing of CNG to automobiles and piped cooking gas to households in the ninth CGD bid round, IOC bid for 34 cities on its own and another 20 in partnership with Adani Gas.

Adani Gas on its own bid for 32 cities. Bharat Gas Resources Ltd bid for as many as 53 cities, while GAIL Gas Ltd put in offers for 34 cities.

Gujarat-based Torrent Gas Pvt Ltd bid for 31 cities, while Gujarat Gas Ltd put in offers for 21 areas.

Petronet LNG Ltd, India's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) importer, sought to foray into CGD business by bidding for a licence in seven cities but drew a blank.

## Sensex cracks 350 pts on profit-booking

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The benchmark BSE Sensex sank over 350 points in early trade on Monday after two sessions of gains as investors cashed profits in consumer durables, banking, oil & gas and PSU stocks, amid fresh weakness in the rupee and weak global cues.

The BSE 30-share barometer dropped 366.52 points, or 0.96 per cent, to 37,724.12 driven by losses in index majors Axis Bank, SBI, Asian Paint, Tata Motors, HDFC and HDFC Bank.

The gauge had rallied 677.51 points in the previous two sessions on sustained buying by domestic institutional investors.

The NSE Nifty index too dipped below the 11,500-mark by falling 111.80 points, or 0.97 per cent, to 11,403.40.

Brokers said investors turned cautious and logged gains after recent rally, pulling down key indices. The rupee again crashed below the 72-mark by plunging 81 paise to 72.65 against the dollar, despite the Government's steps to stem a steep fall in the currency.

## Govt may extend deadline for imposition of higher duties on 29 US products

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will further extend the deadline for the imposition of higher customs duties on 29 products, including almond, walnut and pulses, imported from the US, a senior official said on Monday.

In June, India decided to impose retaliatory tariffs from August 4. But it was extended by another 45 days till September 18.

"We are still in discussion with the US authorities. The deadline will be extended tonight," the government official said, adding that the deadline will be extended for another 45 days until November 2.

The duty hike move by India was in retaliation to the March 9 decision of US President Donald Trump to impose heavy tariffs on imported steel and aluminium items, a move that has sparked fears of a global trade war.

Senior officials of India and the US are in discussions to finalise a kind of trade deal. Both the sides holding two track discussions — to increase trade in short and medium term, and identify long term

trade potentials.

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

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

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

As part of imposition of higher import duties, New Delhi has notified higher tariffs on several products. While import duty on walnut is to be hiked to 120 per cent from 30 per cent, duty on chickpeas, Bengal gram (chana) and masur dal will be hiked to 70 per cent from 30 per cent. Levy on lentils will be hiked to 40 per cent from 30 per cent.

## Business Corner

### INNOVATIVE LITERARY INITIATIVE BY CORPORATE SECTOR

NTPC Vindhyachal received National Award for its publication "Khila Hain Jyon Bijlee KaPhul" at the 4th Global Literary Fest organised jointly by International Chamber of Media & Entertainment Industry and Asian Academy of Art. AK Tewary, ED, Vindhyachal received the award at a colourful session during the event at the Marwah studios in FilmCity, Noida. The Award was received for NTPC Vindhyachal's contribution to promotion of Literature. This is an Innovative Literary Initiative by any Corporate Organisation. Present on the dais were prominent personalities like Vivek Agnihotri, Film Director, HE Bothata Tsikoane, Ambassador to Kingdom of Lesotho, Sandeep Marwah, President Marwah Studios, well known authors, Asgar Wazahar, Pankaj Mitra, Bhalchand Joshi and Rakesh Bihari.



AAI to develop plan for Palaly Airport, Sri Lanka. AAI signed an agreement with Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India for preparation of Detailed Project Report for development of Palaly Airport in Sri Lanka. The agreement was recently signed by Anil Gupta Executive Director (Land Management & Business Development), Airports Authority of India and Sanjay Panda, Joint Secretary, IOR, MEA, Govt. of India. Speaking on the occasion, Anil Gupta ED (LM & BD), AAI envisaged AAI's vision for going global considering AAI's expertise and capabilities in airport development and operation management. He also informed that over of period of time, AAI has developed more than 60 Airports in Metro and Non Metro cities in India and now AAI wants to leverage its expertise to other countries on a bigger scale.



Central Vigilance Commissioner KV Chowdhary, releasing the Special issue of Kaleidoscope on "New India Vision 2022" published by SCOPE, in the presence of Ved Prakash, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, MMTTC and UD Choubey, Director General, SCOPE.

## ITDC inks MoU with Morocco for tourism development

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-run hospitality company ITDC signed an MoU with the Moroccan Agency for Tourism Development (SMIT) on Monday, for strengthening cooperation in the tourism sector, a statement from the Ministry said.

India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) a PSU under the aegis of the Ministry of Tourism signed the MoU with the SMIT, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Tourism, Government of Kingdom of Morocco.

Managing Director (C&MD), ITDC, Ravneet Kaur said, "Signing of the MoU is an acknowledgement of the capabilities and core competency of ITDC and the important role it has played in development of tourism and related infrastructure in the country."

With the signing of the MoU, both the organisations will be able to share engineering and tourism products development expertise, new trends and technology in tourism products and innovative tourism product development, the statement from the Tourism Ministry said.

## BHEL flags off its first 6K HP electric locomotive

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Expanding its footprints in the transportation sector, state-run engineering major BHEL Monday flagged off its first 6,000HP electric locomotive from its Jhansi plant.

"As part of its diversification initiatives, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has flagged off of its first 6,000HP electric locomotive (Type WAG-9H)," a company statement said.

BHEL TO MANUFACTURE 30 SUCH LOCOMOTIVES FOR RAILWAY

The 6,000 HP locomotive has been manufactured against an order from the Railway Board for 30 locomotives.

BHEL has created a dedicated centre for research and development in transportation technology and manufacturing facilities at Bhopal, Jhansi and Bengaluru plants.

The PSU has a share of over 50 per cent of railways requirement for electric propulsion equipment for rolling stock.

## Infosys invests \$3 mn in US-based TidalScale

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT company Infosys on Monday said it has doubled its investment in US-based software firm TidalScale by putting in an additional USD 1.5 million (around ₹11 crore) through the Infosys Innovation Fund.

"Infosys...Has made an additional investment of USD 1.5 million through the Infosys Innovation Fund in TidalScale Inc, the company at the heart of the software-defined server revolution," the Indian software major said in a statement.

The Bengaluru-headquartered company had previously invested \$1.5 million in TidalScale Inc in 2016.

TidalScale has developed software-defined servers that deliver in-memory performance at any scale, are self-optimising, use standard hardware and are compatible with all applications and operating systems.

"We are excited to further strengthen our relationship

## India's cashew exports to grow by 5% this year: Icra

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Cashew kernel exports, which have been on a decline since last five years following intense competition from Vietnam is likely to be around 5 per cent this calendar year (CY), Icra said in a report.

In CY12, India's exports stood at 1.02 lakh tonne, enjoying 27 per cent market share compared to 58 per cent of Vietnam, Icra assistant vice president and head, mid-corporate ratings, R Srinivasan said.

"However, since then India's marketshare began declining and while the Indian cashew exports recorded a marginal decline at an annually 3 per cent between CY2012 and CY2017, the exports from Vietnam grew at 10 annually during the same period," he said.

In CY17, India's share was 19 per cent of global exports with 88,000 tonne while Vietnam enjoys 74 per cent, he added. Lower cost of production aided by a higher degree of mechanisation and cheaper labour costs have aided the Vietnamese processors to become more competitive.



Central Vigilance Commissioner KV Chowdhary, releasing the Special issue of Kaleidoscope on "New India Vision 2022" published by SCOPE, in the presence of Ved Prakash, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, MMTTC and UD Choubey, Director General, SCOPE.

## 'MSME loans: Pvt banks, NBFCs eat into PSU banks' market share'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

State-run banks' market share is under the Reserve Bank of India's prompt corrective action (PCA) framework because of earning pressures and networth concerns, which puts restrictions on lending.

The share of private sector banks has grown to 29.9 per cent in June 2018, against the 28.1 per cent in the same month last year, while the share for non bank finance companies (NBFCs) has grown up to 11.3 per cent from 9.6 per cent, according to the report.

Despite the aggressive growth, private sector banks and NBFCs fare better on asset quality as well, it said.

with 23.4 per cent for the private sector competitors.

It can be noted that 11 PSBs are under the Reserve Bank of India's prompt corrective action (PCA) framework because of earning pressures and networth concerns, which puts restrictions on lending.

The share of private sector banks has grown to 29.9 per cent in June 2018, against the 28.1 per cent in the same month last year, while the share for non bank finance companies (NBFCs) has grown up to 11.3 per cent from 9.6 per cent, according to the report.

Despite the aggressive growth, private sector banks and NBFCs fare better on asset quality as well, it said.

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male dead body found at Rajan Babu T.B. Hospital, Kingsway Camp, Delhi During the treatment Doctors declare him dead on dated 30.08.2018. In this regard a DD No. 37-B Dated 31.08.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Ganesh, (As per MLC) S/o: Late Babu Lal, R/o: Unknown, Age: Approx 35

years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, ID Mark: A mole on face. Wearing: White Shirt and Gray Paint. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.



S.H.O  
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.  
DP/1397/OD/18  
Ph: 011-25946700, 25946710

POSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (1) (2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates:

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice
1. Mr. Narendra Pal Madan S/o Late Fateh Chand & Smt. Poo - 533, Sector 1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad U.P. - 201010 Also at: Mr. Narendra Pal Madan s/o Late Fateh Chand Madan Plot No - 200, Sector-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP 201010	The residential vacant Free Hold Plot No. F/288, Admeasuring 31.94 square meter situated at residential colony Vaishali Sector-3 Ghaziabad Tehsil & Distt Ghaziabad U.P. Bounded (According to sale Deed): East : as per sale deed West : as per sale deed North : as per sale deed South : as per sale deed	1. 07-May-18 2. 14-Sep-18 3. Rs 437345/-
2. Mrs. Neelam Madan, W/O - Mr. Narender Pal Madan, Plot No - 533, Sector 1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad U.P. - 201010 Also At : Mrs. Neelam Madan, W/O - Mr. Narender Pal Madan, Sarvodaya Govt Kanya Vidyalaya, Block - 13, Geeta Colony, Delhi - 110031		
3. Mr. Rajinder Singh R/O - 158, West Angad Nagar, Laxmi Nagar Delhi		

The above-mentioned Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

## NPA provisions for banks may stay elevated till FY20: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Banks are witnessing a spurt in asset quality stress in the non-corporate segment and the overall loan loss provisions for lenders are expected to stay elevated till fiscal year 2019-20, a report said.

The outlook on private sector banks, along with SBI and Bank of Baroda among the state-run ones is stable, while all the other state-run banks carry a negative outlook, India Ratings said in its mid-year outlook on banks on Monday.

Banks will continue with credit costs or provisions of up to 3 per cent for both the ongoing fiscal as well as the one after, according to the rating agency.

Attributed the higher credit costs to ageing of NPAs (non-performing assets) recognised earlier since the asset quality review of FY16, accelerated provisioning and slippages especially from non-corporate accounts.

In what can be a worrying sign, the agency said it has observed a spurt in asset quality stress building up in the

non-corporate loans, even as the same in the corporate segment has plateaued.

It said there has been an increase in the share of smaller corporates, and small and medium-sized enterprises and personal/retail loans in the special mention accounts (SMAs) pool in FY18 over FY17.

The share of loans under ₹5 crore in SMA1 accounts, or those cases where there has been no loan repayment for 31-60 days, has increased to 40 per cent at the end of FY18 from 29 per cent the year-ago, the report said, while the same for SMA2 where loans have not been serviced for 61-90 days has been to 68 per cent as against 12 per cent earlier.

Even as the asset quality troubles continue, there are rising headwinds for credit availability, according to India Ratings. "The prevailing stressed financial conditions could intensify credit tightening, unless liquidity of financing channels is at least partially reinvigorated," it said.

## L&T Infrastructure Finance revises Prime Lending Rate

PNS ■ MUMBAI

L&T Infrastructure Finance Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of L&T Finance Holdings Ltd, has announced a revision in its Prime Lending Rate (PLR). The company has increased the PLR by 25 bps to 16.00% from 15.75% for all eligible loans linked to PLR effective September 14, 2018.

As on June 30, 2018, the wholesale finance loan book stands at ₹45,945 cr. with disbursements amounting to ₹8,665 cr. in Q1FY19. L&T Infrastructure Finance is the market leader in its focused areas of Infrastructure Finance - renewables, roads and transmission. The company's strength lies in its strong underwriting ability, structuring and syndication capabilities and providing all infrastructure finance related services under one roof.

## Sebi bans fugitive economic offender from making open offer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has barred 'fugitive economic offender' from making an open offer or a competing offer for acquiring shares in a company.

The move is expected to help in preventing such offender from taking control of a listed company. "No person who is a fugitive economic offender shall make a public announcement of an open offer or make a competing offer for acquiring shares or enter into any transaction, either directly or indirectly, for acquiring any shares or voting rights or control of a target company," Sebi said in a notification dated September 11.

In the event of failure of the delisting offer, Sebi has issued a framework for acquir-

ers to fulfil the open offer obligations.

The acquirer, through the manager to the open offer, will have to within five working days from the date of the announcement need to file with the board a draft offer in this regard.

This will be applicable provided that the "offer price shall stand enhanced by an amount equal to a sum determined at the rate of 10 per cent per annum for the period between the scheduled date of payment of consideration to the shareholders and the actual date of payment of consideration to the shareholders."

The regulator has amended Sebi (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) norms in this regard.

## NCLAT AMENDS ORDER ON ESSAR STEEL, ADDS DARIUS KHAMBATA AS COUNSEL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) today amended its order on the Essar Steel, passed by it on September 7, to add the name of senior counsel Darius Khambata, which was left out.

Khambata had represented Resolution Professional of the debt ridden firm Essar Steel in this matter before the appellate tribunal and his name was missing in the final order. Tribunal's direction came after an application was moved to include his name.

