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## Sushma to play Imran ball

India OK's Foreign Ministers' meet but says won't resume dialogue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the resumption of dialogue between the two countries, the Government on Thursday confirmed that External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi will meet on the sidelines of the upcoming United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York next week. It will be the first such high-level meeting between the two sides since the Pathankot terror attack in January, 2016.

The Government, however, sought to clarify that it will be "just a meeting" and "not resumption of dialogue."

"Let's distinguish between meeting and dialogue. This doesn't change our stand on terrorism," said MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar. "We have just agreed to the meeting. The agenda is not finalised," Kumar said.

Making this assertion here, Kumar said the meeting between the two Foreign Ministers will take place on Pakistan's request. Khan, who took charge as Pakistan Prime



Minister last month, in his letter to Modi had specifically sought the meeting between the two Ministers.

India, however, rejected Khan's proposal for a SAARC summit in Pakistan, saying the atmosphere is not conducive there. Khan is learned to have written in his letter to Modi that Pakistan remains ready to discuss terrorism. Khan said

He said Sushma will also

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi will be meeting on the sidelines of the upcoming UNGA in New York next week
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the two Foreign Ministers could explore the way forward. He said India and Pakistan should resolve all outstanding issues, including terrorism and Kashmir through dialogue. Khan also said the SAARC Summit in Islamabad "will offer an opportunity for you to visit Pakistan and for us to re-start the stalled dialogue process."

Rejecting the SAARC suggestion, Kumar said, "We have agreed to their request for a meeting but do not read too much into it." Sources said the

resumption of dialogue was not possible as "talks and terror can't go together."

India is expected to strongly raise the issue of terrorism emanating from the Pakistani soil during Sushma-Qureshi meeting. Kumar said Sushma will also raise the issue of Kartarpur Sahib during the meeting. The Kartarpur Sahib shrine in Pakistan is revered by Indian Sikhs, who have been seeking permission for easier access to the pilgrimage. The issue gained limelight after Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu's assertion following his return from Khan's swearing-in that Pakistan had agreed to give access to the shrine for the devotees from India. The MEA, however, maintained that there was no official communication in this regard from Pakistan.

Sushma had visited Islamabad in December 2015 for a Heart of Asia conference and it was the last time a substantive dialogue between the two countries took place. The joint statement issued then said Foreign Secretaries should explore modalities under the comprehensive dialogue. Terrorist attack on Pathankot airbase in January 2016 derailed the dialogue process.

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## Maya dumps Cong for Jogi in C'garh, to go solo in MP

PNS ■ RAIPUR/LUCKNOW

In a setback for the Congress Land Opposition unity bid to stop the BJP juggernaut, BSP supremo Mayawati on Thursday said her party will go it alone in upcoming Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections and in Chhattisgarh tie up with former Chief Minister Ajit Jogi's outfit Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (J).

The Congress was desperate to ally with the BSP in Chhattisgarh, which has roughly 12 per cent Scheduled Caste population. Congress State president Bhupesh Baghel bared his pain for failing to stitch alliance with the BSP and said, "Finally, Jogi and Mayawati have come out in open to rescue the BJP."

Though the BJP has slammed the new "opportunistic" alliance, party's strategists have cheered the news in closed door conversations as the Mayawati-Jogi combine has greater potential to upset Congress poll arithmetic than the BJP's. A top BJP leader in Chhattisgarh remarked, "It's cheering news for us. The Congress has to revisit its strategy as the new alliance will heavily erode the Congress traditional vote bank in at least 12-15 Assembly segments,



BSP supremo Mayawati and Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) president Ajit Jogi during a Press conference to announce their alliance for Assembly polls in Chhattisgarh, in Lucknow on Thursday

mainly in areas dominated by powerful Satnami community." Chhattisgarh has always witnessed bipolar contest between the BJP and the Congress but with the latest political development the State is all set to experience a three-corner fight in the Assembly elections scheduled for November this year. Mayawati, who announced the wheelchair-bound Jogi in Lucknow, said the JCG would contest 55 seats, while the BSP will field candidates in remaining 35 seats. "If the alliance comes to

power, Jogi will be the Chief Minister," remarked Mayawati. Though the BSP won just one seat in the last Assembly election in 2013, the party was polled 4.4 per cent of the total votes polled.

Analysts say that the alliance between the BSP and the JCG will have larger implications in the State which has track record of a close contest between the BJP and the Congress. In 2013 polls, the BJP managed to retain power for the third straight term by just 92,000 votes and (0.72) per cent difference from the Congress in entire 90 seats.

### HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Press and Offices of The Pioneer will remain closed on Friday, September 21, 2018 on account of Mohurram. The next edition will now appear on Sunday, September 23, 2018.

### CAPSULE

#### RAPE ACCUSED BISHOP RELIEVED OF DUTIES

**Kochi:** Bishop Franco Mulakkal, who was questioned by Kerala Police for the second day over rape charges by a nun, has been temporarily relieved of his pastoral responsibilities by Pope Francis.

#### PROBE IN AIRCEL-MAXIS: SC EXTENDS DEADLINE

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Thursday extended by three months the deadline given to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to complete the probe in the Aircel-Maxis deal case.

## UGC asks universities to celebrate Surgical Strike day on Sept 29

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed universities and higher educational institutions across the country to observe September 29 as "Surgical Strike day".

Talk sessions by ex-servicemen about sacrifices by the Armed forces, special parades, visit to exhibitions and sending greeting cards to pledge their support to Armed forces are among the activities prescribed by the UGC.

"The NCC units of all universities should organise a spe-

cial parade on September 29 after which the NCC commander shall address them on the modalities of protection of the borders. The varsities may organise a talk-session calling ex-servicemen to sensitise students about sacrifices made by the Armed forces," the UGC said in a communication to all Vice-Chancellors on Thursday. "A multimedia exhibition will be organised around India Gate on September 29. Similar exhibitions may be organised in States, Union Territories, important towns and cantonments across the country. "The institutions should encourage students and faculty members to visit these exhibitions," the letter added.

The commission has suggested the students shall pledge their support to Armed forces by writing letters and cards which may be produced in digital and physical formats.

"The letters and cards should be shared with PRO Defence and PIB for publicity," the UGC said.

India carried out surgical strikes on September 29, 2016 on seven terror launch pads across the LoC in PoK in with the Army special forces inflicting "significant casualties" on terrorists poised to infiltrate.

## No blanket ban on media coverage of rapes, says SC

Court orders probe against ex-Minister and her husband in Muzaffarpur case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There cannot be a "blanket ban" on media reporting on cases of rape and sexual abuse but such incidents should not be sensationalised, the Supreme Court said on Thursday.

It made the observations after vacating a Patna High Court order restraining the media from reporting on the probe into the Muzaffarpur shelter home case where several women were raped and sexually abused over a period of time. The SC termed as "very disturbing" the facts emerging from CBI's probe into the Muzaffarpur shelter home sexual abuse case and asked the Bihar Police to probe the alleged recovery of large quantity of ammunition from former Bihar Minister Manju Verma and her husband.

On media coverage of sexual assaults and their investigation, the SC asked both the print and the electronic media not to "sensationalise" incidents of sexual assaults and abuse and report such cases responsibly so as not to reveal the identity of the victim. A



**Court restrains the electronic media from telecasting or showing the victims, even in a blurred form, as well as their interview**

Bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta issued notices to Press Council of India, Editors Guild of India, News Broadcasting Standards Authority and News Broadcasters Association seeking their help in the matter.

The SC said it would need the help of these bodies on the issue of media reporting in such cases as it related to the criminal justice system and press freedom.

"In the meanwhile, the blanket order passed by the Patna High Court on August 23 with regard to media reporting (in Muzaffarpur shelter home case) is vacated," it said.

The SC also restrained the electronic media from telecasting or showing the victims of sexual abuse and violence, even in a morphed or blurred form, saying this would be in the interest of such victims.

"We request the media not to interview the victims. The news of the event may of course be disseminated," the bench said, adding, "we also request the electronic and print media not to sensationalise such events".

Senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, appearing for a scribe who has challenged the Patna High Court order, argued that there were guidelines, including on journalistic ethics, and statutory provisions, but these were being violated as the media was conducting "parallel investigations" and trial.

"It appears that there is no mechanism of enforcement and implementation of statutory provisions and guidelines," the SC observed, adding that "in the absence of any mechanism, it is possible that there could be some person, who is not involved in a case, be mistakenly made an accused by the media."

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## Flyers bleed mid-air after cabin pressure slumps in Jet flight

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

At least 30 passengers of a Jet Airways flight took ill, several of whom suffered from nosebleed and pain in the ears, on Thursday morning, after a substantial drop in the cabin pressure that forced Jaipur-bound aircraft to return to the Mumbai airport after being in the air for 15 minutes.

The bizarre incident took place after the pilots of Mumbai-Jaipur flight 9W-697 — carrying 166 persons and a five-member crew took off from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) at 6 am — in a major breach of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) forgot to press the "bleed switch" that controls the air pressure in the cabin during the take-off process, resulting in the drop of cabin pressure.

The smartphone video footage of the goings-on shot by a few passengers inside the affected flight showed oxygen masks hanging from overhead compartments and panicked passengers breathing through them. After the aircraft made an emergency landing at the CSMIA, the affected passengers were rushed to the terminal building where they were administered first aid.

In a statement issued shortly after the return of the Jet Airways flight to the Mumbai airport, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said, "MoCA has taken cognisance of the incident in flight 9W-697 earlier on Thursday and has requested the DGCA to file its report immediately on the issue. The crew is being de-rostered. Of the 166 people on board, 30 were affected and have been given treatment".

Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu ordered safety audit of all scheduled airlines and airports.



Passengers on Jet Airways flight wear oxygen masks during an emergency after cabin pressure drop, in Mumbai on Thursday

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## Stray dogs man Delhi gated society much to thieves' chagrin

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Dogs without leashes are not allowed in many gated societies in the country, but national Capital's Sangam Park area near Rana Pratap Bagh is different, as eight stray dogs man the locality at night keeping thieves and miscreants away.

And this is something that has been bothering robbers, said residents, adding that an unidentified person suspected to be a thief stabbed a street dog guarding the locality post Thursday midnight. It was the dog's whine that alerted some residents who rushed outside and were left heartbroken after seeing the canine in pain.

"I saw a horrid scene, tonnes of blood," said one resident, who with others rushed the wounded dog to a veterinary hospital, where its condition is stated to be stable.

"We heard the dog barking following which we came out and saw a man with a chopper attacking the dog. Other dogs were seen standing at a distance barking at him. Seeing us, the accused fled," said Payal, a resident. Another resident informed the PCR.

"We are looking for CCTV footage to identify the accused. We have registered a case under



the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Further investigation is going on," said a senior police official.

"These stray dogs are part of our family and the local residents look after them. They act as security guards during night and bark whenever they see a suspicious person, thus alerting the residents. Such attack on animals is unacceptable," said another resident.

This is not the first incident. In August seven puppies were killed at Kargil Apartments in Sector 18A in Dwarka. The post-mortem report revealed the dogs were killed with a sharp object.

## Jaya's gift to temple faces jumbo problems

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Masini, the 12-year-old female elephant donated to Samayapuram Mariamman Temple in Tiruchirappalli district by late J Jayalithaa, the then Chief Minister, is living in "inhuman conditions" and must be sent back to its original habitat, a plea in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has stated.

Antony Clement Rubin, an animal rights activist and a former member of the Animal Welfare Board of India, has approached the HC with a plea to save Masini from the inhuman conditions at the temple and send it back to its original habitat, the Theppakkadu camp near Mudumalai forest.

Thereafter, Justices MM Sundaresh and Satish Kumar issued notices to the Hindu

Religious and Charitable Endowment (HR&CE) Department, which administers the temples in the State.

