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Bhagwat deplores cow vigilantism

RSS chief demands Ram Temple at the earliest, hails inter-caste marriage

DIPAK UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday called for building a grand Ram Temple at Ayodhya at the earliest and disapproved of lynching in the name of cow vigilantism. He also called for maintaining demographic balance and supported growing acceptance of inter-caste marriage in society.

Speaking at the third and final day of the RSS mega conclave, "Bhavishya Ka Bharat — An RSS Perspective", Bhagwat made a strong pitch for the construction of the Ram Temple, which has remained the Sangh's most favored agenda for years. "It should have happened by now (the construction of Ram Temple at Ayodhya). If this happens it would resolve many issues, including differences between Hindus and Muslims. It is the question of faith of crores of Hindus," he said.

"As a Sangh worker, head of the sangh and as a part of Ram Janambhoomi andolan, I want that a grand Ram temple should be constructed at the earliest at the birthplace of Lord Ram," he said.

Bhagwat did not approve of those involved in lynching in the name of protecting cows saying Muslims are also among those who run *gaushalas*. "Gaushala acchi chalanale wale Musalman bhi hain", Bhagwat said.

Stating that cow could be the mainstay of the economy of

small farmers, the RSS head said anyone believing that existence of cow is for the benefit of society would not indulge in the act of lynching.

At the same time, he asserted that cow smugglers should also be condemned and talked about. "The double-faced dialogue cannot be allowed," he affirmed.

The RSS chief said service to cow leads to a definite dilution in criminal instincts.

Touching on variety of topics during the question-answer session, he called for continuing with reservations for the SC/ST as provided in the Constitution and sought a population control policy which should be applicable for all the communities.

Supporting inter-caste marriages, Bhagwat claimed that maximum examples of such marriages could be found in the Nagpur organisation.

He did not approve of religious conversions by allurements but had no objection to the conversion on one's own will. In this regard, he gave an example of a Chitpawan Brahmin in Maharashtra who turned a devotee of Jesus.

On the SC/ST atrocities (Prevention) Act as passed by Parliament, he said it should not be misused against any one and none should be subjected to injustice.

Bhagwat said the RSS was ready to offer its "swayamsevak" to any other political party other than the BJP if so



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat speaks on the last day at the event titled 'Future of Bharat: An RSS perspective' in New Delhi on Wednesday

asked for.

Replying to the written questions, he said the BJP was given general secretary (organised) since it approached the RSS and identified with "our ideology".

"Jo mangata hai to dete hain, mange ge to denge", he said adding BJP supported Ram Mandir and so in return received the RSS backing.

The RSS leader said during Emergency, dissident Congress leader Jagjivan Ram and even Marxists got support from the Sangh.

On another question as

why second RSS chief Guru Golwarkar's "Bunch of Thoughts" sees Muslims as an enemy, Bhagwat said certain things are time and context specific and hasten to add that his other works should be read. He said Muslims are as much part of the country as anybody else and maintained that his organisation didn't consider any community as minority.

Asked why in politics terms like "Shamshan and Kabristan" are thrown around in poll campaigns, the Sangh head said this happens when politics becomes an instru-

ment to grab power and not public service. The questionnaire was apparently referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech during Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls in 2016.

The RSS chief sought a population control policy that also takes care of the demographic balance. The RSS leader said it should be applicable to all communities.

Bhagwat did not favour use of NOTA by voters that, he said, only helps in the selection of the most unsuitable candidate.

Quotes

As a Sangh worker, head of the sangh and as a part of Ram Janambhoomi andolan, I want that a grand Ram Temple should be constructed at the earliest at the birthplace of Lord Ram

The construction of a grand Ram Temple will help in ending a major reason for tension between Hindus and Muslims, and if the Temple is built in a harmonious way, then there will be no more pointing of fingers at Muslims

Where there are more babies but means to bring them up are limited... If their upbringing is not good, then they will not become good citizens. Keeping this in mind, a policy on population should be prepared

We have to reject the double-speak as there is no talk of violence by cow smugglers

RSS completely supports the reservation given by the Constitution to remove social stigmas. The decision regarding reservation continuity has to be taken by those to whom reservation has been granted. Whenever they feel it is not necessary, they will decide

No info from UAE on extradition of Michel, says CBI

Agusta middleman goes into hiding, says his lawyer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Wednesday said it has not received any information from the UAE authorities on the extradition of Christian Michel, the alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland helicopter scam, even as the controversial British national has reportedly gone into "hiding".

CBI sources said the agency was awaiting confirmation from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on reports about the extradition of the middleman following an order from a Dubai court on September 2.

The CBI was in touch with the MEA but the latter is yet to receive an official communi-

cation from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Michel's lawyer Amal Alsubei told an Indian television news channel that he could not be found.

"He will be arrested if found. He is likely to appeal to the Supreme Court," Alsubei told NDTV channel, adding Michel can file his appeal till October 2.

Sources said the UAE authorities on August 26 asked a Dubai court on the possibility of extraditing a British national to a third country. On September 2, the court gave its opinion stating that extradition is possible depending upon the severity of crime. The court is said to have decreed that Michel can be extradited to India. It remains unclear if the Dubai court issued an extradition order against the European middleman in the absence of confirmation from the CBI.

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'Honey-trapped' by ISI, BSF man held by UP ATS

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Sleuths of Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad claimed to have arrested a Border Security Force (BSF) constable on the charge sharing defence secrets with the agents of Pakistan ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence). He was honey-trapped on the social media by a woman who claimed to be a defence reporter.

The BSF constable, identified as Achutanand Mishra, was arrested from Noida recently and the ATS produced him before the media here on Wednesday. He was later produced in a local court which remanded him to police custody for five days starting from Wednesday night.

Giving details of the breakthrough on Wednesday, Director General of Police OP Singh said the BSF constable was lured by a woman from Egypt and he sent her several

vital information of defence and BSF in violation of Officials Secret Act. The woman was reportedly working for Pakistani espionage agency ISI.

The DGP said that information about the constable was passed on to UP Police by the Military Intelligence agency in Chandigarh after which they trapped the constable in Noida two days back.

The accused, a native of Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, joined the BSF in 2006 and has two children. He came into contact with the woman in 2016 through social media site. The woman told him that she was a defence reporter of a newspaper.

As they became friends, the woman started chatting with him on phone and influenced the constable to share defence secrets with her. "He reportedly shared information about unit location, details of ammunition and pictures of the BSF camp,"

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Ordinance makes triple talaq crime

Took this route as Opp refused to support Bill in RS: Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday came out with an Ordinance to ban instant triple talaq, the related legislation of which was blocked by the Opposition parties in its present form in the Rajya Sabha.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Ordinance, which is in tune with the pending Bill banning triple talaq and carries punitive provisions like making it a "non-bailable" offence carrying a three-year imprisonment, but has some safeguards like option for the withdrawal of the case and compromise creating mechanism in front of a magistrate, besides bail before the start of the trial.

Briefing the media, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said this Ordinance was "compelling necessity" to



Muslim men shout slogans against Ordinance in Mumbai on Wednesday

protect the rights of Muslim women. Under the proposed Ordinance, giving instant triple talaq will be illegal and void and will attract a jail term of three years for the husband. Seeking to allay fears that the proposed law could be misused, the Government has included safeguards such as adding a provision of bail for the accused before trial.

"There was an overpowering urgency and a compelling necessity to bring the Ordinance as the practice continued unabated despite the SC

order last year," Prasad told a Press conference.

The Law Minister came down heavily on the Congress, saying it is not supporting the Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha under "vote bank pressures".

"It is my serious charge that Sonia Gandhiji has maintained silence on the issue. She is silent...It has nothing to do with politics but gender justice and dignity," he said. Prasad urged UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, BSP supremo Mayawati and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee to support

the Bill in the next session of Parliament for the sake of "gender justice, gender equality and gender dignity".

While the proposed law makes it a "non-bailable" offence, an accused can approach a magistrate even before trial to seek bail. In a non-bailable offence, bail cannot be granted by police at the police station itself. Prasad said a provision has been added to allow the magistrate to grant bail "after hearing the wife".

Officials later said the magistrate would ensure that bail is granted only after the husband agrees to grant compensation to the wife as provided in the Bill. The quantum of compensation will be decided by the magistrate, as per the Bill. Police would lodge an FIR only if approached by the victim (wife), her blood relations or people who become her relatives by virtue of her marriage. Neighbours and others cannot lodge a complaint under the proposed law.

Now a magistrate can use his powers to settle the dispute between a husband and his wife if the wife approaches the court.

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Border tense day after BSF jawan mutilated by Pak

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The brutal killing of a BSF jawan and mutilation of his body by the Pakistan Rangers has sparked off fresh tensions along the International Border ahead of the second anniversary of "surgical" strikes.

BSF jawans recovered the badly mutilated body of the missing jawan along the fencing in Ramgarh sector of Samba on Tuesday evening.

According to official sources, the eyes of BSF head constable, identified as Narendra Kumar, were gouged out, neck was partially slit and the whole body had marks of burn injuries, including on chest and arms. Three bullet injury marks were found on the body of the martyred jawan.

It is for the first time the Border Action Team (BAT) of the Pakistan Rangers targeted BSF jawans along the International Border in the recent years.

Vulnerable patches along the International Border have been spruced up to prevent fresh attacks by the BAT.

According to BSF statement, "An area domination patrol of the BSF was targeted by the Pakistan Rangers in Ramgarh sector around 10.40 am on Tuesday morning. The BSF jawans were engaged in the task of clearing wild grass to ensure clear vision. It is suspected the BAT team of the Pakistan Rangers ambushed the BSF patrolling party after which one of the jawans went missing. The body of the BSF jawan, injured in the unprovoked firing, was found after massive search operations in the forward area late on Tuesday evening".

The search operation was delayed due to tough posturing by the Pakistan Rangers after they refused to participate in the joint patrol to locate the missing BSF jawan.

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J'khand carrot & stick policy weans villagers from Maoism

SAPNA SINGH ■ RANCHI

At a time when Naxals' influence has been confined to a few pockets in the bordering areas of Jharkhand, police officers deployed in these areas are still finding it difficult to wean villagers from Naxal ideologies, but Government's developmental policies have instilled hopes into villagers.

The case in point is Sarju, a village situated 130.5 km from Ranchi, which houses hundreds of villagers who were once victims of Naxal attacks.

As Naxalism continues to haunt these villagers, they are struggling to come out of trauma of extortion and torture, meted out to them by the rampaging Maoists.

However, development in



these villages, like connecting roads to cities are encouraging villagers to apply for jobs. But there are still fear among some villagers about the influence of Naxalism on their children and youths. "We want employment opportunities in our village. If Government creates such options here, our youth will not get influence with Naxalism," said a young jobless but educated villager. Sarju village panchayat

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Monsoon stays put in mixed blessing

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that the southwest monsoon will remain here till October 1. There is no chance of start of withdrawal of monsoon till October 1 due to the passage of western disturbance and the formation of a potential depression and low pressure area in Bay of Bengal caused by the erstwhile Pacific super typhoon Mangkhut. Both the systems are likely to infuse a fresh surge of monsoon.

The official date for the commencement of withdrawal of southwest monsoon is September 1.

The prolonged stay of monsoon season may sound as good news, but it comes with some repercussions. "The delay in the withdrawal of monsoon will further delay the onset of the next season. The delay will also push forward the onset of

winter. And with El Nino all set to make appearance by the end of the year, it may impact the upcoming season, which turn mild due to all these factors," IMD officials said.

Private weather forecaster Skymet too predicted that southwest monsoon will prolong its stay at least till September end.

Due to this, low pressure and depression over the Bay of Bengal from east to northwest India are likely to record moderate to heavy showers. A few areas might see some heavy downpour. Besides this, monsoon will also revive along the West Coast and Mumbai, which has been dry for last many days.

Officials said southwest monsoon is primarily governed by low pressure and depression.

The IMD said a preparatory cyclonic circulation sent in from the West Pacific lies over



the central Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood. As a result, rain will start lashing coastal parts of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and adjoining Andhra

Pradesh by September 20 and 21; Chhattisgarh & Telangana on September 20 and 21; over Madhya Pradesh on September 21 and 22, and over parts of

northwest India on September 22 and 23. East Rajasthan and north India will receive rainfall on September 23 and 24.

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Govt timeframe to make all roads pothole-free

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has again announced to launch a drive for making the roads pothole-free.

By October 15 next, all the potholes will be repaired, by November 30 all roads damaged during the monsoon season will be repaired and restored and all pending road projects will be completed by December 31. The Yogi Adityanath government had launched a similar drive in March 2017 soon after the

Bharatiya Janata Party came to power, under which all roads, including national highway, were targeted to be made pothole-free by the end of June 15. The deadline was extended several times but the drive met with limited success due to resource constraints.

The total length of roads constructed and maintained by different agencies of the state government is 71,454 km. The agencies are Public Works Department, National Highway Division of PWD, UP Rajya Krishi Utpadan Mandi Parishad,

'All potholes to be repaired by October 15, roads damaged during monsoon to be repaired and restored by November 30, All pending road projects to be completed by December 31.'

Rural Development, Cane and Irrigation department.

Chief Secretary Anoop Chandra Pandey on Wednesday convened a meeting of various departments to fine-tune the drive for making the roads pothole-free. He directed the government departments to prepare a road directory as per the category of roads and make the data available online to the common citizens on the website of the PWD. The different road categories are village road, district road, major district road, state highway and national highway.

Pandey said the online data on roads should include department-wise roads and their length so that the common man may obtain the information about repair of roads in their

respective areas with the click of the mouse. He said the PWD had also launched a mobile app and it be made available to all the government agencies engaged in road construction and repair.

The Chief Secretary directed the government agencies to upload all information about the repair of patches, potholes and overall progress of the road construction. He said every relevant information, whether the work was in progress or held up for various reasons, had to be uploaded on the mobile app. Principal Secretary (Housing and PWD) Nitin Gokran said under the drive, 41,952 km of PWD roads would be made pothole-free, 18,339 km of roads would be renovated and 4,041 km of roads under construction would be completed.

He said 441 km of national highways would be made pothole-free, 2,681 km roads of the Mandi Parishad, 158 km of the Rural Development department, 264 km of Cane department and 1,563 km of Irrigation department would be either made pothole-free or fully renovated during the period specified by the Chief Secretary.

CM asks officials to strengthen citizen's charter

Lucknow (PNS): With the aim to timely redress people's grievances, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked officials to strengthen the Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam (citizen's charter) so that the complaints are resolved within the prescribed time frame.

In a communication to additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries and secretaries, the CM said on Wednesday that a time-bound dashboard be created in each department to monitor the redressal of complaints.

"These dashboards should have details about total complaints received, how many of them have been resolved, and in what time. They should also mark defaulters after the lapse of stipulated time. These departmental dashboards should be integrated with the dashboard at the Chief Minister's secretariat so that the progress can be monitored at the CM's office too," Yogi said in his order. He also asked the officers to give publicity to the Jan Sewa Kendras, e-district, Nivesh portals so that people may lodge their complaints and inquire about them online and also the appellate authority to be contacted.

Yogi govt orders strict austerity measures for bureaucrats

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Rolling out strict austerity measures, the Uttar Pradesh government has asked its officers to curtail expenses on foreign visits, fly in economy class and avoid holding lunch or dinner meetings in five-star hotels.

An 18-point order to this effect was issued by Chief Secretary Anup Chandra Pandey. The order directs officials to slash expenses on office stationery, furniture and upholstery.

It says that just because an official concerned has been replaced, it does not mean there should be new furniture or upholstery for the new officer.

The order specifically mentions that official visits should be kept to a minimum unless these are important and essential.

Besides, the order says, babus should travel in economy class if they have to take flights for official visits.

Official lunch and dinner should not be held in five-star hotels. In exceptional

cases, permission of the Chief Secretary should be obtained.

The five-page order says it is important to cut down administrative expenses to make optimum use of government funds and resources for development work.

It may be noted that during the last decade, the work culture has changed considerably in view of computerisation and even workload has come down in certain sectors. Many posts have become redundant and employees on those posts are being utilised in other areas in the best possible manner, the order points out.

The government order clearly mentions that no new posts should be sanctioned except in medical and police departments. In cases of emergency, the tasks may be outsourced and done on contract basis, it adds.

The order also states that in case of vacancies in class four and similar posts of drivers, gardeners, plumbers, electricians and liftmen, there should be no regular

appointment. These tasks should be outsourced with the approval of the Finance department.

The order states that no posts should be created to assist those holding temporary posts of advisor or chairman of any department. These posts may be outsourced.

Various schemes run by the government should be reviewed at regular intervals and those found no longer useful, should be scrapped.

Besides, travelling allowance, dearness allowance, house rent allowance, city compensatory allowance, leave travel allowance and medical reimbursement should be paid to the staff of Central or state government funded projects at sanctioned rates only.

The order make it clear that no new office building or residential complex should be constructed except in newly-created divisions or districts.

It adds that barring security-related requirements, no new vehicle should be purchased and in case the exist-

ing vehicles are unfit for use, taxis should be hired for administrative work with the permission of the Finance department alone and only registered taxis be hired and not private vehicles.

The order states that for holding meetings, seminars and workshops, government buildings and premises should be chosen as venue and not private hotels.

It says there should be maximum use of technology for communication through e-mails, video conferencing to cut down bills on stationery and journeys. It also states that no new gadgets should be purchased on an emergency basis in the months of February or March.

Besides, there will be immediate ban on printing cards and sending New Year greetings, calendars, diaries, etc. at government expense. This will apply to autonomous bodies and authorities as well.

The order will be applicable to all government departments, offices, public sector undertakings and state universities.

Joining hands with SP, BSP suicidal for Cong: Pandey

Lucknow (PNS): Bharatiya Janata Party state president Mahendra Nath Pandey said that to stop the ruling party from coming to power, the Congress was going to commit hara-kiri by joining hands with Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party because both these parties were casteist and corrupt. "Everyone knows what had happened during the BSP and the SP regimes. Their leaderships had looted government exchequer to fill personal coffers, neglecting the plight of the people. If Congress wants to contest election with these corrupt parties, it will be suicidal for it," Pandey said while addressing a samajik pratinidhi baithak (social representative meeting) here on Wednesday.

He said that BSP leader Mayawati should not forget the Guest House incident in which SP goons had tried to kill her. He pointed out that at that time only the BJP had come to her rescue but now she was ready to join hands with the SP.

"This proposed alliance is opportunistic and has no vision. The target of these leaders is only to defeat the BJP," Pandey said. "The Congress has lost its ground in Uttar Pradesh. It will suffer more once it joins hands with the BSP and the SP because this alliance will suffer a stunning defeat in the election," the BJP state chief said. As this samajik pratinidhi baithak was attended by swarnkar (goldsmiths), Pandey said that these people had always been supporters of BJP since Jan Sangh days and the party had improved because of their support.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya also spoke on this occasion. He said that India had progressed in all fields during Narendra Modi's regime. He said all sections, including farmers, youths, women and entrepreneurs, had progressed in the last four and half years. Maurya appealed to the Swarnkar Samaj to support the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Cong in no rush to take call on alliance

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati taking a tough posture on the formation of a mahagathbandhan for the 2019 Lok Sabha poll, the Congress on Wednesday made it clear that it would take a call on the issue on the basis of inputs of party workers and active supporters through Project Shakti.

"The Project Shakti, brainchild of party president Rahul Gandhi, will end all the barriers between grassroots workers and active supporters of the party with the top leadership and will facilitate them to feel the nerves of the public and act accordingly," revealed UP Congress president, Raj Babbar.

He claimed that now every decision and the party manifesto would be drafted with the inputs given by those joining Project Shakti, he said, clarifying that even the decision for going ahead with the grand alliance in Uttar Pradesh to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party would be taken on the basis of inputs collected from the Project Shakti members.

Babbar said this while kicking off Project Shakti campaign



UP Congress president Raj Babbar (second from left) and party leaders launching Project Shakti website in Lucknow on Wednesday.

here on Wednesday afternoon.

Elaborating on the project, chairman of AICC Data Analytic department, Praveen Chakrawarty, said that they had already started the Project Shakti in ten states, including Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, and so far 30 lakh members had already enrolled in the project.

Claiming that it was very different from BJP's 'missed call' campaign, he said in Project Shakti, once the member sent his Voter ID number, they enrolled him with his full personal details including his mobile number, polling booth

sit-in, Rahul Gandhi acted accordingly.

It may be mentioned here that Project Shakti was launched to strengthen the party base ahead of coming parliamentary election as well as to facilitate its leaders to utilise the work base for better booth level management.

Congress MLC, Deepak Singh claimed that the party could not strengthen itself until it was reorganised up to the booth level and associated with the public who were well-wishers of the party.

"The defeat or victory of a party largely depends of how it has strengthened up to the booth level and has equipped its leaders to utilise that work force to the maximum," Singh asserted, adding that now with the launch of Project Shakti App, the Party would strengthen in UP as well as other parts of the country.

"Through the App, it will become easy for the party workers to share videos, pictures and other documents, and empower each individual workers to give suggestion to the party president," said Sarabhjeet Singh Makkar, state coordinator of the project.

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Shivpal to field candidate against SP chief Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Secular Morcha Convenor Shivpal Singh Yadav said on Wednesday that his outfit would field its candidates against Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and other leaders but would leave the Mainpuri seat for Mulayam Singh Yadav.

He also said there was no question of a patch-up with SP. SP president Akhilesh Yadav has already announced that he would contest from Kannauj while the sitting MP from Budaun is Dharmendra Yadav, the cousin of Akhilesh. In Ferozabad, the sitting MP is Akshay Yadav, son of SP MP

Ram Gopal Yadav. Dimple Yadav is presently MP from Kannauj and she will not contest the Lok Sabha election in 2019.

The SSM leader said that now that he had taken a decision, there was no question of succumbing to family pressure for reconciliation. "I waited long enough but when things reached a point of no return, I took the decision," he said.

While Shivpal has already said that he is ready for an alliance with like-minded parties, the SSM is bound to create problems for Akhilesh whether it remains inside or outside the alliance for parliamentary polls from UP.

Farmers allow govt to acquire land for Jewar greenfield int'l airport

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Clearing the decks for the construction of the international greenfield airport at Jewar, farmers of the Greater Noida and adjoining areas met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and handed him agreement letters, allowing the government to acquire the land for the airport. A delegation of the farmers from Greater Noida met the CM at his official residence on Wednesday and said that majority of them were ready to allow the government to acquire land after paying the required compensation.

The CM told the delegation that the farmers had always played a key role in the development of the state and their contribution in the construction of the international greenfield airport at Jewar would be written in golden letters. "On the part of the government, we will ensure that the farmers get the compensation as agreed and in case there is rehabilitation, the farmers will also get the rehabilitation package," Yogi said.

The farmers' delegation was led by ruling

party lawmaker from Jewar, Dharendra Singh Rohi. This meeting will be a shot in the arm of the government as a section of farmers had staged protests, saying they would not give their land to the government for construction of Jewar airport because they were not getting compensation. The opposition parties had tried to make it a big issue, saying the government was not serious in the construction of airport at Jewar. The protests had started after the detailed project report (DPR) and techno-economics feasibility report (TEFR) of this project was prepared. The said report was prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

As per this report, 1,441 hectare land spread over eight villages will be acquired. The proposed airport will be built on PPP (public-private partnership) model at a cost of Rs 15,754 crore. The government has already earmarked Rs 130 crore for land acquisition. The proposed airport will have two runways and will have a capacity to handle 70 million passengers annually.

ATS hunting for 2 accomplices of Hizb terrorists

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Anti-Terrorist Squad of Uttar Pradesh is now looking for two accomplices of a Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist who was arrested last week for planning an attack during Ganesh Chaturthi, an official said on Wednesday.

The terrorist, Qamar-uz-Zama (37), a resident of Assam, who was remanded to police custody, has disclosed that he and two others stayed at a rented house in Kanpur's Shivnagar locality, state ATS

Inspector General Aseem Arun said. While Qamar, who is also known as Dr Hurairah and Kamruddin, was arrested on September 13, the two others could not be nabbed as they had left two days before the ATS crackdown, he said.

"We are trying to track them down. We have also taken the help of Jammu and Kashmir Police and hope to nab them soon," the ATS IG said. "We tried to understand his life history and found out that in 2008 he had gone to an island country — the Republic of Palau —

near the Philippines. Before that he was very moderate but four year ago when he returned he was a changed man," the IG said, adding that later Qamar went to Kashmir and sold clothes there. "He went underground along with his accomplice Usama bin Jawed in June 2017. In April 2018, he suddenly surfaced posing in a picture on Facebook with an AK-47," the IG said.

"We are trying to find out his activities during the intervening period till his arrest. He had gone to Assam, his native

place, for 12 days and remained there in hiding," the IG said. "He sought funds from Kashmir and bought a smartphone with some of the money. He had talked to his handlers and came to Kanpur and made these plans," Arun added.

Qamar was arrested in Kanpur's Shivnagar locality. It appeared from his mobile phone that he was carrying out a recon, police had then said. A video clip of a temple in Kanpur was found in the smartphone. The ATS was tracking him for 8-10 when it made the arrest.

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Rudra Pratap Singh-Advocate
 Flat No. 301-A, Cristal Apartment, 509/15 Old Hyderabad, Lucknow-226007

नागरिक उद्बयन निदेशालय, उ०प्र०, लखनऊ एयरपोर्ट, लखनऊ
 संख्या-788/ना०उ०नि०/2018 दिनांक-12 सितम्बर, 2018
विज्ञापन
 नागरिक उद्बयन निदेशालय के अधीन विभिन्न श्रेणी के रिक्त पदों (वाहन/टैक्टर चालक/लेखाकार/कैशियर, द्विभाषी आशुलिपिक सह टंकक, तकनीशियन, चपरासी/चौकीदार/कुकर/वेटर/संदेश वाहक आदि) को संविदा के आधार पर भरे जाने हेतु समाचार - पत्रों में विज्ञापन संख्या - 111215, दिनांक - 14.09.2016 एवं विज्ञापन संख्या 119310 दिनांक 09.08.2017 द्वारा प्रकाशित करार आवेदन-पत्र आमंत्रित किये गये थे।
 अपरिहार्य कारणों से चयन की इस कार्यवाही को आस्थगित किया जाता है।
 उ०प्र० 132162, दिनांक 18.09.2018
निदेशक
 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgovt.in पर उपलब्ध है।
नागरिक उद्बयन

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI
e-AUCTION NOTICE NO-12
 EA Notice No. 12/EA/2018-19 Date: 15.09.2018
 Modern Coach Factory Raebareli, Lalganj will be conducting e-auction for disposal of scrap materials (Scrap of EN Steel, Scrap of Corten Steel, Scrap Austenitic Steel, Scrap of Ferritic Steel, Skelton of Different Shape & Size, and Misc. Other ferrous scrap & no ferrous scrap etc.) through the website www.ireps.gov.in at 12.00 PM.
e-AUCTION DATES FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER-2018

Month	October	November	December
Date	09 & 23	03 & 17	03, 17 & 29

The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap materials before the auction during working hour. To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with IREPS. For further details regarding Registration, Payment of Earnest Money and participation in the e-auction for the above items Dy. Chief Materials Manager/Shell Depot, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli, Lalganj-229120 may be contacted. For PCMM
 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी, महोबा
 पत्रांक : मुचि०३० /NH / E-Tender/JSSK Diet/2018-19/1667 दिनांक सितम्बर 18, 2018
ई-टेंडर पुनः प्रकाशन सूचना
 राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन के अन्तर्गत जनपद में संचालित जननी शिष्टा सुखा योजना के अन्तर्गत चिकित्सालय में भर्ती गर्भवती महिलाओं एवं प्रसूताओं को 'निःशुल्क भोजन' उपलब्ध कराये जाने के उद्देश्य से ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से निम्नलिखित ई-निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
 1. जिला महिला चिकित्सालय, महोबा हेतु ई-निविदा
 2. ब्लाक/नॉन ब्लाक स्तरीय इकाईयों हेतु ई-निविदा
 निविदा दिनांक 18.09.2018 से दिनांक 27.09.2018 समय 05:00 बजे सायं तक ई-टेंडर पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर डाउनलोड कर झाली जायेगी तथा दिनांक 28.09.2018 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे गठित निविदा समिति के समक्ष ऑनलाइन खोली जायेगी।
 विस्तृत नियम व शर्तें निविदा ई-टेंडर पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।
(डॉ० सुमन)
मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी
महोबा।

कार्यालय नगर पंचायत बहुआ, जनपद फतेहपुर
 पत्रांक-29/न०प०बहुआ/2018-19 दिनांक-15 सितम्बर 2018
ठेकेदारी पंजीयन हेतु सूचना
 सूचित किया जाता है कि कार्यालय जिलाधिकारी फतेहपुर (स्थानीय निकाय अनुभाग) के पत्र संख्या 576/21-स्था०नि० (2018-19) दिनांक 05.05.2018 के द्वारा नगर निकायों के कार्यों में ई-टेंडर में प्रारदशिता एवं कार्यों में गुणवत्ता बढ़ाने के लिये नये ठेकेदारों/फर्मों का पंजीकरण कराने हेतु निर्देशित किया गया है। उक्त निर्देशों के अनुपालन नगर पंचायत बहुआ में इच्छुक ठेकेदार/फर्म जो अपना पंजीयन वित्तीय वर्ष 2018-19 हेतु कराना चाहते हैं। निर्धारित तिथि 17.09.2018 से 26.09.2018 तक समस्त औपचारिकताएं पूर्ण कर आवेदन कर सकते हैं। निर्धारित तिथि के उपरांत प्राप्त आवेदनों पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। ठेकेदार/फर्म पंजीयन सम्बन्धी समस्त जानकारी किसी भी कार्य दिवस में नगर पंचायत कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।
अधिसूची अधिकारी **अध्यक्ष**
नगर पंचायत बहुआ **नगर पंचायत बहुआ**
फतेहपुर **फतेहपुर**

3 killed, bodies dumped at different places

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In three different incidents, three persons were killed and their bodies were dumped in river/forest cover in different police station area of the state capital on Wednesday.