In its judgement, passed earlier this month, NCLAT had ruled that Numetal's ₹37,000 crore second-round bid for Essar Steel is valid, but asked rival bidder ArcelorMittal to clear ₹7,000 crore dues of its previously associated firms within three days to qualify for the acquisition.



# HEALTH

## NoaspirinPlease

A new trial shows that taking daily low-dose aspirin doesn't prolong healthy, independent living in otherwise healthy people aged 70 and older. Aspirin has long been recommended for the middle-aged with a history of heart disease to prevent future heart attacks or strokes



## DOGYARD

DR PRADEEP MOONOT

Orthopaedic Surgeon & Podiatrist

BREACH CANDY HOSPITAL, MUMBAI



## Put your best foot forward

Health is one of the major concerns for sportspersons who are prone to injuries due to the repetitive pounding of the game. The most common injuries are related to the foot and ankle, and the condition may take longer time to recover. Some of the common injuries are:

### HEEL PAIN

It is one of the most common and the severest form of pain when occurs when players undergo training without proper warm up. There are two types of heel pain:

#### ■ Plantar Fasciitis

It is acute pain in the thick tissue (Plantar fascia) at the bottom of the foot that connects the heel bone and toes. It occurs when tissue becomes swollen or inflamed. Ignoring this pain may result in chronic heel pain and can also change the way of walking.

Also, people with very flat feet or very high arches are more prone to plantar fasciitis. If a person has a flat foot or weak and misaligned first toe, the pain is sure to occur. Weak foot muscles with high arch can contribute to the same that also lead to tight and shortened calf muscles.

#### ■ Achilles Tendinitis

Achilles is the large tendon connecting the two calf muscles with the back of the heel bone. Heavy pain is felt in the heel when this tendon is ruptured and can lead to ankle pain as well. This may be caused due to overuse, excessive running without warm up exercises.

#### SHIN PAIN

It happens in the front and the inner aspect of the shin due to imbalance between the calf muscles and the muscles in the front leg. This happens as a reason of inadequate stretches, over pronation inclination of

foot towards the ground.

### STRESS FRACTURE

It is a tiny incomplete crack in the surface of bone found in the lower leg of the foot. A stress fracture is caused due to sudden increase in training. It can be present in any of the bones comprising the foot, but fractures occur most typically in the metatarsals.

### TREATMENT

Pain in the knee and heel should never be ignored. Consult a knee, foot and ankle surgeon immediately if any of the above symptoms persist after one to two weeks of rest along with ice treatment. You may require to do blood tests and X-Rays. Blood tests may show low haemoglobin, iron levels or vitamin D3 levels. It may show stress fractures of the metatarsals or the leg bone (tibia). Heel pain may be because of a stress fracture of the calcaneum. If the X-rays are normal and pain persists, MRI may be required to assess the extent of the damage.

If your condition has developed recently, anti-inflammatory or analgesic medication (in tablet form), coupled with heel pads may be all that is necessary to relieve pain and reduce inflammation. Stress fractures will require rest, analgesics and supportive treatment like a plaster or a walker boot for four to six weeks.

Along with rest, ice and compression, medical treatment is required to correct abnormal blood levels like low haemoglobin and vitamin D levels. In case of heel pain, stretching is the best treatment as it helps to try to keep weight off your foot until the initial inflammation goes away. You can apply ice to the sore area for 20-30 minutes several times a day to relieve your symptoms. Home exercises to stretch your Achilles tendon and plantar fascia are the mainstay of treatment and reduce the chance of recurrence.

In case of the knee pain, hamstring stretches and stretching of other tight muscles is important for treatment. A supportive knee cap which reduces pressure on the knee cap may help. If the pain is not relieved by non-surgical methods, surgery may be required for fixation of the stress fracture or knee key hole surgery (arthroscopy) for knee pain or the release of the Iliotibial (IT) band.

## SUMMERCOOLER

**COCOA:** There have been some studies that show eating cocoa lowers the chance of heart disease and death, possibly by lowering blood pressure and improving the function of the blood vessels. What's more, cocoa has been found to reduce bad LDL cholesterol and has a blood thinning effect.

The powder which is rich in flavanol helps maintain a healthy brain. Consumption of cocoa powder has been shown to be effective in improving insulin resistance and glucose metabolism.

Cocoa extracts have been trusted for their therapeutic and wound-healing properties in the manufacturing of natural medicinal products. A study has shown that cocoa helps regulate metabolism and reduces the synthesis and transport of fatty acids. Finally, consuming cocoa powder enhances the mood, fights depression and promotes cognitive activities.



# OIL'S WELL

Cooking oils are unavoidable in Indian kitchen. Experts say that a blend of rice bran and canola oil cooking helps beat cardio-vascular diseases. PIONEER HEALTH reports

Cooking oils are particularly suitable for making Indian foods more palatable by spreading heat more evenly while cooking. They also serve as the best source of healthy fat in the body provided the right kind of oil is chosen.

"Unhealthy fat accumulates in the arteries that distribute blood from the heart, making them narrower and eventually clogging them. This can lead to various disorders of the heart for which prevention is the best cure. Prevention could begin with the simple step of choosing the right cooking oil for your vegetables and grains," Priyanka Kharbanda, educator, Public Health Nutrition, says.

### NECESSITY OF OIL IN DIET

Fats are used by the body to absorb nutrients. They power your muscles while you exercise and are the reason you feel satisfied after eating a meal. But one cannot avoid eating fat or oils completely. In fact, American dietary guidelines recommend an intake of at least 20 to 25 percent fat in the body. However, only nutritious sources of fat ought to be used to provide the body's basic needs.

For example, rice bran oil, which is extracted from the bran fraction of rice, contains large quantities of gamma oryzanol, which is a mixture of antioxidant compounds. "The main benefit of oryzanol is its medicinal effect on high levels of bad cholesterol. It manages this by disallowing the absorption of certain unhealthy fats in your food. Hence, it promotes blood circulation and overall physical health," Kharbanda says.

Further, rice bran oils have been observed to be quite safe as far as adverse reactions are con-

cerned and very few minor allergic reactions have yet been reported as a result of regular use.

"When used as cooking oil, rice bran oil, known for being a high smoke-point oil, is good for deep frying without providing excessive smoke when heated to high temperatures," Kharbanda tells you.

### HIGH CHOLESTEROL RISK

High cholesterol in the blood leads to deposition of fatty substances in the blood vessels. The accumulation of such deposits will eventually result in obstacles to blood from the heart reaching all tissues through the arteries. The heart fails to gain enough oxygen-rich blood for its needs and hence the risk of heart failure increases. A reduced blood flow to the brain can also cause a stroke. Fortunately, high cholesterol is most often the result of unhealthy lifestyle choices and can be prevented and treated.

### PICK THE RIGHT OIL

A substantial number of Cardiovascular disease (CVD) victims can trace their condition to physical inactivity and unhealthy diets. As Indians, we are used to cooking our vegetables in oil. Frying food in oil enables better transfer of heat where the oil acts as a fluid conductor by uniformly allowing heat to pass through the uneven surfaces of the food article and the utensil being used.

"What we eat should provide us with carbohydrates, fats, proteins, water based macronutrients, vitamins and mineral micronutrients. Certain essential nutrients can't be produced within the human body. The body needs mono-unsaturated fatty acids and poly-unsaturated fatty acids but saturated fats can be pro-

duced internally and are bad for your health only when consumed in excess.

### BENEFITS OF CANOLA OIL

Considered to be one of the healthiest cooking oils available, canola oil, contains two main essential fatty acids. These are Alpha Linoleic Acid (ALAs), which is an omega-3 fatty acid known for lowering harmful cholesterol, and Linoleic Acid (LA), which is an omega-6 fatty acid, known for brain development in infants," Kharbanda explains.

According to the US Food and

every day provides roughly a quarter of the vitamin E required by an individual. Vitamin E is an antioxidant that shields your body's fats and proteins from free radical damage. It may also help reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer and memory loss," Kharbanda says.

### BLEND OILS

It is unhealthy to totally avoid oil-based foods as high-density lipoproteins (HDL) (good cholesterol) are essential for tissue function and cell memory. Plants are the best source of essential fatty acids. But, not all cooking oils have equal levels of unsaturated fats. Both rice bran oil and canola oil have the advantage of low levels of LDLs and high levels of HDLs.

"The blend of rice bran and canola oil maximises its benefits while ensuring that a wide variety of non-communicable diseases associated with the functioning of the heart and the prevalence of obesity are avoided and overall health maintained.

"Both rice bran and canola oil are observed to work well with Indian vegetables and grains in particular. They make food softer and easier to chew (and hence more digestible) and ensure that your food is more evenly cooked. This particular blend is particularly good for the heart because of the mixture of omega-3, 6 and 9 fatty acids apart from MUFAs and polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs), one of the highest anywhere and the presence of oryzanol," Kharbanda says.

Cooking oils are virtually unavoidable in a typical Indian diet. But those at risk of cardiovascular diseases do not need to resign themselves to plain food for life.

THE BLEND OF OILS MAXIMISES ITS BENEFITS WHILE ENSURING THAT A WIDE VARIETY OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FUNCTIONING OF THE HEART AND THE PREVALENCE OF OBESITY ARE AVOIDED AND OVERALL HEALTH MAINTAINED

Drug Administration (FDA), canola oil contains Monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFAs) which lower Low-density lipoprotein (LDLs) (unhealthy cholesterol) and help bring blood-glucose levels under control. Canola oil contains the lowest saturated fat quantity in comparison with all other vegetable oils used for cooking.

"It is the only oil to have been described as zero trans-fat rated oil. A typical serving of canola oil

## DadiKaKehna

We all love to have nice hair. But given the fact that our hair is exposed to so much environmental damage, hair care products are rarely able to do the trick. Here are home remedies that can help, says ROSHANI DEVI



Given that our hair is exposed to sun and environmental elements, to have nice shiny hair is almost an impossible dream. Or is it? Here are a few simple things that one can follow:

First, use an egg. The only problem is that it stinks when you put in on. But the end result is worth all the smell. Mix one egg white and table-spoon of olive oil and honey into a paste. Apply this paste on damp hair and scalp. Leave it for 30 minutes. Wash your hair with shampoo and cool water. Follow this treatment once a week.

Apple cider vinegar is a great moisturiser for the hair. Mix one part of apple cider vinegar with one part of water. Wash your hair with shampoo and then pour the solution on the scalp. Leave it for a few minutes and then rinse it off



with cold water.

Third, use aloe vera. Prepare a paste with four table-spoons of aloe vera gel, two table-spoons of coconut oil and three table-spoons of yogurt. Apply this paste on damp hair and leave it on for 30 minutes. Wash with lukewarm water.

Honey is good for shiny hair too. Mix two table-spoons of honey in two cups of warm water. Put the mixture in a spray bottle. After shampooing, spray this solution on your hair. Massage your scalp for five minutes and leave it on for 15 minutes. Rinse it out with warm water. Do this once a week.

## TIPTOP

A new inhaler — Synchrobreath — designed to manage Obstructive Airway Disease (OAD) has been launched. It is an innovation in managing respiratory disease. Approximately 90% of physicians in India reported prescribing inhaler devices to at least 40% of their asthma and COPD patients in the first clinic visit. Educating patients on the benefits of inhalation therapy and the correct inhaler technique can help increase the acceptance, adherence and correct usage of inhalers, which can result in better disease control.

In New Delhi, chronic respiratory disease is the number one leading cause of death in the 15-39 year age group and the third leading cause of death in

the 40-69 year age group. Further, COPD has moved from the thirteenth leading cause of death and disability in 1990 to the third leading cause in 2016. "This shows the growing burden of respiratory disease and the burning need to control it," Dr Karan

Madan, Assistant Professor, Department of Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep Disorders, AIIMS, said.

Inhaled medicines are integral to the management of respiratory diseases like asthma and COPD. They deliver drugs directly to the lungs and hence act faster and at a lower dose, thereby reducing the risk of side effects. Inhaled medications have been shown to improve disease status, control symptoms, reduce the number and severity of exacerbations and improve quality of life.



## SLIMLINE

Children who experience some type of adverse event following initial immunisation have a low rate of recurrent reactions to subsequent vaccinations, reports a new study.

Although recurrent AEFIs can sometimes occur after repeat doses of vaccine, this study suggests that the risk of recurrent AEFIs after re-vaccination is relatively low, especially when the previous reaction was mild or moderate.

The study provides helpful information on the risk of recurrent reactions to specific vaccines and in patients with different types of initial reactions. Dr De Serres (MD of Laval University, Quebec) and co-authors suggest that vaccine adverse event passive surveillance systems could be adapted to include "systematic and standardized follow-up" to provide more complete information on recurrence risk and other outcomes for children with AEFIs.

## SIT PRETTY & CORRECTLY

FITNESS TRAINER

BADAL UPRETI



shares workouts to reverse damage from prolonged sitting

After sitting for several hours a day, your posture changes permanently. Long hours at the desk does unwanted damage to your bones and joints. If this was not alarming enough, long sitting can also lead to cardiovascular, Diabetes and other related risks. The problem is that even if we do take into account the number of hours we spend sitting at work, we forget to account for the number of hours we sit while travelling and the harm this is causing our body daily.

One can't obviously decrease working hours but you can certainly keep your bones and joints from getting affected due to long sitting hour jobs or just sitting and relaxing. Here are some damages prolonged sitting does to our body and the workouts which can help in reversing the effects.

■ **Sitting lowers the core strength and posture:** We all know how to sit and maintain the correct posture but we all slouch. This affects our body posture. Bringing movements that can isolate the mid-section muscles into a workout routine will help build core strength. **Exercise:** Side planks, flutter kicks and V-ups, we can improve posture.

■ **Sitting wrongly and slouching put pressure on spine:** Spine contains stacked discs that are meant to stretch and expand. While doing so, they absorb nutrients and blood that is required for its proper functioning. But, if you do not move your spine and surrounding tissues, it will not function properly. In this case, it can even lead to cause a herniated disk.