The HR&CE Department is already in the dock over the theft/loss of over 6,000 ancient idols from temples in TN.

It was in 2016 that Jayalithaa donated Masini to the famous Samayapuram Temple as an offering to goddess Amman. Till then, Masini was a 'resident' of the Theppakkadu camp, where she had the company of a number of elephants and all the ambience of a wild forest.

The tributaries of Bhavani river and the lush green forest had offered her a luxurious life despite living in captivity. But the then CM donating her to the temple, hundreds of km away from Masini's original habitat, upset the jumbo lead-

ing to unpleasant incidents. The new location, especially the climate and ambience, made her scared and she even trampled her mahout to death in May. "Masini, a peaceful elephant during her stay at Theppakkadu, underwent a major behavioural change ever since she was moved out of the camp in 2016. At the temple she was always kept chained and this upset her," said Rubin in his petition.

Pravin Rathnam, the lawyer representing Rubin, said the Animal Welfare Board of India team which had examined Masini in 2016 had told the Forest Department that the elephant was not in the best of health and there has been a change in her behaviour because she has been isolated from her herd.

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# Singh: UP's work in power sector commendable

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Commending the Uttar Pradesh government for doing phenomenal work in the power sector, Union Minister of State for Power, RK Singh, said the state was doing commendable job by providing connections to 42,000 consumers every day, and at this rate every household in the state would have electricity by December 31 this year.

Singh said that the earlier target was March 31, 2019, but the break-neck speed at which the UP government was working, the target had been pre-poned and now every household would have legitimate power connection by December 2018.

Talking to media persons in Lucknow on Thursday after reviewing the Saubhagya Yojna with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and UP Power Minister Shrikant Sharma, the Union minister said that 1.18 crore households were without electricity in the state and 54 lakh houses had been given new connections.

"By December this year, the rest of the households will be provided connections. UP



Union Minister of State for Power RK Singh and UP Power Minister Shrikant Sharma addressing a press conference

government has done such a commendable work but people do not know about it," he said.

"Hence it has been decided that once a village, block or district gets saturated, there will be celebrations so that people may know about it," the Union minister said.

Commenting on the financial losses in the power companies in the country, Singh said that the government had taken several initiatives to control the losses.

"The annual loss of power companies, which was Rs 60,000 crore in 2015-16, has

come down to Rs 18,000 crore in 2017-18. The loss in UP has come down by 70 paise per unit of power supply in the last over one year," Singh disclosed.

On power theft, the Union minister said: "We have gone for major revamping of the power sector. In the next three years, power pilferage will be totally eradicated after installation of smart and pre-paid meters. We have asked the states to register FIRs against power thefts, while other measures are also being taken to counter it."

The Union minister said that technology would be used to prevent pilferage and smart and pre-paid meters would be installed in the entire country.

"In UP, one crore smart meters and 40,000 pre-paid meters have already been ordered by the Power department," he said.

Further, claiming that the power supply situation in UP has improved a lot during the present Bharatiya Janata Party regime, Singh said that at present, rural areas were receiving 18-hour power supply while cities were getting electricity for 23-24 hours.

## Pramod raps Modi on mutilation of BSF jawan's body

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Claiming that the Bharatiya Janata Party government had failed in its defence policy, senior Congress leader Pramod Tiwari on Thursday reminded Prime Minister Narendra Modi about his promise of beheading 10 Pakistani soldiers, if one Indian jawan was killed.

Speaking on the mutilation of Border Security Force jawan Narendra Kumar's body at Ramgarh Sector in Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistani troops, the Congress leader said that the Union government had failed in its defence policy and hence Indian soldiers were being martyred on borders freely. "The PM's promise to the country that he would order revenge if any Indian soldier was beheaded has only turned out to be another statement to woo the voters," Tiwari said. Raising the issue of petrol price rise, the former member of Rajya Sabha said that prices of essential items had gone through the roof due to this.

"During United Progressive Alliance regime, crude price went up to 140 dollar per barrel yet petrol price in the country was Rs 60 per litre. Now, even as crude is being sold at 69 dollar per barrel, the price of petrol has crossed Rs 90 per litre-mark," he pointed out.

# Maya flays Bhagwat's Ram temple statement

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Thursday flayed Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat for his assertion that a grand Ram temple at Ayodhya would help end tension among Hindus and Muslims.

The former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh said that the 'narrow' mindset of the sangh leaders was not conducive for cordial relations in the country.

She also took on the Centre over bringing an ordinance to ban triple talaq, saying that a 'sensitive' issue was being used for selfish politics.

"My party does not agree with the RSS chief's logic that a grand temple in Ayodhya would help end tensions between Hindus and Muslims. Relations between narrow, sanghi Hindus and Muslims will not improve even if several temples came up instead of one," Mayawati said in a party release issued in Lucknow on Thursday.

Attacking the RSS, Mayawati said, "Their basic mindset is against Dalits, Muslims and minorities. This is the reason why the Bharatiya Janata Party, which originated from them, adopted policies



which are demolishing our democracy."

The BSP chief said that the first thing the RSS needs to do was to change its communal and hatred-ridden mindset and adopt humanitarian approach in consonance with the Indian Constitution.

Terming the three-day RSS conclave as being politically motivated to divert attention from raging problems in election time, Mayawati said that the RSS too was concerned over the deep anger among the people over pro-capitalist and

anti-poor policies of the BJP governments at the Centre and states. On Wednesday, RSS chief Bhagwat strongly pitched for the construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya at the earliest, asserting that it would end tension between Hindus and Muslims. Mayawati also criticised the Centre for promulgating an ordinance to ban triple talaq of instant divorce, saying a "sensitive" issue was being used for selfish politics at election time to divert public attention from the BJP governments' failures.

# Deoband seminary slams triple talaq ordinance

## Muslim woman activist hail Modi govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Reacting sharply to Union government's decision to bring an ordinance on triple talaq, South Asia's largest Sunni seminary Darul Uloom Deoband said that it was an attempt to infringe on the religious freedom of Muslims.

With the Presidential assent to the ordinance, triple talaq or instant divorce has become a punishable offence inviting jail term.

In a statement issued in Lucknow on Thursday, Uloom Deoband chancellor Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani said the Indian Constitution gave equal religious rights to every citizen but the (Narendra) Modi government has intervened in the Sharia law.

"This is a serious issue and it will not be accepted. The ordinance issued by the Union government is a direct infringement on Islamic law and we will oppose it tooth and nail," he said. Nomani did not elaborate as to whether the seminary would move court against the ordinance or submit representation to the government to rescind it.

## 'BJP trying to confuse voters'

Lucknow (PNS): Samajwadi Party leader and former minister Mohammad Azam Khan termed the promulgation of the ordinance on triple talaq as a political agenda raised by the Bharatiya Janata Party to confuse voters ahead of the coming 2019 Lok Sabha polls. "Allah is supreme and no law can counter his punishment. We will obey the law made by Allah. If the ordinance was brought under its preview, there would have been no problem. But bringing the legislation at a time when the government is in its last phase, points to a political conspiracy before the general election," Khan said.

Speaking to reporters, the SP leader alleged that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh only wanted "harassment of Muslims". "The Gujarat riots along with other decisions of the Bharatiya Janata Party governments prove the charge," he said.

Reacting to the RSS claim that Muslims were a part of Hindu rashtra, Khan said, "I just want to ask whether the killing of Muslims would strengthen the country."

However, reacting to the announcement by Deoband, triple talaq victim Athiya Sabri from Saharanpur, welcomed Modi government's decision to bring the ordinance on triple talaq. Sabri had earlier petitioned the Supreme Court demanding abolition of the practice.

Woman activist and lawyer Farah Faiz said the Modi government had shown its commitment towards women who were victims of triple talaq.

Another social activist Kudusia Anjum, however, said that the ordinance does not mentioned the after-effects of the husband's arrest on the family. The promulgation of the triple talaq ordinance makes instant divorce a punishable offence with a jail term of three years and a fine. The women will be entitled to maintenance. The crime will remain a non-bailable offence but the judge can grant bail after hearing the accused.

# UP has great potential: CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the state was known for its immense potential. He added that a new era of development had begun after the current government came in power.

The Chief Minister expressed these views at the inaugural of the 53rd Convention of the Federation of Hotels and Restaurants of India at a city hotel on Thursday.

Referring to the Investors' Summit held in February this year, he said that many people wondered who would invest in the state.

He pointed out that the state government was confident about its capabilities and that was why the summit was successful and UP received proposals worth Rs 5 lakh crore.

He added that UP had emerged not only as a fine destination for investment at the national level but also at the international level.

Mentioning the theme of the convention "Wellness and Spiritual Tourism", he said that the state had immense potential for the kind of tourism to attract the tourists from across the globe.

The CM said that among the projects which announced



CM Yogi Adityanath at the 53rd Convention of the Federation of Hotels and Restaurants in Lucknow on Thursday

by the Prime Minister for the promotion of tourism in the country, the maximum circuits lay in the state.

In the area of "wellness and health tourism", the CM pointed

out the state had good doctors and modern health services. He said that yoga, ayurveda and nature therapies could cure diseases caused by the modern lifestyle.

# Mahoba excise officer held accepting bribe

Lucknow (PNS): A team of Vigilance department of UP nabbed district excise officer/assistant excise commissioner Arvind Sonkar of Mahoba while accepting Rs 10,000 as bribe on Thursday.

The action came after one Akhilesh Kumar Upadhyay of

Mahoba gave a written complaint against Sonkar, alleging that the latter was demanding Rs 10,000 as bribe for returning the security deposit Upadhyay had deposited for allotment of two shops for the sale of Indian Made Foreign Liquor. "After the complaint,

SP (Intelligence) Akhilesh Nigam worked on the case and the excise officer was caught red-handed," Director Intelligence Hitesh Chandra Awasthi said. The accused excise officer was arrested from his official residence at Officers' Colony in Mahoba.

# Congress: Atrocities against Dalits on rise in Yogi govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

All-India Congress Scheduled Castes Cell's chairman Nitin Raut flayed the Bharatiya Jansats Party government in Uttar Pradesh for ignoring the basic rights of members of their community, claiming that there was a rise of 67 per cent in cases of atrocities against Dalits under the Yogi Adityanath government.

"Every hour, a Dalit is killed or falls victim to some crime in UP. The condition has become so adverse for the community that now their morale has plummeted," Raut claimed.

"To protect the dignity and pride of the members of the SC community, Congress SC Cell will take out processions, organise meetings under the banner of 'Samvidhan Bachao' — Swabhiman Bachao, which will conclude in a grand rally of Dalits to be addressed by party chief Rahul Gandhi some time later this year.

Addressing media persons in Lucknow on Thursday, Raut said that both the Centre and the UP government were doing nothing to provide employment to Dalits against reserved category vacancies nor were they facilitating promotions to them.

He said that Dalit officers were posted on unimportant posts.

Reacting to the recently amended SC/ST Act empowering law enforcing agencies to arrest accused without

investigation, Raut said that there was nothing new and the old Act was introduced by the Congress in 1989.

The Congress leader claimed that had the Central government taken the matter seriously, even the Supreme Court would not have interfered with the Act.

"In fact, it was pressure from the Congress that forced the National Democratic Alliance government to restore the old provision of arrest.

On joining hands with Bheem Sena chief Chandrashekhar aka Ravan for the parliamentary election, Raut said that Congress had nothing to do with the Bheem Sena, even as the party condemned the UP government action to suppress the voice of Dalits and the action against Ravan.

Earlier, Raut conferred with members of SC Cell of UP Congress and discussed the strategy for restoring the pride of the SC community.

Meanwhile, a meeting called by UP Congress chief Raj Babbar to discuss the strategy for taking out Prabhat Pheri on October 2, suffered setback with both the city and district unit chiefs, Bodh Lal Shukla and Gaurav Chaudhary, failing to turn up. Even as Chaudhary turned up after several calls were made, Shukla failed to reach the office.