In Mahanagar, Ravi Mishra (23) of Mathiya Tiwari locality of Deoria was found murdered. His body was recovered from Gomti river (near Samta Mulak crossing) in Gomti Nagar on Tuesday morning.

The identity of the victim was ascertained on Wednesday afternoon after his father Jai Prakash reached the mortuary and identified the same. He said that Ravi was pursuing B.Tech from Ram Swaroop Engineering College and was living with some of his friends at a house in Sector Q of Aliganj.

Jai Prakash told police that Ravi left the room on September 13 for an outing and later went missing. On September 14, Jai Prakash called Ravi to ask his well-being but found his phone switched

off. He took a train for Lucknow on September 15 and reached the room where Ravi lived on rent. "Ravi's friend told him that Ravi was missing since September 13," Jai Prakash informed the police.

He added that when he called Ravi on his cell phone it was picked by some person who told him that he got the same from Reserve Police Lines in Mahanagar.

"I, along with Ravi's friend, went to the place and took the phone from the unidentified man. But I could not get any clue about Ravi so I contacted the police. I was asked to wait for Ravi to return on his own," he said.

He said the Mahanagar police lodged a case on September 18 afternoon. "I was informed about the recovery of a body and when I reached the mortuary, I found it was Ravi's body," he told.

Police spokesman AK Singh said a case was already registered with the Mahanagar police.

"The autopsy of the body will be conducted on Thursday

to ascertain the cause of death. If the report indicates any foul play, the police will register a case in this connection," he added. Singh had no information about the name of Ravi's roommate.

"Ravi's father did not name him in the complaint he gave to the Mahanagar police and so the police were not in the know of the same," he said.

In Thakurganj, a naked body of an unidentified 50-year-old man was found lying deep in the forest cover behind the Era Medical Hospital on Wednesday morning. Reports said Ram Bahadur of a locality behind the Colvin Taluqdars' College runs his shop selling flower and sweets for offering at temple.

He went to his shop to open it for the day and spotted the body lying there. He then informed the police and a team reached the place for investigation.

The police spokesman said the man was aged around 40 and the body had no marks of injury. He said the identity of the man could not be ascertained and efforts for the same were underway.

He also failed to give details of the recovery of items from the crime scene. Sources privy to the investigation opined that the miscreants wanted to conceal the identity of the man and so he dumped the body after undressing him. "It purely seemed to be a case of murder," they claimed.

In Mahanagar, the body of an unidentified man was recovered from behind a shop at Hanuman Setu on Wednesday morning. Reports said Ram Bahadur of a locality behind the Colvin Taluqdars' College runs his shop selling flower and sweets for offering at temple.

He went to his shop to open it for the day and spotted the body lying there. He then informed the police and a team reached the place for investigation.

The police spokesman said the man was aged around 40 and the body had no marks of injury. He said the identity of the man could not be ascertained and efforts for the same were underway.

Festering sores in police working

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the identity of Ravi Mishra, whose body was recovered from Gomti river on Tuesday morning, the widening communication gap between police officers of different police station resurfaced.

On Tuesday morning, the Gomti Nagar police had recovered the body from Gomti river near Samta Mulak crossing. The police sat on the case and did nothing except assigning the case to a sub-inspector for conducting the investigation. Around 2.30 pm on Tuesday, victim's father Jai Prakash lodged a report about Ravi's disappearance.

Even after this, neither the Mahanagar police nor the Gomti Nagar police shared the information with one another to expedite the identification of Ravi's body.

As a result, the process was delayed by a day and the identity of Ravi's body could only be ascertained on Wednesday afternoon and that too because of his father's toiling efforts.

Sources in Police department said it was not the single case where the lack of communication between police officers holding charge of different police station had surfaced. A similar case was reported in the recent past between Ashiyana and Gosainganj police station officers.

In Ashiyana, Siddharth, who was working as a driver for a secretariat employee, was found dead on the road in Gosainganj. The police did no formality of identification of the body and later cremated it listing it as an unidentified body. Interestingly, the victim's family had already lodged a report with the Ashiyana

police. But the police station officers of both the police stations did not coordinate with one another to ascertain the identity.

A similar case was reported in Gomti Nagar where the Chinhat police had recovered the body of a Gomti Nagar resident and later conducted the last rites as unclaimed body. The victim's family had already lodged a case at Gomti Nagar police station.

Recently, the Chinhat police did not contact the Sitapur police or police stations of other districts in connection with the recovery of the body of a man from Sharda Canal. The youth was identified as Santosh (25) of Kamapur locality of Sitapur on Tuesday. He was reported missing for the last three days and his family had lodged a case soon after he went missing. The police succeeded in ascertaining the identity on the basis of a bank's pay-in slip which was recovered from his purse. But the cops from Sitapur and Lucknow police did not exchange the details of the body.

Sources said the lack of communication between police officers was because of poor monitoring of cases.

"The cases are not being monitored by the SSP office and so police officers have a free hand in working. The performance of a police station officer is evaluated on the feedback of officers working at the SSP office or those engaged in media work," they claimed.

SSP Kalanidhi Naithani could not be contacted for his comment and his PRO AK Singh said the SSP was busy in security arrangements for Moharram.

City roads to have 3-D rumble strips

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The city is going to have a 3-D rumble strip in place of the conventional strip present on roads as the Public Works Department is working in this direction. It may be noted that these rumble strips, which have been constructed at various points in the city, help in slowing down of vehicles at points where there can be a possibility of an accident because of the speed.

PWD chief engineer Pankaj Bakaya said that they were in talks with a company for the work.

He said: "In the 3-D rumble strip, geometrical designs are painted on the road in such a manner with the help of chemical paints that they appear like a rumble strip so that the person who approaches these rumble strips slows down but when he passes these strips, he does not face any inconvenience in terms of jerks which the people experience when they move on the rumble strips that are conventionally constructed on the road," he said. On being asked if these 3-D rumble strips construction will cost more in comparison to the conventional strips, chief engineer said that he did not have the details. On whether the department has identified the spots where these 3-D rumble strips will be constructed, he said that they would first begin with a few roads and get a feedback.

2 youths feared drowned in Gomti river

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two youths were feared drowned while two of their colleagues were rescued in the Gomti during the Lord Ganesh's idol immersion ceremony on the banks of the river in Hasanganj police station area on Wednesday evening.

As per reports, a group of youths from Khadra locality of Hasanganj reached the Dhobi ghat at Gomti for idol immersion. Hasanganj SHO Amber Singh said a

group of youth went to take a dip in the river around 6 pm after the function was over and the participants were preparing to return home.

"The group of youths swam to the middle of the river while competing with one another and later they started drowning," he added. Two of the youths, identified as Rinku and Mangal, were fished out," he informed newsmen.

The SHO said that other youths informed the police and a team reached

the place. "We pressed divers in the job. A youth, identified as Vishal of Khadra, was fished out and we rushed him to a hospital where he was declared brought dead," he said.

Singh said that two youths, identified as Raja and Narendra, had not returned homes after the function was over and the police suspected that they had also drowned. "The search operation is going on and it will continue till late at night," he said.



Devotees taking away Lord Ganesh idol for immersion in Lucknow on Wednesday

Pioneer

One arrested for molestation bid

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man was arrested for attempting to molest a woman in Nagam on Wednesday. The accused, identified as Daya Ram of Nagam, was named in the case on Tuesday after the family of the woman lodged a case with the police. The media cell officials said the accused had an evil design in his mind and he accosted her on finding her all alone near her house when she was returning home on Tuesday evening.

SUICIDE

Preeti (21) of Madaion ended her life at her house on Wednesday. She was hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta tied around her neck and was spotted by her brother-in-law Chandra Lal on Wednesday morning. Police are investigating the case.

UPSRTC to provide shade for passengers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A meeting of Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) Board was held on Tuesday. The meeting was presided over by the chairman of the board Sanjeev Saran and attended by Transport Corporation MD Guru Prasad and other senior officials.

UPSRTC media spokesperson Anwar Anzar said that it was decided that a shade for passengers would be constructed at the Polytechnic crossing in the city.

"This is being done to give passengers a point from where buses moving for Gonda, Faizabad, Gorakhpur and Bahraich can pick them up. The shade will also protect passengers in times of bad weather conditions and hence facilitate them," he said.

Among other decisions, the board approved the sanction of Rs 10,000-15,000 for small maintenance works at bus stations workshops. "This will again help passengers," he added.

He said that the board also approved DA as per the Seventh Pay Commission for the UPSRTC employees. He said that the board also approved improvement of the dormitory at the Kanpur driving training centre.

FSDA raids LU mess, finds it in real mess

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Food Safety and Drug Administration raided Lucknow University's Central Mess on Wednesday afternoon and found irregularities and unhygienic conditions prevailing there. FSDA official TR Rawat said that the university had been told to follow hygiene norms and keep the mess closed till the situation improved.

"No sampling was carried out during the raid. Only some hygiene-related deficiencies, which included bad flooring and low drainage system, were detected.

"The storage is inappropriate and the flour (atta) and gram flour (besan) had been kept in sacks on the floor below and not in steel contain-



"No sampling was carried out during the raid. Only some hygiene-related deficiencies, which included bad flooring and low drainage system, were detected"

ers as they should have been kept. In the stored food, rats and droppings of rats were found. The storage area, which included the walls and floor, were found to be dirty and the room was in darkness," he said.

Rawat said that there was no record for pest control and stock register at the mess.

"There was also no physical inspection for pest control and there was no arrangements that had been made with tools like fly catcher and the rat

catcher. The floor of the cooking and washing areas were found to be broken and filled with water that brought about stink in the area," he added.

He pointed out that there was no report of water inspection and the bad stink in the area was because of the improper drainage of water. "The staff had no headgear, apron, uniform and gloves and they also did not have a health certificate. There were several unwanted materials such as empty sacks which were lying on the ground adding to the dirty conditions which were already prevailing in the canteen," he added.

Rawat said that the raid was conducted after media reports raised the issue of insects being found in the meals served.

Entry regulations for JM Park tightened

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In order to check the entry of unwanted persons in prestigious Janeshwar Mishra Park in Gomti Nagar, Lucknow Development Authority has decided to introduce a new system of issuing tickets bearing the timing of visitors' entry which will be valid up to four hours.

If any visitor wants to stay in the park after four hours he can request the authorities at the gate number one for the favour and their time of stay will be extended charging Rs 2 per ticket.

Deputy director SS Sisodia said the step was being initiated following the drowning of a seven-year-old boy in the lake situated inside the park two days ago and added the deceased, along with three of his friends, were



not the genuine ticket-holder and managed to enter the compound by tricking the staff. He added they were chased away out of the park by security guards deployed near the lake but later they again made their entry into the compound. The deceased slipped

in the lake while chasing the ball.

The deputy director denied the charge that the lack of alertness among security guards deployed there was responsible for his drowning.

The state government has not yet announced compensation to the bereaved family. It is said the LDA administration on Monday evening requested the state government for adequate compensation.

Executive engineer PC Pandey, who is heading a committee set up on the initiative of LDA Vice-Chairman PN Singh to probe into the drowning incident, will table the finding by Friday.

The deputy director added that the security arrangements in and around the lake would be reviewed in the interest of visitors.

कापोरेशन बैंक (CORPORATION BANK) POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the CORPORATION BANK, Gomti Nagar Branch, Lucknow, under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with the Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on the dates mentioned against each account (details of which have been mentioned hereunder) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the authorised officer has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 9 of the said rule. The borrower and the guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Corporation Bank, Gomti Nagar Branch, Lucknow for an amount and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrowers/ Guarantor & Outstanding Amount	Date of Demand Notice		Description of the Moveable/Immovable Properties
		Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	
Branch : Gomti Nagar, Lucknow				
1.	Borrower: M/s S.S. Traders Prop. Mohd. Shekhu S/o Mohd. Saeed Guarantor: 1. Mohd. Laiq Siddiqui S/o Mohd. Siddiqi 2. Mohd. Saeed S/o Mohd. Siddiqi 3. Mohd. Moin S/o Mohd. Laiq Siddiqui Outstanding Amount: Rs. 1,04,44,011.86 and interest thereon.	13.06.2018 17.09.2018		House situated at Khasra No. 89 House No. 203/11Ka Nabuillah Road, Ward Wazirganj, Near City Station, Lucknow in the name of Mohammd Laiq Siddiqui and Mohd. Saeed. Bounded as follows : North-15 Ft. wide Road, South-House of Nazneen Khasn, East-House of Irfan, West-House of Israr.

Date : 20.09.2018 Place : Lucknow Authorized Officer, Corporation Bank

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF CUSTOMS, INDIRECT TAXES & NARCOTICS, FARIDABAD

EXAMINATION FOR CONFIRMATION OF ENROLLMENT OF GST PRACTITIONERS

The National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) has been authorized to conduct an examination for confirmation of enrollment of Goods and Services Tax Practitioners (GSTPs) in terms of the sub-rule (3) of rule 83 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017, vide Notification No. 24/2018-Central Tax dated 28.5.2018.

2. The GSTPs on the GST Network under sub-rule (2) of Rule 83 and covered by clause (b) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 83, i.e. those meeting the eligibility criteria of having enrolled as Sales Tax Practitioners or Tax Return Preparers under the existing law for a period not less than five years, are required to pass the said examination before 31.12.2018 in terms of second proviso to rule 83(3). The examination for such GSTPs shall be conducted on 31.10.2018 from 1100 hrs to 1330 hrs at designated examination centres across India.

3. It will be a Computer - based examination. The registration for this examination can be done by the eligible GSTPs on a registration portal, link of which will also be provided on NACIN and CBIC websites. The registration portal will be activated on 25th September, 2018 and will remain open upto 10th October, 2018. For convenience of candidates, a helpdesk will also be set up, details of which will be made available on the registration portal. The applicants are required to make online payment of examination fee of Rs. 500/- at the time of registration for this examination.

Director General
NACIN, Faridabad

लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण (ISO 14001 : 2004, ISO 9001-2008 प्रमाणित संस्था)

प्राधिकरण भवन, विपिन खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। दूरभाष: 0522-2307845, 2307839, 2307833, वेबसाइट: www.ldalucknow.co.in

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण की आवासीय/व्यावसायिक/रेंट/नजूल/इम्प्लेमेंट ट्रस्ट योजनाओं के निम्नलिखित आवेदकों द्वारा उनके नाम के सामने अंकित सम्पत्ति का हस्तान्तरण/नामाकरण किये जाने हेतु प्राधिकरण में प्रार्थना-पत्र प्रस्तुत किया गया है:-

क्र. सं.	मूल आवंटी का नाम	भवन/भूखण्ड संख्या	योजना का नाम व सेक्टर/खण्ड	मृत्यु दिनांक	मूल आवंटी के उत्तराधिकारी अथवा आवेदक का नाम	उत्तराधिकारी के पक्ष में अनापत्तिकर्ताओं के नाम	मूल आवंटी से (मृतक) का सम्बन्ध
1.	श्री जमीर अहमद	दुकान सं.124.	नक्कास मार्केट	19.09.2014	श्रीमती असमा	श्रीमती राबिया खान, पुत्री, श्री उबेदुल्ला, पुत्र	पत्नी
2.	श्री राम नरेश चौरसिया	दुकान सं-05 पी.एस.-05	शाम-ए-अवध	18.08.2016	श्री आलेन्द्र कुमार चौरसिया	वसीयत के आधार पर	पुत्र
3.	श्रीमती विद्यावती	भूखण्ड सं 0-1398, सेक्टर-आई	कानपुर रोड	15.08.2017	श्रीमती सुधा आदर्श	रजिस्टर्ड वसीयत के आधार पर	पुत्री
4.	श्री सन्तोष कुमार पाठक	भवन सं 0-एम.आई.जी.-313	रामनगर	23.06.2013	श्रीमती रजनी पाठक	श्रीमती आकांक्षा शुक्ला, पुत्री श्री गीत कोशल, पुत्र	पत्नी

उपरोक्त नामान्तरण के आवेदन के सम्बन्ध में यदि किसी भी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति हो तो वह साक्ष्य सहित प्राधिकरण लिथि से 30 दिनों के अन्दर अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में प्राप्त करा दे। निधिरित तिथि तक कोई आपत्ति प्राप्त न होने पर प्राधिकरण अभिलेखों में कॉलम-6 पर लिखित व्यक्ति का नाम दर्ज कर लिया जायेगा तथा उसके बाद किसी आपत्ति पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। सचिव

Cong submits memo to CAG over Rafale

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing with its attack on the Modi Government, the Congress on Wednesday submitted a memorandum to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) over alleged irregularities in the Rafale fighter jet deal and maintained that the auditor watchdog committed to take a look into the matter.

The Congress has stepped up the attack on the Government over the Rafale deal and is seeking to make it a major poll issue ahead of Assembly elections in some key states later this year and the parliamentary election in 2019.

A delegation of party leaders led by senior party member Ghulam Nabi Azad called on CAG chief Rajiv Mehriishi and handed over a memorandum, accusing the Government of causing loss to the public exchequer and endangering national security by bypassing state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in favour of some businessman "friends" for offset contract.

The delegation also included Ahmed Patel, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Jairam Ramesh, Randeep Surjewala and Mukul Wasnik.

Sharma said the party has given a detailed memorandum,



Congress senior leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Randeep Surjewala, Ahmed Patel and others leave after a meeting with Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in New Delhi on Wednesday

dum, along with enclosures on "irregularities" and "acts of omission and commission" by the Government in the fighter jet deal. "We expect the CAG will prepare a report soon and present it before Parliament," he said.

Congress alleged that the fresh deal for Rafale fighter jets was inked by the Narendra Modi dispensation at a cost much higher than what was negotiated by the previous Government led by it.

"The CAG pointed out that it is his constitutional and fundamental duty to audit all such purchases, procedures, award of contract and the CAG said that they are already examining the entire Rafale deal. They are

examining the papers, they are examining the payments made, and they are examining the procedure and its violation. They assured that they will look at all the documents that we have brought in public domain and that they will very soon be submitting a report to Parliament after examining all the contentions raised by the Congress party," Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala told reporters.

"The Government is bound to disclose the price of 36 aircraft to scrutiny by the CAG, in accordance with law and there has to be a similar disclosure to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Chief Vigilance Commission

(CVC), and Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence," he said.

In its memorandum, the Congress alleged violation of the mandatory provisions of the Defence Procurement Procedure in the "unilateral" purchase of 36 Rafale jets from Dassault Aviation and that public exchequer lost ₹41,000 crore due to the purchase. The party said while the previous UP Government was buying Rafale jets for ₹526 crore a piece, the rate fixed by the Modi dispensation was ₹1,670 crore.

"We request the CAG to undertake its constitutional duty by conducting a time bound special and forensic audit by examining the record threadbare, so that the truth is told to the people of India in a comprehensive and transparent manner affixing the responsibility of the Modi Government," the Congress memorandum said.

The party earlier demanded a probe by a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) into the alleged irregularities in the deal. The Government has rejected any kind of JPC or CAG probe into the deal, saying an inquiry cannot be set up only to satisfy the ego of an "ill-informed" leader of the Opposition party who "repeats lies".

Govt: Probe can't be set up to satisfy ego of ill-informed Opposition leader

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday not only rejected the Congress' demand for a probe into the Rafale fighter jet deal, saying an enquiry cannot be set up only to satisfy the ego of an "ill-informed" leader of the Opposition party who "repeats lies", but also targeted former Defence Minister AK Antony.

"I don't think JPC or CAG enquiry is set up to satisfy the ego of an ill-informed leader who repeats lies with alarming regularity," Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters, in an apparent attack on Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

Prasad said Antony has a lot to answer for keeping the public-sector Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), which was to be offset partner of the French maker of Rafale jets, in the lurch despite being in office for eight years.

His response came after Congress leaders met the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) seeking a probe into alleged irregularities in the



Rafale fighter jet deal and for leaving HAL out of the offset contract and transfer of technology. The Congress has also been demanding a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the matter.

Prasad said Antony was Defence Minister when the offset rule was framed, as incumbent Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has already articulated.

Under India's offset policy, foreign defence entities are mandated to spend at least 30 per cent of the total contract value in India through procurement of components or setting up of research and development facil-

ities. "He was the Minister who left HAL in lurch, as far as the joint operations is concerned. Mr Antony has a lot to answer," he said.

"What has struck me more is that Mr Antony, who was Defence Minister for eight years during which nothing could be done for modernisation and empowerment of Indian forces, (making statement on the issue)," he said.

Prasad also said that Indian Air Force badly needs planes as the old planes are causing repeated accidents. "Should the Congress at least rise to the occasion for the sake of country's safety and security," he said.

INSHORT

SC EXTENDS HOUSE ARREST OF ACTIVISTS FOR A DAY

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it would look into the Koregaon-Bhima case involving the arrest of five activists with a "hawk's eye" as liberty cannot be sacrificed at the altar of conjectures, even as it extended their house arrest for a day. The top court told the Maharashtra Government that there should be a clear-cut distinction between Opposition and dissent on one hand and the attempts to create disturbance, law and order problems and overthrow the government on the other.

KHARGE REFUSES TO ATTEND LOKPAL MEET

New Delhi: Congress leader in Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge again boycotted the Lokpal Selection Committee meeting on Wednesday, the sixth time he has done so this year on the pretext that he is not made a full-fledged member in the panel. In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he conveyed his decision of boycotting the panel meeting held this evening.

SC SEES REPORT FILED BY SOLID WASTE BODY

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that an expert committee, set up to deal with issues relating to solid waste management in Delhi, should have "specific time target" on how the works would be carried out. The apex court, which perused the status report filed by the committee, asked whether the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) was being briefed about the meetings of the panel.

30 BRU REFUGEE FAMILIES RETURN TO MIZORAM

New Delhi: At least, 30 Bru refugee families, who have been living in camps in Tripura for over two decades, returned to Mizoram on Wednesday as part of a Home Ministry-monitored rehabilitation package, an official said. The Bru families would be given a one-time financial assistance of ₹4 lakh, a house, a monthly assistance of ₹5,000 and free ration for two years as per the agreement signed by the representatives of the Bru refugees, the Governments of Mizoram and Tripura and the Centre.

₹37 CR ASSETS ATTACHED IN HOSHARPUR SCAM

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it has attached assets worth ₹37 crore in connection with its money laundering probe into the Hoshiarpur land acquisition scam in Punjab. It said a provisional order for attachment of 54 vacant lands and three business and residential premises each was issued by its Jalandhar office under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

3-DAY MEDICAL EXPO AT PRAGATI MAIDAN



New Delhi: Over 300 medical firms including global companies from countries like Germany, China, South Africa will be showcasing around 3,000 medical equipments at the three-day Medical Expo, here at Pragati Maidan from September 21. The focus is on "Make in India" and wide range of innovative medical gadgets like mercury-free digital BP monitor and specially designed stethoscope for cardiologists, said Dr Manivannan S, CEO of Medical.

Will do everything to free 7 Indians kidnapped by Taliban: Afghan Prez

New Delhi: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday assured Prime Minister Narendra Modi that his Government would do everything possible to secure the release of seven engineers abducted by Taliban in the restive northern Baghlan province in May, official sources said.

During extensive talks with Modi, Ghani also conveyed to him that the Afghan Government is enhancing security for Sikhs in Afghanistan in the wake of killing of 13 people of the community in a suicide bombing in July, the sources said.

They said Ghani's response on both the issues came after Modi raised them.

Seven Indian engineers were kidnapped in Baghlan province on May 6, and Modi, in the talks, conveyed his concerns over them to Ghani.

In the talks, the decision by



India and China to initiate joint projects in Afghanistan was also deliberated upon.

The sources said a Sino-India integrated training programme for Afghan diplomats will kickstart next month in Delhi. The diplomats will first train in Delhi and then will leave for Beijing.

Ghani was here on a day-long working visit.

Giving an overview of the security scenario in Afghanistan, Ghani also apprised Modi about Taliban attack on southeastern city of

Ghazni and increasing presence of ISIS in the country. On the Ghazni attack, he said involvement of Pakistani national has emerged, the sources said.

Afghan envoy to India resigns

New Delhi: Afghanistan Ambassador to India Shaida Abdali stepped down from his post on Wednesday. Calling his decision a "tough and appealing" one, Abdali, in a series of tweets, announced his resignation saying, "Stepping Down — A tough but an appealing decision: On a high note ending a successful visit of the Afghan President in India, I resigned today as the Afghan Ambassador to India. Serving in India for more than six years was indeed a great honour and privilege."

TRIPLE TALAQ PUNISHABLE OFFENCE

Cong, BJP engage in war of words

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP and Congress engaged in a political spat soon after the Centre cleared an Ordinance making the practice of triple talaq a punishable offence. While BJP president Amit Shah termed it a historic moment and said it is also a matter of introspection and guilt for political parties which forced Muslim women to suffer due to vote bank politics, the Congress accused the Modi Government of treating the issue of instant triple talaq "more as a political football than a matter of justice to Muslim women".

Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Cabinet's nod to the ordinance, Shah said in tweets that the decision will allow Muslim women to live with dignity in society. Targeting opposition parties such as the Congress, he said, "This ordinance is also a matter of guilt



and introspection for them as they forced Muslims women to suffer from this bad practice for decades due to their vote bank politics."

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the Government has not acceded to the Congress request for making a provision for attaching the property of those not providing compensation to the affected women and children after giving them divorce.

Surjewala said instant triple talaq was "an illegal, unconsti-

tutional and inhuman practice" that was quashed by the Supreme Court. After the Supreme Court quashed the practice, it has become a law.

"For us, triple talaq has always been a human issue related to women rights and extending justice to them," he said, adding that this is the reason why Congress leaders and lawyers such as Salman Khurshid and Manish Tiwari represented the affected women before the Supreme Court in the case. However, the

Modi Government is treating the issue more as a political football than a matter of justice to Muslim women," he alleged.

"When triple talaq has been quashed, the next issue now is of providing justice to Muslim women. They should have the right to allowance from the property of their husband to look after themselves and their children. The property of those men who are unable to provide this compensation, should be attached. But the Modi government is avoiding this.

"They do not want justice be given to Muslim women, Modiji does not want that Muslim women get allowance and our amendment that property should be attached was not accepted by the government," Surjewala said at AICC briefing. Surjewala said the Congress had objected that if a man is jailed, how will women get allowance and how can care be ensured to their children.

Central team to visit Kerala today to assess flood damage

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An inter-Ministerial team, headed by a special secretary of the Home Ministry, will visit Kerala for five days beginning Thursday to assess the damage caused by the recent devastating floods.

The move comes after the Kerala Government sent a detailed memorandum seeking ₹4,700-crore as compensation for the damage occurred due to rains and floods, considered to be worst in a century.

The inter-ministerial team, headed by Special Secretary B R Sharma, will visit Kerala from September 20 to 24, a

Home Ministry official said.

At least 488 people have died in Kerala due to the rains and floods this monsoon, which hit 14 districts of the State. The Kerala Government memorandum comprises details about the loss of human life, properties, infrastructure and crops.