**Exercise:** To reverse the affects try to include exercises like bridges, planks and core area workouts. These exercises will benefit glutes and abs and actively work for the spine. This works best with spine movement because the back supports the other muscle groups in the body to hold these positions and the core includes the lower back or lumbar spine.

■ **Sitting makes your legs and glutes weak:** The glutes and leg muscles like the hamstring, inner thighs and quads get affected when one sits for long with zero movement. The worst case scenario is living a largely sedentary lifestyle which could pave the way for decreased muscle mass and loss of overall strength. It is important that one gives the legs and glutes the much needed attention after a long day's sitting. **Exercise:** There are exercises which can reverse the effect, however like squats, lunges, and bridges targets and activates the major muscle groups.

■ **Sitting affects hip joints and bones:** If one is sitting for too long, one may experience pain in the hip region. This is because sitting causes the hip flexors to shorten. **Exercise:** There are several moves which can reverse the pain of hip joints and bones caused by prolonged hours of sitting like lunges, fire hydrants, and squats. A good leg workout and a good amount of stretching is just as good.

■ **Sitting causes stiffness in the neck and shoulders:** The dangers of hunching and craning the neck to look down at the laptop and phone causes stiffness and pain in the neck and shoulder joints. **Exercise:** Reversing the effects of the stiffness there are certain recommended exercises like rows (any variation), dumbbell shrugs, push-ups, and high planks are the ones which work to strengthen and prevents muscle imbalances, strain, and soreness.

The writer is personal trainer, Anytime Fitness India

## STUDYCENTRE

A superbug resistant to all known antibiotics is spreading undetected through hospital wards across the world, according to scientists. The bacteria, known as Staphylococcus epidermidis, is related to the better-known and more-deadly MRSA. Found naturally on human skin, it most commonly infects the elderly or patients who have had prosthetic materials implanted, such as catheters and joint replacements. The bacteria can cause "severe" infections or even death over time.

Many of the most powerful antibiotics are extremely expensive and even toxic, and the team behind the study said that the practice of using multiple drugs at once to prevent resistance may not be working. The World Health Organization (WHO) has long warned of antibiotic overuse sparking new strains of killer, drug-resistant bacteria. Some tips:

- Practice rational use of antibiotics
- Use when needed and according to guidelines
- Avoid broad spectrum antibiotics without appropriate diagnosis
- Prevent infections with the use of vaccination and by improving basic hygiene
- Farmers and food industry must stop using antibiotics routinely to promote growth and prevent disease in healthy animals to prevent the spread of antibiotic resistance.



MOON'S PYONGYANG VISIT

Denuclearisation high on agenda

AFP ■ SEOUL

Denuclearisation will be high on South Korean President Moon Jae-in's agenda when he meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang this week, Moon's office said on Monday.



and Washington and Pyongyang have sparred since over what that means and how it will be achieved.

The US is pressing for the North's "final, fully verified denuclearisation", while Pyongyang has condemned demands for it to give up its weapons unilaterally as "gangster-like".

Im said the South Korean leader will try to close the gap between the US and the North by playing the role of a mediator.

"Through various meetings and phone calls, President

and the vice chairman of Hyundai Motor.

Moon has been pushing economic co-operation but several South Korean newspapers urged caution Monday, with the Korea Herald calling the businessmen's presence on the trip "untimely".

"It is better to postpone economic projects involving the North until after negotiations to remove its nuclear program make substantial progress," it said in an editorial.

And investment in the North was "fraught with risks and uncertainty", it added.

Other issues on Moon's agenda will be improving inter-Korean ties and easing military tensions on the peninsula, which the South said could lay the ground for declaring a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

That suggested a declaration — which Pyongyang has been pressing for strongly — was unlikely during Moon's trip.

Trump has insecurity of a teenage girl: John Kerry

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Former US secretary of state John Kerry has torn into Donald Trump for accusing him of holding "illegal" meetings with Iran, saying the American President has the maturity of an "eight-year-old boy with the insecurity of a teenage girl".

Kerry's attack came in response to Trump's tweet accusing the former secretary of State of holding "illegal meetings" with the Iranian Government that were "to the detriment of the American people".

"He told them to wait out the Trump Administration! Was he registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act? BAD!" Trump tweeted.

Reacting to the accusation on a late-night talk show on Friday to promote his new memoir 'Every Day is Extra', Kerry said, "He's the first President who spends more time reading his Twitter likes than his briefing books or the Constitution of the United States".



"Unfortunately, we have a president, literally, for whom 'the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth' is three different things. And you don't even know what they are," Kerry was quoted as saying by 'The Washington Post'.

"He really is the rare combination of an 8-year-old boy — he's got the maturity of an 8-year-old boy with the insecurity of a teenage girl. It's just who he is," he said.

Kerry's remarks received a mixed response online. While some lauded the comparison as "absolutely priceless" and a "mic drop" moment, many expressed disappointment for

his "condescending" and "inaccurate" generalisation of young women.

Matt Summers, a spokesman for Kerry, later defended Kerry's Iran meetings.

"Secretary Kerry stays in touch with his former counterparts around the world just like every previous secretary of state," he said.

Kerry along with other top US officials played a key role in negotiating the 2015 agreement between Iran and several world powers that lifted sanctions against Tehran in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear programme.

Taliban attacks kill 27 members of Afghan security forces

AP ■ KABUL

The Taliban launched multiple attacks on Afghan checkpoints as well as police and military bases in different parts of the country, killing at least 27 members of the security forces, Afghan officials said Monday.

The attacks and the high casualty toll underscore the difficulties Afghan forces face in trying to secure the country on their own. The Afghan forces have struggled to combat both the Taliban and an Islamic State affiliate since the U.S. and NATO formally ended their combat mission in the country in 2014.

In western Farah province, attacks began on Sunday night and killed at least 17 members of the security forces. Fared Bakhtawer, head of the provincial council, said the Taliban attacked police checkpoints across the province and around the provincial capital.

A group of Taliban fighters first targeted checkpoints in the district of Push Rod, where 10 policemen died. Another attack struck in Bala Buluk district, where seven were killed and at least three others were abducted by the insurgents. Separately, also in Bala Buluk, six policemen surrendered to the Taliban after an intense battle.

There were also attacks elsewhere in Farah but Bakhtawer couldn't provide any casualty figures, pending more detailed reports.

In northwestern Badghis province, five officers were killed, including Abdul Hakim, the police commander of a reserve unit, in an attack that took place on Monday morning near the provincial capital of Qala-i-Now.

Jamshid Shahabi, spokesman for the Badghis Governor, said around 22 Taliban fighters were killed and 16 others were wounded during the gunbattle there.

In northern Baghlan province, the Taliban on Monday attacked a joint army and police base, killing three army and two police officers, said Gen. Ekramuddin Serih, the provincial police chief. Four other members of the security forces were wounded in the attack, which took place in the Baghlani Markazi district, he said.

Kavanaugh's accuser willing to talk to Cong, lawyer says

WASHINGTON: The woman accusing Judge Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her is willing to tell her story in public to a Senate panel considering his nomination to the Supreme Court, her lawyer said Monday.

Kavanaugh had been on a smooth confirmation track, but the new allegations have roiled that process. Republican senators have expressed concern over a woman's private-turned-public allegation that a drunken Kavanaugh groped her and tried to take off her clothes at a party when they were teenagers.

Debra S. Katz, the attorney for the woman, Christine Blasey Ford, said her client considered the incident to be an attempted rape. "She believes that if we were not for the severe intoxication of Brett Kavanaugh, she would have been raped," Katz told NBC's "Today."

Kavanaugh has "categorically and unequivocally" denied the allegations, a statement the White House repeated Monday. "This has not changed," said White House spokesman Kerri Kupec. "Judge Kavanaugh and the White House both stand by that statement."

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said of Ford Monday: "She should not be insulted. She should not be ignored. She should testify under oath and she should do it on Capitol Hill." Conway, who said she had discussed the situation with President Donald Trump, said that both Ford and Kavanaugh should testify, but made clear it was up to the Senate Judiciary Committee. She said Sen. Lindsey Graham had told her it could happen as soon as tomorrow and the White House will "respect the process."

Stressing that Kavanaugh had already testified and undergone FBI background checks, Conway said: "I think you have to weigh this testimonial evidence from Dr. Ford and Judge Kavanaugh along with the considerable body of evidence that is already there about the judge's temperament and qualifications and character."

In morning television interviews, Katz said her client was willing to tell her story in public to the Senate Judiciary Committee, although no lawmakers or their aides had yet contacted her. Katz also denied that Ford, a Democrat, is politically motivated. "No one in their right mind regardless of their motives would want to inject themselves into this process and face the kind of violation that she will be subjected to by those who want this nominee to go through... She was quite reluctant to come forward."

Initially the sexual misconduct allegation was conveyed in a private letter, without revealing Ford's name. With a name and disturbing details, the accusation raised the prospect of congressional Republicans defending Trump's nominee ahead of midterm elections featuring an unprecedented number of female candidates and informed in part by the #MeToo movement. AP

4 killed, 3.11 million evacuated as Typhoon Mangkhut hits China

PTI ■ BEIJING

Typhoon Mangkhut, the year's most powerful tropical storm to hit the Chinese mainland, barreled into the coast of Guangdong province killing at least four persons and forcing evacuation of over 3.11 million people in the southern region after leaving a trail of death and destruction from the Philippines to Hong Kong.

Mangkhut landed at 5 p.m. On Sunday on the coast of Jiangmen City in Guangdong province, packing winds up to 162 km per hour, according to the provincial meteorological station.

Three people were killed by falling trees in Guangzhou, the provincial capital, while another person died from collapsing construction materials in the city of Dongguan, Guangdong's disaster relief authorities said.

More than 3.11 million people had been relocated and over 49,000 fishing boats were called back to port in the province, state-run Xinhua news agency reported on Monday.

Work has been suspended at more than 29,000 construction sites and 640 tourist spots were closed.

The airports of Guangzhou

and Shenzhen. All high-speed train services and some normal-speed rail services have been suspended in and Hainan provinces.

The storm was still raging across southern China's coast and the provinces of Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan and rain and strong winds were expected to continue through Tuesday, the report said.

Mangkhut made landfall in western Guangdong on Sunday afternoon before moving into neighbouring Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, bringing with it torrential rains and gales.

Though the worst appears to have passed for Guangdong province, local meteorological authorities warned residents to remain alert for floods and landslides in Guangxi.

Mangkhut earlier lashed the Philippines, sparking landslides and building collapses that killed at least 65 people, with another 43 missing. Hong Kong was also buffeted by fierce winds that tore off roofs, downed trees and caused cranes perched atop half-built skyscrapers to swing ominously. However, there were no reported deaths in Hong Kong, a city well prepared for tropical cyclones.

Parents of 13-yr-old rape victim in Nepal meet Oli

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The grieving parents of a 13-year-old girl in Nepal who was raped and murdered in July in the country's remote west, met Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Monday and sought justice for their daughter whose brutal killing triggered nationwide outrage.

Prime Minister Oli told the parents that he had directed the Ministry of Home Affairs to reinvestigate the case and briefed them about the Government's actions, including suspensions of police personnel, My Republica reported.

The girl's parents came to the capital last week to draw the attention of the Government towards the case.

Oli said the Government would leave no stones unturned to nab those involved. "No matter how wealthy, strong or politically connected the culprit is, we will book the criminals," Oli said.

The girl was raped and murdered on July 26. Her body was found in a sugarcane field the next day.

Angry crowds took to the streets accusing police of protecting the person responsible for the brutal crime.

The victim's father alleged that top police and civil official had coerced him to sign a paper and quickly perform the



Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal had earlier defended the investigation as well as the way the incident was handled

last rites of his daughter with about 300 police personnel deployed, Nepalese media reported.

Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal had earlier defended the investigation as well as the way the incident was handled.

The parents had last week met President Bidhya Devi Bhandari and asked the Government not to deny justice to their daughter.

Bhandari had said that "justice should not be delayed and denied to the victim and her family".

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GRID CONSTRUCTION DIVISION PDD, AMBEDKAR CHOWK, RAILWAY ROAD, JAMMU (J&K), TELE: 0191-2437028, E-mail ID: xengdofmu@gmail.com**

**INVITATION FOR e-BIDS FOR**

E NIT No.: GCD/J/08 of 2018-19 Dated :- 13.09.2018

Executive Engineer, Grid Construction Division, PDD Ambedkar Chowk Jammu (J&K) (hereinafter referred to as "the Employer") for and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, wishes to receive e-bids for Turkey project including Supply, Transportation, Erection, Testing and commissioning of following work in Jammu Region of Jammu & Kashmir :-

**"Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Twinning of 220 KV Bus Bar (Main and Reserve) from Double ACSR Zebra to Double STACIR HTLS Conductor (Equivalent to Moose) of the existing 220/132/66 KV Hiranagar Substation (J&K) associated with Transmission System Strengthening of JKPPD under PMDP Scheme-15."**

Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this Standard Bidding Document (SBD) shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the standard bidding document with full understanding of its implications.

The scope of work covered under package "Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Twinning of 220 KV Bus Bar (Main and Reserve) from Double ACSR Zebra to Double STACIR HTLS Conductor (Equivalent to Moose) of the existing 220/132/66 KV Hiranagar Substation (J&K) associated with Transmission System Strengthening of JKPPD under PMDP Scheme-15" is brought out in subsequent clauses of this section Technical specifications, Volume-II.

The above scope of work is indicative and the detailed scope of work is given in the Technical Specification (Volume-II) of the Bidding documents. The completion period for subject Package shall be the period as specified in special conditions of contract.

The detailed qualifying Requirements (QR) are given in Section-III, Vol-I of the bidding document.