Besides, majority of ward chiefs of Lucknow also did not turn up and Babbar completed the formalities before leaving to attend a meet of state SC Cell.



## सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है कि खान बानो इतखार उम्र 34 वर्ष पुत्री इतखार खान, निवासी-633/854/1, आदर्श नगर-2, कंचनपुर मटियारी, लखनऊ एक स्त्री बानो ये दोनों नाम एक ही व्यक्ति के हैं।

## NOTICE

I No. 13963602Y Rank HAV/NA Dina Nath Ram, Village Shreerampur, PO. Mohamadpur, District-Chhapra, State Bihar. In my service record the name of my son Sudhansu Kumar and my wife Shima Devi has Entered wrong, correct name is Sudhansu Kumar and Seema Devi.

# Police gun down 2 criminals

Lucknow (PNS): By gunning down two of the criminals involved in a sensational killing reported last Friday, the Aligarh police claimed to have worked out the murder case on Thursday morning.

During the exchange of fire with the gang, an inspector also sustained bullet injuries.

As per reports, station house officer of Harduaganj (Aligarh) was informed about the presence of some criminals involved in two sensational crimes on Thursday night.

The SHO alerted senior officers and a police team closed in on the criminals near Machhuwa canal bridge.

ly injured while two others escapes.

SHO of Palimukimpur, Pradeep Kumar, sustained bullet injury on his leg.

The injured were shifted to the district hospital at Aligarh where the criminals were pronounced dead. They were later identified as Mustaqem and Naushad, each carrying cash reward of Rs 25,000.

The police later claimed that both were involved in the killing of priest Triloki Singh and a couple in Aligarh last week. While the priest of Durani Mata Mandir at Safedapur hamlet of Harduaganj was hacked to death on Saturday morning, a couple, identified as Yogendra Kumar Lodh (40) and his wife Vimlesh (38), were found murdered in the field in the same locality the same morning.

## PRESS NOTICE INVITING PERCENTAGE RATE e-TENDER

Executive Engineer(C), Postal Civil Division, Lucknow invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate (CPWD-7) e-tenders for the work of "Repair and maintenance of Amethi HO". N.I.T. No. 39 / EE / PCDL / 2018-19 / Dated 20.09.18, Estimated Cost : Rs. 9,43,029/-, Earnest Money : Rs. 18,861/-, Period of completion - 03 (Three) Months, Tender Fee : Rs. 590/- i/c taxes, Last time and date of submission of bid : 27.09.18 Upto 18:00 hrs. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://dopcivil.eunizard.com>

## LUCKNOW DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(ISO 14001:2004, ISO 9001:2008 प्रमाणित संस्था) Pradikaran Bhawan, Vipin khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow -226010 (UP) Toll free : 1800-1800-5000 Ph : 0522-2302586 Website www.ldaonline.in

**CORRIGENDUM**

**SUBJECT :** Expression of Interest for engagement of consultant for preparation of detailed techno feasibility study report for ropeway based public transport system at Varanasi & Gorakhpur.

**Ref. No. : 44/CE/2018 Dated 01.09.2018**

One clause Clause (11) J has been added in Bid Document which is as follows:-

**Clause (11) J :** If the selected consultancy firm desires to participate in bidding process of Project Execution Work then the role of consultancy firm shall be restricted up to submission of RFP/RFQ Documents only vide clause 10. In such case the selected consultancy firm shall have to inform prior to the bidding process of Project Execution Work.

The Date of submission of Technical and Financial Bid are extended as follows.

Submission of Technical and Financial Bids	Upto 08.10.2018 by 3:00 PM at Office of Chief Engineer, Lucknow Development Authority, Lucknow.
Opening of Technical Bids	08.10.2018 At 3:30 PM at Office of Chief Engineer, LDA Lucknow
Opening Financial Bids	Shall be communicated separately.

**CHIEF ENGINEER**

## NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No 03/2018 (JTBS)

(This Notification is not for employment)

Sealed applications for JTBS are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Lucknow and on behalf of the President of India for 201 locations of 106 stations of Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway

Notice No. and description of works	Approx. Value (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)
Notice no.- 03/2018 (JTBS) inviting applications for authorization of JTBS for THREE years at Lucknow Junction, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Basti, Khalilabad, Badshahnagar, Aishbagh, Mankapur, Lakhimpur, Daliganj, Lucknow City, Mohibullapur, Burhwal, Jarwal Road, Colonelganj, Maskanwa, Babhan, Anandnagar, Naugarh, Barhni, Behraich, Nanpara, Nepalganj Road, Mailani, Gola Gokarnath, Tahsil Fatehpur, Mahmudabad Avadh, Sidhauri, Nautanwa, Tulsipur, Belrayan, Risiya, Gonda Kacheri, Paintipur, Ramaipur, Lachampur, Bindaura, Bichhria, Shobratgarh, Munderva, Baruchak, Uska Bazar, Gainsari, Sarju, Matera, Nakhla Jungle, Sarayan, Parsendi, Maniram, Katra, Brijmangani, Lakhpatnagar, Jagatbela, Motiganj, Majapur, Domingarh, Gontinagar, Jhlahi, Intiathok, Subhagpur, Swaminarain Chapia, Chureb, Bhirkheri, Chilhia, Raibojha, Pachperwa, Ghaghra Ghat, Parsa, Gaur, Gainjaha, Timich, Dudhwa, Gorakhpur Cant, Campiganj, Peppaganj, Maghar, Murthi, Nishargarh, Chowka Ghat, Parsa Tiwari, Manjhra Purab, Bankey Ganj, Sundhiamau, Tappa Khajuria, Sahjanwa, Jahangirabad Raj, Kamalpur, Ataria, Khairabad, Pharehdan, Bakshi Ka Talab, Gangadhram, Bangai, Chaliwariya, Bisheshwarganj, Tikunia, Orwara, Kauwapur, Govindnagar, Sitapur, Biswan, Hargaoon, Mihinpurwa, Palia Kalan, Payagpur and Balrampur stations of Lucknow Division of North Eastern Railway.	1,20,000/-	NIL

● Date and time for sale of application form between 10:00 to 17:00 hrs (on any working day) from 21.09.2018 to 22.10.2018

● Date and Time for receipt of Application. On 23.10.2018 at 10:00 hrs to 14:00 hrs.

● Date and Time for opening of Application on 23.10.2018 at 15:00 hrs.

● Detailed Application form, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions is available on website <http://www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in> as well as at office of the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), North Eastern Railway, Ashok Marg, Lucknow.

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Ref. No. 183/GM/PLSCL/18-19 Date : 19/09/2018

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**General Manager (Project) Lucknow Smart City Limited**

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# Self-immolation bid outside Raj Bhawan

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Failed to get justice from the police, a Barabanki resident attempted to immolate himself outside Raj Bhawan gate number 3 in Hazratganj on Thursday afternoon. The police overpowered him and later took him to Kotwali for interrogation.

Giving details, SHO RR Singh said the man, identified as Devendra Singh, doused himself in kerosene but could not immolate himself as he was overpowered. "Devendra alleged that some persons had grabbed the land of his uncle in

Lajpat Nagar of Barabanki and he did not get any help from the Barabanki police.

He, along with his wife and children, had come to city to press his demand. We informed senior officials about the incident and also Barabanki police," he said.

## BODY RECOVERED

The naked body of an unidentified man was recovered from Gomti river on Thursday morning in Mahanagar. Police said the man had injuries on his waist and the body seemed three days old. "The body was spot-

ted floating in the river near Chand Masjid in Mahanagar by some commuters who informed the police about the same. We sent the body to the morgue and also sent details to other police stations to ascertain the identity of the man," the police spokesman said.

## RESCUED

Two persons got buried inside a 35 feet deep borewell after its wall caved in during the cleaning work in Maal police station area on Thursday. Police swung into action after they got a distress call and the victims were rescued it after four hours

of frantic exercise. As per reports, one of the victims, identified as Nandlal of Newajikheda of Maal, was getting the borewell cleaned with the help of some labourers he had hired.

The work to clean the borewell, which was filled with silt due to rain, started three days back and the labourers had almost cleared the borewell.

On Thursday, labourer Manglu and borewell owner Nandlal climbed down the borewell for the work. All a sudden, the wall of the borewell collapsed and both Nandlal and

Manglu were buried inside it. The news of caving in of a borewell flew thick and fast and a huge number of villagers assembled the scene. Nandlal's son Sooraj started clearing the soil and debris to rescue both.

Later, a police team also reached the scene. With the help of the villagers, the cops succeeded in rescuing Manglu first and then Nandlal was also rescued. Both were rushed to a hospital where their condition was improving. The police spokesman said both the victims would be discharged on Friday.

# Traffic restrictions for Ganesh Visarjan

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Traffic department announced traffic diversions for Ganesh Visarjan that will take place on September 22 and September 23 and the will be implemented from 12 noon on these days.

Buses moving from Faizabad to Kaiserbagh will be diverted towards Gomti Nagar from GTI crossing and will move towards the Samta Moolak, Gandhi Setu and then from behind the Clark Avadh towards Kaiserbagh.

Buses coming from Sitapur road towards Kaiserbagh will move from Madaion, Pucca Pul, Shahmina crossing, Daliganj pull and CDRI to the Kaiserbagh bus station. Vehicles coming from Daliganj pull will not be allowed to move from Clarks Avadh crossing towards Subhash crossing and will be diverted towards Chiraiya Jheel.

Vehicles from the Telephone Exchange crossing and Maqbara road will not be allowed to move towards Parivartan Chowk crossing and the traffic will be diverted towards Kaiserbagh bus stand.

The traffic coming from the Clarks Avadh crossing will not be allowed to move towards Subhash crossing and will be diverted towards Krishna Medical Store and Chiraiya Jheel.

Vehicles coming from the side of the Ekka Tonga stand will not be allowed to move towards the Arts faculty through the Gomti river bandha and this traffic will be diverted to the IT crossing through the Umrao Singh dharamshala.

The traffic coming from Niralanagar will not be allowed to move from towards IT crossing, University Road, Subhash crossing and will be diverted from the Samthar petrol pump towards Nishatganj and

## ... and curbs for Moharram too

Lucknow (PNS): The Traffic department announced the traffic diversions for Moharram on Friday. The Shia community will take out the "ashre ka juloos" in Chowk at 8 am which moves towards Akbari Gate, Nakkhas, Tudiaganj, Bilochpura, Bazarkhala, Transformer tri-crossing, Bulaki Adda, Mill area and Eveready tri-crossing.

Traffic officials, while giving details, said that no vehicle would be able to move from Tudiaganj crossing towards Nakkhas and would be diverted towards Girdhari Singh Inter College and Saadatganj. The traffic will not be able to move from the Kama Nehru crossing towards Tudiaganj tri-crossing and will be diverted towards Medical College and Naka.

Vehicles will not be allowed to move from Rakabganj crossing towards Nakkhas and this will be diverted towards Medical College and Naka.

The traffic will not be allowed to move from Haiderganj tri-crossing towards Nakkhas or Bulaki Adda and will be diverted towards Aishbagh.

Vehicles will not be allowed to move from A Block, Rajajipuram, to Karbala, Talkatora, and will be diverted towards Rajajipuram and Alambagh.

Vehicles will not be allowed to move from the Bhoosa mandi tri-crossing to Eveready tri crossing and will be diverted towards Aishbagh road and.

Mawaiyya. Traffic coming from Alambagh will not be able to move towards the Eveready crossing via the Langda phatak ramp.

The vehicles moving from the Mawaiyya tri-crossing will not be allowed to move towards Mawaiyya overbridge and will be diverted towards Alambagh.