In case of any natural calamity beyond the coping capacity of a state, the state Government submits a detailed memorandum indicating sector-wise details of damage and requirement of funds for relief operations of immediate nature. Accordingly, the Kerala Government sent the

memorandum, the official said.

According to the existing guidelines, the Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) will visit the state for on-the-spot assessment of damage and additional requirement of funds.

The IMCT report will be considered by the sub-committee of national executive committee (SC-NEC) headed by the Union home secretary in conformity with the norms and then by a high-level committee, chaired by the Home Minister for approving the quantum of additional assistance from the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF),

another official said.

The financial mechanism to meet the rescue and relief expenditure during any notified disaster event is governed by guidelines on the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) and the NDRF, the official said.

On August 21, the Central Government had released ₹600 crore to flood-hit Kerala as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi (₹500 crore) and Home Minister Rajnath Singh (₹100 crore) during their visits to the State. This was in addition to ₹562.45 crore already made available in the State Disaster Relief Fund of Kerala.

205 km Budni-Indore Rly line in MP OK'd

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Keeping an eye on the forthcoming Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved a 205.5-km new line connecting Budni to Indore (Mangalyagaon) in the State. The total estimated cost of the project is ₹3,261 crore which will provide connectivity to various towns and villages like Nasrullganj, Khategaon and Kannod where there is no rail connectivity at present.

"The main purpose of this project is development of backward area and reduction in travel time from Indore to Jabalpur as well as from Indore to Mumbai and towards southern side also, as this will reduce distance by 68 km compared to the present available route

via Bhopal," railway ministry said in a statement.

"It will provide better transport facilities for public and industries in this area. It will also help to provide/generate employment opportunities in the project area. The project will generate direct employment during construction for about 49.32 lakh man-days," the statement said.

The proposed line will take off from the existing yard of Budni and will connect at Mangalyagaon, the existing station of Western Railway near Indore. Ten new crossing stations and seven new halt stations are proposed to be constructed en route.

The new line will serve Sehore, Dewas and Indore districts and will provide direct link from Budni to Indore bypassing the congested route of Bhopal-Itarsi including

Ghat section from Budni to Berkheda. It will also be beneficial for the defence forces which has three premier institutes in Indore.

Cabinet approves revised cost estimate for dam safety project

New Delhi: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved the revised cost estimate of a project to improve the safety of 198 dams across the country. The revised cost has now been pegged at ₹3,466 crore. Originally, the total cost of the project was ₹2,100 crore with State component of ₹1,968 crore and central component of ₹132 crore.

India accounts 27% of world TB cases in 2017: WHO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India accounted for 27 per cent of the 10 million people who developed tuberculosis in 2017, the highest among the top 30 high TB burden countries in the world, according to the latest report by the World Health Organisation. Globally, the report said, the best estimate is that 10 million people developed TB disease in 2017. Of these, 5.8 million are men, 3.2 million women and one million children.

What's worst for India was that it was home to almost half of the world's cases which were resistant to TB drugs at 24 per cent followed by China (13 per cent), and Russia (10 per cent), as per the 2018 edition of the Global Tuberculosis Report, released here recently.

The report, which provides a comprehensive and up-to-date

assessment of the TB epidemic and progress in the response at global, regional and country levels, however, noted that estimates of TB incidence and mortality for India are interim, pending results from the national TB prevalence survey planned for 2019/2020.

The Worldwide contracted TB that was resistant to rifampicin, "the most effective first-line drug." Of this number, 82 per cent had multidrug-resistant TB. And of the MDR-TB cases, 8.5 per cent were extensively drug resistant, or unresponsive to four anti-TB drugs namely Rifampicin, isoniazid, any of the fluoroquinolone antibiotics, and at least one of the three injectable second-line drugs.

There were cases in all countries and age groups, but overall 90 per cent were adults, and nine per cent were people living with HIV.

Of the global total, two-thirds

were in eight countries alone — India 27 per cent; China nine per cent; Indonesia eight per cent; the Philippines six per cent; Pakistan five per cent; Nigeria four per cent; Bangladesh four per cent and South Africa three per cent.

The TB number has been increasing since 2013, mainly due to increased reporting of detected cases by the private sector in India, following the introduction of a national policy of mandatory notification in 2012 and the rollout of a nationwide web-based and case-based reporting system (called 'Nikshay') that facilitates reporting of detected cases by care providers in the public and private sectors.

India accounted for 32 per cent of global TB deaths among HIV-negative people, and for 27 per cent of the combined total TB deaths in HIV-negative and HIV-positive people.

PM to lay foundation stone of IICC in Capital

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Eight years after it was first conceived, the work on the mega exhibition and convention centre — India International Convention & Expo Centre (IICC) — will finally commence from Thursday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the state-of-the-art convention centre in Dwarka on the lines of the ones in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore for hosting exhibitions, trade fairs and summits of international standards.

The project is planned over an area of 221.37 acres (over 90 hectares or 10.7 lakh square km) in Sector 25, Dwarka, at an estimated cost of Rs.25,703 crores. It is connected through Dwarka Expressway and Urban



Extension Road II and is about 11 kms from the Delhi International Airport. The project was first mooted in 2010 but was stuck due to delay in transfer of land from DDA.

IICC at Dwarka will be an integrated complex with facilities like exhibition halls, convention centre, open exhibition spaces, mixed use commercial spaces like star hotels (5, 4 and 3 star),

retail services and high-end offices. The convention centre can accommodate 11,000 persons, 5 exhibition halls, 1-kilometre long foyer, multi-purpose arena with retractable roof.

It will be developed in two phases. Phase-I and II will be completed by December 2019 and December 2024, respectively. Officials associated with the project said the first phase, comprising convention centre with a seating capacity of 10,000 guests, two exhibition halls spread over 80,000 square metre area and a foyer, would be ready by October 2019 and will be constructed as non-public-private partnership (PPP) component. The second phase, comprising the remaining exhibition area will be ready by 2025 and facilities such as hotels, retail

space and offices will be completed on a public-private partnership (PPP) mode, it said.

The driving factor behind the project is also to promote schemes like Make in India, tourism, trade and commerce, exports, business tourism etc. According to estimations, the government expects IICC Dwarka will generate an annual demand for at least 100 large international and domestic events. It expects to receive around 10 million annual visitors by 2019-20 and 23 million after the second phase in 2025.

According to officials, the country boasts of a few big convention centres such as the one in Pragati Maidan and the Bombay Convention and Exhibition Centre, but a world-class centre is lacking. The IICC Dwarka will

be looking to fill in this space.

The construction will be in line with green building principles and Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Platinum rating standards.

IICC complex will have a dedicated underground Metro station which will be an extension of the airport high speed metro corridor and is being constructed by Delhi Metro.

The Airport Express line of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation is being considered for extension from Dwarka Sector 21 to the ECC complex. It is proposed that the complex will have a dedicated station along with three entry/exit points within the complex and the line's construction could be completed by as soon as December 2019.

Cong to go for J&K panchayat polls

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

The controversial decision of the Jammu & Kashmir Government to hold municipal and panchayat polls took an interesting twist on Tuesday with the Congress party's reluctant decision to plunge into the fray. While the two regional mainstream parties — the National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) — have decided to stay away from the polls, the Congress decision to participate has changed the ground situation though the security concerns remain a major issue for the smooth conduct of the elections.



'If at some point of time, the party feels that elections are not being conducted in a fair manner, then the party after assessing the situation will have no hesitation to take a call'

The Congress was delaying to reveal its cards and a section of its leadership was convinced that the polls would not be held due to security situation in Kashmir Valley, especially in the southern districts. However, after the State Election Commission (SEC) decided to hold the polls, the Congress said that it would contest to keep the "communal forces" away.

Mir said adding the Congress wants the elections to be free and fair. "If at some point of time, the party feels that elections are not being conducted in a fair manner, then the party after assessing the situation will have no hesitation to take a call."

Mir urged Governor Administration to provide security to contesting candidates and peaceful atmosphere needed to be created for the smooth conduct of polls.

The NC and PDP have decided to boycott the elections as they have asked the Central Government to clear its stand on the issue of Article 35-A and take steps for its protection.

Mir said that Congress being a responsible secular force will not give safe passage to BJP. "In case we do not counter BJP-RSS, we would also be perceived as dual

and opportunistic," Mir said adding the Congress wants the elections to be free and fair. "If at some point of time, the party feels that elections are not being conducted in a fair manner, then the party after assessing the situation will have no hesitation to take a call."

The mainstream regional parties who announced to boycott the upcoming Municipal and Panchayat polls in the state, Wednesday said that the participation of Congress in the elections won't harm their party at the gross root level.

On Monday, the Communist Party of India (CPI) also decided against participating in view the prevailing situation in the valley.

State Secretary CPI(M) Ghulam Nabi Malik said that despite the majority of mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir deciding not to participate in these polls, the announcement of the election schedule shows the "arrogance of the BJP-led Central Government".

The PDP and NC have described the Congress decision as the party's own that would have no bearing on their decision to stay away.

The PDP chief spokesperson Rafi Ahmad Mir said their party has thoughtfully decided to stay away from the polls.

"The decision to stay away from the polls was aimed at respecting the sentiments of people, therefore the participation of Congress and BJP in the polls won't harm PDP at the gross root level," Ahmad said.

The NC General Secretary and legislator Ali Muhammad Sagar said that his party has nothing to do with other parties but the party is staying away from the polls to secure the rights and special status of people living in the state.

Meanwhile, the security agencies are chalking out a proper

roadmap for security in the upcoming Municipal and Panchayat polls in Kashmir.

A day after Panchayat polls were announced several attempts were made to set ablaze Panchayat Ghars at five different places in south Kashmir's Pulwama and Shopian district since Monday.

The Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) of separatist Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik while rejecting any electoral process "as a substitute to right to self-determination" reiterated its appeal to the people of Kashmir to observe a complete election boycott to the upcoming municipal and local bodies' elections in the Jammu and Kashmir. A prominent militant organization Hizbul Mujahideen has already issued a threat warning to use sulphuric acid and hydrochloric acid against all contestants and the voters.

State Election Commission on Sunday announced nine phase Panchayat elections in over 35 thousand Panchayat constituencies beginning November 17 in the State. Similarly, the four phase Municipal polls have been scheduled next month beginning October 8.

Office of the Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle, P.W.D., Allahabad
Address: PWD Campus, Near Kachehari, Old katra, Allahabad

(Name of Authority Inviting Bids)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Letter No. : 3343/11 Prakir Amethi-PMGSY Circle-Ald / 2018 Date : 15.09.2018

The Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle, PWD, Allahabad on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD/UP RED, in appropriate class (A, or B as per limit) or equivalent category in CPWD/ MES/ P&T/ Railways and other State Govt. and Central Govt. Departments. Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Sl. No.	District	Pkg. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)		Total Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Period of Completion	Cost of Bid Document including all taxes	Bid Security (Rs. Lakh)
				Construction (excluding GST)	Maintenance (including GST)				
1	Amethi	UP 7509	MRL01-Haripur to Raswada	629.43	61.62	691.05	08 Months including rainy season	Rs.3500/-	Rs. 13.83

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement:- **24.09.2018**

3. **Cost of Bid Form** : Rs 3500.00 per package (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft in favour of Chief Executive Officer, UPRRDA, Lucknow payable at Lucknow.

4. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission** : The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstendersup.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstendersup.gov.in Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

5. **Submission of Original Documents** : The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle, PWD, Allahabad Address : PWD Campus, Near Kachehari, Old katra, Allahabad on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.

6. **Last Date / Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering**: **15.10.2018 up to 12.00 Noon**

7. The site for the work is available.

8. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgstendersup.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 12.30 PM (time) on 15.10.18 (date) by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.

9. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for **routine maintenance**. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities for five years maintenance. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.

10. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.

11. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.

12. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

(Sanjay Kumar Srivastava)
Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle,
Address PWD Campus, Near Kachehari, Old katra, Allahabad
(Designation and address of Authority inviting bids)

U.P.132187, Daste : 18-09-2018
रिजिस्ट्रेशन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Office of the Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle, P.W.D., Allahabad

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Letter No. 3294/11 प्रकीर्ण (सुवो) -पीएमजीएसवाई वृद्धला / 18 दिनांक : 12.09.2018

The Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle, PWD Allahabad on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD/UP RED, in appropriate class (A, or B as per limit) or equivalent category in CPWD/ MES/ P&T/ Railways and other State Govt. and Central Govt. Departments. Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Sl. No.	District	Pkg. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)		Total Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Period of Completion	Cost of Bid Document including all taxes	Bid Security (Rs. Lakh)
				Construction (excluding GST)	Maintenance (including GST)				
1	Sultampur	UP 68171	Akhandnagar to Baramadpur road (Km. 0.00 to 12.850)	797.77	75.02	872.79	08 Months including rainy season	Rs. 3500/-	17.46

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement:- **24.09.2018**

3. **Cost of Bid Form** : Rs 3500.00 per package (non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft in favour of Chief Executive Officer, UPRRDA, Lucknow payable at Lucknow.

4. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission** : The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstendersup.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstendersup.gov.in Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

5. **Submission of Original Documents** : The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with Superintending Engineer, PMGSY Circle, PWD Allahabad on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.

6. **Last Date / Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering**: **15.10.2018 up to 12.00 Noon**

7. The site for the work is available.

8. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgstendersup.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 12.30 PM (time) on 15.10.18 (date) by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.

9. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for **routine maintenance**. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.

10. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.

11. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.

12. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

(Sanjay Kumar Srivastava)
Superintending Engineer,
PMGSY Circle, PWD, Allahabad

U.P.132154, Daste : 17-09-2018
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Triple talaq Ordinance gets mixed response

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The triple talaq Ordinance approved by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday evoked mixed response from the Muslim organisations, with the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA) welcoming the legislation as a "much-awaited" decision and two other Muslim organisations — All India Sunni Jamiatul Ulema and Raza Academy — terming it as against "all constitutional norms and the orders of the Supreme Court".

Describing the triple talaq ordinance making the practice of instant divorce a punishable offence as "a much-awaited and a much-wanted legislation", the BMMA said: "We are thankful to the central government for heeding to the voice of Muslim women who demanded the above amendments."

"We urge all political parties to recognise, acknowledge and extend their support to the demands of Muslim women. For too long they have been discriminated against and faced insecurity and fear in their life, fear of instant divorce, polygamy, underage marriage and deprivation of inheritance rights," the BMMA said, in a statement issued here.

Maintaining that it was pertinent now for all political parties to realise that Muslim women had the knowledge

of their constitutional rights as well as of their rights in the Quran, the BMMA stated: "This ordinance is the first important legislation and BMMA is going to continue to push for a comprehensive codification of Muslim family law where gender-just provisions pertaining to age of marriage, mehr, consent, polygamy, halala, muta, maintenance and inheritance are also legislated upon."

"The Hindu Code Bill came in 1955 and as the largest minority we are lagging behind a good 60 years. It is time that a Muslim Code Bill or a Muslim Family Law is passed so that all other issues come within the ambit of law," the BMMA added.

However, in a joint statement issued here, All India Sunni Jamiatul Ulema (AISJU) and Raza Academy described the triple talaq ban ordinance as "illegal". "The BJP Government's ordinance to ban triple talaq is against all constitutional norms and against the orders of the Supreme Court. The triple talaq ordinance amounts to Contempt of Court," the two organisations said.

"This bill was passed in Lok Sabha since the NDA had a majority and then was placed before Rajya Sabha. But the Government couldn't get the bill passed here and it was twice rejected in Rajya Sabha," the two Muslim organisations said.

Ordinance unconstitutional and anti-Muslim women: Owaisi

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

A prominent Muslim leader in India has termed the fresh Ordinance criminalising triple or instant talaq a "violation of the right to equality enshrined in the Constitution" and an attempt by the Narendra Modi Government to torture the Muslims in India.

Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen president and MP Asaduddin Owaisi reacting to the Ordinance issued on Wednesday told a media conference in Hyderabad that the Ordinance will not do justice to Muslim women but further aggravate their condition.

"In Islam marriage is a civil contract. It is wrong to apply penal provisions on it. This is bad in law and bad in Constitution", he said.

He appealed to the Muslim Personal Law Board to challenge it in the Supreme Court. "I am sure that it will be challenged as there are strong legal grounds to do so", he said.

Pointing out the glaring discrepancy and discrimination in the ordinance he said that if a Muslim man give instant divorce to his wife the ordinance provides for three years imprisonment but in case of a man from any

other community for the same act he will be punished with only one year imprisonment under another law. "This is against the right to equality under the fundamental rights guaranteed in the Constitution", he said.

Moreover if rash driving results in death the punishment was only for two years and here the imprisonment was three years, he said.

Owaisi contended that the Supreme Court had never asked the Government to bring a penal provision against the instant Talaq but had declared it invalid saying that even any body pronounces the triple talaq the marriage will remain un-dissolved.

Pointing out that under the ordinance a man who pronounces instant Talaq will have to undergo imprisonment as well as pay the maintenance to the woman. "Why I am saying is that this is even bigger injustice to woman is that while he remains in jail for three years the woman will remain stuck in the marriage. Do you think even after the man comes out of prison they can live together peacefully", Owaisi asked.

The MP from Hyderabad expressed apprehensions that the Ordinance will be misused to arrest Muslim men and imprisonment.

2 teachers held for seeking sexual favours for good marks

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Nashik police on Wednesday arrested two teachers from a leading local college for allegedly demanding sexual favours to give good marks to a girl student. Acting on a complaint lodged by a female HSC student from LV Hiray College at Nashik, the police arrested two teachers Pravin D Suryawansi and Sachin N Sonawane, who had been working at the college for several years.

In her complaint, the victim stated that two teachers had demanded sex from her for giving her marks enough to pass the 12th standard examination in which she had failed. She also alleged that two teachers, apart from molesting her, had been harassing for more than three years from January 1 2015 to September 18, 2018.

Gujarat lawmakers pass Bill proposing 65% hike in pay

NAYAN DAVE ■ GANDHINAGAR

Irrespective of partyline, Gujarat lawmakers on Wednesday unanimously passed a Bill proposing hike of almost 65 per cent in their own salaries.

The 182 legislators including that of Ministers, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the State Assembly would get at least ₹45,000 hike per month with effect from December 22, 2017.

With approval to The Gujarat Salaries and Allowances of Members, Speaker and Dy Speaker of Gujarat Assembly, Ministers and Leader of Opposition Laws (amendment) Bill, 2018, the monthly salary of MLAs will go

up from ₹70727 to ₹1.16 Lakh.

In the case of Ministers, Speaker, My Speaker and Leader of Opposition, salary will increase from ₹86000 to ₹1.32 Lakh.

The Bill was introduced in the House by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Pradipsinh Jadeja on the second and last day of monsoon session. Instantly without any opposition it was passed by all the MLAs present in the House. With this ₹six crore areas will be given to MLAs with retrospective effect. Moreover, the new salary structure will put an extra burden of ₹10 crore annually on the state exchequer.

"Since 2005 salaries of Gujarat MLAs were not

revised. In most of the other States salaries of lawmakers revised time to time," said jadeja's adding that even after this hike salaries of Gujarat MLAs would remain much lower than states like Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Maharashtra where lawmakers are getting monthly remuneration of ₹2.50 Lakh, 2.13 Lakh and ₹2.25 Lakh respectively.

Accordingly to him MLAs of West Bengal, Odisha and Tamilnadu are taking lesser salaries compared to revised salaries of Gujarat lawmakers.

In the 182-members Gujarat Assembly there are 99 members of ruling BJP, 77 of main Opposition Congress party, one NCP MLA and three independent MLAs.



Kashmiris clash with policemen during a Muharram procession in Srinagar on Wednesday

Hired killer arrested in honour killing case

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Even as Nalgonda district Epolice have cracked the so called "honor killing" case and arrested seven people including a hired killer from Bihar Subhash Kumar alias Sharma, father of the victim has said that he and other family members were facing threat to their lives from the powerful people behind the killing of his son.

Nalgonda district superintendent of police AV Ranganath told a Press conference that the police have arrested Subhash Sharma from Jagatsinghpur in Bihar where he was hiding after committing the day light murder of Pranay Kumar.

It may be recalled that 24 year old Pranay, a Dalit youth, who had married an upper caste girl Amruthavarishini was hacked to death in Miryalaguda town on Friday last.

Others who were arrested include Amrutha's father T Maruti Rao, his brother Sravan Kumar, his driver Samudrala

Siva, friend Abdul Kareem and two other notorious criminals Asghar Ali and Abdul Bari.

Ranganath said that the father had given a contract to Asghar Ali and Abdul Bari to kill Pranay to avenge "humiliation" caused by him marrying his daughter.

Both Asghar Ali and Abdul Bari were accused in the murder of former Gujrat Home Minister Haren Pandya but were later acquitted. They also had record of many other criminal cases and served terms in prison.

During one such imprisonment Abdul Bari had met Santosh Sharma of Bihar who was serving jail term in a case of dacoity and the two struck friendship.

Maruti Rao, a rich businessman who was also in land grabbing and settlement of disputes, had also come in touch with Abdul Bari when the latter had kidnapped him in a land dispute case. The two had later turned friends.

According to the police investigation when Maruti Rao

offered them a huge contract in June last to kill Pranay Bari and Asghar Ali tried to get it done through a Hyderabad based gang. However the attempt was aborted when the gang members turned up in a drunk condition. Later Bari thought of Santosh and hired his services.

The SP said that after taking up the assignment Santosh made many trips to Hyderabad and Miryalaguda and it was in fifth attempt that he managed to kill Pranay.

Police said that when Maruti Rao came to know from his wife that Pranay and his pregnant wife will be visiting a private hospital in Miryalaguda on September 14 for checkup he alerted the gang. While Santosh waited outside the hospital, Bari kept an eye from a distance. When Pranay came out at 130 pm with his wife and mother, Bari pointed towards him and Santosh attacked him from behind with a matchet killing him on the spot.

Shah plans 42 poll war rooms in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Expecting reverses in the Hindi belt which accounted for about 160 out of 190 seats in 2014 the BJP is taking Bengal "very seriously" in terms of 2019 general elections. Consequently party president Amit Shah has decided to personally navigate the poll vessel in the run up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, insiders say.

Accordingly Shah has planned 42 "war rooms" for all the 42 parliamentary constituencies led by seasoned "trans-Bengal" party organisers. The "war room" is also likely to be enriched by some management experts who would in tandem with the seasoned 'imported' organisers train the general workers to go about election campaigning, sources said.

Says BN Chakrabarty a sephologist: "The waning Left Front which got 15 percent votes in the Panchayat polls is not likely to improve its tally beyond 18 percent in the general elections. Add to it Congress committed 8-10 percent vote.

"The Trinamool Congress on the other hand is likely to get solid 28-30 percent Muslim votes. Besides it has its own 15 percent general votes including the standard 5-7 percent vote gained through rigging. Taking into account 2 percent vote for the Independents and smaller groups the BJP is unlikely to poll more than 30-32 percent in the elections."

Suman Mukherjee a political analyst backs this view saying "even in its worst day the Left will poll 17 percent vote. If the BJP cannot pull it down to 7-8 percent it has no chance of winning Bengal."

Though Shah has fixed a target of 22 seats for the Bengal BJP, Mukherjee is unwilling to bet even on its two sitting MPs Babul Supriyo and SS Ahluwalia. "The situation is such that they also might lose their seats," he says adding, the BJP has to do something extraordinary to win this elections.

"In any case till Amit Shah is there you do not know what is going to happen because he does something more than politics to win votes. This time

round Bengal will have to remain on high alert about some extra-political things like riots etc that can polarize votes in one go," said another expert.

According to sources the war room strategists will report directly to Shah in Delhi and not the State leaders to ensure that there is no sabotage. "Plainly speaking the State BJP leaders will have no say in the electoral strategy. They will only give their advice to the party top brass."

The war-room strategists: making a lethal blend of some expert RSS veterans and management experts will send their reports to Shah and Arvind Menon who would after monitoring and scrutinizing reports will make out the final strategy.

Apart from a dedicated "war-room" tactic the BJP is also planning to host a meeting of the minority leaders "in order to alleviate the false fear in their mind." Such meetings is planned not to garner Muslim votes to BJP side but to drive a wedge in that so that some of them are retained by the Left and the Congress, insiders said.

PIL on EVM: Bombay HC issues notices to M-SEC, Centre

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday issued notices to the Election Commission of India (EC), Maharashtra State Election Commission (M-SEC) and two public sector Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) manufacturing companies and others in a public interest litigation seeking investigations into the supply and use of EVMs manufactured by the two State-run companies and a stay on the use of the machines pending the probe.

A HC bench of Justice S.S. Kemkar and Justice S.V. Kotwal ordered issuance of notices to the EC, M-SEC, Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL) and Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) and others to file their say, while hearing a public interest litigation filed RTI activist by Manoranjan S Roy.

The others who were served notices are the Union Home Ministry, IT Department and Maharashtra Government.

The HC bench directed the Additional Solicitor-General of India and state Advocate-General to appear at the next hearing to be held after two weeks.

In a petition filed on behalf of Roy in March this year, counsels S P Chaudhari P



Pawar and Santosh Saroj has urged the high court for setting up of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the supply of EVMs by the two companies. He has also rooted for a stay on the use of EVMs pending the completion of the investigations.

Among other things, the petitioners urged the high court to order seizure of all the EVMs in circulation across the country and take them into its possession, pending the investigations.

In his petition, Roy brought to the attention of the court about the manner in which a large number of EVMs and Voter Verified Paper Audit

Trail (VVPATs) were being ordered by the EC and various SECs and that there were huge contradictions in the figures of orders and supplies made by the two manufacturers.

Roy has based his petition based on the information he received from the parties concerned under the RTI Act.

Roy told the court that according to information received by him under RTI Act, the Bengaluru-based BEL had despatched large quantities of electronic voting machines by 'hand-delivery' and 'by post' to various unidentified recipients.

Quoting the RTI replies, Roy stated that BEL had informed him that it had

despatched 820 balloting units (BUs) of the machines in bulk packaging, and on two occasions in April (2017) it sent 245 (VVPAT) machines 'By Hand', to certain recipients and destinations.

Roy said that on both the occasions, BEL did not state to whom the consignments of BUs were 'posted' or from where the entire lot of the 'hand-delivered' VVPATs originated and whether they were received safely by the intended recipients.

Roy said that for the entire lot of 820 BUs sent through India Posts, there were only nine Docket Nos. assigned for the total consignment, which comprises two boxes with 50 BUs each and one box each with 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110 and 210 BUs.

"This is misleading as each box has a specific size depending on the dimensions of the BUs. The BEL's reply shows the entire consignment was posted in only nine boxes, though the Indian Posts does not accept - nor is equipped to handle - such huge parcels," the petitioner said.

Roy said that BEL had told him that on April 6 and April 10, 2017, that it delivered VVPATs in three parcels -- 65, 70 and 110, respectively -- 'By Hand' and 'urgent delivery' to

avoid the regular logistics route. Alluding to several discrepancies that he had noticed in the "indiscriminate" orders and deliveries of EVMs made by the two state-run companies, Roy said that between 1989-1990 to 2015-2016, BEL had supplied 125,149 EVMs to Karnataka, 169,975 to Bihar, 159,900 to Uttar Pradesh, 140,500 to Tamil Nadu, 87,325 to Andhra Pradesh, 50,850 to Gujarat, 50,050 to Rajasthan, 23,000 to Jharkhand, 10,000 to Delhi, 3,000 to Manipur and 2,000 to Sikkim.

Surprisingly, BEL also supplied 500 EVMs to Chandigarh, which is the only city to get its own machines. Normally, the EVMs go to the respective states from where they are distributed.

In his petition, Roy demanded that as to why the BEL and the Election Commission of India had used different yardstick in the supply of EVMs to Chandigarh.

Alluding to the supply of VVPATs to various states, the petitioner said that he had received information stating that BEL had during 2013-14 supplied the highest number of VVPATs - 2,455 - to Karnataka, followed by 2,275 to Bihar, 2,140 to Gujarat, 1,500 to Mizoram, 1,475 to Tamil Nadu, 130 to Delhi and 25 to EC.

Sania Mirza signs out of social media to keep trolls away

INDIA-PAK CLASH IN DUBAI

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Tennis star Sania Mirza, who is often targeted by the right wing trolls online for her marriage to Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik has signed out of social media for a few days in view of the much awaited and high tension India-Pakistan clash in Asia Cup being played in Dubai.

In a clear indication that she wanted to avoid getting sucked into any fresh online controversy or become a target of trolling Sania Mirza tweeted that she was signing out for a few days. Sania is an advance stage of pregnancy.