The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below :-

**A. Estimated Project Cost :- Rs.98.11 Lacs**

**B. Date & Time of downloading of Bidding Document :- 17.09.2018 from 1600 hrs.**

**C. Start date for receipt of Clarifications :- 18.09.2018 from 1000 hrs.**

**D. Last date for receipt of Clarifications :- 20.09.2018 upto 1000 hrs.**

**E. Pre-Bid Meeting :- 22.09.2018 at 1300 hrs.**

**F. Replies to Clarifications :- 24.09.2018**

**G. e-Bid submission (start) date & time :- 25.09.2018 from 1000 hrs.**

**H. e-Bid submission (end) date & time :- 09.10.2018 upto 1600 hrs.**

**I. Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date and time :- 16.10.2018 at 1200 hrs.**

**J. Venue of opening of technical & commercial e-Bids :- office of the Executive Engineer, Grid Construction Division, Ambedkar Chowk, Jammu (J&K), Pin Code - 180004 or any other place to be intimated.**

**K. Cost of e-Bid document :- Rupees 5000/- (Non-refundable)**

**L. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit :- Rs. 1.9622 Lacs**

**M. Last date of submission of Hard Copy :- 09.10.2018 upto 1400 hrs.**

The bidders need to submit the proof for purchase of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through Demand Draft of any nationalized/scheduled Bank pledged to Executive Engineer, GCD, Jammu Payable at Jammu (J&K). The scanned copy of Demand Draft must be enclosed along with the e-Bids but the original Demand Draft should reach the office of Executive Engineer, GCD, Jammu by last day of submission of hardcopy Commercial and Technical e-Bid.

All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee issued by a nationalized/scheduled Bank only pledged to the Executive Engineer, GCD, Jammu. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

Hard copy of original instrument of EMD should reach to the office of the Executive Engineer, GCD, Jammu, (J&K) by 09.10.2018 upto 1400 hrs. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Grid Construction Division, PDD,  
Ambedkar Chowk, Jammu (J&K)

No. DIP/J-2801-P/18  
Dated:- 15.09.2018

**GURUGRAM METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (GMDA)**

**TENDER NOTICE**

GMDA invites bids from eligible bidders through e-Tendering mode on the Government of Haryana web portal <http://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in> before 27-09-2018 as under:-

S/N	Name of work	Value (Rs.) (Approx.)	EMD (Rs.)	Time (Months)
1	Providing & fixing wire mesh jali and barbed wire fencing on tee iron and M.S. center plate frame fixed with cement concrete blocks around waterbody in Wazirabad, Gurugram.	46,35,000/-	92,700/-	6
2	Providing & fixing wire mesh jali and barbed wire fencing on tee iron and M.S. center plate frame fixed with cement concrete blocks around water course in Sikanderpur Ghosi, Gurugram.	49,30,000/-	98,600/-	6
3	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Tau Devi Lal Park, Sector -22, Gurugram.	14,50,000/-	29,000/-	12
4	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Basai water treatment plant, Gurugram.	9,40,000/-	18,800/-	12
5	Maintenance of Horticulture work in Chandu Budhera water treatment plant.	9,75,000/-	19,500/-	12
6	Repair of boundary wall and petty works in Plaza Area Park, Leisure Valley, Sec-29, Gurugram.	3,05,000/-	6,100/-	2
7	Running operation maintenance and watch & ward of Musical fountain in Maharana Pratap Swam Jayanti Park, Sec-29, Gurugram.	2,97,000/-	5,940/-	6
8	Maintenance of Tubewell Electric Motors in MPJSJ Park (Leisure Valley), Sec-29, Gurugram.	88,000/-	4,400/-	6
9	Maintenance of Tubewell Electric Motors in Tau Devi Lal Biodiversity Park, Sec-52A.	88,000/-	4,400/-	6
10	Maintenance of Tubewell Electric Motors in Tau Devi Lal Park, Sec-22, Gurugram.	59,000/-	2,950/-	6
11	Maintenance of Tubewell Electric Motors in Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Sec-38, Gurugram.	59,000/-	2,950/-	6
12	Security Services in Tau Devi Lal Biodiversity Park, Sec-52A, Gurugram.	7,60,000/-	15,200/-	6
13	Security Services in Tau Devi Lal Biodiversity Park, Sec-52A, Gurugram.	7,60,000/-	15,200/-	6
14	Security Services in Plaza Area Park, Leisure Valley, Sec-29, Gurugram.	3,80,000/-	7,600/-	6

The detailed tender document including eligibility criteria can be downloaded from the above web portal by the firms/individuals registered there upon. Possession of Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and registration on the web portal is a prerequisite for e-tendering.

Advisor & Head  
UE Division, GMDA,  
Gurugram.

RO NO. 71750 Dt. 17-09-2018

Pak denies Afghan trade route for India

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has refuted media reports that it has expressed readiness to talk on the restoration of the India-Afghanistan trade route using its land.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi rejected the reports after US Ambassador to Afghanistan John Bass was quoted as saying by an Indian newspaper

that Pakistan had approached Afghanistan earlier this year and indicated its willingness to resume trade between Afghanistan and India through its land.

"Pakistan has not agreed to consider Afghanistan-India trade through our land," Qureshi was quoted as saying by the Express Tribune. Pakistan does not allow India to use the land route for trading with Afghanistan, argu-

ing that "technical and strategic" issues connected to transit trade should be resolved first.

Bass was quoted as saying by the Indian daily that "A couple of months ago, for the first time the Pakistani Government expressed a willingness to start talks with its Afghan counterparts for parameters to enabling trade between India and Afghanistan through Pakistan."

Mattis condemns Russia's influence-peddling in Macedonia

AP ■ SKOPJE (MACEDONIA)

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis arrived in Macedonia Monday, condemning Russian efforts to use its money and influence to build opposition to an upcoming vote that could pave the way for the country to join NATO - a move Moscow opposes.

Mattis told reporters travelling with him to Skopje that there is "no doubt" that Moscow has been funding pro-Russian groups in order to defeat the referendum on a name change later this month. "They have transferred money and they're also conducting broader influence campaigns," Mattis said. "We ought to leave the Macedonian people to make up their own minds."

Macedonians will vote Sept 30 on whether to approve the new name of North Macedonia in an effort to placate Greece, which has for years blocked Macedonia's path to NATO

and the European Union. But any progress toward NATO membership by the Balkan nation is strongly opposed by Russia, which doesn't want the alliance to expand to areas formerly under Moscow's influence.

Mattis is the latest in a string of international leaders visiting Macedonia to voice support for the referendum, and he's the most senior US official to go there.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, German chancellor Angela Merkel, and Austrian chancellor Sebastian Kurz have all visited and made public endorsements of the name change, saying it's critical in order for the country to join NATO, after years of waiting.

Mattis said that he and other NATO allies "say right up front in open press what we think. We're not passing money to people behind the scenes, we're not putting together parties that we control or try to control." Russia has already been

called out for trying to influence the vote.

In July, Greece expelled two Russian diplomats accused of supplying funds to protest groups who were opposing the name change deal. Russia denounced the expulsions as unjustified.

Greece, a member of NATO, has for years vetoed attempts by Macedonia to join NATO, complaining about the country's name ever since Yugoslavia broke up in the early 1990s. Greece argues that the name implies a territorial claim against the northern Greek region of Macedonia and its ancient heritage.

NATO leaders in July formally invited Macedonia to begin membership talks on the condition that it wouldn't become effective until the name change was implemented.

But there is widespread concern about Russian impact on the vote. "There is this influence campaign to try to buy off peo-

ple and try to support pro-Russian organizations," said Laura Cooper, the deputy assistant defense secretary for Russia and the region.

She said she couldn't give specifics about the pay-offs, but said the US is aware of financial support that Moscow has given to pro-Russian individuals and groups that are working to undermine the referendum.

Russia, she said, is "swooping in now with disinformation and other forms of malign influence to try to change the minds of the Macedonian people."

As examples, she cited efforts to convince people that the vote isn't relevant and isn't the last step for NATO admission.

Evelyn Farkas, an expert on the region who is a fellow with the Atlantic Council and a former Defense Department adviser, said Mattis' visit to the tiny nation could help sow support for the name change.

**GLOBE TROTTER**

**WORLD'S 1ST HYDROGEN TRAIN ROLLS OUT**

**Bremervorde:** Germany on Monday rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train, signalling the start of a push to challenge the might of polluting diesel trains with costlier but more eco-friendly technology

**BIRD HIT NEPALESE AIRLINE PLAIN CONTINUES FLIGHT**

**Kathmandu:** A private Nepalese airline's plane was hit by a bird shortly after take-off from Tribhuvan International Airport here on Monday, but the pilot continued to fly, risking the life of 52 persons on board.

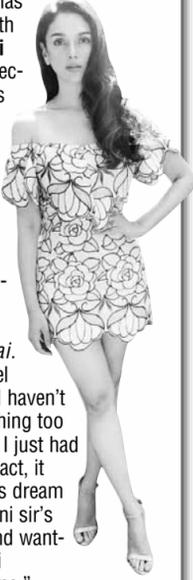
**UK OPP WANTS BAN ON FOETUS GENDER TESTS**

**London:** Britain's Opposition Labour Party on Monday called for a ban on sex determination tests for pregnant women to counter a bias among South Asian communities in favour of male babies.

Trend Glazer

Aditi blessed to be Mani's heroine

Actress **ADITI RAO HYDARI**, who has collaborated with filmmaker **Mani Ratnam** for a second time for his next Tamil film *Chekka Chivantha Vaanam*, said she always wanted to act with him. The actress had previously worked with Ratnam in *Kaatru Veliyidai*. Aditi said, "I feel really blessed. I haven't grown up watching too many films but I just had this dream. In fact, it was a little girl's dream when I saw Mani sir's film *Bombay* and wanted to be a Mani (Ratnam) heroine."



**"Those who know me well know that I'm an asthmatic. What's to hide? I knew that I had to control my asthma before it controlled me. As long as I've got my inhaler, asthma can't stop me from achieving my goals and living a 'Berok Zindagi.'"**  
—Priyanka Chopra

Actress **MANDIRA BEDI** agrees that juggling between family and work is a struggle for a working mother but she suggests that one needs to find the right formula. She says that some of her best works happened after she became a mother. "Some of the best works that I have done have been after I became a mother. I did *24*, a couple of movies and some commercials are coming my way. I am enjoying work now. So, I don't think that there is any such thing as work not coming your way when you become a mother," said Mandira.



Alejandra and Gere expect baby

**RICHARD GERE** is expecting his second child and first with new wife **ALEJANDRA SILVA**, who announced the news with some help from the Dalai Lama. "A very special moment just a few minutes ago... Getting blessings for our precious to come," penned Silva on an Instagram photo showing the Buddhist leader blessing her baby bump. "We couldn't announce it before telling HH Dalai Lama," added the 35-year-old Spanish businesswoman and activist, who went on to share the message in her first language.



A CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS?

A vibrant nightlife is an essential component of modern civilisation. **AYUSHI SHARMA** talks to world city experts and finds out what are the markers and how Delhi needs to strike a balance between regulation and freedom

This city never sleeps. Can this be the tagline of Delhi? Most of us women would vigorously shake their heads in the negative. For when it comes to nightlife, the first image that comes to mind is of safe-strolling the streets and bumping into urban sub-cultures. A mix of pubbing, dancing, music concerts and cultural soirees or what can be termed as a "happening" urban expression is one of the major reasons for tourists to visit a certain city.

But then all that Delhi or for that matter any of the Indian cities have on offer are two categories of recreational experientials. On one side of the spectrum are downmarket, shady and run-down bars, which a major chunk of the educated class and urban population steers clear of. On the other side are high-profile lounges, diners and cafes which welcome the middle to upper-class citizens but are naturally priced steeply.

Experts from all over the world, therefore, got together at Shangri-La to unravel the markers for a great nightlife and bring Delhi and our other cities up to the mark.

Lutz Leichsenring, spokesman and executive board member for the Berlin Club Commission, who focusses on the informal aspects of city life and has played a key role in legitimising the city's underground movement, defines nightlife: "It can be defined as a space where like-minded people meet, communicate and interact socially. It's basically a space which is diverse and inclusive."

Lutz argues that if a city wishes to be advanced and modern, "you have to think how can you create a culture of vibrancy which has to do with diversity, focussing on art and music and also on the idea to be a better place where individuals can connect, interact and get together."

He feels the idea of nightlife in India is definitely evolving and getting more diverse than it used to be. "I'm happy that Indian artists have started developing their own identities and no longer copy from what's happen-



ing around the world. It's a very positive development as it shapes the unique identity of who you are," Lutz added. He strongly feels that there's a huge amount of competition between different parts of the world to become a global hotspot, inviting and attracting visitors with a vibe and breath. That comes purely from the cultural environment and people-bonding. Says Lutz, "The reason why people leave cities and move somewhere else is mostly driven by new pursuits of nightlife."

Berlin is a place which people see as a safe haven, where you will be welcomed and accepted no matter what sexual orientation you have, what kind of music you like, how you dress or what you look like. "It's really hard to compare the nightlife in Berlin and Delhi. There's unquestionably more cultural vibrancy in the former because there's much greater space which is accessible not just to a certain group but to every individual. Of course India has made headway but still has to do a lot when it comes to be a site which is night friendly and accommodating."

Lutz also shares some tips for Delhi's nightlife makeover. "The first and foremost step towards making Delhi a night-friendly city is to keep

IF YOU WANT TO ATTRACT PEOPLE FOR CREATING A VIBRANT NIGHTLIFE, YOU HAVE TO ALSO GIVE THEM THE RIGHT FRAMEWORK. IF YOU HAVE REGULATIONS WHICH ARE OFFERING YOU RESTRICTIONS AND BOUNDARIES ONLY, THEN THIS IS DISAPPOINTING

laws, rules and regulations easy-going and friendly. I think if you want to attract people for creating a vibrant nightlife, you have to also give them the right framework. If you have regulations which are offering you restrictions and boundaries only, then this is disappointing. Second, the idea of having longer opening hours creates a safer nightlife because people are not pressured to get drunk within a certain time. Third, you need to have enough accessible space where new talent can grow and evolve where a mix of local and global can gather to have a good time together."

Hideyuki Yokoi, a

rapper who is also a Hip-Hop activist, popularly known as Zeebra, was the Chairman of the Club Culture Conference (CCC). He has also played the main role in re-inspection of the Fu-Ei-Ho which is the National Law that prohibits late night business hours. Fu-Ei-Ho had strongly restricted Japanese night entertainment for over 25 years. He says, "If all the pubs and clubs would be in an enclosed space and not scattered all around the city, people wouldn't face the hassle of going around places. It would just be one place where everything could be within reach. It would definitely be safer than any other place which is alienated from civilisation."