Traffic officials said that traffic diversions will be implemented at the Mahanagar Karbala from 9 am onwards and at the Faizabad road and Badshahnagar will be allowed to move over Gomti Nagar overbridge and Dig-diga crossing.

Vehicles coming from Hazratganj will not be able to move towards Gol Market and Nishatganj via Sushila Devi Smritika tri-crossing and will be diverted towards Bandha road, Hanuman Setu, Kapoorthala and then Sankalp Vatika. Vehicles will not be allowed to move from Gol Market towards Badshahnagar and will be diverted towards 35 PAC. The traffic will not be allowed to move from Nishatganj crossing towards Badshahnagar and will be diverted towards Gol Market and Nishatganj police chowki.

Daliganj pull.

Vehicles will not be allowed to move from Hanuman Setu Bandha road towards Nadwa Bandha road and Jhulelal Park and they will be diverted towards IT crossing.

The vehicles coming from Hazratganj crossing and Parivartan Chowk crossing towards Subhash crossing will

not be allowed to move towards Hanuman Setu and IT crossing and will be diverted towards Telephone Exchange and Chiraiya Jheel.

Traffic officials said that vehicles carrying patients should look for alternative routes and if they faced any problem they should contact the control room of the Traffic department.

# 3 held for circulating fake currency

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Aliganj police on Thursday arrested three persons, including an assistant village development officer, for circulating fake currency in the denomination of ₹2,000 in the market and trying to convert black money into white money after rooting it through NGOs. The team recovered 1600 notes (each in the denomination of ₹2,000) worth ₹32 lakh from them. The police are yet to recover the printer and scanner from accused persons.

Those arrested were identified as Manish Kumar and his cousin Yaman Patel aka Rahul, both of Fatehpur, and their aide, identified as Amit Kumar of Auraiya. The cops also recovered a car without a registration number plate. Manish is posted as assistant village development officer in Allahabad.

Giving details, Aliganj CO Deepak Singh said the miscreants were arrested on a tip-off of an informer. "The miscreants had visited the city in the morning as they had to exchange fake currencies with some persons near Central School in Aliganj," he disclosed. The CO said the miscreants had circulated the notes which they had printed by using a printer and scanner somewhere in Fatehpur. "The police were yet to recover the printer and scanner. A team was



SSP Kalandihi Naithani presenting fake currency racketeers before media persons on Thursday

sent to Fatehpur on the disclosure and we hope to get some clinching evidence," he said.

The police said the miscreants used to supply fake ₹2,000 notes to petrol filling stations or shops located in villages. "We do not know the amount of fake currency they had circulated as yet. But the fake notes are in circulation in the market," the CO said.

The miscreants disclosed that they unsuccessfully had tried to strike a deal of 'cash exchange' for converting black money into white

with NGOs who showed willingness for the same. Under this scheme, the miscreants used to ask an NGO owner to allot them a project on paper and transfer cash in their bank accounts for the project promising that they would return the cash after deducting their 'cut' in the deal.

The CO said the notes recovered would be sent to Forensic Lab and a team was sent to Allahabad too. "We are trying to reach to the root where from the crime was being operated," he said.

# Injured woman found in forest

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 25-year-old woman was found in a critically injured state in the forest cover behind the vegetable market in Kakori police station area fuelling speculation that she met with some mishap or was assaulted by the miscreants. The police, however, claimed that the woman was mentally deranged but admitted that she had injuries on her back and head.

As per reports, some residents spotted the woman, who was crying in pain and lying abandoned in the forest cover behind the Basant Kunj locality of the area. They immediately informed the police and a team reached the place for investigation into the case.

Giving details, the police spokesman said the woman was admitted to Trauma Centre and was undergoing treatment. "She is unable to speak and was not in a frame of mind. She seemed to be mentally deranged," he said, adding that the police were working on the case.

The sources claimed that the woman was thrown at the place by some unidentified miscreants after which she suffered injuries. "The initial information that the police got was that some persons had thrown a woman in the forest cover and fled the scene. But later the police claimed that she had moved to the forest cover on her own," the sources said. They said the woman had small hair and was clad in a salwar and a T-shirt.

"She is not in the right frame of mind and probably she is in trauma due to the assault she faced. It seemed that she was subjected to brutality and then the miscreants threw her there to conceal their crime. The place is less visited and the victim was lucky that she was spotted and was rushed to hospital," the sources said. Police are investigating the case.

## हम सबका है एक ही सपना डेंगू मुक्त प्रदेश हो अपना

मच्छरों को अपने घर एवं आस-पास पनपने न दें। मच्छरों द्वारा डेंगू, चिकनगुनिया जैसी भयावह बीमारी फैलाई जाती है।

डेंगू एवं चिकनगुनिया का मच्छर साफ एवं ठहरे हुए पानी में पनपता है तथा दिन के समय काटता है।

<p>घर में एवं आस-पास पानी जमा न होने दें।</p>	<p>छत पर कबाड़, दूटे-फूटे प्लास्टिक एवं शीशे आदि के पात्र न रहने दें, जिससे पानी जमा न हो पाये। पानी की टंकी की पूरी तरह ढक कर रखें।</p>
<p>कूलर, ड्रम, गमले, पशु-पक्षियों के पानी पीने के पात्र को प्रत्येक सप्ताह पर खाली कर सुखाएं तथा पुनः पानी भरें।</p>	<p>तेज बुखार, सिरदर्द, आंखों के पीछे दर्द, मांसपेशियों में दर्द तथा थकान होने पर नजदीकी राजकीय चिकित्सालय/स्वास्थ्य केंद्र पर निःशुल्क जांच एवं उपचार हेतु सम्पर्क करें।</p>
<p>पुराने टायर, प्लास्टिक के कप, बोतलों में पानी इकट्ठा न होने दें।</p>	<p>चिकित्सक के परामर्श से ही औषधियों का सेवन करें।</p>
<p>मच्छरों के काटने से बचने हेतु पूरी तरह से ढकने वाले कपड़े पहनें तथा सोते समय मच्छरदानी का प्रयोग करें।</p>	<p>बुखार उतारने हेतु कोल्ड स्पंजिंग करें तथा केवल पैरासिटामाल की गोली ले सकते हैं।</p>
<p>बुखार के समय पानी, नारियल पानी, शिकंजी आदि तरल पदार्थ का अधिक प्रयोग करें।</p>	<p>कोई भी दर्द निवारक औषधि जैसे एस्प्रीन, कार्टिसोन बुफेन आदि का इस्तेमाल कदापि न करें।</p>

मच्छरों को पनपने से रोकें तथा मच्छरों के काटने से बचें।  
दूर हो डेंगू, चिकनगुनिया रोग, यदि मिले आपका सहयोग।  
चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य महानिदेशालय द्वारा जनहित में जारी

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<p>यह विधि अपनाने पर सरकार द्वारा क्षतिपूर्ति धनराशि निम्नानुसार लाभार्थी के बैंक खाते में हस्तान्तरित की जाती है।</p>	<p>हर महीने की 21 तारीख प्रत्येक जिला अस्पताल में एनएसवी दिवस के रूप में मनाई जाती है।</p>

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# Bodies of four youths fished out

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The bodies of four youths, who had drowned in Gomti in Hasanganj on Wednesday during idol immersion ceremony, were recovered from the river on Thursday. Police suspected that more number of youths had drowned in the river.

Giving details, police spokesman AK Singh said the team recovered bodies of Rahul (21), Raja (20), Narendra (18), all of Khadra in Hasanganj, and another unidentified youth from the river during the search which was carried out after the incident. "The unidentified youth had his name written as Amit Gupta on his right hand. Police are verifying if it was his real name," he said. On Wednesday, the police had recovered body of Vishal of Khadra.

The group had gone to Dhobi ghat for idol immersion on Wednesday evening. Later, a group of youths went to take a dip in the river after the function was over and the participants were preparing to return to their homes. The group of youths swam to the middle of the river while competing with one another and later started drowning.



A steamer is placed at Jhulelal ghat to avert the king of mishap that occurred at Dhobi ghat during Ganesh idol immersion ceremony

Pioneer

# Wife, in-laws drive man to suicide

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Fed up with his wife's emotional torture and the highhandedness of his parents-in-law, a man ended his life at his house in Kaiserbagh on Thursday.

As per reports, the man, identified as Mohammed Nadeem of Machli Mohal locality, was married to Nida of Ghasiyari Mandi of Kaiserbagh 2 months back. A few days back, he started living with Nida at a house on rent in Kaiserbagh.

On Thursday morning, Nadeem was found hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta tied around his neck in the room he was living with Nida.

On information, his mother Shakila Bano reached the scene and she later levelled allegations against Nida and her parents.

Shakila said that Nida started picking up a fight with Nadeem a day after she reached their house after the marriage. "She used to emotionally torture

Nadeem to press him to live with her in a rented house," Shakila added.

"Nida and her mother Shakira informed me about the incident around 11.30 pm on Wednesday," Shakila said.

She added that Nadeem was being bullied by his parents-in-laws also and he was under immense mental pressure. "He ended his life due to the torture of Nida and her parents," she reiterated her. Police were investigating into the allegations.

# LMRC receives international award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC) has yet again created history by becoming the first-ever Metro Rail Corporation in India to bag the international 'Royal Society for the prevention of accidents' award.

Director (Works & Infrastructure) Sanjay Mishra recently received the award for Lucknow Metro at a function held in Glasgow, United Kingdom. No other Metro Rail Corporation from India was ever honoured with this prestigious award.

In July this year, the Society had announced the award for LMRC in recog-

inition of its safe practices and achievements in helping its staff, customers, clients, contractors while they worked on the project during its execution throughout last year (2017)," said senior PRO Amit Srivastava.

Earlier, LMRC has also won several prestigious national and international awards including the Best Urban Mass Transit Project in 2017 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Best Metro project for 'Excellence in Innovative Designs' in 2016, the ESQR Quality Choice Prize in 2016 in Berlin (Germany) under the Gold Category and APJ Abdul Kalam Memorial award for Innovation in Governance in 2016.