She wrote on her twitter handle @MirzaSania, 'soo less than 24 hrs to go for this match, safe to sign out of social media for a few days since the amount of nonsense this gonna b said here can make a regular person sick, let alone a pregnant one Later guys! Knock yourselves out! But remember - ITS ONLY A CRICKET MATCH! Toodles!'

Many times in the past the right wing trolls including the leaders of the ruling BJP had questioned her patriotism and loyalty to India citing her marriage to Shoaib Malik.

Factionalism, outbursts, arrogance to cost BJP dear in Tamil Nadu

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Controversies created by its own leaders have marred the prospects of the BJP making any impact in Tamil Nadu politics, which has been left rudderless by the demises of AIADMK supremo Jayalalitha and chief of the DMK, M Karunanidhi.

H Raja, the national secretary of the BJP, faces series of litigations in the Madras High Court for his reported outbursts against the police and the judiciary, made during last week's Vinayaka Chaturthi festival.

Tamil Nadu advocate general Vijay Narayan on Tuesday issued a show cause notice to Raja asking why statutory consent should not be granted to a lawyer to initiate criminal contempt of court proceedings for his recent "scandalous" comments against judiciary.

Raja has been a keenly monitored "object" in the radar of the non-BJP parties in Tamil Nadu. The BJP leader kept them in good humour with his "foot in the mouth" statements. There was a furor among the Dravidians in the State last year when Raja exhorted the BJP cadre to pull down all statues of E V Ramasamy Naicker, founder of the Dravida Kazhagam. The

DMK chief Stalin had demanded Raja's arrest under the National Security Act for this statement.

This time Raja has company in the form of Tamilisai Sounderajan, the president of the Tamil Nadu BJP. Political commentators as well as her colleagues in the party are unanimous in their view that the lady has become a liability for the party having failed to make any inroads in Tamil Nadu despite a number of favourable factors. "She is a total failure," said a senior leader in Tamil Nadu BJP.

On Monday, Sounderajan and a tiff with an auto rickshaw driver when the latter challenged her over the ever increasing fuel prices. Taken aback by media reports about the spar, she called on the auto driver Kathir and made it a media event. Kathir who spoke to media on Wednesday said that his opinion about the BJP remained unchanged. "Her visit caused a dent on my pocket as I could not go to work," Kathir told reporters.

"Though there is enough space in Tamil Nadu's political landscape for another party and leader, the BJP is not going to make an impact because of poor leadership," said a national level activist of the party. "Show me one person from the State leadership who is capable

of inspiring the cadre," said this leader who did not want his name to be quoted. He also pointed out that party cadre were disappointed over intense factionalism in the State unit.

"The BJP in Tamil Nadu is in Intensive Care Unit and survives on the life support system provided by the Centre. There is no possibility of the party winning a single seat in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections," said Govindarajee Satyamurthy, veteran scribe apolitical commentator.

There are reports ion vernacular media that the national leadership of the BJP is pinning their hopes on Rajnikanth, the superstar of Tamil films to turn around the fortunes of the party. Rajnikanth (68) had declared on the new year eve that he would launch a political outfit and fight the elections. But even after nine months, there is no sign of the superstar's political party coming alive.

The question being asked is whether it is possible for Rajnikanth to launch a party, appoint grass root level leaders and cadre to monitor all polling booths in the State and find out 39 candidates to be fielded from the State. The election is just seven months away and there has been no word from Rajnikanth during the last three months.

DEHRADUN GANG-RAPE CASE Medical report confirms sexual assault: Police

PTI ■ DEHRADUN

The girl gang-raped in a leading school on the outskirts of the city and her father on Wednesday recorded their statements before a local court while her medical report confirmed sexual assault, police said.

A check by the state education department found the school had violated several safety norms and it could soon lose its license, an official said.

The victim and her father recorded their statements before the court of Additional District Judge (Civil) Manju Singh, Investigating Officer Naresh Rathore said.

The medical report has also arrived confirming the victim was sexually assaulted, Rathore said.

Nine persons, including the students accused of the crime, school officials and employees have been arrested in connection with the case.

While three minors boys have been sent to a correctional home in Haridwar by the Juvenile Justice Board, their adult accomplice and five school employees including its director and principal were sent to the district jail in Dehradun on judicial remand, he said.

The school employees were arrested as they kept the heinous crime committed within the premises under

wraps for a month, the police officer said.

The crime took place on August 14 and came to light on September 16 despite the school authorities already knowing about it, Rathore said.

The victim shared her ordeal first with her elder sister who studied at the same school. She informed the school authorities who instead of approaching the police tried to hush it up by threatening to throw the sisters out of school if they disclosed it to anyone, an official said.

However, after sometime the elder sister of the survivor confided it to a relative who approached the police.

Meanwhile, the state education department announced it will cancel the licence and no objection certificate issued to the school.

Chief Education Officer SB Joshi who visited the school said it had violated several norms including installing no CCTVs on campus and not deploying security guards for the safety of students.

CBSE regional officer Ranvir Singh said he had recommended to the head office cancellation of the school's affiliation.

The response to a show cause notice issued to the school to explain its actions was not found satisfactory, he said.

Border tense day...

From Page 1 It is suspected that the BAT members had dragged injured BSF jawan inside Pakistan territory.

Meanwhile, the BSF raised the issue of killing of its jawan with the Pakistan Rangers at the sector level to register their strong protest against the provocative killing.

The issue also came up during the Directorate General of Military Operations (DGMO) talks between India and Pakistan on Tuesday evening. "India lodged strong protest over the killing of the BSF soldier during the Colonel level talks between the two sides on the hotline," sources said in New Delhi.

'HONEY-TRAPPED' BY ISI, BSF MAN HELD BY UP ATS

From Page 1

Later, Mishra started WhatsApp chat with a phone number registered in Pakistan and the details of the conversation indicate that he was being influenced on conversion and Kashmir, the DGP said. The Pakistani number was saved in his mobile phone as "Pakistani dost" (friend), the DGP said, but declined to divulge the number to the media on which Misra had been chatting. Mishra has accepted his crime and several cyber evidence has been found through his phone and Facebook account, the DGP said.

A case under sections 3/4/5/9 of the Official Secrets Act, section 121(A) of the Indian Penal Code and 66D of the IT Act was registered against the BSF constable.

The DGP said that information regarding who all were with him in this network, the motivation which led him into sharing information, whether he got money in return as well and his accounts would be checked.

It will also be ascertained what information he has passed on and what damage has been caused because of it.

Meanwhile, the BSF jawans have been kept in a state of 'high alert' to respond to any extreme provocation from the Pakistan side. Several villagers in the forward areas have been alerted to stay safe in the event of exchange of firing along the International Border.

After the recovery of the body, the BSF authorities in Jammu frontier had escorted team of doctors from Samba to the forward Kandral border outpost to conduct post-mortem late on Tuesday night.

After completing the necessary formalities, the body of the jawan was dispatched to his native place Sonepat in Haryana.

No info from UAE on extradition of Michel...

From Page 1

When contacted by the CBI, the Interpol has also told the agency there is no further development in the case, according to sources.

The CBI had filed chargesheet in the case in September last year, naming former IAF chief SP Tyagi, retired Air Marshal JS Gujral along with eight others, including five foreign nationals. Michel is one of the chargesheeted accused in the case.

In the chargesheet, the CBI has alleged that there was an estimated loss of Euro 398.21 million (approximately Rs 2,666 crore) to the exchequer in the deal that was signed on February 8, 2010 for the supply of 12 VVIP copters worth Euro 556.262 million.

The CBI probe has revealed that during Tyagi's tenure as IAF chief, the air force agreed to reduce the mandated service ceiling

for VVIP helicopters from 6,000 metres to 4,500 metres. Service ceiling is the maximum height at which a helicopter can operate. Reduction of service ceiling led to the AgustaWestland's participation in the tendering process as its copters did not have the capability to fly beyond 4,500 metres.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) that probed the money laundering angle in the VVIP helicopter scam alleged in its chargesheet filed in June 2016 that Michel had received Euro 30 million (nearly Rs 225 crore). He is wanted in India to face trial in the case.

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad termed the order of a Dubai court to extradite British national Christian Michel as a positive development and said the news has created a "sense of unease" in some leaders here.

Ordinance makes triple talaq crime

From Page 1

Under a compoundable offence, both parties have the liberty of withdrawing the case. The proposed law would only be applicable on instant triple talaq or 'talaq-e-biddat' and it would give power to the victim to approach a magistrate seeking "subsistence allowance" for herself and minor children.

A woman can also seek the custody of her minor children from the magistrate who will take a final call on the issue. Citing details of instant triple talaq cases, the Minister said till now 430 incidents of triple talaq have come to the notice of the Government through the media. Of these, he said, 229 were reported before the Supreme Court judgment, while another 201 came to the notice after it. These cases were reported between the period of January 2017 to September 13, 2018, he said.

"What is important is that the practice of triple talaq continues in spite of the Supreme Court having annulled it and the Lok Sabha having passed a Bill which is pending in the Rajya Sabha. We have all the evidence and a series of papers in this regard," he told reporters.

Prasad said he has tried to take the cooperation of the Congress party along with other parties, and had met its senior leader Anand Sharma who said he would get back after talking to the party leadership.

"I had met him five to six times... We had sought cooperation," he said, adding that there was no response from the main Opposition party.

Monsoon...

From Page 1

The US National Weather Services agency said depression would erupt in intensely heavy precipitation over North-West India: South Rajasthan, West Madhya Pradesh, East and North Gujarat, Delhi and West UP. This is likely to pan out over the next 12 to 15 days.

As per IMD data, monsoon withdrawal was most delayed in 2017 and had begun on September 27. In 2016, monsoon withdrew on September 15. Monsoon withdrew on September 4 in 2015 while in 2014 it withdrew on September 23. Monsoon withdrawal saw on September 9 in 2013 while it had withdrawn on September 24 on 2012. Prevalence of dry weather for five straight days and reduction in moisture content are among the main factors considered for announcing monsoon's withdrawal. Another condition is the setting of anti-cyclonic circulation over western Rajasthan.

Agriculturists said the late retreat is not a cause for worry as rains aren't heavy now and hence would help paddy, cotton and coarse cereals, though crops ready for harvesting may face some damage.

Presently, rainfall deficiency is over 10 per cent till September 19. The monthly deficit has increased from 5 per cent in June, to 5.8 in July and 7.6 in August. The country witnessed 750.5 mm rainfall as against the normal of 834.5 mm till date.

Out of total 36 sub-divisions, as many as 26 have witnessed normal rains, while nine continue to remain rain-deficient and only Kerala has recorded excess rain. Despite deficiency the sowing of paddy has been carried out over an area of 1,053 lakh hectare (lh) as against 1,046 lakh hectare covered in the corresponding week last year. Rice, oilseeds and sugarcane have reported a jump in acreage, while the planting of pulses and cotton is marginally lower. At 383 lakh hectare, rice planting is 2.28 per cent higher than that reported in the same week last year.

J'khand carrot & stick policy weans villagers...

From Page 1

Das said, "The mineral rich State is lagging behind due to Naxal activities. Our Government's main aim is to eliminate naxalism. Previous Governments didn't give focus to development issues; however, in coordination with the Central Government, the BJP Government has made policies favouring tribals and Naxals."

Explaining about situation of naxalism in nearby areas of Burha Pahar, Latehar and adjoining areas of Sarju village, the Central Armed Forces Police (CAPF) officials said these naxal groups move in group of 40-50 Dasta (troop) members and the area of movement is Chandwa, Balumath, Herhanj, Latehar, Chatra and Lohardaga border.

Pertinently, seven CRPF jawans were killed in action countering naxals in Latehar district recently.

Enlightening on naxal situation in Jahrahad, a special team comprising, R K Mallick, Additional Director General of Police (Operation and Law & Order), Saket Kumar Singh, DIG, Special Task Force (STF) and Prashant Anand, Superintendent of Police, Sarju range, said the scenario is changing.

"With the coordination of Central Government, we are able to counter this problem strategically, operations, killings are not tough yet. The challenge we are facing is to break ideology," said ADGP Mallick.

The Pioneer interacted with surrendered people who once were influenced and cadre of Maoist.

Ganju (name changed), a graduate, shared an incident which turned his life entirely. "I was politically active and associated with some Chatra Sangathan since my college days in 90s. Our area was deprived and there were no doctors in my village. No water connections were given to us by the Government," said Ganju, who stays in open jail now with his family.

He said, "I was misguided by Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) party members in college days. They (party people) had told me they are working for our people. "We will create pipeline system to supply water in villages. I treated many people suffering from dengue, chikungunya, and diarrhoea when I was with the MCC."

"But, later these people used to meet in groups, planned ambush operations and started targeting innocents to rob money and weapons... I decided to leave the party," he said.

The MCC gave us lecture about Bhagat Singh and Chandrasekhar Azad, said Ganju. "I took risk with my life but I was determined to leave that practices and was ready to surrender.. I was not much

aware about Government policies although, hence I did not ask anyone in my group to come for surrender because this can be a threat for them," he said.

"And, one day without informing them, I left their group and surrendered. Since then they are searching me," said Ganju.

His name was in top list of search warrant list of the Jharkhand Police which had announced a reward amount of Rs 25 lakh for his arrest.

"The Jharkhand Government has provided me job, and is paying me Rs 6,000 per month now," said Ganju.

Meanwhile, STF officials, Jharkhand Jaguar, CAPF said the challenge before them is to crush "Maoist" ideology.

"Circumstances have been changed now, Naxal casualties have been decreases and surrenders are increasing," said Ashish Batra, IG, Special Task Force (STF). "There are new formations of new police stations. We do intelligence based anti-naxal operations with the co-ordination between Central forces and State police. There are surrender and reward policies and we are also working on integrated Security and Development Action Plans and most importantly in our seizure of properties under UAPA, these naxals are surrendering," said Batra.

"Challenges we are facing beside, ideology break are : splinter groups, indulging into criminal activity by Maoists, co-operation from the adjoining states of Bihar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, Prosecution and no recycle," the officer added.

"Efforts are being made to speed up the prosecution process for the under trials help to stop naxals from re-joining their cadre when released on bail," IG Batra added.

According to the State Government database about Naxals, in Jharkhand 21 out of 24 districts are naxal hit.

Presently out of 30 worst LWE affected districts in the country, 13 are in Jharkhand which include Hazaribagh, Lohardaga, Palamu, Chatra, Garhwa, Ranchi, Gumla, Simdega, Latehar, Giridih, Bokaro, West Singhbhum, Khunti, Saraikela, Kharasawa, East Singhbhum, Dhanbad, Koderma and Ramgarh.

Remarkably, as per naxal database prepared by Jharkhand police, in the seven months of current year (till August), forty encounters take place to deter the naxalite. Interestingly, out of these 40 encounters, 24 naxals were neutralised, including five rewarded naxals while four others rewarded naxals surrendered. Moreover, 38 arrests were made of different ranks.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Repairing banks

The Government's decision to merge banks is laudable but more needs to be done to completely repair India's banks

The proposed three-way merger between Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank and Bank of Baroda may not be great news for shareholders but is a continuation of this Government's policy to repair the public banking sector. The fact is that India's public sector banks are still suffering from the lending splurge they indulged in almost a decade ago — a splurge which saw many of the loans, particularly to the physical infrastructure and power sector, go sour, not least due to their gold-plated nature and the political influence exerted. The logic used by the Finance Ministry to merge a very healthy Vijaya Bank and the large Bank of Baroda, which is recovering, with Dena Bank, which is one of the more troubled public sector lenders, has not gone down well with shareholders of the first two banks. However, the need to reduce the number of public sector banks is important. Most public sector banks partook in a 'me-too' thinking in disbursing loans, and the competitive rush to build up their loan book is the reason why many of them are in trouble. It is also important that this new merged entity looks beyond retail and corporate lending and leverage their immense network. While the Government has assured no employees will lose their jobs, eventual employee and branch rationalisation will be important in order to cut costs. While more could have been done to repair India's banks, this Government has done a relatively good job. It must be commended, although the ultimate aim to cut the number of Government-owned lenders to just six remains a pipe dream and some lenders, like United Bank of India, remain in trouble.

On other economic fronts, while the economy continues to grow, the falling value of the Indian rupee and rising oil prices at the pump remain huge concerns. The fact is that Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to have immense goodwill among the public which is why there have not been continuing protests about rising fuel costs. Can and should the Government do more about this? Yes, they should but with social sector spending vital in the months ahead of an election and Modi and his Cabinet unwilling to leave the costs for the next Government, no matter who comes to power, it is unlikely to do much for now. Something that will not make motorists happy. And as for the rupee, it seems closer to having found its 'real' rate for the time being, although it has made a mockery of Modi's promise of a stronger rupee before he came to power. India's stock markets have been reacting nervously to all this but consumer demand continues strongly. However, jobs market remains weak as the rush for low-level government jobs shows. This continues to be Modi's biggest challenge ahead of the elections next year but repairing those problems will take a lot longer than repairing the banks. And with the Opposition unable or unwilling to provide answers as to how they will employ millions short of giving handouts, it is a question to which there seem to be no answers.

50 WORD EDIT Wrong means

The Kerala Government's campaign, making it mandatory for its employees to donate towards flood rehabilitation measures, even though noble, smacks of the paternalistic, daddy-knows-best, statist attitude communists are known for. The voluntary efforts of individuals and organisations, however, have been laudable. The administration needs to find the revenue to do what it wants to in other ways.

Goa game

With Parrikar ill, the State's two Lok Sabha seats are the focus of the BJP's strategy

Those in the know knew, the moment Nitin Gadkari went to Nagpur instead of Panaji over the weekend, that it is BJP president Amit Shah who would be calling the shots in the unfolding political crisis in the tiny State of Goa. The former, who was the party's pointsman when the Manohar Parrikar head-of-coalition Government in the State was sworn in last year, has a fantastic network in the State. He ensured Parrikar's return to the State to helm a coalition which, till he fell seriously ill and told the party leadership he would not be able to continue, comprised the BJP with 14 MLAs supported by two regional parties — MGP and Goa Forward with three seats each — along with three Independent MLAs. The Opposition Congress has 16 MLAs and has already staked claim to form the Government while the NCP has one. Today, the scene is very different. Not only Parrikar but two other senior BJP MLAs are hospitalised with serious ailments. And with the Speaker Pramod Sawant, said to be Parrikar's choice for the Chief Minister's post, eligible to vote in a no-trust motion if moved by the Opposition only in the case of a tie, the party's position in the House is precarious. At the State-level, Shah's gambit is to ensure the Government lasts at least till the Lok Sabha poll especially as his primary concern nationally that the country-wide Opposition alliance taking shape is to ensure that both MPs from Goa are for the BJP.

The party brass is inclined to opt for Union Minister Shripad Naik, MP from North Goa, as Parrikar's replacement but the ailing CM will need to be brought around to accepting his name given these two senior-most leaders of the BJP in Goa have been in an adversarial role for years now. The logic behind the BJP's thinking is that they need to shore up support among the Bahujan community apart from retaining its traditional Saraswat Brahmin/Kshatriya votes and Naik holdsway over the former while being acceptable to the latter. With North Goa seat thus soon up, the BJP would need to find a way of preventing the dominant Catholic vote in the South Goa Lok Sabha seat from consolidating against it. It is here that Goa Forward leader and minister Vijay Sardesai, whose acceptability among Catholic voters is the highest from among those in the ruling coalition, will come into play. But he will drive a very hard bargain. The offer to him is reportedly that he should merge his outfit with the BJP and he would be made Deputy Chief Minister. Sardesai, however, seems to be gunning for the top job and then the Congress of which he was a former leader and stormy petrel, the three Independents who he already has on-side, the NCP MLAs and even two of the three MGP legislators save its leader Sudin Dhavalikar, all come into play.



Salisbury is a nice old English town with a fine cathedral, only an hour and a half from London by train, but it doesn't see many Russian tourists in wintertime. It's not as cold as Moscow, but Russians tend to prefer Mediterranean destinations for holiday breaks in early March unless, of course, they are planning to kill somebody.

The person of interest in Salisbury was Sergei Skripal, a former member of the Russian military intelligence service, who started selling information to the British in the mid-1990s and was caught and jailed by the Russians in 2004. He was pardoned and allowed to go to Britain as part of a spy swap between Western countries and Russia in 2010, and he settled in Salisbury.

On March 4 this year, Skripal and his daughter, who were visiting from Moscow, were found semi-conscious on a bench in the street in

Salisbury and taken to a hospital. They spend weeks in intensive care, and it was determined that they had been poisoned by novichok, a Soviet-era nerve agent that falls into the category of banned chemical weapons.

A policeman who went to Skripal's house was also struck down by the poison, which had been sprayed on the handle of the front door, but he also recovered eventually. Three months later a Nina Ricci perfume bottle that contained leftover novichok was found in a charity bin in Salisbury, and a woman who sprayed it on her wrists died.

Britain accused Russia of sending assassins to kill Skripal and of using a banned weapon. It had no hard proof beyond the novichok, but Skripal was still helping Western intelligence agencies to understand Russian training and techniques, so Moscow had a motive.

Many people pointed out that it would have been foolish for Moscow to choose such a complicated method and risk exposure. Why wouldn't it just hire a non-Russian hitman to do the job? But Moscow has done this sort of thing before: Russian agents, exotic substances, the lot.

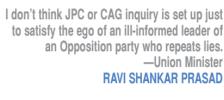
Alexander Litvinenko, a member of the Federal Security Service, got into trouble after his investigation into links between Russian mafia groups and his own organisation made him unpopular with Vladimir Putin, the FSB's

POINT COUNTERPOINT

We have given a detailed memorandum. We hope the CAG will look into the matter and speed up the investigation process into the Rafale deal. —Congress leader ANAND SHARMA



I don't think JPC or CAG inquiry is set up just to satisfy the ego of an ill-informed leader of an Opposition party who repeats lies. —Union Minister RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD



Need for wetland restoration

The destruction of wetlands, one of the crucial ecosystems for humans, plants and animals, must ring alarm bells. Restoration and conservation policies need a re-think



From mangrove forests to coral reefs on the coast to peatlands to floodplains inland, wetlands play a crucial role in the fight against climate change and help make urban areas more sustainable. As countries are increasingly working hard to implement the Paris Agreement, to keep global temperatures well below two degrees Celsius and as close as possible to 1.5°C, wetlands are quickly emerging as one of the most robust mechanisms, especially in urban and coastal areas to not only reliably store carbon, but also act as an effective barrier to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

However, wetlands across the world are getting diminished mainly due to policy paralysis and subversion of land use and this does not bode well for the fight against climate change. Currently, more than 64 per cent of the world's wetlands have been lost since 1990, and as wetlands are destroyed, more carbon is released into the atmosphere, thereby contributing to a global temperature rise. With half of the world's population now living in urban areas, with this number set to increase to 66 per cent by 2050, there is an increasing tendency to encroach on wetlands to build and develop infrastructure.

As humanity progresses and prospers, we seem to be intent on scoring self-goals as far as environment is concerned. Nothing else can explain the undermining of the healthy wetland system that has multiple benefits. Intact wetlands are the first line of defence against flooding in urban areas, acting as large sponges that absorb floodwaters. Coastal cities, mangroves and saltmarshes work as the best natural defence against storm surges and restoring the same can contribute effectively towards the removal of carbon from atmosphere.

According to a study published in the journal, 'Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment', compared to the carbon sequestration potential of marine ecosystems of coral reefs and kelp beds, mangroves, salt marshes and sea grass meadows have the

greatest impact in meaningfully slowing down the process of climate change. The study concludes by terming coastal wetlands as the best of the marine ecosystems to fight climate change. But these very assets to fight climate change are on the decline and are in urgent need of restoration, this would surely have stemming impact on deteriorating environment by firstly cutting the carbon and secondly conserving the ecological biodiversity of the region.

Coastal wetlands take in carbon quickly and hold it for a long time, but if they are not protected, ecosystems could release huge amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, potentially jeopardising the ability of the urban hinterland to handle rising emissions and pollution levels. One reason coastal wetlands are such a good tool to cut emissions is because they're fairly easy to manage and conserve and in-turn provide the best climate change mitigating services, as compared to other natural options, such as marine systems, like phytoplankton. Phytoplankton are dependent on long-term carbon sinks, but it is incredibly challenging to create a policy that manages billions of microscopic photosynthesising creatures found all over the ocean. Compared to options such as these, it's much easier to oversee coastal wetlands.

India, with its growing pollution problems, can find the best solution in wetlands to fight the dismal environment conditions. Moreover, with a 7,517 km coastline, we can develop, restore and encourage wetlands created under the 2010 rules and confer climate change. However, authorities seem to see the real estate potential of the wetlands and not the climate change mitigation potential. In 2017, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change published the new wetlands rules under the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules-2017. These replaced earlier rules dating back to 2010 and in the process also did away with the National Wetlands Authority created under the 2010 rules and conferred all regulatory powers on the State Governments. These rules attracted much criticism from environmentalists and citizens alike at that time.

While the BJP led Government ensured that critical aspects, such as commercial tax collection, were being centralised in order to improve tax collection and control evasion, wetlands management was handed over to respective State Governments with blurred definitions of what constitutes a wetland. This has enabled the State Governments to quickly label these as waste lands that could be developed as landfills or auctioned off for revenue to real estate developers. No other cultured and educated country in the world could possibly outdo what India did to its wetlands; it is the proverbial self goal we always do on matters pertaining to environment.

For a country battling droughts and floods caused by destructive land-use change — say, by changing agricultural lands to industrial use — and climate change, the feeble wetland regulations can have disastrous consequences, especially since only bad environmental laws are diligently enforced. The National Green Tribunal in conjunction with the efforts of the Supreme Court and assistance from the Government must come forward with a unified strategy that includes effective implementation of strict rules to safeguard wetlands. Only a multi-agency effort such as these can have the desired results and prevent wetlands from being misappropriated and leading to their eventual extinction.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE

After cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan took over as the Prime Minister of Pakistan, one had hoped that India and Pakistan will see a swift change in their bilateral relationships. However, Pakistan is in a grip of financial difficulties and with Prime Minister Narendra Modi nearing the end of his term next year, it appears that both India and Pakistan are finding it difficult to upgrade their relationships.

For relations to improve between the two countries, both sides should take a solid stand instead of accusing one another. There is still enough room for both the countries to strive for an economic partnership that is beneficial to both.

Devendra Khurana Bhopal

NOT AT ALL SWACHH

Sir — This refers to the editorial, 'Swachh life please!' (September 19). Five men lost their lives because of a sewage cleaning and septic tank in New Delhi. The tragedy received scant space in the media. May be because people have become desensitized to

what happens to the unfortunate. Similar tragedies take place on a daily basis across the country. A few days ago five manual scavengers died in Odisha.

This week, another death of a manual scavenger was reported from New Delhi. Clearly, the sanitation campaign hyped up as a game-changer has not changed the ground realities and has not prevented the occurrence of such tragedies in the National Capital and elsewhere. The law-gaming and cleaning of septic tanks and septic tanks is more honoured in the breach than in the observance. Much of the cleaning is still done

Flawed idea of majority and minority needs to change

This refers to the article, 'In search of a path to integration' (September 18) by Pratik Goradia. The writer must be complimented for bringing to fore a very suicidal trend that is coming up in the country wherein an impression is being created that India is a country whose life began only after the framing of the Constitution. In doing so, a concerted effort is being made to downplay the event of Partition and, thus, of India's past and also of its being a nation. The fact that 86.6 per cent Muslims of undivided India had voted for Muslim League, supporting the demand for a separate homeland for the Muslims of India, is also being downplayed. It is a matter of history that the remaining 13.4 per cent, who did not support the Muslim League, had come from Muslim majority Provinces and not from the Muslim minority Provinces like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bombay, which were to remain in India. It was, therefore, necessary in the interest of the nation that policies were made eschewing the earlier failed idea of minorities and majorities.



BP Srivastava Noida



As Jammu & Kashmir gears up for the panchayat and local body elections, all efforts must be made for peaceful conduct of the polls. A breakthrough will mean a big victory for democracy and defeat of terrorists and separatist elements

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Polls undeterred by terrorist threats

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Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



PUTIN PUBLICLY URGED THE TWO MEN TO GO ON TV, AND LAST WEEK THEY APPEARED ON RT, A RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL NEWS CHANNEL, TO EXPLAIN THEIR BRIEF TRIP WHICH GAVE THEM ONLY 54 HOURS IN ENGLAND...

head. Litvinenko fled Russia for Britain after Putin took over the presidency in 2000.