Lutz adds, "There's a need for right talent, people who have unconventional ideas and originality in their works and not those who follow someone's footsteps. Indians are definitely full of talent but where they lack is an accessible space for a good nightlife where people can feel safe and enjoy the after hours. Another thing is acceptance from the governmental side. It's important to have rules and regulations which are a combination of strict as well as liberal."



As authentic as it gets

**Varun Dhawan** and **Anushka Sharma** have left no stone unturned to get in character for their parts in *Sui Dhaaga - Made in India*. To become the self-reliant tailor **Mauji** and his embroiderer wife **Mamta**, Anushka and Varun shot in the outskirts of Delhi at a real textile factory to get authentic visuals of how small-scale businesses operate and how textile workers from small towns work in factories. They also shot with actual workers of the factory to get the body language right and acquired skill sets of operating industrial machines.

Anushka says, "We have tried to keep *Sui Dhaaga* as authentic to real life as possible. We lived the life of Mauji and Mamta for this film and

**VARUN & ANUSHKA** worked at a textile factory for *Sui Dhaaga* to get under the skin of their characters

this journey took us to work in an actual clothing factory in Faridabad. We shot there for four days with real workers who tirelessly work day and night to produce outstanding pieces of garments. We learnt how to operate the machines from them which was very helpful."

Varun adds, "The factory in Faridabad was a perfect location to shoot. The equipment and machinery looked genuine and extremely authen-



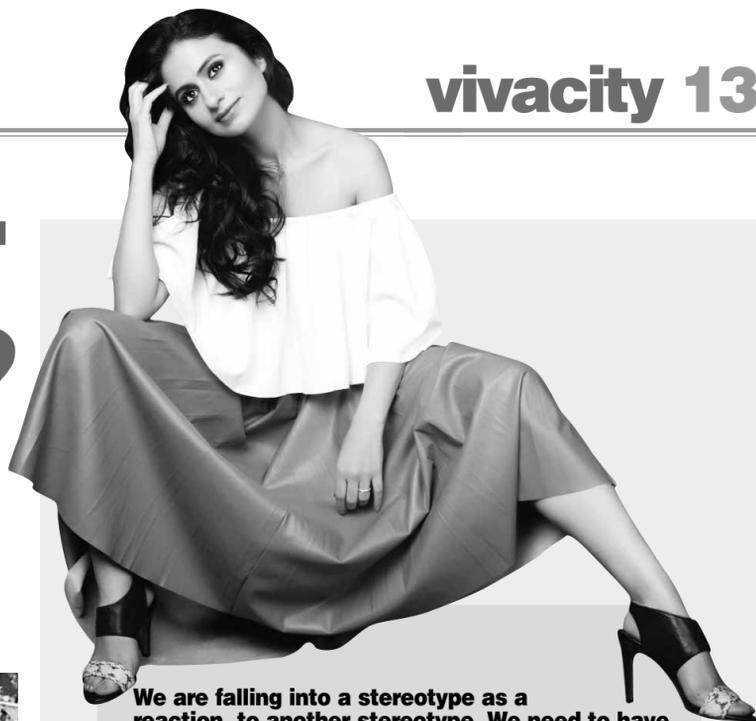
tic to be the place where Mauji and Mamta's first brush with a textile factory could be. To

prep for our parts, we both interacted and met with all the real workers on set and exchanged notes. These people were invaluable in getting us more prepared for our characters."

Since they run a factory in the film, the duo also went for a Vishwakarma puja in Lucknow.

A film about finding love and respect through self-reliance, *Sui Dhaaga - Made in India* is a heart-warming story that celebrates the spirit of self-reliance.

The National Award-winning dream-team of director **Sharat Katariya** and producer **Maneesh Sharma** have come together for this **Yash Raj Films'** entertainer that is set to release on September 28.



We are falling into a stereotype as a reaction to another stereotype. We need to have nuances in portrayal of characters. It is important that you understand a woman's character does not exist to titillate or to feel sorry for

Life in the shadows

Actor **RASIKA DUGAL**, who plays **Safia**, the wife of **Manto** in the eponymously named film, believes that the writer is more than ever relevant in the polarised times that we live in, says **SAIMI SATTAR**

For the longest time, actor **Rasika Dugal** had been in love with the writings of **Manto**. And when the role of **Safiya** was offered to her, she had just started learning to read and write Urdu. "When **Nandita (Das)** offered me the role, it seemed to be poetic justice," says the petite 33-year-old who plays **Saadat Hasan Manto's** wife in *Manto*.

There were reasons for **Dugal** being enamoured of his writings which made her say yes to the role. "I really like his stand on the freedom of speech. In the 21st century, we no longer need heroes of free speech and you expect to take it for granted but the truth is it is increasingly threatened these days. By being a part of this film, I am responding to the circumstances which are happening around me," she reasons.

She believes that more than ever, **Manto** is relevant today when people are being lynched for speaking up. "I can speak for myself that **Manto** a day keeps me going. It inspires me that I should never give up speaking my mind. But I should temper my fearlessness with kindness and sensitivity and leave room for discourse and discussion and not shut out other voices. There should be space for conversation which is so important when the country is witnessing extreme polarisation," she says passionately.

There is one more reason why **Dugal** likes **Manto's** works. "The way women are etched out in his stories and the way they have been humanised. You have to see the innocence of **Sarita** who just wanted to sit in a car in *100 Rupaye* or the sex worker in *100 Watt Bulb* whose only desire is to get a good night's sleep to know how well he understood women. Given a chance, I would like to play all of these characters as these are real women," she says.

This, she feels, is in stark contrast to women's portrayal in contemporary cultures. "We are falling into a stereotype as a reaction to another stereotype. We need to have nuances in portrayal of characters. It is important that you understand a woman's character does not exist to titillate or to feel sorry for," she says.

There are other ways that **Manto** resonates in her life. **Dugal** was moved by his stories in a personal way because her family too had faced displacement during **Partition**. "During the **Second World War**, my grandparents were forced to move from **Burma** to **Rawalpindi** and when the **Partition** took place, they moved back to **Burma** again. The grief of being displaced, what it does to pride and memories, is similar," she says and adds that memory is a subjective thing where two people might remember the same episode differently. "My grandfather and grandmother have different memories and takeaways. My grandfather did not have a job and my grandmother was pregnant which made her recall the hard times that she had. But my grandfather only remembered the

not lacking in spine, much like the character that she plays.

Even though **Manto** wrote prolifically and women often were the centre of his stories, there are not many references to **Safia**. "There are really a very few essays where she is mentioned. He talks about his arranged marriage to **Safia** in 1936 in an essay titled, *Meri Shaadi (My Wedding)*. Then there is one chapter in the book *Ganjay Farishtay (Bald Angels)* called *Nargis* which talks about how **Safia** and her sister used to make crank calls to the legendary actress as they were in awe of her. Later, they became friends," says the actor, last seen by the Hindi film-viewing audience in *Qissa*. There are also references to **Safia** by writer **Ismat Chughtai**, who along with **Manto**, was tried for obscenity for her controversial story *Lihaaf*.



"**Nandita** made it easier for me as she had already met **Safia** and **Manto's** daughters, **Nighat**, **Nusrat** and **Nuzhat** as well as **Safia's** sister, **Zakia**. **Nighat** *apa* was nine years when she lost her father, so they do not remember much about **Manto**. But when they think of **Safia**, there is a lot of anecdotal information which is beautifully incorporated into the script," she says and adds, "Moreover a talented director and a good script aids you."

Of course, the biggest compliment for **Dugal** was when the eldest of the writer's children compared her to **Safia**. "When I spoke to **Nuzhat Apa**, she said I looked like her mother, which overwhelmed me. We tried to style the look according to the photograph of her sitting with **Manto** in a garden," she says.

But while getting the look was a matter of styling it right, getting into the skin of the character was something that **Dugal** did. "I can speculate how she felt and I hope that through me the audience can feel **Safia's** pain and that of **Manto** in her and vice versa. I also want to portray the idea that there is a lot of strength in being vulnerable rather than in screaming out," she says.

And therein lies the line that **Manto** stood for all the 43 years of his short life — in defence of free speech.



Kung Fu nuns perform ritual dance on the grand opening of the Naropa festival 2018 at Narophotang, 3 km away from the Hemis Monastery. Photo: Ami Bhat

# 'THUMRI IS ALL ABOUT IMPROVISATION'

Classical singer PADMAJA CHAKRABORTY shares with CHAHAK MITTAL how the artform allowed her to explore her own range of emotions

Born in a complex and pressure-cooked time, only few from the younger generation might have the patience or the inclination to listen to *Thumri*. Or so one would suppose. Yet the repetition of a line, which connoisseurs know is a form of improvisation, makes one seep into the flavour of the music gradually as it enwraps the senses.

While the other music forms are not as popular, *Thumri* continues to have its takers, especially among those who like things a bit more nuanced than EDM or Hip Hop. And to give an opportunity to them to enjoy the art form, the Sahitya Kala Parishad celebrated the Thumri Festival 2018. Padmaja Chakraborty, who has been singing this form for more than two decades, presented the inaugural sequence.

While *Thumri* seems to be a classical art form, not many know that it is a much lighter version of classical and comes under the semi-classical category of music. She explains, "Classical forms of music comprise two parts — first, pure classical, which comprises *Khyal Gayeki* as well as *Dhrupad*, second, semi-classical, which is where *Thumri* comes under. It is called the *Upashastriya Gaan*. It is a lighter version of classical music. But it takes a lot of work, skills and dedicated practice for one to become an expert in the field."

She lays down the fundamentals, saying, "There is a rule for presenting classical music on the basis of a *raga* only, which is composed as both vocal and instrumental. It tells which *taal* and note has to be applied and even the time when it should be sung. For instance, when we sing *Khyal* or *Dhrupad*, we consider the time as our main player to present a song. However, *Dhrupad*, that was first sung and recited by Tansen, is not heard or sung very often these days."

She explains how these pure classical forms were modified to make it better for the common folk to understand and enjoy. "For the *sadharan log* (commoners), *Khyal Gayeki* has been a very serious and grim form of music. Legends decided to give it a lighter tone for the common listeners to appreciate.

Initially, the *Thumri Gayeki* was mostly sung with the Kathak dances and was preferred in the royal courts of kings and rulers. It wasn't considered a very rich music culture at that time. Hence, it was transformed into a much lighter version with more *lachaks* and *mataks*. Post that, the art form evolved to be widely accepted by people."

There is not just one side to *Thumri*, rather many small classifications and divisions. She tells us, "*Thumri* is derived from all forms of music, from pure classical music and *Khyal Gayeki* to some lighter versions of it to folk music. It combines all these forms to become a beautiful composition. It doesn't religiously follow all the rules, though we do use *raga* but not follow rules like we do with *Khyal* and *Dhrupad*."

She adds that it is "more about the artist's own improvisation and emotions where we can even form something from our own heart. It is rich in terms of expressions (*bhaav*). One needs to be highly-skilled to showcase such expressions in its aesthetic sense. *Isme bhi taal hai, raga hai par thodi si chhoot hai, isme apne mann ki chinta aur bhav-*

*na bhi vyakt kar sakte hain. Yeh hai thumri ki gayeki (Thumri has taal, raga but stays a little behind the rules. One can express worry and one's own feelings with it)."*

The music form is mostly devotional in nature or sets the romantic mood through its compositions on the tales of Radha-Krishna's divine love. However, Chakraborty believes that "*Thumri* isn't confined to only their tales but is full of *sringaar-rasa* — the music of romance. It has both *biraha* and *milan*. They are even lighter versions of *Thumri* which are classified as *Dadra*, *Chaittee*, *Kajri* and *Jhoola*."

As someone who has been around for decades, she has seen the change in music. Chakraborty believes that "music hasn't changed at all and it won't even will." She compares today's generation and hers: "During our early 20s, we took classical music very seriously. We felt that a proper training to learn classical music is the best way to learn it. Even today the case is the same. You need proper guidance about notes — *sargam*, *taal aur sur*. For instance, when a child begins studies, s/he doesn't just jump to making words and sentences, it's the



alphabets that come first. And then eventually, the child is able to write something. Similarly, in *Thumri* or any art form, only a proper training will let somebody improvise it in a much better and beautiful way."

On the erosion of the finer sensibilities courtesy the multiplicity of popular music shows on TV, she says, "It is not that only today's younger generation doesn't accept it. Even during my childhood, I and children of my age would never prefer it. Why will they do that after all? Classical music is all about seriousness and quietness. It's dark and grim. Children can't be interested in it at their age. They will

nothing really gets accomplished — neither their studies, nor their music. They don't understand that even if you have talent, proper training and basic knowledge are important in every field and subject." The young generation is shifting away from classical music forms. They find it hard to follow. Why so? She says, "It is not that only today's younger generation doesn't accept it. Even during my childhood, I and children of my age would never prefer it. Why will they do that after all? Classical music is all about seriousness and quietness. It's dark and grim. Children can't be interested in it at their age. They will

question everything related to it and might not even find it that exciting. It is only after we explain to them properly what it is that they develop perspective."

Dance forms like Kathak are a play of the eyes and expressions. They could be joyful, they could be depressing or even terrifying. She recalls singer Asha Bhonsle's words who said, "One doesn't need to form a grim expression to showcase something. One can show it very normally too. The expression should look beautiful but not unusual." So we are also responsible for not being able to explain or portray it to the children properly. We also

need to make a change so that they also find it interesting and after a time they also follow its seriousness."

She shares how singing *Thumri* is quite a task. "It is very difficult and is all about improvisation. Consider other music from films or *bhajans*; the *mukhda* and *antara* are already written and pre-decided, which you only have to memorise. *Thumri*, however, isn't like that. It is all about improvising the same verse but making it sound better every time it is recited. For instance, the line, '*Madhke bhare tore nain*.' It is just a two-liner but we have to keep singing it for 10 minutes as best as we can. No one can listen to the same line more than eight times. If it looks like repeating, it means that it is not presented in a good way. Even if you're doing it for more than 10 times, every time it should be different and completely new, improvised."