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**उपरोक्त पावर ट्रान्smिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
 इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा संख्या 76 एवं 77/विभागा0/गोण्डा/2018-19, जो दिनांक 20.09.2018 को खोली जानी थी, के सम्बन्ध में निम्न शुद्धि पत्र जारी किया जाता है। किसी भी निविदादाता द्वारा निविदा में मांग न लिये जाने के कारण निविदा संख्या 76 एवं 77/विभागा0/गोण्डा/2018-19 के खुलने की तिथि विस्तारित कर दी गयी है, अब यह निविदा दिनांक 24.09.2018 को 14.00 बजे तक अपलौड एवं स्वीकार की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 25.09.2018 को 12.00 बजे सांख्यिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। निविदा के अन्य विवरण [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर देखे जा सकते हैं। **अधीक्षक अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल 220 केभीओ उपकेन्द्र परिसर जेल रोड, गोण्डा संख्या-1344/विभागा0/गोण्डा/दिनांक 19.09.2018** "राष्ट्रहित में किसी ब्यापक साधारण बन्व के स्थान पर एल. ई.डी. बन्व का प्रयोग करें"

**पूर्वाञ्चल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड, अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना** विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल-प्रथम, इलाहाबाद के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित वितरण खण्ड में किराये पर डीजल वाहन (वालक सहित) उपलब्ध कराने हेतु अनुमदी ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से ऑनलाइन निविदाएं दो भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। विस्तृत विवरण शासन की वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। **क्र0रं0 1 निविदा संख्या 73/SE/EUDC-IA/2018-19 कार्यालय का नाम** अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल - प्रथम, इलाहाबाद। **निविदा मूल्य (कर सहित) 590.00 (500+90) धरोहर धनराशि (रु०) 4000.00 वेबसाइट पर अपलौड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय :** दिनांक 28.09.2018 अपरान्ह 14.00 बजे तक। **निविदा का प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :** दिनांक 28.09.2018 अपरान्ह 16.00 बजे। **निविदा के प्रथम भाग में निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य एवं धरोहर धनराशि (आर0टी0जी0एस0 / एन0ई0एफ0टी0) द्वारा अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल - प्रथम, इलाहाबाद के बैंक खाता संख्या 0012002100504911 (IFSC Code-PUNB0001200, Punjab National Bank, Sangam Place, Civil Lines, Allahabad) में निविदा प्रकाशन तिथि के उपरान्त जमा होनी चाहिए। बैंक जमा की साक्ष्य यथायोज्य 500000/500000 संख्या पे-इन-रिलफ की मूलप्रति (इश्यू बैंक के कन्फर्मेशन मेल की प्रति) ई-निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ ऑनलाइन अपलौड की जायेगी, एवं सम्बन्धित बैंक से पुष्टि तथा निविदा के प्रथम भाग की शर्तों के पूर्ण होने के उपरान्त ही निविदा का द्वितीय भाग खोला जायेगा। निविदा का प्रथम भाग खुलने पर फर्मों द्वारा सभी शर्तें पूरी करने वाले ठेकेदारों के सभी अभिलेखों की सत्यता की जांच इस कार्यालय द्वारा करायी जायेगी। फर्जी अभिलेख/प्रपत्र पाये जाने पर सम्बन्धित फर्म के विरुद्ध काली सूची में डालने की कार्यवाही की जायेगी। निविदा खुलने की तिथि को अवकाश होने पर आगे कार्य दिवस पर निविदा खोली जायेगी। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत नगरीय वितरण मण्डल-प्रथम, पूर्वाञ्चल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड, 57, जार्ज टाउन, इलाहाबाद** पत्रांक-1908 दिनांक 20.9.2018 राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाएं"**

## CITYBRIEFS

### SOCIAL INITIATIVE

On Thursday a school Bus was gifted to Chetana Institute, ALiganj, by Vinay Sah, managing director & CEO of LIC Housing Finance Ltd under Corporate Social Responsibility. Chetana Institute is working for many decades in the field of development and rehabilitation of handicapped children. Keeping in view the excellent work of Chetana Institute as encouragement, the 32-seater school bus was gifted by LIC Housing Finance Ltd LIC Housing Finance Ltd, which is a leading Housing loan provider of the country and a reputed company amongst the public for easy home loans, has also facilitated to benefit Common Man under different income groups under the "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana". Under this scheme, the benefit is of interest subsidy from 3% to 6.5%. A special scheme for teachers with concessional interest rates and loan against commercial properties has been launched recently.

### RAJBHASHA KIRTI PURASKAR

M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice-President of India, presented the award to AS Rajeev, executive director, Indian Bank, on Hindi day function held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi recently. Indian Bank, one of the leading nationalised banks, has been awarded "Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar" for the effective implementation of official language (Hindi) in the Bank for the year 2017-18.

### GUEST LECTURE ON ARBITRATION

The School of Legal Studies, BBDU (Babu Banarsi Das University), organised a guest lecture by international arbitrator, Sameer Shah, advocate, and director of the Chartered Institute of Arbitration, India branch, at the Akhilesh Das auditorium, BBDU, on Thursday. The lecture was quite interactive and the keen interest of the students in it was visible with regard to arbitration as a career. In the lecture, Sameer Shah discussed the finer points of arbitration, its modern-day relevance to practice and the career opportunities it had for the students. He also introduced the participants to many exclusive examples and challenges which were in practice in domestic and international arbitration. He discussed the keyrole examples and challenges in domestic and international arbitration. He discussed the key role which an arbitrator played in the resolution of disputes and also the scope of arbitration. The entire lecture was facilitated by Prof (Dr) TN Prasad, Dean, School of Legal Studies, under the guidance of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof (Dr) AK Mittal.

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

Regional Science City celebrated its 29th anniversary from September 7 to 20 by organising different educational programmes for the school students and general masses like science film shows, a poster-making contest, a popular science lecture, a science demonstration lecture and so on. On the concluding day a popular science lecture on 'Water conservation' was organised. Speaker PK Srivastava, a former scientist, CDRI, elaborated on the ancient Indian techniques of water use and also those of water conservation with the help of science cartoons (scientoons). Dr Srivastava explained today's situation of water availability. He said that Cherapunji once received the highest rainfall but the people were still facing a scarcity of drinking water whereas Udaipur received scanty rainfall but the people there were not facing any water shortage. At the end of the programme, project coordinator, Regional Science City, Raj Mehrotra motivated students to participate in the upcoming events of the centre enthusiastically. In the end, PK Srivastava gave away prizes to the winners.

# Command Hospital's bid to improve healthcare

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

With the aim of improving the healthcare in the community and apprising the fraternity of the rapidly-changing and newer concepts in the specialty and the superspecialty, GYNECON-2018 - a Continuing Medical Education Programme on Controversies in Obstetrics and Gynaecology - is being conducted at the Command Hospital, Central Command on September 20-21, 2018. Doctors, mostly young specialists in obstetrics & gynaecology from the Armed Forces Triservices, that is, Army, Air Force and the Navy from all over the country and civilian delegates and eminent professors from Lucknow and its neighbouring towns and cities attended the first day of the programme.

The Continuing Medical Education was inaugurated after Col AS Dhillon, organising chairperson, introduced the event to the audience. Chief guest Lieutenant General Sanjay Chopra, senior most gynaecologist of the Armed Forces, spoke about the challenges faced by the service gynaecologists who worked in remote areas and in difficult terrains from where evacuation and

providing high quality care at times was a problem. He stressed that the severity of the disease did not see the remoteness of the place and challenging cases do happen all over the country. The service gynaecologists apart from treating their entitled clientele were often asked to treat the critically ill cases from the civil as part of the OP Sadbhavana and deliver the goods despite the challenges peculiar to the place where they were posted.

"It is vital for tertiary care hospitals like the Command Hospital, Lucknow, to update the doctors practising at the community level with the latest knowledge through carefully-planned CMEs like Gynecon-2018," said Lieutenant General Sanjay Chopra. "These programmes are of immense value for the young specialists and post-graduate students who are preparing for their examinations," he added. All the superspecialty branches, including Assisted Reproductive Technology dealing with infertility, Gynae Oncology, General Obstetrics and General Gynaecology were deliberated upon by eminent speakers and panelists from the armed forces and their civilian counterparts.

# Workshop organised on injection safety

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The WHO Collaborating Centre for Viral Hepatitis at the SGPPI here organised a daylong workshop on 'Injection safety' and hands-on training for preventing the re-use of syringes on Thursday. The aim of the workshop was to create awareness about injection safety in general and to prevent the re-use of syringes by health administrators and healthcare workers. During the workshop, several national experts spoke on topics like the burden of unsafe injections at the global and national levels and deliberated on the methods for improving injection safety.

This was followed by an open-house panel discussion on various aspects of injection safety to answer the questions that the participants may raise. Most importantly, the programme included a hands-on workshop on safe injection techniques and the use of RUP syringes.

# LU miffed at FSDA for disclosing findings

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow University will be writing an objection letter to the FSDA (Food Safety Drug Administration) for releasing its findings to the press even before giving a copy to the university authorities. This was stated by the LU authorities one day after the FSDA conducted raids at the canteen and discovered unhygienic conditions prevailing in the mess that included the presence of rat droppings in the storage material of the canteen. When informed about this, designated FSDA official TR Rawat said that the report was signed by the assistant proctor when his team visited the mess to carry out the raids. "The action was taken in public interest and good faith. When we take an action, it is disclosed to the public. A copy of the report has already been sent to the registrar of the University," said Rawat.

Meanwhile, Lucknow University discussed solutions regarding unhygienic conditions in central mess at a meeting held on Thursday under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor SP Singh. The meeting was convened to decide remedial measures to be taken to improve cleanliness in hostels and mess areas. The meeting was attended by the Dean Students' Welfare, chief provost, director, IPPR, proctor, additional proctor, superintendent of Works, engineers of the Works department and deputy registrar. University media spokesperson NK Pandey said that all engineers were instructed to do cleaning and maintenance work in their respective hostel areas like installation of insect trapping, killing machines, water coolers, mosquito nets, increasing number of dining tables in the mess, fogging, cleaning the drainage starting next week and report to the Vice-Chancellor about the progress of the work. "The superintendent of Works was requested to consult some pest control agency for regular control of pests in the university. The university will follow measures suggested by the FSDA. The university is committed to provide quality living and food to hostel inmates," he added.

**Notice Inviting Tender (E-Tendering Mode) Request for Qualification (RFQ) cum request for proposal (RFP) for development and construction of Kanha Gausghala at Village Jana Jajmau Kanpur**  
**ON TURN KEY BASIS**  
 Bids are invited from the eligible bidders for Development & Construction of Kanha Gausghala for Stray Cattle, Including Defect Liability for one year at Village Jana Jajmau, Kanpur, U.P. on behalf of Municipal Commissioner, Kanpur Municipal Corporation, Kanpur, U.P.

1	Ref. No.	
2	Completion Period for Construction	06 Months
3	Period and Places of sale of Bidding Documents online	From 21.09.2018 from 1:00 pm to 13.10.2018 till 12:00 Noon The documents are to be downloaded from the website of <a href="http://etender.up.nic.in">http://etender.up.nic.in</a>
4	Last Date and Time for online bid submission	15.10.2018 Time : 3:00 pm
5	Total Project Cost (INR)	Rs. 717.68 lacs (WithTax)
6	Cost of Tender document non refundable	Rs. 10,000.00 thousands
7	EMD/Bid Security (refundable)	Rs. 14.36 lacs
8	Technical bid opening date and time	From 16.10.2018 Time 03:00 pm
9	Financial bid opening date and time	After the completion of technical bid evaluation on the same day or will be communicated letter
10	Place of Bid opening	Kanpur Nagar Nigam
11	Address	Motijheel, Harsh nagar, Kanpur, U.P. 208002
12	Eligibility Criteria	

- This invitation for bid is open to all the developer/contractors, should have hands on experience of at least 5 years in the field of contractions of similar projects. Joint Venture approach for bidding is acceptable.
- The firm/company should have adequate financial capability to undertake such project and should have minimum to cumulative turnover of Rs. 7 crores for the last three year. Lat three years balance sheet are to be furnished (documentary evidence to be provided)
- The firm/company should declare by way of an affidavit stating the following:-  
 (d) That there has never been default in paying Statutory Taxes and Duties.  
 (e) That is has never been black listed/debarred by any Govt./Undertaking/Private Organization.  
 (f) That there are no civil suits are pending as on date.

Tender documents can be downloaded from the e-tendering website - <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 21.09.2018 from 13.00 Hrs. to 13.10.2018 till 12:00 Noon.  
 Bidders are requested to submit the Tender fee receipt in the office of Veterinary Medical Officer, Nagar Nigam, Kanpur in the form of DD/ Bankers Cheque issued in favor of "Chief Account Officers, Nagar Nigam Kanpur" payable at Kanpur.  
 Bidders are requested to submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) receipt in the office of Veterinary Medical Officer, agar figaro. Kanpur in the form of FDR/NSC or Bank Guarantee (BG) issued in favor of "Chief Account Officers, Nagar Nigam Kanpur payable at Kanpur.  
 The deadline of online bid-submission is 15.00 Hrs. on 15.10.2018. Bid documents shall be submitted/received through online mode only.  
**CHIEF ENGEENIER NAGAR NIGAM KANPUR**      **ADD. MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER NAGAR NIGAM KANPUR**

**DELHI JAL BOARD**  
**OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (NE) II**  
**R-POCKET DILSHAD GARDEN DELHI-95**  
**PRESS NIT NO. 23 (2018-19)**

S. No	Name of Work	Amount put to tender to Tender	EMD Amount	Tender Fees	Date of release of tender in eprocurement solution	Last date/time of tender through eprocurement solution
01	PL/J water supply distribution network in JJPY area of A-Block Sonia Vihar under Karawal Nagar, AC-70 Tender ID No. 2018_DJB_158710_1	89,53,593/-	1,80,000/-	1000/-	17-09-2018	15-10-2018 upto 02:30 P.M.

ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER) Sd/-  
 Advt. No. J.S.V. 386(18-19) EX. ENGINEER (NE)-II

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CENTRAL)-I**  
**NEAR UGR & BPS RAMLIHA GROUND**  
**JLN MARG, NEW DELHI-110002.**  
**PRESS NIT NO. 35 (2018-19)**

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost in Rs	Date of release of tender on eprocurement solution	Last Date/Time of receipt of tender through eprocurement solution
01	Replacement of old and damaged sewer line of 300/450/500mm dia RCC pipe by 300/400/500 mm dia DWC pipe of Choti Baradari Ballimaran under EE(Central)-I, AC-22.	₹ 25,59,665.00	19/09/2018 06.00 PM onwards Tender ID : 2018_DJB_158847_1	04/10/2018 upto 03:00 PM
02	Replacement of old and damaged sewer line of 300/450mm dia RCC pipe by 300/500 mm dia DWC pipe of Bari Badari Ballimaran under EE(Central)-I, AC-22.	₹ 34,07,260.00	19/09/2018 06.00 PM onwards Tender ID : 2018_DJB_158848_1	04/10/2018 upto 03:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.govt.in>  
 ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER) Sd/-  
 Advt. No. J.S.V. 387(18-19) E(Central)-I

**जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम जोन-4, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ**  
**पत्रांक सं. 262/LJS/E.E.-4 अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना** दि 17.09.2018

जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम लखनऊ में कार्यरत ठेकेदारों से नीचे दिये गये विवरण के अनुरूप कार्य कराने हेतु मुहरबन्द निविदायें दिनांक 27.09.2018 के सायंकाल 3:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक 27.09.2018 को 2:00 बजे तक निविदा मूल्य का नगद भुगतान केश काउन्टर पर करके निविदा प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। भरी हुई सीलड निविदायें उसी दिन अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में सायंकाल 3:00 बजे तक निविदा बाक्स में प्राप्त की जायेगी। निविदा बाक्स से प्राप्त सभी निविदायें उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के सम्म सायंकाल 4:00 बजे खोली जायेगी।

क्रम सं०	कार्य का विवरण	निविदा का मूल्य	धरोहर धनराशि
1	गोमती नगर जोन-4 के अन्तर्गत विराज खण्ड-1 (व्यवसायिक खण्ड-1) में सिंगापूर मॉल के सामने तीन स्थानों के सामने सीवर लाइन गैप मिलाने एवं एक स्थान पर मेनहोल निर्माण का कार्य कराने हेतु।	200.00	3,500.00

नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में दी गई हैं, जिन्हें देखा जा सकता है। विस्तृत जानकारी अधिशासी अभियन्ता जोन-4 के कार्यालय में सम्पर्क कर किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्राप्त की जा सकती है। उसके साथ निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य का बैंक ड्राफ्ट संलग्न कर प्रेषित किया जा सकता है।  
**अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-4 जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम**

# Politics gets personal as elections get near

Jaitley mocks Rahul, calls him 'Clown Prince'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Congress president Rahul Gandhi calling him a "Clown Prince" and accusing him of "lying" that the Modi Government had waived ₹2.5 lakh crore of loans of 15 industrialists and NPAs (Non Performing Assets).

Slamming Rahul Gandhi's continuous attack against the Government over the Rafale deal, Jaitley said the campaign of falsehood is entirely led by Rahul Gandhi and his strategy is simple - concoct a lie and repeat it as many times. "This, at least provide him some concocted material for his state-ment/speeches for otherwise an issueless Congress," he said.

In his Facebook blog to reply to Rahul's charges made



during his political rallies, Jaitley said not a single rupee of any debtor has been waived by the BJP Government.

Jaitley said: "To each of the Rafale questions raised by me, there has been no reply. In mature democracies those who rely on falsehood are considered unfit for public life. Many have been banished from political activity because they were caught lying. But this rule obviously can't apply to a dynastic organisation like Congress Party."

"If the 'Rafale concoctions' were the first big lie, the second one stated repeatedly is that Mr. Modi waived off rupees two lakh fifty thousand crore of fifteen industrialists. Every word of

that sentence repeatedly uttered by Rahul Gandhi is false.

"You lied on the Rafale deal, you lied on the NPAs (non-performing assets). Your temperament to concoct facts raises a legitimate question - do people whose natural preference is falsehood deserve to be a part of the public discourse?"

Loans to 12 defaulters were given before 2014 and it was only the present Government which was making recoveries, the Finance Minister said. Defaulters, he added, are losing their companies and assets as they are being auctioned to recover dues.

Rahul has repeatedly attacked the Narendra Modi

Government on the deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets from France, which he claims cost more than three times the price the previous Congress-led Government had negotiated.

Countering his charges, Jaitley said the previous Government "concealed" the loans despite default, by rolling them over and NPAs or bad loans were hidden under the carpet.

"The truth, Rahul Gandhi, is that your Government allowed the banks to be looted. The loans were inadequately securitised. Your Government was in complicity," he wrote.

"The campaign of falsehood on Rafale entirely led by the Congress President exposes his strategy i.e. concoct a lie and repeat as many times." "In mature democracies, those who rely on falsehood are considered unfit for public life. Many have been banished from political activity because they were caught lying. But this rule obviously can't apply to a dynastic organisation like Congress party," he lashed out.

## Rahul calls PM Modi 'chor'

Congress dubs Finance Minister 'Court Jester'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/ DUNGARPUR (RAJASTHAN)

Congress President Rahul Gandhi on Thursday launched a serious personal attack against Prime Minister Narendra Modi by calling him as a "thief (chor)".

Rahul said people are now heard saying that the country's "watchman" is a "thief". "Galli galli mein shor hai, Hindustan ka chowkidar chor hai," Rahul said at a rally in tribal-dominated Sagwara in poll-bound Rajasthan.

Referring to the Prime Minister's "silence" on the Rafale fighter aircraft deal with France and the Modi Government's "failure" to bring fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya to book, he said he had

asked questions on this in Parliament but got no reply, and took a jibe at Modi's past assertions on tackling corruption.

Modi had said he did not want to become the country's prime minister, but its 'chowkidar' (watchman), Rahul recalled. He added now it is heard on the streets that the country's 'chowkidar' is a thief. He said this is what the people in Rajasthan and elsewhere in the country felt.

The Gandhi scion said people are disappointed with the BJP governments at the Centre and in Rajasthan and the Congress is now set to win. "Neither the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister, nor their money can stop the change of Government in Rajasthan," he said.

Referring to a recent row, Rahul claimed Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had

"admitted" that Vijay Mallya met him before leaving the country. "The Finance Minister allowed Vijay Mallya who defrauded banks to tune of Rs 9,000 crore to leave the country but the Prime Minister did not break his silence," he said.

Earlier in the day, his party member responded to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's "clown prince" comment on the Congress chief, the party retaliated that Jaitley is desperate in his attempt to stay relevant as a 'Court Jester' to 'Modi Sultanate'.

"Abuse, Diversion and Deception are the desperate tools of a 'Lying -Jait-LIE'. Instead of hiding behind the cloak of expletives for the opposition, let FM coherently answer politically relevant issues on demonetization, rupee fall and the scandalous Rafale deal," Congress chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala

said. Mentioning about Modi's monthly radio talk, Rahul in his rally speech said the prime minister speaks his 'mann ki baat' in all his speeches but the Congress wants to hear what the people say. The Congress chief said the promise to provide employment to two crore youths every year and the Make In India campaign had failed as phones, shoes and clothes carried the Made In China tag.

"We will make the people of the state secure and focus on providing employment. We want mobile phones with Made in Rajasthan tag," he said. On the occasion Rahul tried to allay speculation over rifts in the state unit of the party by referring to a motorcycle ride that Rajasthan Congress chief Sachin Pilot and former chief minister Ashok Gehlot took together.

## BIHAR SHELTER HOME SEXUAL ABUSE CASE

### SC orders Bihar police to investigate ex-Min Manju Verma

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Bihar Police to investigate former Minister Manju Verma and her husband Chandrashekhar Verma in connection with the recovery of huge quantity of ammunition from them even as the CBI arrested three private individuals and then Asst Director (In-charge Inspection of Shelter Homes) Social Welfare Department, in connection with the Muzaffarpur shelter home sexual abuse case. The CBI also froze 20 bank accounts of prime accused Brajesh Thakur.

Verma had earlier resigned as the Minister of Social Welfare

from the Bihar Government following the reports of sexual abuse of 34 minor girls lodged in the shelter home surfaced.

The SC order came after it perused the CBI status report on the investigation into the case in which it stated that "Chandrashekhar Verma and his wife have been in possession of illegal ammunition in large quantity". "We expect the local police to look into it," the SC bench comprising Justices M B Lokur and Deepak Gupta said.

Expressing satisfaction over the CBI probe into the case, the SC asked the Income Tax Department to look into assets of the NGO which was running the shelter home and its owner

Brajesh Thakur.

The apex court also asked the State Government to file affidavit on shifting of eight girls from the shelter home after the NGO was embroiled in the controversy and directed the CBI to file in sealed cover its next status report on probe in the case within four weeks. Meanwhile, the CBI said it has detained four persons including Assistant Director of the Social Welfare Department Rosy Rani in connection with its ongoing probe into the Muzaffarpur shelter home scandal.

Besides Rani, the agency detained three private persons - Santosh, Guddu and Vijay. The CBI is carrying out searches at the residential premises of

the detained persons in Muzaffarpur and Sonapur in Bihar, an agency official said.

As In-charge for inspection, Rani was responsible for carrying out inspection between 2015 and 2017 at the shelter home and the three private persons are suspected of sexually exploiting the shelter home inmates. The three private individuals are also suspected to have been connected to the prime accused. The trio was on the rolls of prime accused Brajesh Thakur and was a regular visitor to the shelter homes.

The CBI probe has revealed that the victims had shared their ordeal with Rani but she did not take any action, a pointer to her involvement in the

crime, the official further said. Rani's role is being probed for alleged abetment under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act.

The agency has also frozen 20 bank accounts of Thakur and also prohibited transactions of his moveable and immovable properties. The Muzaffarpur horror came to light when the Bihar Social Welfare Department filed an FIR based on a social audit of the shelter home conducted by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai that mentioned instances of rapes of minor girl inmates. Following a nationwide uproar over the incident, the Bihar Government transferred the case to the CBI.

## Portals to strengthen women safety launched

20 to 30% of sexual assaults take place in shelter homes, says Maneka

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Maneka Gandhi on Thursday expressed concern over sexual assaults in children's shelter homes and increasing incidents of NRI grooms abandoning their brides. She asked the police force to keep a close eye on such crimes and the arrest of culprits.

Speaking at an event, where a national registry of sex offenders was launched by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, she pulled out representatives of the States which did not respond to a letter sent by Women and Child Development Ministry asking how many 'rape kits', a specially-designed kit which helps carry out immediate medical investigation into sexual

assault cases, were procured by them.