Litvinenko remained a harsh critic of Putin, and in 2006, Dmitry Kovtun and Andrei Lugovoy, both former FSB agents, were sent to London to kill him. CCTV images showed the killers with Litvinenko at a London hotel where they dosed his tea with a tiny amount of polonium-210, a highly toxic radioactive substance that would not normally be spotted because it does not emit gamma rays.

That was a reasonably competent operation, exposed only by bad luck. The 2018 operation was different. CCTV images, released only last week, showed Ruslan Boshirov and Alexander Petrov, two 30-something Russian 'fitness trainers', making a brief trip to Salisbury on March 3, presumably to do a reconnaissance, and back to the town on the 4th to do the dirty deed.

But then it got weird. Putin publicly urged the two men to go on TV, and last week they appeared on RT, a Russian international news channel, to explain their brief trip (which gave them only 54 hours in England).

"Our friends had been suggesting for a long time that we visit this wonderful town," said Petrov. They especially wanted to see Salisbury Cathedral, said Boshirov. "It's famous for its 123-metre spire, it's famous for its clock..." But they looked like heavies from Central Casting, and not at all like clock-tower enthusiasts.

'Nekulturny' (uncultured), as the Russians say. Why did they only spend 30 minutes in Salisbury the first time? "It was cold." (It was 10 degrees C warmer than Moscow.) Why did they take another train down to Salisbury the next day? "We really wanted to see Old Sarum and the cathedral." (Old Sarum is an Iron-Age hill fort near Salisbury that was closed on March 4.) And on March 4 one of the CCTV cameras picked them up close to Skripal's house and far from the cathedral or any other tourist attraction. Is Russia deliberately trolling the British Government to show its contempt? Probably not, because it has tried very hard to distance itself from the crime in other international venues. Did Putin's regime put those two highly implausible 'tourists' on RT because it forgot that different standards of truth prevail elsewhere? Maybe.

But the likeliest answer is that these clumsy and self-defeating actions are indicators of how far the rot in the regime has gone. Elements of the system, like the Armed Forces (which have performed well in Syria), retain their efficiency and discipline, but corruption and incompetence rule elsewhere. The Salisbury debacle would not have happened 18 years ago, when Putin's reign was new. It suggests that the regime is a lot closer to its end than its beginning.

(The writer is an independent journalist)

The case for India's cattle in distress

Shocking findings about the running of gaushalas in India calls for a strong public opinion translating itself into public action. Laws alone won't help



Investigations by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO) into the functioning of 179 gaushalas across 13 States and two Union Territories have yielded disturbing statistics. Eighty-six per cent of these use the cattle for breeding. Seventy-six per cent keep these tethered most of the time. Seventy-four per cent are forced to use milk from the cows to generate income for their sustenance, and 64 per cent separate calves from their mothers.

The investigations have revealed that dairies are being run in the guise of cow protection, malpractices in the running of gaushalas and the employment of untrained staff. Things have to change drastically. Staff have to be trained. Alternative products, utilising cow dung and urine, have to be developed and marketed to make the gaushalas financially viable. The FIAPO has chosen as its immediate target the development of the capacities of 100 gaushalas that will help to make them financially strong while being different from the exploitative dairies disguised as shelters.

It will require funds for that. Even if these are forthcoming in adequate amounts through donations, its activities can never be a substitute for governmental actions at the Central and State levels in providing physical infrastructure, training for personnel, and financial grants. These alone, however, will not end the prevailing malpractices in the absence of punitive action against organisations that are culpable. Here, punishments have to be hiked and loopholes in the rules and laws exploited for fraud and malpractices, plugged.

Further, making gaushalas function properly is important but only as a part of the totality of efforts to ensure a fair deal to cattle. The first task here is taking firm action to prevent owners from abandoning cows that have stopped giving milk. The evil, which is not new, has grown rapidly after the banning of cow slaughter by most States, the clamping of restrictions on cattle trade and transportation, and attacks on people suspected of carrying beef or cattle for slaughter. Many of the animals that were sold to butchers are now driven out. I am against the killing of cows, as I am against the killing of all living beings. Abandonment is tantamount to murder, as cattle that are driven away die slowly amidst terrible suffering. Used to being kept in protective enclosures, safe from the elements, and fed regularly, they suddenly find themselves in the open. Those that somehow find their way back to their old homes are often beaten mercilessly with lathis and pushed out.

Exposed to rain and cold — which is bitter in many parts of India, particularly in the hills — the wind and heat, they fall ill and die painfully. Food is difficult to come by. In rural areas, farmers chase them out of villages and the outlying agricultural fields, fearing that they will eat up crops. In cities and towns, they are driven away from parks by gardeners and security guards fearing that they will eat up the grass and plants. There being little grass elsewhere, hunger drives them to eating plastic bags lying all over. The result is poisoning and slow and painful death. In areas close to jungles, they become food for tigers and leopards, particularly of the latter, which now have to fend for food in inhabited areas which have encroached on their habitats.

Even when a cow gives milk, owners consume or sell the bulk of it; the calf survives on the margins of starvation. Male calves fare worse. They are with rare exceptions, driven out almost immediately after birth and left to die. People have title use for bulls, once much in demand for pulling ploughs and/or carts, following increasing mechanisation of agriculture, and the growing spread of automotive transportation.

Stopping people from mal-treating and abandoning cows, bulls and calves will be difficult. It is hard to find space in sheds for bovines where precedence is given to milk cows. But the trouble is that even those who can afford to maintain them, do not, and cavalierly disown their moral responsibility to look after cows they had once exploited to the hilt. Making examples of some of them will help in discouraging such conduct. Punishment under the law, however, will by itself not be enough. There has to be a strong public opinion translating itself into public action.

Meanwhile, besides individual efforts, there is a need for institutional funding and arrangements for looking after cattle that have gone dry. The FIAPO has written both to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, to direct State Animal Husbandry Departments to create a separate fund each for retiring animals and fix the amounts the dairy farmers will have to contribute to it.

Finally, the Central and State Governments cannot ignore the fact that they have obligations towards not just cattle but all non-human living beings ranging from plants, birds, and those who live in the water, to animals ranging from wildlife to domestic and autonomously-living ones like stray dogs. Specifically, the implementation of the canine birth control programme needs to be accelerated urgently.

G David Milton Maruthancode

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

Cabinet defers sugar package

Proposal may come up next week

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet did not consider on Wednesday the ₹4,500 crore plan to more than double the production assistance paid to sugarcane farmers and transport subsidy to sugar exporting mills, sources said.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) may take up the Food Ministry's proposal next week, they added.

The ministry has proposed sharp increase in production assistance to farmers to ₹13.88 per quintal for 2018-19 marketing year (October-September) from ₹5.5 at present.

The proposal to raise production assistance and transport subsidy of up to ₹3,000 per tonne to mills for exports of five million tonnes of surplus sugar is part of the government plan to clear more than ₹13,500 crore dues sugar mills have towards farmers.

On Tuesday, sources had said the government would have to bear about ₹4,500 crore on account of these measures to help sugar mills and cane farmers.

These steps will enable mills to boost sugar export and clear cane arrears, which currently stand at ₹13,567 crore. Mills in Uttar Pradesh owe the maximum at ₹9,817 crore to

cane farmers.

India's sugar output is set to increase further to 35 million tonnes in the next marketing year from 32 million tonnes in this year. The annual domestic demand stand at 26 million tonnes. The opening stock of sugar is estimated at 10 million tonnes on October 1.

The government has taken a slew of measures to bail out cash-starved sugar mills as well as cane farmers in the last one year.

First, it doubled the import duty on sugar to 100 per cent and then scrapped the export duty on it. It also made it compulsory for millers to export two million tonnes of sugar even as the global prices were low.

In June, the government had announced ₹8,500 crore package for the cash-starved industry, which is facing a glut-like situation because of record 32 million tonnes of sugar production in the current 2017-18 marketing year ending this month. The package includes soft loans of ₹4,440 crore to mills for creating ethanol capacity. It will bear an interest subvention of ₹1,332 crore for this.

The Centre had also announced an assistance of ₹5.50 per quintal of cane crushed, amounting to ₹1,540 crore, to mills. Around ₹1,200 crore was allocated for the creation of 3 million tonnes butter

stock of sugar. The minimum selling price of the sweetener has been fixed at ₹29 per kg.

Last week, the government approved an over 25 per cent hike in the price of ethanol produced directly from sugarcane juice for blending in petrol in a bid to cut surplus sugar production and reduce oil imports.

The CCEA raised the procurement price of ethanol derived from 100 per cent sugarcane juice to ₹59.13 per litre from the current rate of ₹47.13.

The price for ethanol produced from B-heavy molasses (also called as intermediary molasses) was hiked to ₹52.43 a litre from the current ₹47.13 but that for ethanol produced from C-heavy molasses was reduced marginally to ₹43.46 from ₹43.70.

EQUITY INFUSION BY RCF IN TALCHER FERTILISER PLANT OKAYED

Meanwhile, the government on Wednesday approved an equity infusion of ₹1,033.54 crore by state-owned RCF in a fertiliser project at Talcher, Odisha.

This plant is being revived at a project cost of over ₹11,500 crore by Talcher Fertiliser Ltd, a joint venture firm of GAIL, CIL, RCF and Fertiliser Corporation of India Ltd (FCIL). The move will boost domestic production of urea

and cut import dependence.

"The CCEA, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilisers for equity investment of ₹1033.54 crore (+) @ 29.67 per cent of the total project cost for setting up a coal gasification based fertiliser project in Talcher Fertiliser Ltd (TFL) by Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Limited (RCF)," an official statement said.

The revival of the Talcher project will ensure huge investment in the fertiliser sector from the government through PSUs. This will create job opportunities and also boost the economy of the state and the eastern region. The TFL was incorporated in November, 2015 with shareholding of 29.67 per cent of GAIL, RCF and CIL each and 10.99 per cent of FCIL to revive the Talcher fertiliser plant.

The JV was formed to set up a coal gasification based fertiliser project at Talcher, District Angul, Odisha.

The share of GAIL, CIL and RCF in the equity of TFL will be ₹1033.54 crore (+ 15 per cent) based on the capex of ₹11,611.48 crore (+ 15 per cent) for the coal gasification based fertiliser plant. GAIL and CIL are both Maharatna public sector enterprises and their Board is competent to approve their equity investment in the joint venture company of TFL, a miniratna company.

Maruti dominated PV sales in Aug with 6 models

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) continued its hold on the Indian passenger vehicles market with its models occupying the first six positions in the top ten best selling list in August.

According to data from Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, the company's entry level car Alto topped the list, selling 22,237 units in August. In the same month last year, the model was at second position selling 21,521 units.

MSI's compact sedan DZIRE sold 21,990 units last month moving down to the second spot. It had occupied the first position in the year-ago month with 30,934 units.

At the third position, premium hatchback Swift from the MSI stable sold 19,115 units last month. It was at sixth position in August 2017 selling 12,631 units. Coming at fourth position in August this year was Baleno with 17,713 units, moving down a slot from last year when it sold 17,190 units.

Another hatchback from MSI, Wagon R retained its fifth position with 13,658 units in August. It had sold 13,907 units in the same month last year. The company's compact SUV Vitara Brezza stood at sixth position with 13,271 units down from fourth position last year.

Rival Hyundai's compact hatchback Grand i10 occupied the seventh position with sale of 11,489 units. The company's premium hatchback Elite i20 stood at eighth position with 11,475 units.

Another model from Hyundai stable, Creta occupied the ninth position with sale of 10,394 units. Honda's compact sedan Amaze stood at tenth position with sales of 9,644 units.

Garg: Import curbs on several non-essential items soon

New Delhi (PTI): The government will soon announce import curbs on several non-essential items, a top Finance Ministry official said Wednesday while terming "the 10 per cent depreciation" in the rupee in the last few weeks as a "temporary phenomenon".

"There are always implications of the dollar and rupee exchange rates ... this 10 per cent depreciation in last few weeks that is a temporary phenomenon," he said at an event organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce here.

To a question about when the government intends to impose import curb on non-essential goods, he replied, "very soon." He, however, did not give any time-frame. Last week, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced the government's decision to relax norms for raising overseas borrowing and impose restrictions on the non-essential imports as part of efforts to check rising current account deficit (CAD) and a falling rupee.

India's current account deficit deteriorated to 1.9 per cent of GDP in 2017-18 from 0.6 per cent in the previous year and is forecast to rise to around 2.8 per cent in the current year. The trade deficit expanded to USD 80.4 billion in the first five months of the current fiscal year from USD 67.3 billion in the year-earlier period. The rupee has logged year-to-date losses of

more than 13 per cent against the strengthening US dollar after trade concerns and firming up crude oil prices. It has dropped close to 6 per cent since August.

Garg exuded confidence that the fiscal deficit would be maintained as per the Budget announcement despite pressures. "Come what may, oil situation, rupee or whatever the fiscal deficit will not be allowed to slip from 3.3 per cent, or better as we go along. I think all the pain points, all the issues which were earlier thought of as something unknown, whether it's the MSP (minimum support price), all these have now been factored into," he said.

On the price rise, Garg said, 4 per cent inflation for a developing economy was healthy, it was not something unhealthy or detrimental for the economy.

The Economic Affairs Secretary also explained that since the dependence of 50 per cent of India's populace is on agriculture, it needs a transition and therefore, required policy steps.

The government had announced various schemes including Ujjwala Yojana, health protection and rural electrification with the intention to bring change in rural India, he said, adding that the government had drawn up a programme for increasing the export of agri products from USD 30 billion to USD 100 billion.

OYO strengthens int'l presence with UK foray

New Delhi (PTI): Hospitality firm OYO on Wednesday said it had forayed into the United Kingdom and intended to invest GBP 40 million (approximately ₹382.93 crore) for its expansion in the country. This is the company's first mar-

ket beyond Asia, OYO said in a statement. The company plans to invest GBP 40 million into the UK market and looks to launch in 10 cities in UK including Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Edinburgh by 2020, it added.

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
COALINDIA	275	281.95	275	275.4	8.3
ONGC	173.25	178.7	173.25	174.5	4.85
GAIL	376.25	385.9	373.7	385	10.2
BPCL	357.5	366.6	353.65	364.5	9.4
TECHM	757	772	751.2	769.95	15.25
INFRATEL	268	272.85	264	271	4.3
TATASTEEL	618	630.8	617.4	621.8	9.05
DREDDY	2,603.40	2,636.00	2,571.00	2,620.80	36.65
KOTAKBANK	1,217.00	1,234.00	1,217.00	1,226.15	10.85
HEROMOTOCO	3,130.00	3,180.00	3,102.05	3,138.00	26.55
SUNPHARMA	651.95	657.25	641.6	647.9	5.4
HINDPETRO	250.2	255.5	247.55	251.05	1.65
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,778.00	2,829.95	2,775.00	2,791.00	17.2
HINDALCO	236.7	240.45	233.55	235.4	1.25
ICICIBANK	320	324.7	317	320.45	1.6
TATAMOTORS	253.55	255	251	252.75	1.25
IOC	152.6	155.3	151.55	153.35	0.75
LT	1,332.95	1,343.00	1,326.00	1,333.10	5.2
TITAN	612.5	629.8	786.1	627.95	3.05
HCLTECH	1,083.00	1,098.45	1,081.10	1,087.15	3.25
M&M	947	965.65	938.2	949.25	2.7
AXISBANK	611.6	622.5	610.35	610.35	1.75
TCS	2,071.90	2,089.00	2,066.85	2,076.00	5.25
ASIANPAINT	1,304.20	1,319.20	1,287.00	1,294.00	1.9
GRASIM	1,061.60	1,077.00	1,052.00	1,068.25	1.4
INFY	727	727	713.2	719.6	0.5
NTPC	171	171.95	168	169.8	0.1
VEDL	230.75	232.35	227	230	-0.15
IBULHSGFIN	1,167.00	1,177.25	1,148.50	1,156.35	-1.9
POWERGRID	199	200	196.2	195.55	-0.35
CIPLA	668	678.45	645.75	662.05	-1.65
ULTRACEMCO	4,088.00	4,088.00	4,045.75	4,049.40	-10.55
RELIANCE	1,224.00	1,224.00	1,201.00	1,212.95	-4.2
WIPRO	333.4	333.55	327.05	331.2	-1.35
SBIN	275.4	282.85	270.5	271.15	-2.65
ITC	304.5	305.65	298	300	-3.25
HINDUNILVR	1,671.00	1,678.50	1,637.15	1,646.20	-18.75
HDFC	1,860.40	1,864.00	1,824.15	1,833.20	-22.5
ECHERMOT	29,097.95	29,370.55	28,280.00	28,530.00	-370.35
HDFCBANK	1,994.85	1,998.00	1,956.50	1,962.15	-27.05
YESBANK	326	328.75	318.05	318.6	-4.95
ADANIPORTS	382	382.1	371	373.05	-6.5
LUPIN	937.95	939.6	901.6	911.55	-17.8
UPL	714	715.75	688	692.5	-16.55
MARUTI	8,425.50	8,448.40	8,191.05	8,202.00	-197.15
INDUSINDBK	1,866.80	1,875.40	1,799.25	1,812.50	-49.65
BAJFINANCE	2,585.00	2,597.70	2,486.50	2,499.00	-71.4
ZEEL	466	467.05	449.4	450.1	-14.45
BHARTIARTL	374.5	380.4	360.3	361.85	-11.85
BAJAJFINSV	6,555.00	6,580.00	6,281.05	6,310.00	-217.6

BSE 500

Script	Last Traded Price	Abs Change	Change %	CHENNPETRO	290.9	3	1.04
3MINDIA	24412.15	-1004.3	-3.95	CHOLAFIN	1316.95	-1.25	-0.09
8KMILES	261.25	12.4	4.98	CIPLA	659.45	-2.8	-0.42
AARTINDI	1310.05	-1.7	-0.13	COALINDIA	280.55	7.1	2.6
ABB	1436.5	-4.8	-0.33	COALSHIP	407.1	-5.45	-1.32
ABBOTINDIA	8420.65	-5.35	-0.06	COPFEEDAY	316.15	6	1.93
ABFRL	188.35	0.3	0.16	COPAL	1117.15	-0.5	-0.04
ACC	1562.35	-7.45	-0.47	CONCOR	622.55	8.05	1.31
ADANIPORTS	372.95	-4.6	-1.22	COROMANDEL	396	-7.7	-1.91
ADANIPOWER	29.25	-0.3	-1.02	CORPBANK	27.5	-0.8	-2.83
ADANTRANS	177.8	-5.25	-2.87	COXKINGS	208.35	-6.95	-3.23
ADVENZYMES	203.9	-3.85	-1.85	CRISIL	1763.85	23.75	1.36
AEGISLOG	216.15	-0.65	-0.3	CROMPTON	226.05	-1.25	-0.55
AIENG	1813.3	68	3.9	CUB	178.8	-0.55	-0.31
AJANTPHARM	1178.25	-9.35	-0.79	CUMMINSIND	724.05	5.55	0.77
AKZINDIA	1637.35	-72.35	-4.23	CYIENT	703.45	-1.55	-0.22
ALBK	39.65	-0.2	-0.5	DABUR	465.75	-3.75	-0.8
ALKEM	2063.5	28.2	1.39	DALMIABHA	2538.05	-41.1	-1.59
ALLCARGO	111.9	-0.3	-0.27	DBL	735.5	-12.45	-1.66
AMARAJABAT	720.1	1.4	0.18	DCBBANK	163.35	-1.95	-1.18
AMBUJACEM	225.05	1.7	0.76	DCMSHRIRAM*	472.35	49.7	11.76
ANDHRABANK	30.85	0	0	DEEPAKERT	237.65	-8.05	-3.28
APARINDS	615.9	-14.1	-2.24	DECPANKI	289.3	20.8	7.75
APLAPOLLO	1558.25	24.8	1.62	DELTAACORP	243.25	1	0.41
APLTD	638.65	6.6	1.04	DENBANK	18.25	-0.85	-4.45
APOLLOHOSP	1072.7	-47.3	-4.22	DHANUKA	531.25	-6.45	-1.2
APOLLITRE	239.9	1.2	0.5	DHFL	610.6	-0.45	-0.07
ARVIND	378.6	-4.7	-1.23	DISHTV	63.35	-2.5	-3.8
ASAHINDIA	332.3	0.75	0.23	DIVISLAB	1389.2	7.95	0.58
ASHOKA	117.5	1.5	1.29	DLF	201.3	-1.55	-0.76
ASHOKLEY	125.8	-0.6	-0.47	DMART	1513.35	-22.25	-1.45
ASIANPAINT	1289.35	-1.8	-0.14	DRREDDY	2603.65	16.7	0.65
ASTRAL	1072.05	-17.55	-1.61	EDELERX	1088.75	-29.25	-2.62
ATUL	3202.1	-0.45	-0.01	EEDWEISS	244.35	-14.7	-5.67
AUBANK	673.45	-0.5	-0.07	EIDERMOT	28442.6	-468	-1.62
AUROPHARMA	775.7	-0.9	-0.12	EIPARRY	230.2	-4.2	-1.79
AVANTI	447.6	-7.1	-1.56	EIHOET	157.7	-3.65	-2.26
AXISBANK	609.2	0.75	0.12	EIGLOEQUIP	280.2	-2.7	-0.95
BAJAJ-AUTO	2795.3	19.4	0.7	EMAMILTD	530.5	-13.55	-2.49
BAJAJFINSV	6555	-45.2	-0.68	ENDURANCE	1371.85	-13	-0.94
BAJAJJUELC	527.05	-3.7	-0.7	ENGINERSIN	125.35	-3.25	-2.53

BSE: GAINERS			NSE: GAINERS				
Current (Chng %)			Current (Chng %)				
DCMSHRIRAM*	472.35	(11.76)	COALINDIA	281.50	(3.04)		
UNIONBANK	78.25	(4.54)	ONGC	177.40	(2.81)		
HFCL	23.25	(4.49)	GAIL	385.00	(2.72)		
TATASTEELPP	167.70	(4.49)	BPCL	364.50	(2.65)		
MONSANTO	3132.00	(3.92)	TECHM	769.95	(2.02)		
BAJAJFINSV	6312.2	-194.8	-2.99	ENIL	629.1	-20.9	-3.22
BAJAJHLND	3056.3	-12.45	-0.41	EQUITAS	137.8	-2.35	-1.68
BAJFINANCE	2499	-71.25	-2.77	ERIS	743.25	5.55	0.75
BALKRISIND	1108.8	-19.8	-1.75	ESCORTS	726.55	-34.1	-4.48
BALMLAWRIE	200.35	-4.15	-2.03	ESSELPRO	114.55	0.8	0.7
BALRAMCHIN	87.55	2.65	3.12	EVEREADY	230.75	1.15	0.5
BANKBARODA	116.3	2.85	2.51	EXIDEIND	267.15	-1.5	-0.5
BANKINDIA	90.15	0.45	0.5	FCONSUMER	48.2	1.1	2.34
BASF	1858.5	2.2	0.12	FDC	241.35	-1.1	-0.45
BATAINDIA	986.7	-16.35	-1.63	FEDERALBANK	75.05	-0.25	-0.33
BAYERCROP	4353.15	3.65	0.08	FINCOLES	540.25	-0.8	-0.52
BHARTIARTL	1657.45	-17.45	-1.04	FINGLOXIND	559.4	-13.2	-2.31
BEL	82.6	-1.25	-1.49	FLFL	411.95	-3.6	-0.87
BEMIL	737.85	-10.45	-1.4	FORBESCO	2460.05	-21.25	-0.86
BERGEPAINT	299.65	0.55	0.18	FORCEMOT	2135.35	-66.5	-3.02
BHARATFIN	1109.85	-34.8	-3.04	FORTIS	142	0.15	0.11
BHARATFORG	638.35	8.5	1.35	FRETAIL	531.75	-6.8	-1.26
BHARTIARTL	369.7	-3.85	-1.03	FSL	69.6	-2.5	-3.47
BHEL	74.6	0.9	1.22	GAIL	384.25	9.55	2.55
BIOCON	669.35	-8.2	-1.21	GDL	162.95	-3.5	-2.1
BIRLACORPN	725.65	14.25	2	GEPIL	739.6	4.25	0.58
BLISSGVS	189.1	4.3	2.33	GESHIP	306.7	12.3	4.18
BLUEDART	3104.5	-23.45	-0.75	GET&D	276.65	-5.75	-2.04
BLUESTARCO	652.3	2.3	0.35	GHCL	251.8	0.75	0.3
BOMDYEING	228.55	-8.9	-3.75	GICHSGFIN	296.05	-6.55	-2.16
BOSCHLTD	20703.4	-					

No place for 'unilateralism' in trade disputes: Chinese Premier

PTI ■ BEIJING

Amid the escalating trade war with US, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday appealed for global support for free trade, saying "unilateralism" does not offer solutions to trade disputes which should be redressed through consultation.

Speaking at the summer session of the World Economic Forum in the eastern city of Tianjin, Li, the second ranking leader of the ruling Communist

Party of China (CPC), also ruled out any attempts by Beijing to weaken the Chinese currency to boost its exports.

"It is essential that we uphold the basic principles of multilateralism and free trade," Li said a day after China and the US swapped tit-for-tat tariffs.

While US President Donald Trump imposed tariffs on Chinese products worth about USD 200 billion on Tuesday, on top of USD 50 billion already targeted, China said

it would retaliate with tariff hike on USD 60 billion worth of US imports to be effective from next Monday.

After Beijing decided to retaliate Tuesday with duties on American products, Trump accused China of seeking to influence midterm congressional elections by taking aim at his political base.

Without directly referring to the ongoing tariff war, Li said solutions "need to be worked out through consultations."

"No unilateralism will offer a viable solution," he said.

He also said China has no intention of weakening its currency to help exporters and will not engage in any form of "competitive devaluation" of its exchange rate.

China will stick to market-oriented reform of the exchange rate formation mechanism and won't pursue competitive devaluation of its currency, he said. "China will create conditions for a stable exchange

rate," Li said, rebutting speculation that the Chinese government deliberately engineered the devaluation of the currency in recent months.

The Yuan depreciated by about eight per cent against the US dollar since March which led to the speculation that it was aimed offsetting the effects of US tariffs on Chinese imports. "Some people think China deliberately [devalued the yuan]; this is groundless," Li said, in an indirect response to

Trump's allegations that Beijing is manipulating its currency, the Hong-Kong based South China Morning Post reported.

"A one-way depreciation will do more harm than good for China," Li said.

"China will not choose the path of bolstering exports by devaluing the yuan... the yuan exchange rate will be kept basically stable," he said.

Li also said China will adopt a stricter protection system on intellectual property

rights (IPRs), a key demand by Trump to protect the rights of US technology investors in China.

Li said that protecting IPRs means protecting and stimulating innovation. China cannot achieve innovative development without an environment that respects knowledge and protects property rights, he said.

He also said China has become a new fertile land for global entrepreneurs and inno-

vation, with new growth drivers breaking new ground for the country's economic development.

Trump has been pressuring China to reduce the trade deficit with the US, totalling to USD 335.4 billion in 2017.

Earlier, both sides had resumed trade talks but at a lower level. Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen held talks in Washington but without much results.

'China took out \$500 billion a year from US to rebuild itself'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

China has taken out USD 500 billion and more a year from the US to rebuild itself, President Donald Trump has said as he defended his controversial trade policies, including the latest move to slap duties on USD 200 billion worth of Chinese imports. Trump's remarks came a day after Trump announced that the US will slap 10 per cent tariffs on USD 200 billion worth of Chinese imports and the duties will rise to whopping 25 per cent at the end of the year.