A presentation of an artistry of expressions, improvisations through instrumentals and vocals, classical music is full of amusement. This is why it always keeps inspiring Chakraborty. She says, "Music inspires me in every way possible. I have lived with music all my life and grown up with it. When children went for some recreation time apart from studies, that for me was a chance to pursue music. I didn't think of becoming a celebrity or a famous superstar or a musician, it was only because of my dedication and passion that I followed it so religiously. I found myself getting immersed and lost in it as I grew up. I think I cannot even live without music in my life. It is the most precious thing that I have."

## WHEN POSTERS WERE AN ART

A book released by IGNCA documents a vital link of India's film history

Cinema *ghar*...the words spelt magic at a time. For it was the house of dreams, the medium of entertainment and a giant canvas for the amazing art of storytelling. The magic that has gone on for more than a 100 years has now trickled down to the palm of your hand. But can smart trailers and snazzy teasers ever crest the excitement of film posters, which were at one time the only peek at things to come?

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts recently published a book called the *Poster Speaks*. Author Iqbal Rizvi has tried to retrieve all details about the various aspects of poster-making and encloses the oldest poster of *Kalyan Khajin* (1924). This was created by Baburao Painter.

Posters were the first information gateway about films. Adding more and more people to this information used to be the responsibility of the poster artist, due to which the use of gaudy and contrast colours elevated it to a different art form. But it was unfortunate that film posters never got the status of art in India.

The tradition of producing film posters by hand has existed for nearly 80 years but there is a lack of serious writing on this subject. This can, therefore, be called the first book of its kind in Hindi. It reveals how great efforts were made by actors, writers and lyricists about publishing their name in the posters and in what sequence. There is also a chapter which talks about posters



and their makers' run-in with the censors. Did you know that at one time the Centre had to form a study committee to investigate claims of pornography in the film poster? For nearly 80 years, the world of posters continued to flourish. Till the man-made art fell to the digital revolution.

Nourish yourself with grand and austere ideas of beauty that feed the soul... Seek solitude," the young artist Delacroix counselled himself in 1824. He has inspired a sculptor after more than a century who, tucked away near the Bhaislana mines in Rajasthan near Jaipur, is creating stunning ceramic ware. In the process, Vipul Kumar, one of the greatest students of Balbir Katt, has challenged existing techniques of firing and moulding. And he loves to work in solitude.

His show, that opened at Threshold Gallery, mirrors isolation as the raw material of all art. "Katt Sir told us we must always create works that are original and born of the earth. They are large, so that they create an impact in the mind of the viewer," says Vipul.

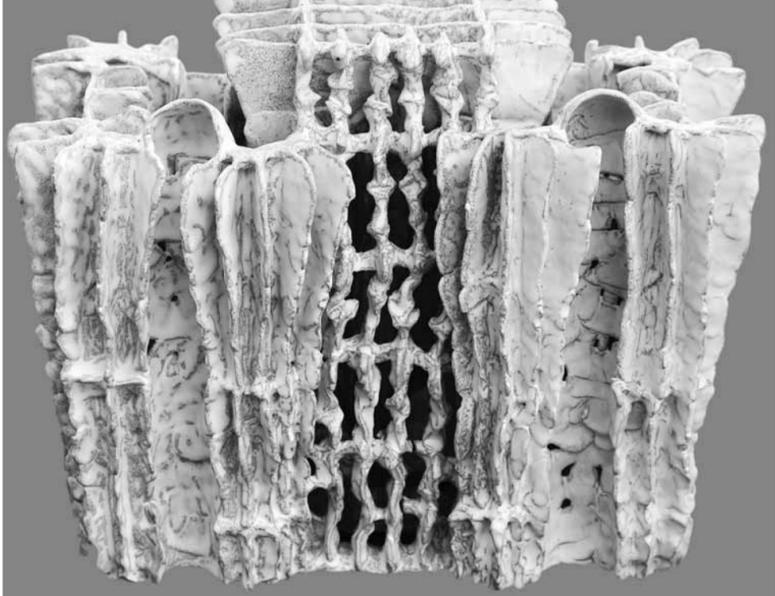
**STONEWARE**  
*Untitled III* is a hybrid creation that attempts to re-examine and reinterpret the genre of still life in the 21st century with particular emphasis on the mechanisms and mixed art categories reflecting changes in our natural environment such as global warming. The delicate intricate modelling of the columns is symbolic of the form becoming a metaphor for the fragility and vulnerability of our natural ecological balance. Since 2014 Vipul has also been developing a new range of porcelain ceramics, focussing on organic vessel forms.

The show unravels like an eclectic selection of ceramic creations of various ages, with an emphasis on form and design, that serve to enhance the shape of the objects. Whether a ceramic piece is hand-built, thrown on a wheel or made from a mould cast construction, the adaptability and versatility of clay allows for a multitude of permutations in the design. The texture and chosen formulations can be the key factor for the choice of form or conversely, the sliver of columns adapted to the resulting form.

**SCULPTURAL CONTOURS**  
The curve of a singular contour line can be solid or slim

## Shape of solitude

Artist VIPUL KUMAR has cut many more facets into stone by playing with the dichotomy of design. He combines the lines of straight sides against relaxing sinuous curves to recreate a powerful impact of sculpted identities, says UMA NAIR



enough to hold appeal for a particular form without any further embellishments required. If anything, the succinct focus of Vipul's works contribute to the appeal of the shapes he creates. Complex and definite details also fit more appropriately on to very basic forms like a column or a flat hollow rectangle — sometimes you think of the indigenous and sometimes of the modern but certain styles can even add shape to the form.

Alternating firing temperatures and minerals add depth and

highlight aspects and angles within the forms.

Within the sculptural contours, Vipul changes the perspective with a heightened sense of perpetual curvature which leads to the notion of infinity. Within that notion we see that there is a definite dynamic between restraint and overt display.

Vipul plays with the mathematics of the dichotomy of design, he combines the lines of straight sides against relaxing sinuous curves also to recreate a powerful impact of sculpted identities.

**WOOD FIRING**  
Vipul explains his work with a kiln in his studio. "Firing ceramic work in a kiln using wood as fuel can take several hours or many days, depending on the size of the kiln and the desired temperature to be attained. The wood fires usually take five days of continual stoking and the kiln reaches about 1400 degrees C (2500 degrees F). I generally fire at 1350 degrees for high fired porcelain glazes. During the fire, as the wood combusts, it produces fly



ash and some volatile salts and minerals, which ultimately fuse with the silica on the surface of the ceramic pieces in the kiln, forming a glaze. The placement of each piece in the kiln determines the effects of the fire on the appearance of the sculptural stoneware or porcelain."

**WEATHERED STRUCTURES**  
The weathered, unadorned monolithic structures look like rugged surfaces and they provide an excellent contrast for the language of contemporary pottery. Perhaps this is why Rajeev Sethi, the design genius, used Vipul Kumar to create an epic installation of Mount Meru at a private estate in Ahmedabad.

Vipul's sculptural stoneware merge numerous design influences, including biomorphic curves, fractured cubist forms, unseen abstractions and rare minimalist forms. He brings organic styles into the mainstream, reflecting the thrust of architectural leanings and modern design concepts which he contemplates while reading Hindi literature.

The inventive styles of stoneware, ranging from the quirky to the sophisticated, have a timeless appeal and spell harmony with contemporary modernism. Due to the precision in craftsmanship, tasteful simplicity and innovation it is the originality of his sensibility and his panache that gives his works an enduring symbolism.

(Show runs at Threshold Gallery till October 20)

**Deepali Roongta** presents an exhibition of paintings, titled *Vivid Clusters*. This solo exhibition delves into an amalgamation of vibrant colours, pleasant thoughts, happy moments, struggles and internal conflicts and compromises. **WHEN:** Till September 23 **TIME:** 11 am to 8 pm **WHERE:** Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, Near Mandi House Metro Station.

**HCL concerts** presents *Infinite Hope*, a fusion concert featuring sarod maestros Amaan and Ayaan Ali Bangash, who will break through the troublesome polarities of continuity and change, tradition and innovation. People will encounter technical assuredness strengthening by elegant lyricism and joy-filled dynamism. **WHEN:** September 28 **TIME:** 7 pm **WHERE:** Shiv Nadar School, Noida.

**Artist Manir Mrittik** presents a solo show of his photographic works, titled *The Realm of Ambivalence*. He captures love, sexuality, issues of environment and nature in a surreal manner, reminiscent of magic realism. **WHEN:** September 25 to October 20 **WHERE:** Akar Prakart Art Gallery, Defence Colony.

The Japan Foundation is organising the Japanese Film Festival. It will showcase handpicked selection of 13 Japan releases with english subtitles to make the Indian audience experience the contemporary Japanese cinema. **WHEN:** September 28 to October 3 **WHERE:** PVR Cinemas, Select Citywalk, Saket.

**JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 6 DAYS 13 FILMS** HANDCRAFTED JAPANESE CUISINE WITH OUR COMPLIMENTS. 28th September to 3rd October.

Shridharani Gallery presents *Faith*, a solo exhibition of photographs by S C Sekhar. The exhibition captures myriad facets of India showcasing monasteries, landscapes of Kailash and Mansarovar, temples of Hampi, icy water of Ganges during the Maha Kumbh, and rituals and colours of Varanasi. **WHEN:** 11 am to 8 pm **DATE:** Till September 20 **WHERE:** Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg.

# PSG FACE REDS & ANFIELD

## Ligue 1 toppers tie against Premier League giants in CL opener, Barca host PSV as Inter face Spurs

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Mohamed Salah outshone Neymar and Kylian Mbappe on the Champions League stage last season, but as Paris Saint-Germain's star duo head to Anfield on Tuesday seeking to make amends, the Egyptian is struggling to match the heights of his debut campaign at Liverpool.

Salah's failure to hit top form dates back to his last Champions League appearance four months ago.

Back in May, Salah was on the crest of a wave as his 44-goal campaign had carried Liverpool to the Champions League final and ensured qualification for this season's competition.

However, he lasted just 30 minutes in Kiev after injuring his shoulder when wrestled to the ground by Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos and the Spanish giants went on to lift the trophy in a 3-1 win.

That started a difficult few months for Salah as he was also robbed of being 100-per cent fit for Egypt's first World Cup in 28 years.

Without their talisman, the Pharaohs were beaten by Uruguay in their opening game and his goals against Russia and Saudi Arabia couldn't prevent Egypt returning home without a single point.

Salah has also gone to war with the Egyptian federation over the use of his image and the decision to host their base camp in Chechnya.

Egypt's star player was put in the awkward position of having to pose for photos with Chechen president Ramzan Kadyrov, who has been accused of human rights abuses.

That hangover has been felt on the field with Salah scoring just twice in Liverpool's opening five games of the campaign and missing chances he ruthlessly put away last season.

No one-man team - So far Salah's slackness hasn't cost Jurgen Klopp's men. A summer of shrewd investment to build on the already substantial progress made under the German is already bearing fruit with five straight wins.

"Of course, it's important that we don't



Liverpool players celebrate after Georginio Wijnaldum (No 5) scores opener against Tottenham in Premier League on Friday.

**Liverpool vs PSG**  
Live from 12:30am IST  
SONY TEN 2

have only one goalscorer," Klopp said after an impressive 2-1 win over Tottenham on Saturday, that should have been a far more comprehensive victory if the visitors had taken their chances.

"It's still early. Five games, fantastic we've won all of them, we have improved."

The 39 million euros (\$45 million) Liverpool paid for Salah from Roma was brilliant business not just based on Salah's production, but the hyper inflation that took place in the market just weeks later when PSG smashed the world transfer record by splurging 222 million euros on Neymar.

A further 180 million was then splashed on beating Europe's big guns to the signature of Mbappe, who confirmed his status as the rising star of world football in winning the World Cup for France.

Both Neymar and Mbappe will see themselves as heirs to the throne of Lionel



Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as the world's best player.

But it is Salah who is on the shortlist for FIFA's Best Player award alongside Ronaldo and Croatian midfielder Luka Modric of Real Madrid, after PSG failed to get beyond the last 16 of the Champions League last season.

The limited spotlight offered by Ligue 1 means Europe's premier club competi-



PSG attacking trio of Kylian Mbappe, Edinson Cavani and Neymar Jr celebrates after win

**Barcelona vs PSV**  
Live from 10:25pm IST  
SONY TEN 2

tion is where Neymar and Mbappe need to shine to be in the running for individual awards.

However, a blockbuster clash on a Champions League night at fortress Anfield is also the perfect stage for Salah to demonstrate to the world he is no one-season wonder.

### BARÇA THIS TIME?

BARCELONA: Almost exactly an hour after the final whistle, Barcelona posted a tweet: "Congratulations to @realmadrid for winning the 2017/18 Champions League title."

Underneath some fans demanded the message be deleted immediately while others claimed it as a classy touch. "We are rivals, not enemies", one wrote.

Meanwhile, Barcelona's key players - Lionel Messi, Gerard Pique, Luis Suarez, Andres Iniesta - stayed quiet. Some had recently posted pictures of themselves surrounded by their families, with the World Cup just around the corner.

But from the words that have been spoken since, and despite the club's stately message, it is clear Madrid's triumph hit home.

Barcelona had failed and this made it even harder to bear.

"Obviously it's infuriating (for us)," Suarez said in an interview with RAC1 earlier this month.

"Madrid have won the Champions League in each of the last three years. They have made history and it's a thorn in our side." Chiefly, perhaps, because Barca will feel they were better than Madrid last season.

They blew them away in a 3-0 flurry at the Santiago Bernabeu and then played with 10 men for the second half at the Camp Nou and still drew 2-2. They even led with a man fewer until Gareth Bale's late equaliser.

Valverde was accused last season of

over-exerting his players in the league, particularly when it was clear it was won.

Three days before the capitulation to Roma, the likes of Messi and Suarez were playing 90 minutes to beat 14th-placed Leganes.