"Twenty to thirty per cent of sexual assaults take place in shelter homes. In Muzaffarpur in Bihar, the head of a shelter home allegedly sexually assaulted several children, but he was not arrested immediately. There was a tunnel from the shelter home to his residence. That means the crimes must have taken place in his residence. I appeal to all DGPs to keep a close eye on all shelter homes," she said. Earlier in the day, the Home Minister launched two separate portals to strengthen women's safety. The National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO), which is accessible only to law enforcement agencies, will assist in effective tracking and investigation of cases of sexual offences. The portal 'cybercrime.Gov.In' will receive complaints from citizens on objectionable online content related to child pornography, child sexual abuse material, sexually explicit material such as rape and gang rape.

## AIRCEL-MAXIS CASE

### SC extends probe completion deadline by 3 months

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday extended by three months the deadline given to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to complete the probe in the Aircel-Maxis deal case. The SC's decision came on the ED's petition seeking more time pointing out the main accused and former Finance Minister Chidambaram's son Karti was evasive to their probe, misusing the interim protection given by the trial court. The agency reiterated the need for custodial interrogation of Karti.

A bench of Justices AK Sikri and Ashok Bhushan said the probe should be completed in three months.

Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED, said the agency needs some two-three months to complete the probe as it needs to confront some



accused with several e-mails.

Meanwhile, the trial court posted for further arguments on ED's petition seeking Karti's custodial interrogation to September 25. On Tuesday, the Supreme Court had permitted Karti to go abroad between September 20 and 30. Karti is already chargesheeted by ED and the agency said they need his custody for further probe. CBI has already chargesheeted Chidambaram and Karti in the Aircel-Maxis case.

## J&K acting DGP to continue in office, says SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday said the newly appointed acting Director General of Police (DGP) of Jammu & Kashmir shall continue in office till the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) takes a decision on the matter.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra said acting DGP Dilbag Singh, who replaced S P Vaid, shall continue to operate. It asked the UPSC to take a decision within four weeks on the suitability of senior police officers who can be appointed as the police chief in the State.

As per the apex court's verdict, the State Government has to give a list of senior police officers to the UPSC to check their suitability and short-list three names from it.

The Jammu & Kashmir Government had earlier moved the apex court seeking modification of its order by which prior permission of the UPSC was required for appointing a police officer from among three short-listed candidates.

The apex court had on September 11 refused to interfere with the decision of the State Government to appoint an acting DGP. PTI

## BHIMA-KOREGAON SC reserves verdict on arrest of 5 activists

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its verdict on a plea by historian Romila Thapar and others seeking the immediate release of five rights activists in connection with the Koregaon-Bhima violence case and an SIT probe into their arrest.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, reserved the judgment after counsel for both parties including senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Harish Salve and Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta concluded their submissions.

The bench, also comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, asked the Maharashtra police to file their case diary pertaining to the ongoing investigation in the case by September 24. It also asked the parties to file their written submissions by then.

The five activists - Varavara Rao, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves, Sudha Bharadwaj and Gautam Navlakha - are under arrest at their respective homes since August 29. PTI

## BSF protests killing, hacking of jawan; Pak denies

New Delhi: The BSF has registered a strong protest with its Pakistani counterpart over the killing and slitting of throat of one of its jawans in Jammu and has told the Pak Rangers that the act was "unsoldierly", official sources said on Thursday.

They said the atmosphere along the border areas was "tense" and a high alert is in place along this region of the Indo-Pak international border.

The sources said the Pakistani side, which spoke to the Border Security Force officials in the noon over phone, "denied any hand" in the killing of Head Constable Narendar Singh on September 18.

The Indian side termed the act as "unsoldierly".

It was informed that Pakistani troops "shot and killed" the BSF trooper, they said.

They added that on getting this response, the BSF told the other side that any future misadventure on the India-Pakistan border will be the responsibility of the Pak Rangers.

"A brief phone call talk took place between the two sides this noon. When it was brought to the notice of Pakistan that they had killed the jawan by resorting to unprovoked fire, they flatly refused any hand of their troops in the incident," a senior official said. PTI



President Ram Nath Kovind shakes hands with Fatoumata Balde, Ambassador-designate of Guinea, as she presents her credentials at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Thursday PTI



A group of Muslim women meets Union Minister Vijay Goel to express their happiness on the Government's Ordinance on 'triple talaq' in New Delhi on Thursday PTI

## PM meets ASHA workers



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday encouraged Asha workers to devote their energies to work in coordination with other Government agencies to improve the quality of life in their villages even as he explained how Government schemes and initiatives are aimed at empowering the poor to fight poverty.

Modi was interacting with a group of 90 Asha workers, who appraised him about their work. They recounted how they were instrumental in saving lives of poor mothers and children through timely intervention. The group of about 90 Asha representatives

from across the country also thanked the prime minister for the recent announcement of increase in their incentives and insurance cover, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office said. There are a total of 10,23,136 Accredited Social Health Activists (Asha) across the country.

Modi recalled his recent interaction with Asha and Anganwadi workers across the country via video conference and appreciated the experiences and personal accounts that had been shared by them. The Prime Minister appreciated the skill and dedication of Asha workers, and recalled that even Bill and Melinda Gates had praised their efforts towards eradication of diseases such as 'Kala Azar'.

## BJP releases first list of 380 candidates for ULB polls in J&K

Jammu: The Jammu & Kashmir unit of the BJP on Thursday released the first list of 380 candidates for urban local bodies (ULB) elections scheduled to be held in four phases next month.

The list of the candidates included 120 women activists of the party covering municipal corporations, municipal councils and municipal committees of Jammu region, a spokesman of the party said.

He said the BJP state election committee headed by its state president Ravinder Raina finalised the first list of the candidates at a meeting after discussions.

He said, before finalising the list, the State election committee discussed the names of

candidates with concerned legislators, respective district presidents and district in-charges.

The State unit also conducted the ward-wise and polling booth-wise survey to select the "effective" candidate for this election, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, BJP spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan hit out at State Congress president G A Mir over his assurance to the people that his party would safeguard the Article 35A of the constitution, and said "this is another evil attempt of the Congress to mislead the people just for the sake of getting votes".

Article 35A gives special rights and privileges to the Jammu & Kashmir natives.

# BSF jawan Narendra cremated in Sonipat



An official pays tribute to BSF head constable Narendra Singh after his mortal remains arrived in Sonipat on Thursday PTI

PTI ■ SONIPAT

In an atmosphere of anger and gloom, a huge gathering Thursday bid a tearful adieu to BSF jawan Narendra Singh, who was brutally killed by Pakistani troops along the International Border (IB) near Jammu.

The mortal remains of BSF Head Constable Narendra Singh were cremated with full State honours at his native Thana Kalan village in Haryana's Sonipat district.

Slogans of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', Narendra Singh Amar Rahe' rent the air as the body, wrapped in a tricolour, reached the village in the morning.

Several villagers chanted slogans against Pakistan. Family members and locals demanded that Pakistan should be taught a lesson for the "barbaric" act.

Pakistani troops had slit the throat of a BSF jawan after fatally shooting him along the International Border (IB) near Jammu on Tuesday, according to reports.

The 52-year-old BSF jawan is survived by two sons and his wife. The funeral pyre was lit by his elder son Mohit.

"We are proud of our father for laying down his life for the nation. His death should be avenged," said a teary-eyed Mohit.

"Not everyone gets a chance to be draped in the tricolour... But we just cannot keep feeling proud. We will feel proud again, when another death takes place. We demand action against Pakistan," he said.

He also demanded that the concerned authorities provide whatever help the family needs. Other family members also appealed to the Centre to act tough against Pakistan.

Several prominent persons including Haryana minister Krishan Bedi, Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala and senior officials of BSF were also among the mourners.

# PM should apologise to families of martyred jawans: J&K Congress

PTI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir Congress strongly reacted to the killing of a BSF jawan whose body was brutalised by Pakistani troops, saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi should apologise to families of jawans who have lost their lives along the border.

It said the act was "highly provocative and intolerable".

"The barbaric killing of the BSF jawan is highly provocative and intolerable act and the rarest incident on the International Border demonstrates the intentions of Pakistan," Ravinder Sharma, chief spokesperson of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee, said in a statement here.

He said the barbaric killing

of the BSF jawan and mutilation of his body by Pakistani troops was the worst ever violation of international norms.

Throat-slit and bullet-riddled body of head constable Narendra Kumar was recovered hours after he went missing following firing by Pakistani troops on a BSF party in Ramgarh sector of Samba district on Tuesday.

The Congress leader claimed that the visit of prime minister to Lahore emboldened Pakistan to intensify illegal activities and nefarious designs in the state.

"Such heinous and shameful act of Pakistan are unpardonable and the Modi government is answerable to the nation for its failure to handle Pakistan and deal with it in an appropriate manner.

# Indian economy to reach \$5 trillion by 2022: PM

**GOVT'S PUSH FOR MAKE-IN-INDIA HAS LED TO 80 PER CENT OF MOBILE PHONES (BEING MANUFACTURED WITHIN THE COUNTRY), HELPING SAVE ₹3 L CRORE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday the size of Indian economy will double to \$5 trillion by 2022 with manufacturing and agriculture contributing \$1 trillion each.

Speaking at the foundation laying ceremony of India International Convention and Expo Centre here, he cited this week's announcement of merg-

er of Dena Bank, Vijaya Bank and Bank of Baroda to create the country's third largest lender to say that the Government will not shy away from taking tough decisions in the national interest.

Indian economy, he said, will grow at over 8 per cent rate with massive employment generation being seen in IT and retail sectors. Macroeconomic fundamental of the economy are strong, he said.

The Government's push for Make-in-India has led to 80 per cent of mobile phones currently in use being manufactured within the country, helping save ₹3 lakh crore in foreign exchange. The Government, he said, has courage to take bold decisions.

Besides banks' merger, he cited the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which amalgamated 17 central and state taxes, among the bold measures taken by the Government.

# Nothing works out despite Nitish meeting with Shah

FAIZAN AHMAD ■ PATNA

**SEAT SHARING**

Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar returned from Delhi on Thursday but it appeared that he came back without finalisation of seat sharing with the BJP. After the medical check-up at AIIMS, he called on BJP chief Amit Shah and held talks on this issue but nothing concrete came out.

Nitish had visited New Delhi soon after telling his party rank and file here on Sunday that seat sharing issue

has been finalised and would soon be announced jointly by the leaders of BJP and JD(U) in Delhi. Possibly under the impression that after his meeting with Shah the issue would be solved amicably and mad public. But nothing happened and after meeting BJP chief for 20 minutes Nitish came out and huddled together with some of the leaders of his party. The party insiders revealed that JD(U) has demanded "honourable" adjustment in the NDA, the JD(U) rejoined in July last year after a gap of four years. There were speculations that Nitish has been demanding a good number of seats including a few which were won by the BJP or its allies in 2014. The party leaders are tight lipped about the number of seats the party has claimed but it is speculated the number ranged between 12-17. Similarly, the Bihar BJP leaders too refused to speak on this issue saying the matter was between the top leaders of BJP and JD(U).

# Interest rate on small savings hiked; PPF to fetch 8 pc now

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After a gap of several years, the government has raised interest on small savings, including NSC and PPF, by up to 0.4 per cent for the October-December quarter, in line with rising deposit rates in the banks.

The decision is aimed at encouraging small savings and promote welfare of senior citizens and girl child. The rates are revised quarterly.

The move, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said in a tweet is aimed at supporting small savers as the interest rates for small savings scheme have been increased by 0.3-0.4 per cent for the third quarter of this year.

In another tweet he said, it will "promote welfare of the girl child and improve financial security of the elderly. The government, from 1st October, has increased returns on Sukanya Samridhi Yojana from 8.1 per cent to 8.5 per cent, and

Senior Citizens Savings Scheme from 8.3 per cent to 8.7 per cent".