"If you look at what's going on, our market is going up like a rocket ship. I don't want their market to go down, but their market is down 32 per cent in three months. Because we can't let them do anymore what they've done," he said. He said China rebuilt itself with the "tremendous amount" of money pouring out of the US. "Over the last number of

TRUMP ACCUSES CHINA OF MEDDLING IN US ELECTIONS, CHINA REJECTS CHARGE

Washington (PTI): President Donald Trump has escalated his trade war against China and accused it of trying to influence US midterm elections by attacking American farmers, ranchers and industrial workers, a charge denied by Beijing. Trump did not offer evidence to support his accusation nor did he specify whether it was the upcoming midterm elections in November China was allegedly targeting. "China has openly stated that they are actively trying to impact and change our election by attacking our farmers, ranchers and industrial workers because of

their loyalty to me," the president tweeted. He followed up with a threat of additional tariffs, adding: "There will be great and fast economic retaliation against China if our farmers, ranchers and/or industrial workers are targeted!" The accusation comes one day after China promised to take "countermeasures" against Trump's plan to impose tariffs on an additional USD 200 billion worth Chinese imports. The new duties, which take effect on September 24, will begin at 10 per cent, then rise to 25 per cent on January 1, 2019. China responded to the latest

announcement by hiking tariffs on USD 60 billion worth of US imports. The more than 5,000 products affected include coffee, honey, and industrial chemicals, according to reports. Reacting to Trump's accusation of election interference, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said, "Anyone who has some knowledge of China's diplomacy will know that we will not interfere in other countries' domestic affairs." "We don't want others to interfere in our domestic politics, and we will not interfere in the domestic politics of others," Geng said.

years, China has taken out of this country USD 500 billion and more a year. That would go a long way for Poland, wouldn't it? You could rebuild your whole country. And that's what China did," he said addressing a joint news conference with the visiting Polish

President Andrzej Duda at the White House. Poland is a member of the European Union. Trump said he keeps a close watch on trade deficits as it was "very important". Trump has repeatedly pointed to the large US trade deficit as one of the primary reasons his administration has embarked on trade fights with China, the European Union, Canada and Mexico. "When a country has USD 375 billion in trade deficits, and then many billions of dollars in other liabilities of all different types, one has to do something about it," said the US President. Trump said the US

has become a "piggy bank" to the world. "We have been ripped off by China. We've been ripped off by the European Union. We've been ripped off by everybody," he said. Responding to a question on his announcement of trade tariffs against China, Trump said, "It got to a point where the numbers were too big. This should have been done for the last 20 years. If you look at the World Trade Organisation, that's when China really happened, economically. It was like a rocket ship, because they took advantage of the rules of the WTO."



'Russia probe papers expose bad things'

Washington: President Donald Trump is flexing his executive power to declassify secret documents in the Russia investigation, an extraordinary move he says will ensure that "really bad things" at the FBI are exposed. But the decision, made against the backdrop of Trump's spiraling outrage at the special counsel's Russia investigation, may expose sensitive sources and methods and brush up

against privacy law protections, experts say. The order is likely to further divide the president from the intelligence agencies he oversees and raises new concerns that Trump is disclosing government secrets for his own political gain. Critics of the move say the president has a clear conflict by trying to discredit an investigation in which he himself is a subject. "This radical policy choice is not

being made on traditional policy grounds. It's being made on conflicted grounds," said David Kris, a former Justice Department national security division head. "That's problematic." The Justice Department says it's begun complying with the order, though it's not clear when the documents might be released. It's also unclear if the multi-agency review now underway

might find ways to try to withhold certain information or limit whatever damage, such as outing sources or scaring off would-be ones, that may arise from the release. Trump and Republican supporters want the records out in hopes they'll reveal law enforcement bias in the early stage of the Russia investigation and prove the probe was opened without good reason.

Kim's visit to Seoul, shut missile site



South Korean protesters pay their respects to Korean War victims during a rally against the summit between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un near the U.S. embassy in Seoul, South Korea on Wednesday. AP

AFF ■ SEOUL

North Korea's Kim Jong Un agreed to make a historic visit to Seoul soon and close a missile testing site in front of international inspectors at a summit with the South's President Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang Wednesday. Progress on the key issue of the North's nuclear arsenal was limited, but the two signed a document to strengthen ties between the two halves of the divided peninsula. Building on a growing rapprochement, they agreed to create a facility to hold family reunions at any time, work towards joining up road and rail links, and mount a combined bid for the 2032 Olympics.

The agreement "carries the people's fresh hope and the people's strong, flaming desire for reunification," Kim said. His trip to Seoul would be the first by a Northern leader since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, when hostilities ceased under an armistice rather than a peace treaty, leaving them technically in a state of war.

Moon added that the visit could happen this year and would be a "monumental milestone in inter-Korean relations." In their agreement, the North also agreed to "perma-

nently close" a missile engine testing site and launch facility in Tongchang-ri "in the presence of experts from relevant nations." Moon, who brokered Kim's historic summit with US President Donald Trump in Singapore in June, had hoped to bring fresh momentum to stalled talks between his hosts and Washington.

Whether that would happen remained unclear. In Singapore Kim declared his backing for denuclearisation of the peninsula but no details were agreed. Washington and Pyongyang have since sparred over what that means and how it will be achieved. Trump welcomed Wednesday's declaration, tweeting that Kim had "agreed to allow Nuclear inspections, subject to final negotiations" and adding: "Very exciting!" But experts were sceptical. The North — whose ballistic missile programme is banned under UN Security Council resolutions — has carried out several long-range rocket launches from the site, also known as Sohae, but has also used many other locations including Pyongyang airport. Satellite pictures in August suggested workers were already dismantling an engine test stand at Sohae. Kim is playing this brilliantly: verify that I dis-

mantle a single site that I no longer need anyway while I mass-produce the missiles the site helped me develop," said Vipin Narang of MIT. Moon also said the North could close its Yongbyon nuclear plant if Washington takes "corresponding measures" — a significant caveat.

Arms control expert Jeffrey Lewis said the consensus view was that the uranium enrichment facility at Yongbyon "was built for (the) express purpose of being sacrificed." After the high symbolism of Moon and Kim's first meeting in April in the Demilitarized Zone, and the Singapore summit, progress has largely stalled.

Washington is pressing for the North's "final, fully verified denuclearisation", while Pyongyang wants a formal declaration that the Korean War is over and has condemned "gangster-like" demands for it to give up its weapons unilaterally. Ahead of the Pyongyang summit there had been speculation Moon could secure a promise from Kim of a list of the North's nuclear assets, but no such document was mentioned. "On the denuclearisation issue, the agreement fell short of expectations," Korea University

political science professor Yoo Ho-yeol told AFP. Wednesday's declaration came 13 years to the day after the North committed at the Six Party Talks to "abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes".

But the two Koreas have been pressing ahead with their own rapprochement, with Kim looking to secure economic cooperation from the far wealthier South, and Moon trying to reduce the risk of a US-North Korean conflict that would devastate his country. The Rodong Simnun newspaper, the mouthpiece of the North's ruling party, has carried dozens of photos of the two leaders embracing on Moon's arrival Tuesday, parading together through the streets of the capital, enjoying a concert and toasting at a banquet.

On Wednesday evening Moon's party will dine at a new fish restaurant in Pyongyang opposite Mansu hill, where giant statues of Kim's predecessors — his grandfather Kim Il Sung and father Kim Jong Il — look out over the city. It was chosen after Moon expressed interest in dining at a local restaurant with ordinary citizens. However, a retail shop there sells North Korean caviar at \$50 for a 50-gramme jar — a luxury far beyond the reach of most North Koreans.

Afterwards, Moon will attend a performance of the "Mass Games" — North Korea's spectacular propaganda display featuring tens of thousands of performers against an ever-changing backdrop, made up of 17,490 children turning the coloured pages of books in sequence. The premiere of the latest version of the show, called "The Glorious Country", earlier this month featured video footage of Moon and Kim together at their first summit in Panmunjom — prompting the unusual sight of tens of thousands of North Koreans applauding images of the South's president.

Before returning home on Thursday, Seoul said, Moon will travel to Mount Paektu, the spiritual birthplace of the Korean nation on the Chinese-North Korean border.

'Pak new govt follows consistent policy towards China'

PTI ■ BEIJING

Visiting Pakistan Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa has assured China's top military official Gen Zhang Youxia that the new government, like the Pakistani military, follows a consistent policy of pragmatic cooperation with China. Gen Zhang is the highest military official as he is the vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission (CMC) which is the high command of the two-million-strong People's Liberation Army (PLA). The CMC is headed by President Xi



Jinping. "The Pakistani military and its new government are consistent in their policy towards China," Bajwa told Zhang dur-

ing their meeting here on Tuesday a Chinese defence ministry release quoted him as saying. His assurance about the new government besides the Pakistani military following a "consistent policy" towards China comes in the backdrop of reports of differences over the USD 50 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Projects of CPEC, regarded as the flagship initiative in Xi's multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), figured high during Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's talks with new Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in

Islamabad last month. Pakistan is willing to continue to strengthen pragmatic cooperation with China in the areas of counter-terrorism, equipment technology, and personnel training to ensure the safe and smooth development of CPEC, Bajwa said.

India has protested to China over CPEC as it traverses through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Zhang said China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and pointed to Xi's perception that China-Pakistan relations should be a model of

good-neighbourly friendship, a pillar of regional peace and stability, and a benchmark for international cooperation in BRI.

China has always prioritised China-Pakistan relations in foreign affairs and appreciated the full support of the new Pakistan government in promoting the development of bilateral ties, he said. Together with the new Pakistan government, China is willing to promote their friendly relations further, make every effort to promote the construction of the CPEC and benefit the two nations, Zhang said.

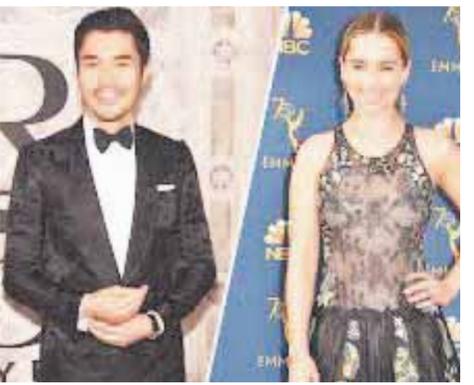
GLOBE TROTTER Angelina Jolie to star in thriller 'The Kept'

Los Angeles: Angelina Jolie has been cast as the lead in new revenge thriller "The Kept". The film is the big screen adaptation of James Scott's 2015 novel of the same name, reported Variety. The story is set in the winter of 1897, where a trio of killers descends upon an isolated farm in upstate New York. Midwife Elspeth Howell (Jolie) returns home to the carnage: her husband, and four of her children, murdered. Before she can discover her remaining son Caleb, alive and hiding in the kitchen pantry, another shot rings out over the snow-covered valley. Twelve-year-old Caleb must tend to his mother until she recovers enough for them to take to the frozen wilderness in search of the men responsible. The 43-year-old Oscar winner will also produce the project alongside Dan Friedkin and Bradley Thomas. Jolie will also be seen in "Maleficent" sequel and "Come Away", opposite David Oyelowo.



Henry Golding, Emilia Clarke to star in romantic comedy 'Last Christmas'

Los Angeles: "Game of Thrones" actor Emilia will star opposite "Crazy Rich Asians" breakout Henry Golding in a new comedy, "Last Christmas". The film, a holiday rom-com, will be directed by Paul Feig, best known for helming movies such as "Bridesmaids", "Spy" and "Ghostbusters". The screenplay will be written by Oscar winner Emma Thompson along with Bryony Kimmings, reported Variety. A release date and further information is yet to be known, though Golding suggested in a tweet on Tuesday that the film will shoot in London at the end of the year.



Our brains wired to be lazy, says Study

PTI ■ TORONTO

Feeling too lazy to hit the gym? Blame your brain, say scientists who found that it is naturally wired to prefer lying on the couch. For decades, society has encouraged people to be more physically active, yet statistics show that despite our best intentions, we are actually becoming less active.



Matthieu Boisgontier, a post-doctoral researcher in UBC. "The failure of public policies to counteract the pandemic of physical inactivity may be due to brain processes that have been developed and reinforced

across evolution," said Boisgontier, senior author of the study published in the journal NeuroPsychologia. For the study, researchers recruited young adults, sat them in front of a computer, and gave them control of an on-screen avatar.

They then flashed small images, one a time, that depicted either physical activity or physical inactivity. Subjects had to move the avatar as quickly as possible toward the pictures of physical activity and away from the pictures of physical inactivity — and then vice versa.

Meanwhile, electrodes recorded what was happening in their brains. Participants were generally faster at moving toward active pictures and away from lazy pictures, but brain-activity readouts called electroencephalograms showed that doing the latter required their brains to work harder.

"We knew from previous studies that people are faster at avoiding sedentary behaviours and moving toward active behaviours. The exciting novelty of our study is that it shows this faster avoidance of physical inactivity comes at a cost — and that is an increased involvement of brain resources," Boisgontier said. "These results suggest that our brain is innately attracted to sedentary behaviours," he said. The question now becomes whether people's brains can be re-trained. "Anything that happens automatically is difficult to inhibit, even if you want to, because you don't know that it is happening. But knowing that it is happening is an important first step," Boisgontier said.

Sharifs' jail sentences suspended in corruption case, to be released

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a relief to the still-grieving Sharif family, a top Pakistani court suspended on Wednesday the jail sentences of the embattled former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his daughter and son-in-law in a corruption case and ordered their release. A large number of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders, including Sharif's brother, Shehbaz Sharif were present in the courtroom and cheered as the judgment was announced.



A two-judge bench of the Islamabad High Court heard the petitions filed by Sharif, 68, his daughter Maryam and son-in-law Capt (ret'd) Muhammad Safdar challenging their conviction related to the purchase of four luxury flats in London through corrupt practices.

"The instant writ petition is allowed and sentence awarded to the petitioners by the accountability court shall remain suspended till the final adjudication of the appeal filed by the petitioner," reads the judgment.

The accountability court judge Mohammad Bashir had sentenced the trio on July 6.

Sharif, 68, Maryam, 44, and Safdar, 54, were sentenced to 10 years, seven years and one year, respectively, in prison and fined in the Avenfield properties case.

The accused were also disqualified to contest elections or to hold public office for a period of 10 years after release.

The ruling comes just a week after Sharif's wife, Kulsoom Nawaz, died from cancer in London.

The trio were briefly allowed out of the high-security Adiala Jail on parole to attend her funeral. They returned to jail on Monday.

The two-judge bench also ordered the release of the former premier, his daughter and son-in-law from the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi.

Sharif, Maryam and Safdar were also directed to submit bail bonds worth Rs 500,000.

Pakistani media reported that the verdict would remain a temporary relief for the former prime minister and his family members until the court gives the final decision on their application seeking suspension of their conviction in the Avenfield case.

The Sharif family is now facing two more corruption cases in the accountability court — Al-Azizia Steel Mills and Flagship Investments — in which they are accused of money laundering, tax evasion and hiding offshore assets.

The cases against the family stemmed from Panama Papers case in April 2016. In a blow to Pakistan's anti-corruption watchdog, the Islamabad High Court also dismissed the National Accountability Bureau's request to first announce a judgment on the maintainability of the pleas. The bench also imposed a fine on the NAB lawyers earlier for using delaying tactics.

The NAB was also pulled up by the Supreme Court on

Monday when it rejected its petition challenging the IHC's decision to hear Sharifs' petitions against the Avenfield verdict.

Chief Justice Saqib Nisar termed the NAB petition as frivolous and imposed a Rs 20,000 fine on the anti-corruption watchdog.

Sharif resigned as Pakistan prime minister last year after the Supreme Court disqualified him from holding public office and ruled that graft cases be filed against the beleaguered leader and his children over the Panama Papers scandal. The Avenfield case was among the three corruption cases filed against the three-time former premier and his children by the NAB on the Supreme Court's orders in the Panama Papers case which disqualified Sharif.

Sharif has denied any wrongdoing and says the charges are political motivated. His supporters believe the real reason he was convicted was because he had fallen out with the country's powerful army. Leader of the Opposition and Sharif's younger brother, Shahbaz, following the verdict, tweeted a Quranic verse to express gratitude on suspension of the sentences. "Truth has come, and falsehood has departed. Indeed is falsehood, [by nature], ever bound to depart," he tweeted.

Zardari challenges Pak SC order seeking asset details

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former president Asif Ali Zardari has filed a review petition against the Supreme Court's order seeking details of his and assassinated former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's foreign assets, contending that it is disrespect to a "martyr", according to a media report.

The Pakistan Peoples Party co-chairman on Tuesday argued that such details had nothing to do with the case and that it was out of context and against his fundamental rights, the Dawn reported.

The Supreme Court while hearing a case on the recovery of losses incurred because of the controversial National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) on August 29 had asked Zardari to submit an affidavit highlighting details of foreign assets and bank accounts, including Swiss accounts, belonging to him, his slain wife, children (Bilawal, Bakhtawar and Aseefa Bhutto-Zardari) and other dependants.

The NRO was promulgated in October 2007 by the government of the then president Pervez Musharraf. Under the ordinance, cases against politicians were removed, paving the way for many of their return to country.

The case was filed by Lawyers Foundation for Justice president Feroz Shah Gilani, seeking recovery of public



amount allegedly wasted against the backdrop of the NRO in 2007.

He nominated Zardari, Musharraf and former attorney general Malik Abdul Qayyum as respondents in the case.

Zardari, 63, argued that the August 29 order had "erroneously" shifted the burden of proof to him, asking him to prove his innocence.

The actual burden of proof, the review petition argues, remains on the party which has brought the case before the court.

The order prime facie aimed at seeking to gather information which would somehow incriminate Zardari, it added. This is against the spirit of Article 13 of the Constitution which provides protection against double pun-

ishment. Zardari has argued that the order failed to take account the practical difficulties that would occur in attempting to gather information required to be furnished in the affidavit sought under the order.

"The record is likely to have been shredded and no longer available, especially when it comes to old property documents and details of their sale and purchase price," it said.

He said the order is also in violation of Article 4, 175 (2) and 187 (1) of the constitution which guarantees rights of individuals to be dealt with in accordance with the law, establishment and jurisdiction of the courts and issue and execution of processes of the Supreme Court, respectively.

Hafiz Saeed to approach court to retrieve frozen assets of JuD

Lahore: Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed plans to launch next phase of legal battle to retrieve the assets of Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and its subsidiary Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) after Pakistan's Supreme Court allowed the two outfits to continue their activities in the country, the JuD's spokesman said on Wednesday.

The government took over around 184 buildings — schools, hospitals and dispensaries — belonging to the JuD and FIF after the promulgation of the presidential ordinance last year and subsequently administrators were appointed there.

The government had also frozen all bank accounts of both organisations and stopped them from collecting funds. Last week, a two-member bench of the Supreme Court rejected an appeal by the government against an interim order of the Lahore High Court on April 5 which had allowed the two groups to continue their "welfare work".

The high court had restrained the government from interfering with the social work of the two groups and also allowed their legal activities. "The JuD and FIF have only got the permission for work but its entire infrastructure is still under the government administrative control. The bank accounts are frozen and funds collection dried up. We will move the Lahore High Court to get the control of JuD and FIF properties back and also seek de-freezing their bank accounts," JuD spokesman Ahmad Nadeem told PTI on Wednesday.

He said the Supreme Court's decision has given the JuD hope to get back its properties to resume its "social and charitable" works. The JuD spokesman said: "Getting all our buildings back, accounts restored and starting collection of funds are major legal challenges for us. We will take legal route, which may be longer — as getting court's permission for charity work almost took seven months — but that is the preferred path for us."

The Pakistani government had taken action against JuD and FIF as they were placed on the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) sanction list. Saeed was listed under UN Security Council Resolution 1267 in December 2008. He was released from house arrest in Pakistan in November. The JuD is believed to be the front organisation for the LeT which is responsible for carrying out the Mumbai attack that killed 166 people. It has been declared as a foreign terrorist organisation by the US in June 2014. The US Department of the Treasury has designated Saeed as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist, and the US, since 2012, has offered a USD 10 million reward for information that brings Saeed to justice.

Pak Sikh community urges India to open Kartarpur border

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan's Sikh community has urged the Indian government to open the Kartarpur border to help facilitate Sikh pilgrims' visit to a historic gurdwara in this country, a media report said Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference here, patron-in-chief of Pakistan Sikh Council Sardar Ramesh Singh Khalsa said if opened, the border crossing will allow Indian pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Kartar Singh and Pakistanis to visit Dera Baba Nanak on the Indian side.

Khalsa said it had been a long pending demand of the Sikhs to open the Kartarpur border for pilgrims, "The Express Tribune" reported.

He also praised the new Imran Khan-led government for its announcement of opening the border for Sikh devotees on the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.

"The entire Sikh community is thankful to the Pakistan government for its noble gesture," he said.

Pakistan's Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry had said his government will soon open the Kartarpur border



crossing with India for Sikh pilgrims to visit a historic gurdwara there without visas.

"Pakistan will soon open the border at Kartarpur for Sikh pilgrims and the pilgrims will be able to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur without visas," he had said in an interview with BBC Urdu on September 7. Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib is situated in Narowal district of Pakistan's Punjab.

The Gurdwara is just four-and-half kilometers from the international border and is visible on a clear day from Dera Baba Nanak in India. Devotees

who are not able to visit Pakistan converge at international border at Dera Baba Nanak and offer their prayers.

Khalsa also strongly condemned the attacks against the cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu for hugging Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa during his visit to Pakistan for the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Imran Khan last month.

Bajwa had spoken about the opening of the border in Kartarpur for the anniversary of Guru Nanak with Sidhu at Imran's oath-taking ceremony.

Malaysia ex-PM held over \$628 mn linked to 1MDB, to be charged

AP ■ KUALALUMPUR

Malaysia's toppled leader Najib Razak was arrested Wednesday and will be charged over allegations that USD 628 million linked to state investment fund 1MDB ended up in his personal bank accounts, officials said.

Allegations that Najib and his cronies looted huge sums from the investment vehicle were a major factor in the shock defeat of his long-ruling coalition in elections in May, at the hands of a reformist alliance headed by Mahathir Mohamad.

Mahathir, 93, in his second stint as premier after coming out of retirement to take on his ex-protégé Najib, has reopened probes into 1MDB that were shut down by the former government, and vowed to bring Najib to justice.

Since losing power, Najib has already been arrested and hit with seven charges related to claims he pocketed some USD 10 million from a former unit of 1MDB.

However his arrest Wednesday was more significant as it related to a central allegation in the long-running scandal — that huge sums from the fund flowed into his bank accounts before a hotly con-



In this May 22, 2018 (file photo) former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, center, arrives at Anti-Corruption Agency for questioning in Putrajaya, Malaysia. Malaysia's anti-graft agency says it has arrested former Najib over the multimillion-dollar looting of a state investment fund and that he will face further charges in court.

tested election in 2013. The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission said in a statement that it had detained Najib as part of its investigations into the fund and "the entry of 2.6 billion ringgit (USD 628 million) into his personal account."

Najib will appear in court Thursday afternoon where he faces several charges related to abuse of power, the anti-corruption commission said. James Chin, a Malaysia expert from the University of Tasmania, said Najib's current

arrest was "much more significant" than his previous one. "I think the Malaysian people will be very, very happy. There were complaints that the government was not moving fast enough on 1MDB," he told AFP.

When reports about the bank transfers surfaced in 2015, they represented a turning point in the 1MDB scandal and dramatically raised pressure on Najib and his inner circle. The attorney-general later cleared Najib of any wrongdoing, saying the money was a personal

donation from the Saudi royal family, and closed down domestic investigations. But allegations related to wrongdoing at 1MDB continued to multiply and the leader lurched sharply to the right. He sacked critics in government, jailed political opponents and introduced increasingly authoritarian laws that analysts said were aimed at silencing any criticism to his rule. Analysts thought Najib's Barisan Nasional coalition, which had ruled Malaysia uninterrupted since independence from Britain in 1957, could never be beaten. But Mahathir capitalised on anger at the 1MDB scandal, and disillusionment at race-based politics in the multi-ethnic country, to push them from power.

Najib, his family and cronies were accused of using money stolen from 1MDB to buy everything from high-end real estate in the United States to pricey artworks. He and his luxury-loving wife Rosman Mansor became figures of hatred. The US Department of Justice, which is seeking to recover items allegedly bought with stolen 1MDB cash in America, estimates that USD 4.5 billion in total was looted from the fund.

Indian employed in UN agency dismissed following probe into sexual misconduct allegations

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

In the strongest disciplinary measure available within staff rules in the United Nations, an Indian national employed in the UN agency for gender equality and women empowerment has been dismissed after an investigation determined he engaged in sexual misconduct. UN Women had said last month that the Office of Audit and Investigation of UNDP had completed its investigation into the sexual misconduct allegations involving the UN Women staff member.

While the staff member has not been named throughout the process of investigation, sexual misconduct allegations were leveled against Indian national Ravi Karkara, who had served as Senior Advisor on Strategic Partnerships and Advocacy to the Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director at UN Women.

In a statement issued here Tuesday, Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said the investigative and disciplinary processes into allegations involving a UN Women staff member have "concluded that sexual misconduct occurred". "As a result, I have dismissed the staff mem-

ber; this is the strongest disciplinary measure available within the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations (UN). Consequently, the staff member is prohibited from employment within the UN system," she said.

Karkara is not named in the statement. However, he was under investigation for sexual misconduct after at least eight men had accused him of using his prestige and position to sexually harass them, five sources with knowledge of the investigation had told Newsweek.

Mlambo-Ngcuka further confirmed "emphatically" that the former staff member "cannot be protected by diplomatic immunity." She said although UN Women does not have the authority to prosecute, the UN is guided by its obligation to bring credible allegations of criminal conduct to the attention of relevant national authorities.

"UN Women stands ready to cooperate with any national authority that decides to investigate this matter," she said, adding that UN Women has made every effort to offer victim support throughout the investigation. "We hold ourselves accountable to ensure a victim-centred approach in fulfillment of our mandate to advance and protect gender equality as a

fundamental human right," she said.

In line with UN Secretary-General António Guterres's commitment of zero-tolerance to violence against women, Mlambo-Ngcuka said UN Women continues to advocate for a world free of violence and abuse. "Our work with others across the entire UN system is rooted in improving policies and practices in this regard."

The Executive Director had appointed earlier this year Purna Sen as Executive Coordinator on Sexual Harassment to engage with survivors so that they are supported in a range of areas.

Sen had told PTI earlier that zero tolerance to sexual exploitation and abuse must be strictly followed and practiced and that those who show the courage to speak out against abuses should not feel judged.

She had also added that the UN agency wants to change the dynamics and culture in which men and women feel that their position of seniority and authority entitles them sexually to other more junior staff, interns and young people.

A UN spokesperson had previously confirmed to PTI that the individual under investigation was Karkara. Reports of the allegations against Karkara surfaced early last month. UN

Women had said back in December 2017 that it received allegations of sexual misconduct involving one of its staff members, again not naming Karkara.

According to Newsweek, Steve Lee, a 25-year-old policy activist, who had addressed the United Nations and was a member of the Major Group for Children and Youth, is among the men accusing Karkara of misconduct.

According to his profile, Karkara has worked with UN Women, UNICEF, Save the Children among others. He serves as Global Advisor on Youth with UN-HABITAT and had represented UN-HABITAT as the co-chair of the UN Intergency Network on Youth Development. He also co-chaired the Policy Strategy Group for World We Want 2015 — largest UN & civil society post-2015 data-curation-visualization Big Data platform. It said he has written more than 80 publications and has given keynote and panel addresses.

According to a latest report in The Guardian, other individuals, including 26-year old Muhammad Junaid Mandoori, had alleged that he had been stalked online, sent indecent images and asked for sexual favours in return for opportunities within the UN.

Russian model claims Putin tried to kill her

PTI ■ LONDON

London: A Russian model critical of Vladimir Putin's regime on Wednesday claimed that the Russian president had tried to kill her, in the latest poisoning scare at an Italian restaurant in the town of Salisbury, southwest England, where a former Russian spy and his daughter were poisoned.

The town where former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were found collapsed after being poisoned by the deadly "Novichok" nerve agent earlier this year in March had been cordoned off by Wiltshire Police on Sunday after reports of two people being taken ill.

While police have since ruled out any Novichok link to Sunday's incident, 30-year-old model Anna Shapiro told "The Sun" newspaper that she and her husband were the two people targeted with suspected rat poison. "I was targeted by Putin's henchmen. They want me dead as I oppose Putin and have turned my back on my country. Russia is capable of anything," she told the newspaper. "I'm sure the Russians think I'm a British spy. I know lots of rich businessmen in central London and because I have the accent people make assumptions about me," she said. AP

Indian-origin family targeted in UK hate crime arson attack

PTI ■ LONDON

An Indian-origin family of four in the UK had a lucky escape when their house was targeted in an "unprovoked" arson attack which the police is treating as a hate crime. Mayur Karlekar, called as Mac Karlekar, and his wife Ritu and two young children were asleep in their home late on Saturday night when they were woken up by their neighbours, who had called in the fire brigade to tackle a huge blaze outside their home in south-east London's Borkwood Park area of Orpington.