Valverde has indicated he will adapt. Ahead of their Group B opener at home to PSV on Tuesday, Sergio Busquets and Philippe Coutinho started as substitutes in Saturday's win over Real Sociedad, even if both were needed before the end.

Messi, who turned 31 in June, may also need to be preserved if he is to add a fifth Champions League success to his collection. Now captain, he appears hungrier than ever.

"It's time to win the Champions League," Messi told Catalunya Radio earlier this month.

"We've been knocked out in the quarter-finals three seasons in a row and maybe the last one was the worst of all because of the result and how the match was played."

"I think we have to aim for that, as a club, as a team and as a collective. We have a spectacular squad and we can do it."

### INTER EYE WINNING RETURN

Eight years have elapsed since Jose Mourinho's reign as Inter Milan coach ended on a historic high of Champions League glory, and the fallen Italian giants are still struggling to recapture that magic from Madrid.

The Portuguese oversaw the most successful season in the club's history — a 2-0 win over Bayern Munich at the Santiago Bernabeu completed the first treble of Serie A, domestic Cup and Champions League in Italian history.

Since those days it has been lean times for the 18-time Italian and three-time European champions, with the only title of any sort a 2011 Italian Cup crown.

Luciano Spalletti's side return to the Champions League for the first time since the 2011-2012 season on Tuesday when they host Tottenham at the San Siro.

Expectations are high, but their return comes against a backdrop of continuing crisis as the Nerazzurri lie a lowly 15th with just one win and four points from four games.

# Shuttlers sight China glory

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU

Top Indian shuttler PV Sindhu will have to find a way to battle fatigue if she has to continue her consistent run in international circuit and regain the China Open, beginning here on Tuesday.

Sindhu showed signs of fatigue during her second-round exit at last week's Japan Open, her first early loss since the first-round ouster from the Denmark Open last October.

The 23-year-old Indian has been the most consistent this season with Silver medals in all the major events this year - the Commonwealth Games, the World Championship and the Asian Games.

She also reached the finals at the India Open and Thailand Open.

However, a hectic schedule left her with very little time to recover or savour the moment.

The Olympic and world championship Silver medalist had won the \$ 700,000 China Open in 2016 and will be one of the favourites to secure the women's singles title at the BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament.

The third seeded Indian will start her campaign against Hong Kong's Cheung Ngan Yi at the Olympic Sports Center Xincheng Gymnasium.

Two-time Commonwealth Games Gold medalist Saina Nehwal, who had clinched a Bronze at Asian Games at Jakarta, will be rejuvenated after skipping the Japan Open. The Indian faces a tough first round against Korea's Sung Ji Hyun.

Saina, who also had won the China Open title in 2014, has a 8-2 head-to-head record against Sung Ji and if she can surpass the Korean, fifth seed Chinese Chen Yufei will stand in her way.



Saina Nehwal reacts after winning a point against Fitriani; (right) PV Sindhu in action against VT Trang

**Sindhu vs Kawakami**  
Live from 10:15am IST  
STAR SPORTS NETWORK

In fact, Saina and Sindhu are on a collision course and might clash in the quarter-finals if they can clear the earlier rounds.

Among others, Kidambi Srikanth has looked a shadow of the man who clinched four titles last season. Though the seventh seeded Indian won the men's singles Silver at the Commonwealth Games, he has been inconsistent in the season so far.

Srikanth, who held the world No 1 ranking for a brief period this year, will look to build on his quarterfinal finish at Japan Open when he begins his campaign against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke.

However, world champion Kento Momota, who had ended his campaign at Malaysia and Indonesia, will once again



stand in his way in the quarterfinal. HS Prannoy too will look to go deep in the tournament after starting against Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus, seeded eighth.

Among others in fray, women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will face Korean pair of Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong.

In men's doubles, Commonwealth Games Silver medalist pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will square off against Malaysia's Goh V Shem and Tan Wee Kiong, while Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy will fight it out against Taiwanese combination of Liao Min Chun and Su Ching Heng.

In mixed doubles, Satwik and Ashwini will meet English combination of Marcus Ellis and Lauren Smith, while Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Sikki will take on Germany's Marvin Emil Seidel and Linda Efler in another match.

# Ballon d'Or on my mind, says Griezmann

AFP ■ PARIS

Atletico Madrid star Antoine Griezmann says he still can't fathom why he was not voted one of the world's top three players by FIFA — but hopes winning the "more prestigious" Ballon d'Or will make amends.

"It's a prize from FIFA and it seems a pity that no World Cup winners were nominated," Griezmann, who helped France to World Cup glory in Russia this summer, told Spanish sports daily AS.

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, World Cup finalist Luka Modric of Croatia and Egyptian Mohamed Salah, who enjoyed a stunning campaign with Liverpool last season, were the three players nominated by FIFA for the world ruling body's top prize.

Now grouped within the FIFA Best awards, it will be presented on September 24.

For Griezmann, who helped Atletico to Europa League glory as well as playing a pivotal role in France's World Cup win, FIFA's choice was unwarranted.

"We had a really good World Cup campaign, the whole team deserve to be awarded: (Kylian) Mbappe, (Raphael) Varane, (N'Golo) Kante, who had an amazing World Cup even though no-one talks about it, or even myself."

"But that's the way it is."

The snub has galvanised Griezmann's ambition to land the Ballon d'Or, the prize awarded by



Antoine Griezmann celebrate after scoring

France Football magazine to the world's top player as voted on by journalists around the globe.

"I think the Ballon d'Or has more prestige, a richer history," said Griezmann.

Conceived in 1956, it has been won by Ronaldo and Lionel Messi a record five times apiece. By contrast, the FIFA Best award has been a stand-alone award only since 2016, having spent the 2010-2015 period merged with the Ballon d'Or.

He added: "It's on my mind and I've got three months to give it everything (to win it). We'll see what happens."

Asked if he felt comfortable "sitting at the same football table" as five-time Ballon d'Or winners Messi and Ronaldo, Griezmann said: "Yes, I think so, although other players would be there as well."

### SINGLES

#### GETAFE DOWNS SEVILLA 2-0

SEVILLA: Getafe defeated host Sevilla 2-0 on two goals by Angel Rodriguez before the break and a winning attitude all the way through the match. Although Sevilla was in possession of the ball for 70 per cent of the match and fired 15 shots towards the goal, just three of them were on target and all were saved by Getafe goalkeeper David Soria on Sunday. Getafe, on the other hand, fired just 10 shots towards their rivals' goal, with six of them being on target, and two of them - both by Rodriguez - got by Tomas Vaclik for the tallies. Rodriguez scored his first goal of the evening just three minutes into play and then took advantage of a Sevilla mistake to make it 2-0 in the 38th minute. Sevilla go down to its second consecutive loss in the fourth week of Spanish La Liga action.

#### PKL SEASON 6 POSTPONED TO OCT 7

NEW DELHI: The start of the sixth season of the Vivo Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) has been postponed by a couple of days due to logistical reasons, the organisers Mashal Sports announced on Monday. The 6th season of the Vivo Pro Kabaddi League will start on October 7 instead of the earlier date of October 5 owing to logistical reasons such as caravan movement and stadium availability. Mashal Sports Pvt. Ltd, the rights owner and organisers of the league has made this considered decision in consultation with the principal stakeholders, a statement read. Chennai will continue to host to the first leg of the tournament from October 7. The playoffs would be held as planned in Kochi on December 30 and 31 with the final on January 5 in Mumbai.

#### IND WOMEN TO KICK-OFF SAFF U-18 C'SHIP

NEW DELHI: Seven countries are set to kick-off the inaugural edition of the SAFF U-18 football Championship for Women which gets underway later this month in Bhutan. India have been clubbed in Group A, along with neighbours Sri Lanka and Maldives. The Indian girls kick-off their campaign against Maldives on September 28 before facing Sri Lanka on October 2. The tournament follows a round robin format where all the teams in each group play each other once. The top two teams get to qualify for the semi-finals (October 5), where the winner of Group A faces the runners-up of Group B, and vice versa. The final of the tournament is set to be held on Sunday, October 7. The Senior SAFF Women's Championship is scheduled to be held later in December.

#### NADAL MAINTAINS ATP RANKINGS TOP SPOT

MADRID: Spain's Rafael Nadal maintained the No 1 spot in the men's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) world singles rankings released on Monday with 8,760 points, ahead of Switzerland's Roger Federer. The Spaniard continued to lead the rankings despite his forced retirement at the US Open over a knee injury, which also made him miss the Davis Cup semifinal against France on Sunday. Top-10 list witnessed no change as Serbia's Novak Djokovic is still occupying the third position, followed by Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina. Meanwhile, Argentine Guido Andreozzi rocketed 11 places to the 97th, following his victory at the Pekao Szczecin Open played at Szczecin, Poland against Alejandro Davidovich Fokina of Spain 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

#### CANADA IN DAVIS CUP FINAL

TORONTO: Milos Raonic defeated Scott Griekspoor of the Netherlands in three sets, securing for Canada a berth in the Davis Cup final. Raonic took two hours and 23 minutes to triumph over Griekspoor 7-6 (4), 6-3 and 6-4 in the world group qualification playoff on Sunday. This was the ATP No 20 player's second win of the five-match tie, with the fifth match being cancelled once Canada got its third win. Fellow Canadian Denis Shapovalov had won his singles rubber on Friday night, but Daniel Nestor and Vasek Pospisil lost their doubles rubber on Saturday for their country's only loss to Holland's Matve Middelkopp and Jean Julien Rojer. Canada now joins Argentina, Britain, Austria, Sweden, Serbia, the Czech Republic and Japan, all of which on the weekend managed to win for themselves a spot within the elite of the Davis Cup, which starting next year will be played according to a new format

Agencies

# Mercedes cautious despite lead

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff said it was special to conquer "bogey track" Singapore but cautioned the F1 title race wasn't over yet after Lewis Hamilton's "stardust" propelled him to a potentially decisive 40-point lead over Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.

Team principal Wolff said there was no mystery to Mercedes' form, it was all down to sheer hard work back at the factory and the track.

"Singapore has been our bogey track for several years, so it is a special feeling to come here and win this race on pace," Wolf told reporters after Hamilton's pole-to-flag win and team-mate Valtteri Bottas's fourth place gave them a 25-point lead over Ferrari in the constructors' championship.

"The entire team has worked so hard to understand the car and take steps forward, and this result is an indication that our work is paying off. It was a weekend of many parts: a star-dust lap from Lewis in qualifying, a chess game of tyre management this evening, and some nervous moments with traffic and backmarkers during the race," Wolff added.

"It's just the strongest the team has ever



Lewis Hamilton, center, poses after winning Singapore GP

been." Wolff warned they had to keep up the intensity to win both drivers' and constructors' championships this season, starting with the Russian Grand Prix in two weeks.

"From our side, we can be pleased with a very solid weekend," he added. "We have leads in both championships, but they change nothing in the mindset of this team."

"We have six weekends to go and we know how quickly the situation can swing back against us. We will take it weekend by weekend, feet on the ground and determined to maximise our potential every time."

# Sakshi grabs World C'ship spot

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Struggling wrestler Sakshi Malik has made it to India's World Championship squad without facing the trials as her opponent Sarita Mor has withdrawn from the 62kg clash, due to an injury.

The Olympic Bronze medalist has been battling poor form since the start of the 2018 season. She could win only a Bronze at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and failed to win any medal at the Asian Games.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) wanted both Sushil Kumar and Sakshi to undergo trials but the former pulled out due to poor form.

"The trials in four categories were left. Out of those, we chose not to disturb Bajrang (men's 65kg) and Vinesh Phogat (women's 50kg). Sakshi was to fight Sarita but she has reported a knee injury so we are sending Sakshi to the Worlds," WFI Assistant Secretary Vinod Tomar said.



Sakshi Malik and Pooja Dhandia poses with medal

Sakshi had ended a runner-up at a UWW ranking event in Belarus, where she lost the Gold medal match 2-6 to Azerbaijan's Marianna Satsin on Sunday.

The performance is encouraging for Sakshi ahead of the World Championship, to be held in Budapest from October 20-28.

"The fourth category is women's 53kg. Ritu Phogat and Pinky will fight for that place. Ritu had competed in

the 50kg category at the Yasar Dogu International in Turkey but we feel she can do well in the 53kg as well. She has a good medal chance in this category, so, we decided to conduct a trial match between Ritu and Pinky," Tomar added.

The 53kg clash will be held on Tuesday in Lucknow under the supervision of National women's coach Kuldeep Malik.

The WFI official also informed that the inaugural U-23 National Championship, to be held in Chittaurgarh, Rajasthan from September 27-30, is an effort to identify next line of wrestlers.

"In the senior nationals, many juniors also compete but they get to clash against only with the aged wrestlers. They do not get great competition. They need to fight it out with strong wrestlers to be ready for international events. In the Under-23 Nationals, we will see better bouts and next stars will be identified," Tomar added.

# INDIA BEGIN TITLE DEFENCE

Defending champions eye big win against Hong Kong in Asia Cup opener before clash against Pakistan

PTI ■ DUBAI

A formidable India will be aiming to make short work of minnows Hong Kong in their Asia Cup opener Tuesday before getting battle-ready for their much-anticipated clash against arch-rivals Pakistan on Wednesday.

The match against Hong Kong will be an 'appetiser' before cricket junkies are treated to a lavish spread of main course which will be the Indo-Pak rivalry.

Even without regular skipper Virat Kohli, the Indian side, led by Rohit Sharma, is an intimidating one in the limited-overs format.

Although Rohit and his colleagues won't want to take Hong Kong lightly, in reality the match will only be a precursor or a glorified dress rehearsal before they take on an in-form Pakistan the very next day.

In the searing Dubai heat, where the mercury has risen up to 43 degree Celsius, the primary aim for the Men in Blue would be to get their combination right before the big game.

Hong Kong lost their opener against Pakistan by eight wickets in a thoroughly one sided showdown where they could manage only 116 runs.