"The Metropolitan Police is investigating this as a hate crime. It is being dealt with as a case of arson and criminal damage. No arrests have been made so far," a Metropolitan Police spokesperson said on Wednesday. CCTV images from the area reportedly show a group of four-five youths, dressed in hoodies, attempting to start a fire on the hedges outside the Karlekar's home.

"We all were sleeping and were luckily woken up by neighbours on time. Though most of the damage was done to the hedges leaving the house now exposed, my son's bedroom was just saved — he was sleeping in it at the time of the incident," said Karlekar, a digital consultant who move to the UK from Mumbai in the late 1990s. "We are glad it was stopped on time but the damage to our neighbourhood, our society, to our home has been done, irreversibly. We have not caused any trouble to anyone and have only helped others in all our lifetime. I was special police myself doing voluntary unpaid work. This act happening to us was a complete shock," said the 43-year-old, who has been appealing for information to bring the suspects to justice across various social media channels.

media reveal huge flames and extensive damage to the outside of the property in the residential suburb in the borough of Bromley in London. Karlekar has expressed his unhappiness with the nearly 32-hour delay in the Met Police starting their investigation into the case.

"This is the second incident in this area, the first one being a robbery, but we feel more may have happened or are going unreported. We want those people to come out and raise their voice too," he said.

British police describe hate crimes as those perceived as motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic and monitor it under five strands — race or ethnicity; religion or beliefs; sexual orientation; disability; or transgender identity.

According to official figures released earlier this year, incidents of hate crime had registered a spike in the immediate aftermath of the Brexit referendum in 2016. There were 80,393 offences in 2016-17, compared with 62,518 in 2015-16, the largest increase since the UK Home Office began recording these figures in 2011-12.

Images posted on social

'EDUCATION IS PHILANTHROPY'

LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI is fondly remembered for his integrity, simplicity and grit. His son **ANIL SHASTRI** has fond memories of his father and explains the relevance of Shastri's vision of education in modern times to **ANKITA SAXENA**

Despite his short tenure of 19 months as India's second prime minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri's towering personality is firmly etched in the memory of the nation even after half a decade of his untimely demise. He earned the nation's respect with his tough decisions taken during the Indo-Pak war in 1965. His teachings and ideas about higher education are being carried forward by his son and the former Union Minister Anil Shastri, who is the Chairman of Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, Delhi. Excerpts:

■ Please share some of your memories about your father. How was he like?

Shastriji was affectionately called 'nanhe' when he was young. I remember a story about him when he was once canned by his teacher for not bringing an English reader to class. Sharp in studies, he had copied the textbook after borrowing it from a friend since he could not afford it. Shastriji's education was financially supported by one of his mentors, Nishkameshwar Prasad Mishra. A man of principles, Shastriji did not accept this help for free and as compensation, tutored Mishraji's children. He enrolled in Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi and graduated with a degree in philosophy and ethics. He was an eminent scholar and could speak, read and write in Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Persian and Urdu. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, he joined the freedom struggle movement. Though he went through a lot of difficulties and was jailed on several occasions, he never spoke to us about his hardships and never complained. He believed that the past has already taught its lessons and there is no point brooding over it.

He taught us to be honest and morally responsible for our actions. Lala Lajpat Rai, a prominent leader of the Congress party had formed the Servants of the People Society, which provided financial aid to the poor freedom fighters. Shastriji used to get ₹50 as a monthly allowance. Once he asked my mother if she was receiving the money on time, to which my mother responded in the affirmative and added that she was able to manage the household expenses within ₹40. Shastriji wrote to the society asking them to reduce his allowance to ₹40 and give the balance to some other needy person. This allowance was a charity and not earned by him and thus he never kept the money with him. These incidences have defined his character and many have learnt from him over the years.

■ What aspects of your father inspire you the most?

Of the many things about Shastriji, there are three prominent characteristics that have

inspired me and I believe that the youth today can learn from him. His simplicity was an important part of his personality. He was never attracted to the worldly items and materialistic things and remained a common man, rooted to the ground. When he became the Prime Minister, he continued to wear his simple clothes and would walk to his office rather than use cars. After he joined the office as the PM, he got a good house to live in and I asked him to get the bedroom carpeted. He refused to the request and retorted, saying, "I am a Prime Minister of a country where many don't even have a roof over their heads."

His integrity and honesty is remembered by many. He bought a car for the family by taking a loan of ₹5000 from the Punjab National Bank, which was later repaid by my mother from her pension after his demise. Despite his

THE LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, IN A VILLAGE IN ALLAHABAD, IS UNIQUE AS IT OFFERS HIGHER EDUCATION PROSPECTS TO THE STUDENTS OF REMOTE AREAS

short stature, Shastriji was a man of determination and grit. He felt no inferiority and dealt with complex issues with a firm hand. It is important for a good leader to have a high-risk taking ability and Shastriji took tough decisions during his role in the Indo-Pak war which has earned him respect over the years.

■ What were Shastriji's ideas on education and how has the spectrum changed today?

Shastriji's concept of education was very clear. He felt that every student must have the basic knowledge of science and laid emphasis on the importance of higher education. This can be related to today's need of modern technology. He also felt that parents should only guide their children towards possible professional pursuits and not force their line of thought on them. He also advocated that since jobs were limited in proportion to the population of the country, it is important that students are trained in accordance with employability. Shastriji also emphasised that the government should not be the only responsible party to impart education. He encouraged the private players in education to reach a larger number of young people and reduce the burden on the government education institutes. He gave the example of the Harvard University which though was a private player, but ranked the best in the world. It is unfortunate that today education has become a commercial arm. My appeal to all such institutes is that education is a philanthropic work and institutions should restrict themselves to promoting higher education. A suggestion to the government is to make a percent of the income of the institute taxable and allow the stakeholders to share the dividend.

■ How is the Lal Bahadur Shastri

Institute of Management in Delhi different from the rest?

We have not deviated from the practices of Shastriji. We are grounded in ethics and do not compromise on the teaching or the quality of courses. We have surrendered management quota since we do not believe in making money from education. Today, many institutes are siphoning off money from government grants, earning money through admissions which I believe is against the philanthropic nature of educational institutes. I feel that the money received by the institute should be ploughed back into the betterment of its facilities. In terms of quality, every faculty needs to be a Ph.D to teach at the Delhi institute. We are always updated with the latest trends in the corporate world and revise the syllabus every year to accommodate new learning modules in accordance with the needs of the industry. We also introduce new courses as per the requirement of the market. The institute emphasises on imparting entrepreneurial skills. Students who do not want to relocate to cities according to jobs or have family business are trained to set up their own ventures. Apart from the management education, we run the Lal Bahadur Shastri Polytechnic institute in Manda, a small village in Allahabad. This is a very different concept and not a 'me too' product as it aims to offer higher education in the remotest area. We have made sure that the students are provided with state-of-the-art infrastructure and modern facilities.

■ There is an increasing sense of cynicism in the country and instances of intolerance have lately turned violent. How do you respond to that?

Violent activities are on the rise all across the world and it is important to understand that regional aspirations are increasing globally. Our history is testimony to the fact that despite many invasions, India has retained its identity. This is because we have been a civilised society for centuries. We had structured living, governance, currency, defense protocols in various forms and thus have retained our essence. However, the governing bodies over the years have not been sensitive or have failed to comprehend the regional aspirations of the people. The cynicism is a knee-jerk reaction now. Political parties unfortunately tried to understand the people of this country while sitting in AC rooms through feedback from specialists and data collected from remote assets. This had led to a disconnect between the government and the people whereas earlier times the leaders were born from the grassroots and they understood the pulse of the nation. The leaders have to empathise with the difficulties of the people to gauge the gravity of the situation

■ What is your idea of nationalism? How do you think it can be promoted?

It is important to note that the increasing regional aspirations are not clashing with the integrity of India as a nation. Different regions may demand separate states, but they are proud to be Indian. Nationalism has to be understood in the right perspective. It is a concept where one is dedicated and devoted to the cause of the nation. Small, day-to-day activities like dirtying the roads or surroundings are against the well-being of the country. I believe that someone who is singing the national anthem and unfurling the national flag, but is also siphoning off money, is not a nationalist. I feel nationalism is practiced everyday.



Cleanliness and connectivity key to growth: Goyal

The Union Minister for Railways and Coal Piyush Goyal, believes that unless the infrastructure and fundamentals are set up, India cannot come up as a sought-after tourist destination. "The present government has been developing facilities like ensuring 24 hour power supply, promoting renewable energy forms and improving connectivity by effectively connecting the remotest destinations. The most important element that will help promote tourism in a complete way is the government's cleanliness drive—Swachhta Abhiyan, which will ensure that India becomes a preferred destination for all international tourists." He was speaking at the inauguration of the maiden edition of the India Tourism Mart (ITM 2018) organised between September 16 and 18 in Delhi.

Goyal elaborated that no country can attract international tourists until the visitors feel the country is safe and clean. "The efforts we have undertaken in the last four years to bring about cleanliness is certainly going to be one of the defining features to promote tourism in the nation in a big way," he said.

He further informed that the government has fast-tracked the country's connectivity mission and the effort to connect the remotest parts of India with efficient modes of transport is ongoing.



Sharing details about initiatives taken by the Indian railways towards facilitating tourism, Goyal said, "Very recently, we have significantly reduced the pricing of the luxury trains to encourage more and more tourists to travel in these trains to see and explore the beauty of our nation. I would like to urge all to crowd-source ideas and help us with newer initiatives to help us to meet the ambitious targets we have set for the tourism industry."

The Railway Minister also acknowledged the income multiplier effect in the tourism sector and pointed out that this sector generates a number of employment opportunities in the formal and informal sectors and can change the destiny of the country. He commented that the youth of the country can be entrepreneurs, service providers, interpreters and so on in the tourism sector and ascertained that India with its varied features has tremendous potential and India just needs to leverage from it.



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

CORPORATE BRIEFS

INDIANOIL CELEBRATES HINDI LANGUAGE

Hindi Fortnight was observed with great enthusiasm at IndianOil's Refineries Headquarters from September 1 to 14. A gamut of activities were organised for IOCIans which saw enthusiastic participation, underlining a deep bond and affinity for the language. The celebrations culminated with V K Shukla, Executive Director (HR), Refineries HQ, presenting awards to the winners of various competitions organised during the Hindi fortnight, in the presence of senior IndianOil functionaries.



TRIBES INDIA'S 43RD OUTLET OPENS IN ORISSA

The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Jual Oram, inaugurated the TRIFED's 43rd 'Tribes India' outlet at Satyanagar, Orissa. The TRIFED is presently operating through a retail chain network of 42 own outlets, 33 consignment outlets and 14 franchise outlets located across the country through which it promotes and markets a wide range of ethnic and traditional tribal handicraft and handloom products.



AAI WINS INDIA GREEN ENERGY AWARD 2018

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) won the India Green Energy Award for the year 2018 in the category—"Innovative initiative of outstanding Green Energy in transport sector-For infrastructure" during the panel discussion on "National Biofuel Policy 2018 and its impact on Energy Security" at New Maharashtra Sadan, New Delhi. The award was presented by Suresh Prabhu, the Minister for Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation and was received by Anil Kumar Sharma, ED (PMQA & EMC) and Rakesh Kalra, ED (Engg-NR) along with N B Goel, Jt GM (Engg-NR) on behalf of AAI.



PDIL CELEBRATES HINDI PAKHWARA

Hindi Pakhwara was launched at Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL) corporate office in Noida on the occasion of Hindi Divas. The CMD of PDIL distributed prizes to the students of the Rajkiya Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, New Ashok Nagar in Delhi for essay and drawing competitions organised by PDIL in the school under the Swachhta Pakhwara.



TATA POWER-DDL IS AN OUTSTANDING GREEN CAMPAIGNER

The Tata Power Delhi Distribution (Tata Power-DDL) has been conferred with the 'Outstanding Green Campaigner-Organisation' award for active promotion of rooftop solar and innovative energy efficient projects at India Green Energy Awards 2018 organised by the Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE) in association with Care Ratings. The award was received by Sugata Mukherjee, DGM, Tata Power-DDL.



Statue of Unity to be a tourist attraction

■ How has tourism fared in the state so far?

We have recorded a year-on-year growth of 17 per cent in tourist arrivals to Gujarat. Last year, we recorded a total of 5.2 crore tourists out of which 10 lakh were international. Though this amounts to two per cent of the total tourist numbers and the figures are growing every year, we are not happy with the numbers and are working hard to tap into the potential of unexplored destinations in the state.

■ Which tourism circuits is the state promoting? Are there any upcoming projects?

The Statue of Unity, the iconic 182 meter landmark dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, is our key concentration area. The Prime Minister and the Chief Minister have taken keen interest to develop the entire area around the statue into an attraction for tourists. In line with the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, we are popularising the Gandhi circuit and the Dandi March circuit. For the inbound tourism segment we are focusing on showcasing our world heritage cities like Ahmedabad. The city is very well-connected from major airports and can be added as an extension to the Golden Triangle circuit. Depending on the interests of the tourists, Gujarat offers nature, culture, heritage, pilgrimage, wildlife, festivals and niche tourism products among others. Experiential tours are in demand and we are creating new itineraries to cater to this segment. The Rann of Kutch, the white sand desert, is a unique experience for tourists and many activities are offered here. There are many Buddhist sites in Gujarat which are being developed for tourists from East Asia.

Gujarat, a vibrant state of culture and heritage, is positioning itself as a foremost tourist destination. The Commissioner of Tourism and Managing Director of Tourism Corporation of Gujarat **JENU DEVAN**, talks to **ANKITA SAXENA** about new attractions and experientials



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

■ What is the state doing to improve tourist infrastructure?

Under several schemes of the Centre and the state government, we are focusing on enhancing the way-side amenities, creating facilitation centers and making sites of tourist interest into smart destinations. We

have also undertaken a cleanliness drive across 54 destinations in 33 districts of the state.

We have a good budget for tourism, almost ₹450 crore which is being judiciously used. Under the State Tourism Policy 2015-20, we have received applications from

nearly 300 units out of which 120 have already been commissioned. Over the last few years, tourism and hospitality sector has attracted investments worth ₹11,000 crore. We plan to develop basic tourist infrastructure at some unexplored destinations in the state to increase its attractiveness.

■ What is the state's marketing strategy for tourism?

The demands of the domestic and international tourists are quite different and we are trying to understand them. We will focus on market-specific promotions. Keeping in mind the duration of stay of tourists and their spending capacity, we will offer specific products at international tourism marts and other fairs. For the domestic market the Tier-II and Tier-III cities are our major focus areas.

■ Are there any niche tourism products of offer in the state?

We are promoting Gujarat through its cuisine, handicrafts and festivals. We have created videos to acquaint the tourists with the state's vibrant culture. We are also offering golf tourism. There are eight golf courses near Ahmedabad and Baroda. Those who host conferences and meetings in the state, can spend their leisure time at these golf courses which also have good accommodation facilities.

■ How fruitful was your participation at IMT 2018?

Our participation at the India Travel Mart gave us an opportunity to interact with the foreign tour operators directly to understand their demands and requirements. We have a lot to offer to the inbound tourists. Many countries have shown interest including the US, UK, Israel, Lithuania and Ukraine among others.

Trend Blazer

Badshah dropped ONE for Arjun

Rapper **BADSHAH**, who was busy with his album *ONE* (Original Never Ends), says that he dropped everything to do a song for **ARJUN KAPOOR'S** film. "Arjun wanted a song with me and I dropped everything to make it happen." Badshah said. The song *Bhare bazaar* from Arjun's forthcoming film *Namaste England* released on Tuesday and has already received 6,675,386 views on YouTube. "I was deep into making my album when I began working on *Bhare bazaar* with Rishi Rich. We had a blast on the set" Badshah added. His album, consisting of 17 tracks has also been received well.



Women should speak for themselves. They should say whatever they feel and do whatever they want to. Every girl should pursue their passion and follow their dreams. And these small choices will strengthen our women and will make them more confident. —Sunny Leone



Film producer **SIDDHARTH ROY KAPUR** thinks the 2014 Malayalam film *Bangalore Days* deserves a Hindi remake. "The depth of their storytelling, quality of their acting and quality of their filmmaking is really superb, so whenever there is a Malayalam film which becomes a point of discussion among people, I try to make it a point by watching it because I learn a lot by watching what they are doing in Malayalam cinema," said Kapur.

Gaga overcome by emotion

Singer-actress **LADY GAGA** was moved to tears at the 2018 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) after she was praised for her performance in *A Star Is Born*. In the film, the singer plays Ally, a struggling artist who has given up on her dream of becoming a singer until seasoned musician Jackson Maine (Cooper) convinces her to try again. "I watched (Cooper) work tirelessly on this film, giving it everything, and you never stopped. Nobody here did," she said. She has received critical acclaim for her performance in the film with critics calling her dynamite.



'ARTISTES AND ART HAVE NO BOUNDARIES'

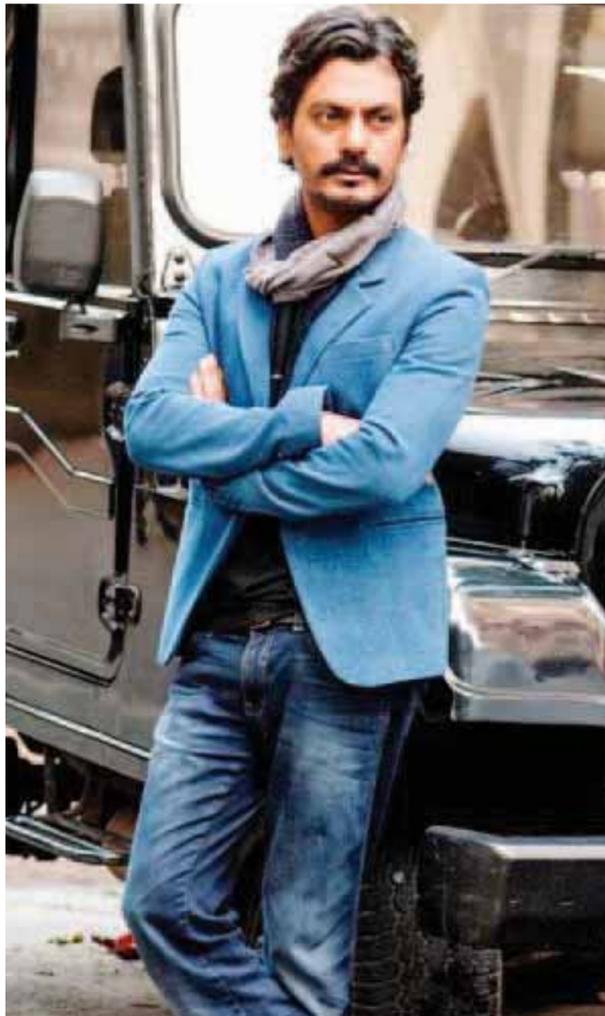
Actor **NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI** believes that India and Pakistan have a lot in common and need to reach out to each other

Speaking at a promotional event in Delhi, Nawazuddin says, "My character is of a personality who has been daring and courageous to bring the reality to the fore. While shooting and playing the character, I felt that even though there are certain methods and craft to portray and bring alive a character, playing a character like Manto is very difficult. I have tried really hard and you can see through the film that how honestly his character has been showcased."

Nawazuddin believes that the story of *Manto* is very much relevant today. "The stories he wrote in 1940, and the way he looked at the world... Nothing much has changed since then as far as society is concerned. His stories are very much relevant today. In fact, we were shocked to see that we haven't changed much, and to see that there hasn't been much growth as an individual and a society."

Manto, co-produced by HP Studios, Filmstoc and Viacom18 Motion Pictures, which gives a glimpse into the writer's life during the tumultuous Partition of the sub continent.

Talking about Partition Nawaz said, "We can't imagine the agony that millions of people endured during partition. Imagine a person having to leave behind



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his home of the past 40-50 years and settling down in a new country. We can't even think the magnitude of the tragedy."

Since the two countries have so much in common, Nawazuddin doesn't agree putting even a temporary ban on

Pakistani talent working in the Hindi film industry. "Artistes and art has no boundaries," he asserted.

Manto, who died in 1955 at the age of 43 in Pakistan, the country to which he decided to migrate from his beloved Mumbai, penned an impressive body of work which touched on genres like women, Partition. He churned out about 22 collections of stories comprising a novel, essays, personal sketches and movie scripts. His work also gained attention for weaving stories around the ordeal of Partition, freedom of expression as well as sexuality. His straightforward writing got him in trouble as he was charged with obscenity six times for his short stories, thrice before 1947 and thrice after.

"The film is very personal. It will haunt people. You will feel a connect with the story. And the reason behind that is that every one wants to tell the truth, but there are many factors and pressures of the society stopping them from saying the truth."

The actor is "proud of this project". However, in the troubled times that we live in, he is a little unsure of the audience reaction to it.

Since Manto's writings frequently talked about women, the author discussed the issues of pay parity, women empowerment and #MeToo movement, Nawazuddin hopes for a similar effect in India.

The actor says it is time to give women the respect they deserve. "We need to introspect about the way we have treated women for centuries. It is time to change. It is time to look at them from a different perspective. We need to understand their thoughts, desires and feelings, and respect them," said the actor.

The actor, who has made his mark in films like *Gangs of Wasseypur*, *The Lunchbox*, *Liar's Dice*, *Badlapur* and *Manjhi: The Mountain Man*, will soon be seen bringing the life of writer Saadat Hasan Manto alive on the big screen with *Manto*, directed by Nandita Das.

The film releases on Friday.

FROM THE KANGAROO LAND



Borders, oceans or mountains might separate different nations. But cultures and traditions can be a unifying force. The Australia Fest 2018 aims to do just that as it travels across India for six months, says Team Viva

The Bangarra dance troupe, Australia's most prominent orchestra band will be there and so will the Melbourne International Comedy Roadshow with many more internationally-acclaimed performers, artists, comedy lovers, dancers, musicians and all kinds of troupes. The Australia Fest 2018 will give a glimpse of the country's culture and arts as it pans out across 20 Indian cities for 203 days with 75 events and 26 projects, from September 2018 to March 2019.

The Australian High Commissioner to India, Harinder Sidhu, while unveiling the six-month long festival said, "Children to parents, families and friends — there's something for everyone in this fest. Australia's culture, creativity and dynamism will be on display and will feature food, film, art, dance, music, literature, theatre, sports and much more."

Sidhu added, "Even though there are more than 60,000 Indian students studying in Australia, we still can't showcase the country's culture to all of them. So if we can't bring India to Australia, why not bring Australia to India? And this is what we are doing—merging nations and developing ties between both the countries, if not politically, but culturally."

Sidhu disclosed that the plan to have such a large-scale festival "was to be executed in 2017," as they had decided that there should be a span of five years between the festivals and the first was held in 2012. And there were reasons. While they did manage to get many of the prominent artists on board, getting them to perform was a long process. As Sidhu revealed, "Bookings for certain performers couldn't be made in time. Even for their show this year, we had already made the bookings three years ago, especially with the Bangarra dancers, who follow really strict schedules." The dancers will be the centrepiece of the fest who will be performing in Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai.

MasterChef Australia Gary Mehigan, who will be travelling to the country to create a fusion of food from the two countries. "Across the world, only Indians are so passionate about food and flavours," said Mehigan who is also the Ambassador of Australia Fest.

He explained how he has explored Indian flavours and married them with Australian food to give it a *desi* as well as a slightly spicy touch. He said, "When it comes to cooking and playing with flavours, it is not just north Indian or Punjabi flavours but all kinds of Indian spices and innumerable textures that I like to use. Whether it is vegetables or the breads, the Indian meals have a lot of variety and tastes. Blending such multiple ingredients could be crazy, but it's just so delicious and comes together beautifully."

The launch session was also attended by renowned Australian author, John Zubrzycki, whose latest book *Jadoowallahs, Jugglers and Jims: A Magical History of India* is a cultural, social and political history of the streets and stage magic in the country. He said, "I'm particularly excited in being involved in this year's event with my book that examines the influence of India's vibrant magical traditions on popular culture globally."

Among other great attractions are the food talks and sessions with MasterChef Australia judge Gary Mehigan, fusion of modern Australian jazz with West Bengali folk music by The Three Seas, a showcase of collections by Australian fashion designers using Indian handloom textiles at Amazon India Fashion Week, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow featuring some of Australia's wittiest comedians, the best of Australian cinema at various film festivals across India, the launch of the Australian Open International BallKids programme in India, and much more.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

A MATTER OF RIGHT CHOICE

Actor and fitness enthusiast **SHILPA SHETTY KUNDRA** tells **AYUSHI SHARMA** that whether it is love or professional life, the correct option makes all the difference

Love at first sight. How many times has one heard the phrase in popular culture as well as in real life? While the concept dates back to time immemorial, today, when technology plays such a big role in every part of our lives, has this idea evolved over time? One has seen the trope play out so many times in films where two people walking down the street bump into each other, their eyes meet, sparks fly, and Cupid strikes. Cut to the present, when image after image, glance after glance and pout after pout flood your choices. And display pictures rob the magic of a chance encounter.

So to turn the idea on its head, is falling in love possible when you haven't even seen the other person? And it is here that a virtual kind dating series *Hear Me, Love Me* hosted by actor Shilpa Shetty Kundra reflects exactly what's on every young Indian mind: Relationships.

A keen fitness enthusiast and now a love guru-cum-life coach of sorts, Shilpa says, "The show really gives women an upper hand because they are given the choice of three boys, the twist being that they get to see their world, hear and know them via this show in just 12 hours. Then the girl has to pick one boy without seeing him to go on a date with. It's more insightful than sightful. I think as a show it works because who doesn't love reality-oriented shows today?"

Love grows over time, believes Shilpa. "People have evolved, mindsets have changed and so have films and content. The only thing that is constant is change which is a welcome development. Love is not quite an emotion that can be felt automatically."

While Shilpa is ready to be a part of films again after almost a decade now, television remains her preference. She would only take on a film if it is very different from mainstream scripts. "If I have to play a character it would have to be age-appropriate. I don't want a female-oriented script, I'm very clear about that. I'm not somebody who wants to play a college-going character and as everyone knows films are changing now, content is evolving and I want to do something that would cater to today's palate. I'm an avid film watcher and I want to sign up for something that I would enjoy reacting to. To choose a script now would be a tough nut because I have already played various characters and the only prerequisite is that it would have to be different from what I have done before."

She added, "I have always steered towards doing things that were trend setting. Till I don't get to chew on something that has a different taste, I don't enjoy it. It gets very mundane for me. I think I lasted in the industry because of this and the fact that I dabbled in different platforms. As for now, my preference is television as the onus of giving a superhit film is not on my shoulders."

She says that there are many choices but one has to choose the path you want to tread on wisely. She says, "If a film doesn't work where does that leave me? I don't want people to judge me on the basis of my last film, I want people to judge me on the choices that I have made. There's no excuse for mediocrity for me. If I'm doing something in the health and wellness sector, I will do it to the best of my ability and it comes out of passion not out of money. I want to be a front runner there and I'm willing to be judged on whatever I'm doing today so the challenge is to make right choices."

Hear Me, Love Me is slated to stream on Amazon Prime Video from September 28.



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

People have evolved, mindsets have changed and so have films and content. The only thing that is constant is change which is a welcome development. Love is not quite an emotion that can be felt automatically

REDS MAINTAIN UNBEATEN RUN

Klopp's men beat PSG 3-2 at Anfield, Atletico and Dortmund win as Napoli play draw

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool left it late but showed Paris Saint-Germain have plenty of work to do if they are to challenge for a first-ever Champions League title as Roberto Firmino struck a stoppage time winner in a 3-2 victory at Anfield on Tuesday.

Despite the late drama, victory was well deserved for last season's finalists who dominated throughout and bounced back from blowing a 2-0 first-half lead to take the early advantage in Group C.

Daniel Sturridge and a James Milner penalty put the hosts in command before Thomas Meunier reduced PSG's arrears.

Having kept Kylian Mbappe and the world's most expensive player Neymar quiet for almost the entire match, Liverpool seemed set to pay a heavy price for one poor pass by Mohamed Salah as Mbappe swept home seven minutes from time in front of a stunned Klopp.

But Firmino, who started on the bench due to an eye injury suffered against Tottenham on Saturday, had the final say as he twisted and turned before firing into the far corner to stretch Liverpool's perfect start to the season to six games.

"You can bring Bobby Firmino on and that helps a lot," said Klopp after the Brazilian celebrated by covering his injured left eye. "I loved his goal celebration."

PSG crumbled on their Champions League travels to Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Real Madrid in the past two seasons and their ability to challenge for the competition under new boss Thomas Tuchel was again questioned as they struggled to contain Liverpool's greater speed and power in midfield.

"Never at any point did we lose our confidence. We played with bravery and strength," insisted Tuchel.

"But this is Anfield. This is what Liverpool do and when they press you it is difficult."

STURRIDGE SHINES

Up front, Firmino's absence opened the door for Sturridge to make his first Champions League start for the club.

"It is great to contribute to the team today," said Sturridge. "It is a team here and everybody is going to add to the wealth of the club."

The Englishman has been dogged by injury and lack of form during Klopp's nearly three years in charge, but took his chance on the big stage by powering home a pinpoint curling cross from Andy Robertson to open the scoring on the half-hour mark.

"I told him this is the best shape



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp hugs Roberto Firmino after game against PSG

(you are in) since I know you physically, and you have to use that," said Klopp. "He played a super game, (scored a) super goal."

Six minutes later, PSG's deficit was doubled when Juan Bernat tripped Georginio Wijnaldum inside the area and Milner slammed the resulting penalty into the bottom corner.

However, the visitors were handed a lifeline through right-back Meunier, rather than one of their famed front three, as the Belgian skillfully readjusted to volley home Robertson's miscued clearance.

And then Seven minutes from time, Salah's slack pass was intercepted and quickly fed into Neymar,

with Van Dijk's tackle on the Brazilian only rebounding into the path of Mbappe to fire home.

Klopp responded by replacing Salah with Xherdan Shaqiri as Liverpool instantly went in search of a winner.

Trent Alexander-Arnold's deflected free-kick came back off the woodwork before they finally got their reward when Firmino powered home.

RED STAR FRUSTRATE NAPOLI
BELGRADE: Former European Cup winners Red Star Belgrade held Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli to a creditable 0-0 draw Tuesday as the Serbian club made their debut in the Champions League group stage.



Brugge goalkeeper Karlo Leticia, right, makes a save during the game against Dortmund



Lorenzo Insigne rattled the crossbar in the first half for Napoli, while Red Star defender Milan Rodic made a vital goal-line clearance to deny Jose Callejon in the Group C encounter.

Home goalkeeper Milan Borjan also produced a sharp stop to keep out an effort from Poland international Arkadiusz Milik, as Red Star were restricted to a late attempt from Richmond Boakye.

"We didn't do much wrong, we controlled the game but the finishing was lacking," said Ancelotti, who took over at Napoli in the summer.

"It's difficult to play against a defence like that of Red Star. Our forwards were alone in front of the goalkeeper several times but we didn't have that bit of luck. I think we could have won."

ATLETICO UNDO MONACO
MONACO: Atletico Madrid came from behind to beat Monaco 2-1 in their Champions League Group A opener on Tuesday with star strikers Diego Costa and Antoine Griezmann detonating the fightback.

The visitors had fallen behind against the run of play in the 18th minute when winger Samuel Grandsir forced the ball home in a goalmouth scramble after good work from Radamel Falcao.

But Costa then ran onto a wonderful flick-on from Griezmann to fire a snap-shot low and hard past Monaco's onrushing Swiss stopper Diego Benaglio to level the scores on the half-hour.

Jose Maria Gimenez — remembered for crying on the pitch when France beat Uruguay 2-0 in the World Cup quarter-finals in Russia — then headed home a corner in first-half stoppage-time to take the wind out of Monaco's sails at a key moment.

"It's always difficult to win the first match of the Champions League away from home," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone.

"Griezmann is growing every game. He's a decisive player. He did well in the right moments and his link-up with Costa was good."

PULISIC SEALS WIN AT BRUGGE
BRUGGE: Christian Pulisic celebrated his 20th birthday in style on Tuesday with a lucky late goal as Borussia Dortmund won 1-0 at Club Brugge in the Champions League.

The US international claimed the winner in fortuitous fashion by charging down a clearance from Brugge defender Matej Mitrovic which looped over the goalkeeper on 85 minutes.

It was a huge slice of good fortune but one that ended Dortmund's 10-match winless streak in the Champions League.

"In the end we won, but there is definitely room for improvement," admitted Dortmund captain Marco Reus. We have to keep working hard to play better."

"Currently, we are not playing the kind of football we want to, but we are winning and we'll take that."

While Pulisic spared Dortmund's blushes in Belgium on his 100th appearance for the club, it was a bad night for Mario Goetze.



Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring against PSV in Champions League

Messi nets three, Inter shock Spurs

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Lionel Messi pictures the Champions League ending with him hoisting the trophy and it began with him scoring a hat-trick on Tuesday as Barcelona put four goals past PSV Eindhoven.

An early kick-off at Camp Nou meant that before most of the tournament's teams had even named their line-ups, Messi was up and running, his sumptuous free-kick from the edge of the area nestling in the top corner, exactly where it was intended.

Messi would have his second and third before the end, and a record eighth Champions League treble, but the game was up by then thanks to a superb strike from the excellent Ousmane Dembele.

Only when Barca were three ahead was Samuel Umtiti sent off for a second yellow card, meaning he will miss the trip to Wembley to face Tottenham next month. Even with 10 men, Messi completed his set for a 4-0 win.

Dembele's goal was worthy of deciding any match but this was Messi's night. After a miserable World Cup trying to retrieve the irretrievable Argentina, Barcelona's now-captain proved his quality again to any doubters that are left.

Four goals already in La Liga, seven overall, neither age nor Cristiano Ronaldo's exit from Spain appear to have taken the edge off.

"Normally if you score a hat-trick you frame it," said Barca coach Ernesto Valverde. "But he makes the extraordinary routine."

Even if Messi remains as good as ever, his team will need others to step up. Philippe Coutinho was impressive here and, after a difficult debut campaign, Dembele is finding his rhythm, and his place.

"Just as there is room for players that pass, there must be others that can make things happen," Valverde said.

ICARDI SPARKS INTER'S COMEBACK

MILAN: A stunning Mauro Icardi volley sparked a thrilling late Inter Milan comeback as the Italian side beat Tottenham 2-1 on their return to the Champions League after a seven-year absence on Tuesday.

Christian Eriksen's deflected strike gave Spurs a 53rd-minute lead at the San Siro, and the visitors looked comfortable for much of the second half.

But Argentinian striker Icardi hammered home a magnificent volley in the 86th minute to draw Inter level, and Matias Vecino took advantage of some slack Tottenham defending at a corner to nod in a dramatic injury-time winner.

"It was a spectacular evening, we did what we needed to do," said Icardi after his first goal of the season on his CL debut.

"This is exactly what the fans want to see," said Inter coach Luciano Spalletti. Icardi scored a magnificent goal. The team had a great game and really went for it in the end."



Indian women players celebrates after win

Indian Eves beat Pak 4-0

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian football team produced an impressive performance to beat Pakistan 4-0 in an AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifier match in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, on Wednesday.

Avika Singh (22nd minute) opened the scoring for India before the Pakistani goalie Ayesha (43rd) conceded an own goal just before half time.

Sunita Munda (82nd) added one while skipper Shilky Devi (88th) also entered her name in the score sheet.

Following the win, the Indian team is firmly seated at the top of the Group B with six points from two matches.

Sunita, Shilky and Avika combined well to wreak havoc in the opposition defence but the Pakistani defenders soaked the pressure until the 22nd minute when Avika notched up the opening goal for India.

Sunita breezed past the left-back to deliver a low cross for Avika whose well-timed tap-in earned India the lead.

Pakistan were happy to sit back in their own half and defend. Goalkeeper Ayesha made some fine saves but she ended up conceding a goal in the 43rd minute to hand India a 2-0 lead.

The third goal came in the 82nd minute when Sunita, the architect of Avika's goal, got her name on the score sheet. Six minutes later, skipper Shilky latched on another attack from the middle and kept her calm to score the fourth goal of the game.

India next play hosts Mongolia on September 21.

Srikanth, Ashwini-Satwik start with win

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU

Indian mixed doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa on Wednesday shocked Commonwealth Games Silver medallists England's Marcus Ellis and Lauren Smith to enter the pre-quarterfinals of the \$ 1 million China Open here.

World No 25 Satwiksairaj and Ashwini, who had lost twice to the English combination in the past, executed their plan well to notch up a 21-13, 20-22, 21-17 win in a match that lasted an hour and three minutes.

"It was a good match. We were pretty confident today at crucial moments. We struck to our plans so it became a little easy in the end," Satwik said.

Seventh seed K Srikanth, who had reached the quarterfinals last week at Japan Open, too was through to the pre-quarterfinals after beating Denmark's Rasmus Gemke 21-9, 21-19 to set up a meeting with Thailand's Suppanyu Avihingsanon.

However, H S Prannoy lost his first round match against eighth seed Ng Ka Long Angus of Hong Kong 16-21, 12-21 to make an early exit from the tournament.

The men's doubles pair of Satwik



Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth plays a shot during World Championship

BAI DISTRIBUTES 1.6 CRORE TO STATE ASSOCIATION

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) has distributed cash incentive of ₹ 1.6 crores to the member state associations for development of the sport across the country. The decision was taken on Monday during the Executive Council (EC) meeting, presided over by BAI President Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The cash incentives will be

distributed among the 32 state associations with each receiving a sum of ₹ 5 lakh for the development and promotion of the sport in the grassroots level.

"This financial assistance to state associations is the beginning of our vision of making all states self-sustaining in the longer run. It will help them promote and develop badminton in their region more assiduously," Sarma said.

and Chirag Shetty, who had won a Silver at the Commonwealth Games, also lost 19-21, 20-22 to Goh V Shem and Tan Wee Kiong of Malaysia.

CWG Bronze medallists Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy also went down 10-21, 18-21 to Korean combination of Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong in women's doubles.

The mixed doubles match turned out to be a hard-fought battle right from the start as the Indian and English pair moved together till 4-4. Satwik and Ashwini then reeled off four points to open up a 8-4 lead. From there on, the duo kept its distance to grab the opening game without much ado.

In the second game, Marcus and Lauren jumped to a 6-1 lead before grabbing a 6 advantage at the break. The Indian pair however slowly fought its way to level at 20-20 but the English combination produced the required two points to stay in the contest.

In the decider, Satwik and Ashwin stepped up and surged to a 7-1 advantage. The duo led 11-5 at the breather. After the break, Marcus and Lauren managed to narrow the gap to 13-15 but the Indian duo marched ahead to 18-13 and eventually sealed the match.

LOCAL EVENTS

KULDEEP WINS DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP



Kuldeep Shankar remained undefeated to emerge champion in the 13th Lucknow District Open Chess Championship, concluded at Shivani Public School on Wednesday. Pawan Batham finished second while Anuj Yadav and Arjun Singh settled for third and fourth places respectively. All of them will now represent Lucknow in the state championship. Lucknow District Chess Sports Association president Sudhir Dubey gave away the prizes.

GUNGUN EMERGES CHAMP

Gungun Thakur defeated Simran Nigam 7-11, 11-5, 11-7 to win the table tennis event of State-Level Games at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Wednesday. In the doubles event, Tasleem Bano and Simran beat Tanu Solanki and Kushi Sharma 11-7, 11-8, 11-8 to bag the title. In swimming event, Vidushi Sangwal bagged twin titles, winning 100m backstroke and 200m individual medley. Addl director Basic Education Lalita Pradeep gave away the prizes.

OSAKA ROARS INTO TOKYO QUARTERS

AFP ■ TOKYO

Japan's Naomi Osaka pulverised Slovak Dominika Cibulkova 6-2, 6-1 to reach the Pan Pacific Open quarter-finals on Wednesday in her first match since her historic US Open triumph.

The 20-year-old, who stunned Serena Williams to become Japan's first grand slam singles champion earlier this month, fired down 10 aces in a fearsome display of wham-bam tennis in Tokyo.

Osaka came out firing and ripped a fizzing forehand down the line on the first point, the third seed powering away to close out the first

set with a pair of thundering aces.

A dazed Cibulkova had no answer to Osaka's firepower as the world number seven wrapped up a comfortable victory with a ferocious cross-court backhand after just 59 minutes.

"I didn't really feel any pressure. It was really difficult because she's such a great player but I just thought it was more fun," she said.

"My serve was really good," added Japan's latest sporting celebrity. I'm just grateful to be able to play here again."

Earlier, sixth seed Garbine Muguruza was upset by American qualifier Alison Riske 6-1, 6-2 in an



Naomi Osaka plays against Dominika Cibulkova during the second round match

object performance from the Spanish former world number one, who looked a shadow of the player who captured the 2016 French Open and 2017 Wimbledon titles.

Riske advances to face fourth seed Karolina Pliskova, another player to have previously held the women's top ranking.

The Czech recovered from a set down to beat Australia's Daria Gavrilova 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 and avenge her opponent's defeat of twin sister Kristyna earlier this week.

But she made hard work of it, trashing a racquet in frustration as she slipped behind 4-1 in the deciding set before clawing her way back.

"The first set was in my hands but I made some stupid mistakes," said Pliskova, who ended Gavrilova's resistance with a clever drop volley after two hours and 21 minutes.

"I tried to stay positive and even though I broke my racquet I tried to keep fighting because you always have a chance."

Second seed Caroline Garcia flirted with an early exit as the Frenchwoman overcame Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-4, 2-6, 7-5 to reach the last eight of the prestigious Tokyo event, whose list of former champions includes Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf, Kimiko Date and Martina Hingis.

India thump Pakistan by 8 wkts

Kumar, Kedar pick three wickets each to restrict Pakistan to 162 runs

PTI ■ DUBAI

India ticked all boxes as they clinically decimated Pakistan by eight wickets in a lopsided Asia Cup group league encounter on Wednesday.

It was a superlative effort from the bowling unit that saw them shot out Pakistan for a paltry 162 in 43.1 overs before Rohit Sharma (52 off 39 balls) and Shikhar Dhawan (46 off 54 balls) added 86 for the opening wicket to ensure a smooth chase for the 'Men In Blue' in only 29 overs.

This was India's most comprehensive victory in terms of balls remaining (126).

After a wake-up call against Hong Kong, the Pakistan match was a near perfect performance for India as Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3/15 in 7 overs) and Kedar Jadhav (3/23 in 9 overs) were perfectly complemented by Jasprit Bumrah (2/23 in 7.1 overs) and Kuldeep Yadav (1/37 in 8 overs).

If Kuldeep's googly to snuff out Babar Azam was the turning point, Kedar Jadhav's unconventional side-arm off-breaks broke the lower middle-order as Pakistan never recovered from the batting collapse.

With the pressure of scoreboard virtually non-existent, Rohit and Dhawan showed why they are one of the most formidable opening pair in white ball cricket.

The eighth over from Usman Khan enabled India cut loose as Rohit first hooked him for a six using the pace of the delivery and followed it with a 'Nataraja' pull shot for boundary and then short arm pull in front of the square for another six. With 19 runs coming off that over, there was no looking back for India.

Rohit's third six was another hook shot off Hasan Ali followed by a drive through mid-off to complete his 35th half century in ODIs. He was fooled by a googly from Shadab Khan but by then India were on course for a comprehensive victory. Ambati Rayudu and Dinesh Karthik both contributed 31 to take India past finish line with consummate ease.

The two teams will now meet



Bhuvneshwar Kumar, left, celebrates after dismissing Imam-ul-Haq during the Asia Cup match between India and Pakistan; Kedar Jadhav celebrates after Shoaib Malik's runout

in Super Four on September 23.

Earlier Jadhav produced a laudable performance as he did the job of a frontline spinner after Hardik Pandya (0/24 in 4.5 overs) was stretchered off the field due to an acute lower back injury.

This was after young Babar Azam (47) and veteran Shoaib Malik (43) added 82 runs for the third wicket and looked like taking control of the proceedings.

However, Pakistan suffered a batting collapse losing five wickets for 36 runs before Faheem Ashraf (21) and Mohammed Amir (16) added an invaluable 37 runs for the eighth wicket to take the total past 150-run mark.

Put into bat, Pakistan were in trouble straight away as Bhuvneshwar dealt a twin blow



HARDIK SUSTAINS BACK INJURY



DUBAI: India all-rounder Hardik Pandya was Wednesday stretchered off the field during the Asia Cup group league encounter against Pakistan after sustaining an "acute lower back injury". The incident took place in the 18th over of the Pakistan innings when the all-rounder was bowling his fifth over. It was the fifth delivery and Pandya, after completing the follow through, immediately felt his lower back and lay on the ground in considerable pain. He was unable to get up and was stretchered off and was taken for medical examination. "Hardik Pandya has an acute lower back injury. He is able to stand at the moment and the medical team is assessing him now. Manish Pandey is on the field as his substitute," BCCI's media team updated. Pandya's figures were 4.5-0-24-0 after Babar Azam's catch was dropped by Mahendra Singh Dhoni when the batsman was on 32. Azam however was later dismissed by Kuldeep Yadav. PTI

removing the in-form duo of Imam ul Haq (2) and Fakhar Zaman (0) to reduce them to 2 for 3.

Imam charged to a short of length delivery that climbed on him and the thickish outside edge was taken by Dhoni. Zaman, India's tormentor in the Champions Trophy, mistimed a pull-shot and Yuzvendra Chahal took a well-judged catch. Babar and Malik then resurrected the innings with a fine partnership. The half-volleys on both sides of the wicket were driven with ferocity. Malik, who is a good player of spin bowling, gave Kuldeep Yadav the charge to hit him for a six and rotated the strike well.

In fact, Malik was dropped off Pandya's bowling, whose agonies increased when he had to leave the field.



Hardik Pandya celebrates after taking wicket during fourth Test against England

Klusener backs Hardik to match Stokes status

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A game-changer in his hey-days, South African all-rounder Lance Klusener foresees India's Hardik Pandya closing in on someone like Ben Stokes if the team management can be "patient" with him for the next two years at least.

"Among current all-rounders in world cricket, Ben Stokes is right up there. There are a few who have come and gone in recent times as well but certainly, a guy like Pandya, give him a year or two at this level, there is no reason why he can't be one of the best all-rounders out there," Klusener said.

Klusener, who is in the city as senior Delhi team's consultant coach for the Vijay Hazare Trophy, spoke about Pandya's all-round abilities which have come under the scanner after his largely disappointing show in England.

"I think we must be careful while making comparisons. Everybody wants to compare Hardik to the great Kapil Dev. Hardik is his own cricketer. Of course, he has got some learning to do. I guess Hardik's success will be based on how much he is able to learn," Klusener said.

The 1999 World Cup player of the tournament said Pandya has a fine support system to hone him.

"I think he is in great hands in that Indian set-up. I think people just need to be a bit patient more patient with him. I hope he is allowed to grow and develop," said Klusener.

For someone, who boasts of a highest score of 174 and bowling figures of 8/64 in Test cricket, Klusener feels that it's a seam bowling all-rounder, who makes the difference in

a good team.

"For me, the glue for any team is the seam bowling all-rounder because it gives you a lot more options. I think India have got the right man. It's just that how he grows and develops himself. It's easy to criticise but international cricket is tough out there.

"I think Hardik should be given space and allowed to grow. He is going to be that glue for India for a long time," the 47-year-old said.

Klusener is confident that in another two years, Pandya will be ready in the next two years if he can work on his weaknesses.

Pandya scored 164 runs in eight innings in England and critics felt that at times he trusted his defensive technique too much.

Klusener thinks that someone with natural ability to hit the ball should always try and play his natural game unless he batting with someone of Virat Kohli's calibre at the other end.

"His defensive technique needs a little bit of work but he is a natural striker of the ball. That needs to be encouraged. We have seen faster scoring by Stokes at the bottom of the line-up. That makes a big difference.

"Maybe Hardik needs to have the technique to defend when someone like Virat Kohli is batting at the other end. I am sure the Indian support staff have identified that weakness. The longer he plays, the longer he will be in that set-up and realise what a great talent he is," Klusener said.

"And you can only take advantage of that great talent, if you give yourself opportunity to get in (get set). That's one area he needs to pay a little bit of attention."

SINGLES

NADAL TO MISS ASIAN TOURNEYS

BARCELONA: World number one Rafael Nadal has announced his withdrawal from upcoming tournaments in Beijing and Shanghai due to the right knee injury that forced him to retire from the US Open earlier this month. Nadal had to pull out during his semi-final against Juan Martin del Potro in New York and also missed Spain's Davis Cup defeat by France last weekend. The 32-year-old said he visited doctors in Barcelona on Monday and has subsequently made the decision to play neither the ATP 500 event in Beijing nor the Masters 1000 in Shanghai. "While the annoyances on my knee are nothing new, we have decided together with my medical and technical team not to participate in the Asian tour to recover the knee the way we have always done," Nadal said on Wednesday. "I'm sorry I can't be with all the fans in China and with the organisers of the Beijing and Shanghai tournaments that have always had a great relationship with me and my team."

BHULLAR EYES SUCCESS IN JAPAN

TOKYO: India's Gaganjeet Bhullar will be eyeing his maiden success in Japan when he tees off at the Asia-Pacific Open Golf Championship Diamond Cup which begins here on Thursday. Bhullar, who has had eight Top-10s this season including a win in Fiji, is hoping to get his 10th Asian Tour win as he hopes to build on his fine form at the \$ 1.35 million event sanctioned by the Asian Tour and Japan Golf Tour Organization. Other Indians in the field include Rashid Khan, who was 15th last week in South Korea; Ajeetesh Sandhu, whose only Asian Tour win has come in Japan; Chiragh Kumar; Rahul Gangjee, who earlier in the season won in Japan; Take Solutions champion Viraj Madappa; Shiv Kapur; Arjun Atwal, the Asia captain at 2018 EurAsia Cup and amateur Jay Pandya. The 30-year-old Bhullar will be among the top contenders which include Scott Hend of Australia, Shugo Imahira, ranked 86th on the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR).

HI ANNOUNCES JOHAR CUP SQUAD

NEW DELHI: Hockey India on Wednesday named an 18-member junior men's team for the upcoming Sultan of Johor Cup to be held in Malaysia from October 6-13. The Indian team is scheduled to play five round-robin matches against Malaysia, New Zealand, Japan, Australia and Great Britain. It will play its opening match against host Malaysia on October 6. The top two teams at the end of the round-robin matches will face each other in the final on October 13 whereas the remaining four teams will play classification matches. The tournament will play classification matches. The team will be captained by Mandeep Mor, while Shilanand Lakra will shoulder the duties of vice-captain.

BHANWAL WINS SILVER AT WORLD C'SHIP

NEW DELHI: Sajan Bhanwal became the first Indian to win back-to-back medals at the Junior World Wrestling Championship after he secured a Silver in the 77kg Greco Roman category in Trnava, Slovakia. Islam Opiiev of Russia proved to be too good for the 20-year-old from a village near Sonpat, winning the bout through technical superiority. The scoreline was 8-0. With Sajan down, Opiiev went to work, scoring six additional points from a pair of back-arches, followed by a feet over back exposure to take the 7-0 lead. The action was blown dead, and both wrestlers were brought up to their feet. In the standing position, Opiiev charged Sajan near the edge of the mat and picked up the match-ending eighth point, and the 77kg Gold medal, the report added. Agencies

RODRIGUES SHINES IN 1ST T20

PTI ■ KATUNAYAKE

Jemimah Rodrigues and Poonam Yadav produced special performances to fire India to a 13-run win over Sri Lanka in the first T20 International of the five-match series here Wednesday.

Teenager Rodrigues smashed 36 off 15 balls in a whirlwind innings that saw her becoming the first Indian woman to hit three sixes in an over.

The 18-year-old alongside wicketkeeper Taniya Bhatia (46 off 35) and Anuja Patil (36 off 29) powered India to 168 for eight in 20 overs.

Sri Lanka made a flying start in the chase through Yasoda Mendis (32 off 12) and Chamari Atapattu (27 off 22), racing to 39 in 2.5 overs before the former was dismissed by Arundhati Reddy.

Sri Lanka remained in the hunt until leg-spinner Yadav's consistent breakthroughs took the game away from them as they were 155 all out in 19.3 overs. The 27-year-old from Agra ended with figures of four for



Poonam Yadav celebrates after taking wicket

26 in four overs.

Radha Yadav and Harmanpreet Kaur too chipped in with the ball, taking two wickets each. Eshani Lokusuriyage top-scored for Sri Lanka with 45 off 31 balls but her spirited effort did not prove to be enough in the end.

The second T20 will be played in Colombo on Friday.

BRIEF SCORES

India: 168/8 in 20 overs (Tanya Bhatia 46, Jemimah Rodrigues 36) Sri Lanka: 155/10 (Poonam Yadav 4/26)

I was never out of form: Dhawan

PTI ■ DUBAI

Runs weren't exactly flowing from his bat before the hundred in the Asia Cup opener against Hong Kong, but Indian batsman Shikhar Dhawan claims that he was never out of form.

Dhawan scored 127 against Hong Kong on Tuesday night as India won by 26 runs to make a winning start in the tournament.

"It wasn't a question of form, I was batting well but wasn't getting runs. Great to get runs also," the opener said after notching up his 14th ODI hundred.

Dhawan did not get a single half century in his last eight innings, during the Test series against England. His recent ODI form was also all about good starts which he failed to convert into big knocks.

The win over Hong Kong was a rather hard-fought win for one of the tournament favourites and once again questions were raised about the Indian middle-order's frailties,



Shikhar Dhawan celebrates after scoring century against Hong Kong

which were thoroughly exposed in the recent tour of England as well.

Dhawan defended his teammates.

"We have won so many series in the last four years and we have also lost some. We are humans. The concern should not be such that everything else, all the good results are forgotten," he said.

"Some failures should not

to frustrate the more fancied team.

"We didn't expect for them to score 170-run partnership but they played well. We could have been more consistent in our bowling but we have to give credit to their batsmen, the openers played well. They were calculative, have to appreciate that," he said.

"There wasn't much swing or seam in the wicket and our bowlers were coming after a break. It takes time to get into the rhythm as well. Bhuvu (Bhuvneshwar Kumar) was coming back after a break and Shardul (Thakur) hadn't played much in England," he reasoned.

On whether the possibility of an embarrassing loss ever struck the team management on Tuesday, Dhawan said that was never the case.

"...We knew that once we get the top-order, we can come back into the game. They gave a decent fight. It's always good to learn from every match," he said.

Shaw, Mavi shine in Vijay Hazare

PTI ■ ALUR

Prithvi Shaw, skipper Ajinkya Rahane and Shreyas Iyer struck timely half centuries as Mumbai thrashed Baroda by nine wickets in both the teams' opening game of Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Wednesday.

The two teams are placed in Elite Group A for the National One Day Championships that kicked off at multiple venues.

Opting to bat, Baroda were bundled out for a modest 238 in 49.5 overs with all-rounder Krunal Pandya top-scoring with 85 (8 fours and 2 sixes).

Such was the dominance of Mumbai's top order that they chased the target without much fuss in just 41.3 overs.

Shaw (98), who missed a deserving hundred by a whisker, and Rahane (79 not out) conjured a 137-run first wicket stand.

Rahane, who was struggling in the Test series in England, was back among runs.



Mumbai opening batsman Prithvi Shaw in a file picture

After Shaw departed, the India Test vice-captain in the company of Shreyas Iyer (56 not out) made opposition bowlers toil as the two took their side home.

While Rahane struck six boundaries and a six, Shaw laced his innings with 12 boundaries and

five sixes.

Iyer, who was ignored for the ongoing Asia Cup, smashed five fours and two hits over the fence.

Earlier, experienced Mumbai pacer Dhawal Kulkarni returned with figures of 4-39 and was ably aided by Vijay Gohil (2-20).

Eng recall Stokes, Hales for SL tour

AFP ■ LONDON

Ben Stokes and Alex Hales were named in England's one-day squad to tour Sri Lanka on Wednesday despite being charged with bringing cricket into disrepute.

The pair face a disciplinary panel hearing in London in December following a brawl outside a nightclub in the southwestern city of Bristol in September 2017.

Stokes, 27, was last month cleared of affray following a seven-day trial related to the incident. Hales, 29, was with his England teammate during the altercation but was not charged.

Warwickshire fast bowler Ollie Stone, 24, has been called into the 16-man squad for the first time as a replacement for Yorkshire's Liam Plunkett.

Plunkett, who is getting married, will be available again for the last two ODIs of the five-



Ben Stokes, Alex Hales in a file photo

match series. Stone, who has struggled with injury problems in recent years, has impressed selectors with his consistent performances this season.

The first ODI takes place in Dambulla on October 10.

ENGLAND SQUAD

Eoin Morgan (capt), Moeen Ali, Jonny Bairstow, Jos Buttler (wkt), Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Liam Dawson, Alex Hales, Liam Plunkett, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes, Ollie Stone, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.