Unless a miracle happens, there won't be a remarkable improvement in their performance against an Indian team that boasts of the likes of Rohit, Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Kedar Jadhav in batting along with Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal in bowling.

For the past few years, Mahendra Singh Dhoni's waning batting skills have repeatedly come under scanner and this tournament will give everyone a fair idea of his ideal position.

Whether it would end up being No 5, 6 or 7 will be the big contention going into the Pakistan game.

If Dhoni comes in at No 7, he will have to face a skilful Mohammed Aamir at the death along with a skiddy Usman Khan and talented Hasan Ali.

Possibly, Kedar Jadhav or Manish Pandey at No 5 and Hardik Pandya with his big hitting abilities at No 7 could prove to be ideal foil for the former India cap-



Indian players during the practice session on Monday ahead of their first game against Hong Kong BCCI

## PAKISTAN ARE FAVOURITES TO WIN ASIA CUP: MANJREKAR

MUMBAI: Former India batsman Sanjay Manjrekar believes India are one of the main contenders to lift the ongoing Asia Cup, but tipped Pakistan as the favourites given the neighbour country has been playing in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) regularly. Pakistan have begun their Asia Cup campaign routing minnows Hong Kong by eight wickets Sunday and have the added advantage of playing in the UAE, their 'home' ground. "I think Pakistan start as favourites more than India, because they have been playing in those conditions (in the UAE) for a while now and it's a team which is on the surge. "India, of course, are resting Virat (Kohli), which takes a lot of strength away from the team," Manjrekar said. He was quizzed whether in the absence of Kohli, India were the favourites going into the tournament. "India are obviously one of the contenders, but when you look at favouritism, (question arises) which team can be rated as the strongest. "It's Pakistan because of where it (the tournament) is being played," explained Manjrekar.

## OUR AIM IS TO SORT BATTING ORDER: ROHIT

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Rohit Sharma on Monday admitted that the team's middle-order is still fluid and their objective will be to identify players for the number four and six slot during the Asia Cup.

The problem for India during the past one year is the lack of a settled middle-order, which was evident during the recent ODI series defeat in England.

Rohit made it clear that the likes of Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, Ambati Rayudu are fighting for the key middle-order slots.

"Lot of spots are up for grabs like Nos 3, 4 and 6. All these guys (Kedar, Manish, Rayudu) are eyeing for those slots. We want to give chances to as many guys for this particular series. In this tournament, we need to seal the batting slot Nos 4 and 6," Rohit said on the eve of the lung opener against Hong Kong.

Rohit's answer was an indication that Mahendra Singh Dhoni will bat at number five. Ambati Rayudu is back in the Indian team having cleared the YoYo test and he also performed well in the Quadrangular series for India A. Kedar Jadhav is back having recovered from a hamstring surgery.

"They are both important members of this team. Rayudu was originally part of England series and similarly Kedar before his injury. It was unfortunate that they couldn't play for some time and I am very happy that both are back in the team. I expect them to win matches for India," said Rohit.

Rohit didn't reveal whether he was open to rotating bowlers in this searing Dubai heat but did say that performers should be given a longer run.

"I haven't thought about it right now. We want to see how each individual react to different situations. At the same time, we want to give chance to as many guys as possible but also give more opportunities to those who are consistent. We would see how individuals respond to conditions and take decisions accordingly," said Rohit.

Having had a look at the match strip, Rohit's



Indian skipper Rohit Sharma speaks during press conference

tain, if he decides to come at No 6.

The middle-order that has been an issue for India for quite some time now and need to be sorted going into the World Cup next year.

It is expected that KL Rahul will bat at No 3 but the incoming deliveries from Aamir or Hasan could be a problem like it has been in England.

The BCCI has already hired a left-arm throwdown specialist from Sri Lanka to ensure that India have no trouble tackling Pakistan's battery of left-armers. Also, they have Khaleel Ahmed in the team to give the batsmen much-needed practice.

However, on flat decks with little movement from white kookaburra, the Indian batsmen can play their customary 'hitting on the rise' game with minimal footwork.

The Hong Kong encounter will be a match simulator for the likes of Dhawan,

India vs Hong Kong  
Live from 5:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1

Rahul and Pandya, who will have to adjust to the different length and pace of the track.

The Bumrah-Bhuvneshwar combination will be back in action along with the Kuldeep-Chahal combination, which has been a steady set-up for past one year.

The Hong Kong game will also be ideal warm-up for Bhuvneshwar, who has been out due to back injury.

He recently came back to competitive cricket for India A against South Africa A.

The stadium is expected to be packed to capacity on Wednesday but one

can expect a sizeable Indian population on Tuesday itself during the Hong Kong game.

### SQUADS

**India:** Rohit Sharma (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Ambati Rayudu, Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Shardul Thakur, Dinesh Karthik, Khaleel Ahmed.  
**Hong Kong:** Anshuman Rath (captain), Aizaz Khan, Babar Hayat, Cameron McAulson, Christopher Carter, Ehsan Khan, Ehsan Nawaz, Arshad Mohammed, Kinchit Shah, Nadeem Ahmed, Raag Kapur, Scott McKehnie, Tanvir Ahmed, Tanvir Afzal, Waqas Khan, Aftab Hussain.

# Shah shines as Afghans post 249 'Need to raise our game to beat Ind'

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Rahmat Shah top-scored with a composed 72 before pacer Thisara Perera's five-wicket haul helped Sri Lanka bowl out Afghanistan for 249 in their opening match of the Asia Cup here on Monday.

Perera returned figures of 5/55 as Sri Lanka picked up seven wickets in the last eight overs of Afghanistan innings on a pitch that looked to be on the slower side.

Opting to bat after winning the toss, Afghanistan were off to a cautious start with the openers Mohammad Shahzad (34) and Ihsanullah Janat (45) putting on 57 runs in just under 12 overs.

Spinner Akila Dhananjaya made the first breakthrough when he had Shahzad trapped in front of the wicket. It was a loose shot and attempting to reverse sweep a length ball proved to be his undoing.

There was another half-century stand, between Ihsanullah and Shah, as the Afghanistan dressing room looked relaxed at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

However, Sri Lanka found another wicket after the two batsmen added exactly 50 runs for the second wicket. Umpire Gregory Brathwaite was not impressed with Akila's shout for an lbw, prompting the Sri Lankans to go for a review, and got the decision in their favour.

Returning to the side after missing the tournament opener against Bangladesh, off-spinner Akila returned with tidy figures of 2/37 in his 10-overs spell on a wicket that played slow, making stroke-making difficult.

Skipper Asghar Afghan came to the middle, but his stay was short-lived



Hashmatullah Shahidi, right, and Rahmat Shah run between the wickets AP

as Shehan Jayasuriya foxed him, the two wickets in as many overs reducing Afghanistan to 110 for three at the end of the 26th over.

An 80-run partnership ensued between Shah and Hashmatullah Shahidi (37), helping Afghanistan to 190 when Dushmantha Chameera sent the Afghan top-scorer back to the pavilion. Shah's knock included five hits to the fence.

Shahidi was the next man to get out, falling to Perera. Mohammad Nabi scored 12-ball 15 before the seasoned Lasith Malinga cut short his stay in the middle.

The Lankan pulled back things in the death, picking up seven wickets, with Thisara doing the bulk of damage.

### TAMIM OUT OF ASIA CUP

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal

has been ruled out of the rest of the Asia Cup with a broken hand after batting despite his injury in the opening match, an official said on Monday.

"He got two fractures in his hand. He would not be able to continue here and also for the next three to four weeks," team manager Khaled Mahmud said from Dubai.

Tamim was hailed as national hero after he returned to bat with his injured hand for the final wicket during Bangladesh's 137-run win in Saturday's opening match against Sri Lanka.

The left-hander received a blow to his wrist in the second over of Bangladesh's innings when he was hit by a short ball from Suranga Lakmal.

He left the field for hospital for a scan, and when he returned to the ground with a sling on his injured hand his Asia Cup was thought to be over.

But the opener stunned all by striding out to bat after Bangladesh lost their ninth wicket for 229 runs.

He fashioned a hole in his glove in order to fit his taped wrist, and used one hand in facing a single delivery to give the strike back to Mushfiqur Rahim, who was batting on 112.

Mushfiqur then scored 32 off 16 balls alone in their 10th-wicket partnership, guiding Bangladesh to 261 runs before he was dismissed in the final over for 144.

Bangladesh later bowled out Sri Lanka for 124 runs to record their biggest win on foreign soil, making a giant leap towards the Super Four round.

Bangladesh will face Afghanistan in their second match of the tournament in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday.

PTI ■ DUBAI

A comprehensive win over Hong Kong is a perfect start but Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed says his team will have to raise the game by several notches to outwit arch-rivals India in the much-awaited Asia Cup clash on Wednesday.

Pakistan defeated Hong Kong by eight wickets Sunday night in the Asia Cup. Sarfraz said his team needs to iron out a few things before the clash against India.

"As a captain, I saw a couple of things which we should work on. For us to go the distance in the tournament, we should have won this game (against Hong Kong) by nine or 10 wickets.

"We also need to ball better with the new ball. We need to get early wickets with the new ball. It didn't swing for us with the new ball, that is alarming for us," Sarfraz said after the match. "We will work on it in our next practice session. It's a good win but to win against India we have to be at our best in all the three departments," he added.

Left-arm pacer Usman Khan was the star performer for Pakistan and was adjudged the Man-of-the-Match for picking up three wickets in an over that helped Pakistan bowl out Hong Kong for a paltry 116.

"When I came to bowl in the first spell, I tried to pick wickets with the new ball, but luck was not with me. In the second spell, I got the ball to reverse swing and I managed to take wickets," Usman said.

Hong Kong skipper Anshuman Rath blamed his batsmen for not being able to put enough runs on the board.

"Lots of soft dismissals. 120 (116) was not enough. It was a good wicket. Credit goes to the Pakistan bowlers," he said. "Our off-spinners are top class, but we just didn't have enough runs on the board. I think early on, it swung a bit, there was a bit of bounce.



**Samajik Adhikarita Shivir**  
Distribution of Aids and Assistive Devices to Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

**SALIENT FEATURES**

**Aids and assistive devices free of cost to be distributed to 1064 Divyangjan at Mayurbhanj**

<p><b>Chief Guest</b></p> <p><b>Ramdas Athawale</b> Minister of State for Social Justice &amp; Empowerment, Government of India</p>	<p><b>Presided over by</b></p> <p><b>Sarojini Hembram</b> Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Odisha</p>
<p><b>Guest of Honour</b></p> <p><b>Rama Chandra Hansdah</b> Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Mayurbhanj</p>	<p><b>Special Guest</b></p> <p><b>Sananda Marandi</b> Deputy Speaker, Odisha</p>

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 **Time:** 12:00 Noon  
**Venue:** Sahid Smurti Bhawan, Baripada, Mayurbhanj, Odisha

**MAJOR INITIATIVES**

- ▶▶ Aids and assistive devices distributed to more than 11.22 lakh Divyangjan.
- ▶▶ 1414 Cochlear Implant surgeries conducted.
- ▶▶ 6644 motorized tricycles distributed.

Organizer:- Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), Kanpur  
Partner:- District Administration, Mayurbhanj, Odisha

Follow us on  
www.facebook.com/DoEPWDS  
@socialpwds

www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in, www.socialjustice.nic.in, www.pmindia.gov.in, www.mygov.in

# Virat, Mirabai recommended for Khel Ratna

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli and world champion weightlifter Mirabai Chanu were Monday jointly recommended for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, while star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was among 20 sports-persons picked for the Arjuna Awards.

Besides Chopra, other prominent names recommended for the Arjuna Awards were junior world champion sprinter Hima Das and Asian Games Gold-medallist middle distance runner Jinson Johnson, cricketer Smriti Mandhana, hockey players Manpreet Singh and Savita Punia, multiple Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist table tennis star Manika Batra and Asiad doubles Gold-medallist tennis player Rohan Bopanna.

These recommendations by a selection committee headed by Justice (retired) Indermeet Kaul Kochhar are subject to

approval by Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore. Once ratified by him, President Ram Nath Kovind will present the awards on September 25 at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Kohli will become the third Indian cricketer to win the country's highest sporting honour after the legendary Sachin Tendulkar (1997) and the talismanic former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (2007) once the sports ministry officially accepts the committee's recommendation.

"Yes, Virat Kohli and Mirabai Chanu's names have been recommended by the awards committee," a top source said. It is learnt that India's top male shuttler Kidambi Srikanth was also in Khel Ratna contention for his good show in the Super Series circuit last year but lost out to the 24-year-old Chanu, who is the reigning world champion in the 48kg category.

Asian Games Gold-medallist boxer

Amit Panghal was discussed for the Arjuna Awards but the committee decided against recommending him due to a failed dope test back in 2012, a source said.

Similarly, the selection committee also decided against recommending veteran discus thrower Seema Punia for the awards due to his doping past. The 35-year-old Seema, who won a medal each in the Commonwealth and the Asian Games, had failed a dope test during the 2000 World Junior Championships.

Former Asian Games Bronze-medallist and Commonwealth Games Silver-medallist Satish Kumar was the lone boxer to get the Arjuna honour this year.

The 18-year-old Hima, who won a Gold and two Silver in the Asian Games, and golfer Shubhankar Sharma were not in the original shortlist but were later added for their impressive performances.

This year's award ceremony was postponed to September 25 from the

usual August 29 National Sports Day event due to clash of dates with the Asian Games in Indonesia.

The Khel Ratna awardees are entitled to a cash prize of ₹ 7.5 lakh, while the Arjuna winners are given ₹ 5 lakh.

Kohli, the world's No 1 Test batsman as per the ICC rankings, has been in stupendous form for the past three years and missed out despite nominations in the years 2016 and 2017.

The BCCI has been nominating Kohli for the Khel Ratna for the past three years but in 2016, it was given to Sakshi Malik, PV Sindhu and Deepa Karmakar for their good show at Rio Olympics.

For Chanu, the award comes as a massive morale-booster as she is currently recovering from a lower back injury, which forced her to skip the Asian Games. She is the current Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist and India's only medal hope in weightlifting going into 2020 Olympics.