The interest rate on almost all small saving schemes have been declining since April 1, 2012. As per the Finance Ministry notification, the interest rate on popular Public Provident Fund (PPF) has been increased to 8 per cent for the third quarter from 7.6 per cent.

The interest rate on PPF deposits was as high as 8.8 per cent on April 1, 2012. Since then it declined gradually. PPF deposits are exempt from income tax.

Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) will now yield interest rate of 7.7 per cent as against 7.3 per cent earlier. Now, with hike of 0.4 per cent hike in interest rate, deposits in the form of KVP will mature in 112 months compared to 118 earlier.

Interest rate for the five-year term deposit, recurring deposit Senior Citizens Savings Scheme has been raised to 7.8, 7.3 and 8.7 per cent, respec-

tively. The interest on the senior citizens' scheme is paid quarterly.

However, interest on savings deposits has been retained at 4 per cent, annually.

The girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samridhi account will earn higher interest rate of 8.5 per cent rate, 0.4 per cent more than the current rate. The interest rate on deposits under this scheme introduced by the NDA government attracted 9.2 per cent interest in April 2015.

The notification further showed that term deposits of one-three years will fetch 0.3 per cent higher interest rate.

While announcing the quarterly setting of interest rates in 2016, the finance ministry had said that rates of small savings schemes would be linked to government bond yields. The move is expected to see banks lowering their deposit rates in line with the small savings rate offered by the government.

# 27 states, UTs on board to implement healthcare scheme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 27 states and Union Territories are ready to join the ambitious healthcare scheme Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana after its launch on Sunday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a Niti Aayog member said.

Over 15,000 hospitals, both public and private, across the country have expressed their willingness to be empanelled for the scheme which aims to provide 10.74-crore poor families health insurance, Niti Aayog member VK Paul, who is the chief architect of the scheme, told PTI in an interview.

"The Prime Minister will launch the scheme on September 23 but effectively it will become operational from September 25 on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay," he said, adding that in the current fiscal, the burden on the Centre is likely to be around Rs 3,500 crore.

"With the launch by the prime minister, 26-27 states and UTs are likely to immediately commence the PMJAY," Paul added.

The Niti Aayog member said that five or six states were not signed, so obviously the scheme will not be implemented in those states till they come on board.

"Remaining states that have signed (MoUs with the Centre) should hopefully be in the process of actual launch of (PMJAY) in the next 2-3 months," he noted.

The mega healthcare scheme aims to provide medical cover of up to Rs 15 lakh to over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families, constituting 40 per cent of India's total population.

Billed as the world's largest government healthcare programme, it will be funded with 60 per cent contribution coming from the central government and the remaining from the states. Paul also said that the government expects thousands of new hospitals to come up in the



next five years in tier 2 and tier 3 cities. "We have received applications from 15,000 hospitals for being empanelled... Out of this half, that means 7,500 applications for empanelment are private hospitals," he said, adding that in some states process for empanelment is yet to start.

Asked about the cost to the exchequer in the current fiscal, he said, "Around Rs 3,500 crore has been budgeted by the central government for the scheme this year". He mentioned that Rs 2,000 crore had been provided in the budget for 2018-19 as token money for the scheme, then named as Ayushman Bharat.

# Sushma to play Imran ball

From Page 1

Incidentally, Khan's offer for dialogue was reported a day after a Border Security Force (BSF) personnel was shot dead by Pakistani forces on the International Border in Jammu region on September 18. His body was also mutilated. India lodged strong protest with Pakistan over the incident.

# Jaya's gift to...

From Page 1

"We should have a regulation banning the commercial exploitation of captive elephants. The living conditions of these elephants donated to the temples are pathetic.

They are subject to the worst form of treatment from their owners. A mahout is close to the elephant and knows its nature thoroughly. If the mahout himself is trampled by his ward, then what is the security and safety for ordinary people who come to witness temple festivals where these elephants are paraded," asked Rathnam.

According to Dun & Bradstreet's latest economy forecast, elevated crude oil prices, strengthening of dollar, geopolitical tensions and economic sanctions will continue to impart depreciation pressures on the rupee.

"Elevated risks and heightened geopolitical uncertainty, trade wars and economic sanctions along with reworking of trade treaties will continue to impact emerging market currencies, including India," Dun & Bradstreet India Lead Economist Arun Singh said in a research note.

At this time of global uncertainty along with tightening dollar liquidity in the global market, measures to attract foreign investors to support the rupee might have limited impact, at least, in the short-term.

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.

The rupee Wednesday rebounded by 61 paise to close at 72.37 against the US currency.

On the Government's recent initiatives to support rupee, the report said the measures were "initial" and more is expected.

Singh further noted that "if the government undertakes measures like curbing non-essential imports it will be favourable for the domestic industry and the current account balance but at the same time it might send out protectionist signals".

D&B expects the rupee to be around 72.3 - 72.5 per \$ during September.

"The fact that rupee remains undervalued as per the 6-currency trade based REER (real effective exchange rate) index and there are adequate forex reserves to support rupee, the current level might not be the new normal for rupee," Singh added.

# Report: ₹ likely to remain under pressure in near term

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee is expected to remain under pressure in near-term as the downside risks to the currency are largely driven by the external factors and will take some time to subside, says a report.

On the Government's recent initiatives to support rupee, the report said the measures were "initial" and more is expected.

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"The fact that rupee remains undervalued as per the 6-currency trade based REER (real effective exchange rate) index and there are adequate forex reserves to support rupee, the current level might not be the new normal for rupee," Singh added.

# Carcasses of three lions found in Gujarat forest

NAYAN DAVE ■ GANDHINAGAR

Forest officials in Gujarat came into action following carcasses of three Asiatic lions found in decomposed condition in the past 48 hours from the eastern part of Gir Forest and Sanctuary to find out the cause of death of the big cats.

"Around a year old lion's carcass was found on Thursday late evening. A day before two other carcasses of lions aging around three to five years also found in decomposed state. All three cases found inside Dhalkhania rang of Gir forest situated in Amreli district," said a senior forest official requesting anonymity while confirming the deaths of three big cats within the only abode of Asiatic Lions in the world - Gir forest.

According to the official, the lions must have been killed at least a week ago as their bodies were decomposed and mutilated in such a manner that it would be difficult for the experts to determine its sex.

# Flyers...

From Page 1

"The officials concerned should prepare a comprehensive safety audit plan which involves assessment of safety parameters of all scheduled airlines, aerodromes, flying training schools and MROs immediately," Prabhu said, seeking a safety audit report within 30 days. He also directed the officials concerned to corrective action immediately if deficiencies were noticed in the safety audit.

Independent of a preliminary enquiry into the incident by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) which has been asked to file a report on the incident immediately, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is looking into the incident.

Confirming the incident, a DGCA official said, "During climb, the crew forgot to select bleed switch because of which cabin pressure dropped. As a result, the passengers made use of oxygen masks."

Darshak Hathi and Satish Nair were among the first passengers on board the affected flight to tweet about the incident. "Panic situation due to technical fault in @jetairways 9W 0697 going from Mumbai to Jaipur. Flt return back to Mumbai after 45 mts. All passengers are safe including me. - @Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (BOM)," Hathi tweeted. He also posted video footage of the incident shot from his smartphone on

his twitter handle. "I was on board...horrifying and worst incident in my life...Passengers on Jet flight bleed after crew forgets to maintain cabin pressure," Nair tweeted.

"The aircraft made an emergency landing in Mumbai. Airplane lost pressure immediately after taking off. Scores of passengers including me bled from nose...no staff to help...no announcement on board to wear the oxygen mask. Passengers safety was completely ignored," another passenger, Nair elaborated on the incident later.

Regretting the inconvenience caused to passengers on board the affected flight, a Jet Airways spokesperson said of the 166 passengers on board the original flight, 144 left for Jaipur in an alternative flight, "while 17 of them wished to travel at another point in time"

"Five guests who were referred to a hospital for additional medical check-up accompanied by the Jet Airways' Care team have since been released, post medical examination. The airline will continue to offer necessary medical care and attention to the concerned guests as required. Jet Airways is also extending full cooperation to the DGCA for the ongoing investigation of the event," the airline spokesperson said.

Dwelling upon the condition of the passengers admitted to his hospital, Dr Rajendra Patankar, Chief Operating

Officer of the Nanavati Hospital said, "The five patients, all males, have mild conductive deafness, a temporary condition that is likely to take a week or 10 days to heal. They are advised not to fly till that time. They are under observation and are stable."

Dr Patankar said the five passengers said they had suffered "barotrauma" of ear, which was caused due to a change in air pressure.

The five hospitalised passengers were identified as Anveshan Ray (39), Mukesh Sharma (31), Vikas Agarwal (31), Damodar Das (37) and Ankur Kala (38).

Thursday's was the first of its kind witnessed in the country. In one of the similar but much severe incident witnessed elsewhere in the world, Helios Airways Flight 522, a scheduled passenger flight from Larnaca, Cyprus, to Athens, Greece, had crashed on August 14, 2005, killing all 121 passengers and crew on board, following the loss of cabin pressurisation that incapacitated the crew, leaving the aircraft flying on autopilot until it ran out of fuel and crashed.

In another similar mishap, Aloha Airlines Flight 243, a scheduled Aloha Airlines flight between Hilo and Honolulu in Hawaii, had suffered extensive damage after an explosive decompression in flight on April 28, 1988, but managed to land safely at Kahului Airport on Maui. A flight attendant Clarabelle Lansing was killed in the incident after having been ejected from the aircraft.

# CAG slams Gujarat PSU for causing loss of over ₹17K

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has slammed debt-ridden Gujarat Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Gujarat State Petrochemicals Limited (GSPC) for causing mammoth loss of over ₹17,000 crore.

Among the 14 loss making Gujarat based PSUs, GSPC is on the top. According to the CAG report tabled in the State Assembly late on Wednesday night, GSPC Limited booked impairment loss of ₹14,923.54 crore on 80 per cent Participating Interest and 10 per cent in KG-OSN-2001/3 block (KG Block).

The total loss of the company for the year 2016-17 stood at ₹17,061.20 crore. The 77 Gujarat PSUs had posted overall profit of ₹1,633 crore in the financial year 2015-16. However, next year in fiscal 2016-17 aggregate loss of these PSUs recorded at whopping ₹14,764 crore only because of GSPC's shocking loss exceeding ₹17,000 crore.

Of the 77 working State PSUs, 54 earned profit of ₹3,648 crore, while 14 of them incurred losses of ₹18,412 crore including that of GSPC. The total turnover of these PSUs stood at ₹1,11,953 crore, which is about 9.95 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product

for 2016-17. As per the CAG report total investment in the State PSUs has increased from ₹1,02,689.21 crore in 2012-13 to ₹1,49,499.29 crore in 2016-17. The return on investment ranged between 4.95-6.82 per cent during 2012-13 to 2015-16.

"Total equity of the State PSUs increased from ₹59,130.71 crore in 2012-13 to ₹85,112.91 crore in 2016-17. The return on equity in State PSUs ranged between 0.27 and 4.53 per cent during 2012-13 to 2015-16. However, there was net loss in 2016-17. Therefore, the return on investment and equity was not computed in 2016-17," says the CAG report.

# Guj: Kutch declared scarcity hit district due to poor monsoon

PTI ■ BHUJ

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Thursday declared Kutch as 'scarcity hit district' after it received just 26.51 per cent rains this monsoon.

Besides Kutch district, tehsils which have received less than 125 mm of rainfall have also been declared scarcity hit with effect from October 1, a State Government release said.

"We held an extensive review and it has been decided that Kutch district, which has received only 26.51 per cent rains this monsoon, should be declared scarcity hit from October 1," Rupani told

reporters after chairing a meeting to review the state's water situation.

He added that the district would get subsidies as per Government rules and norms.

"We have also decided to declare all other tehsils of the state, where rainfall is less than 125 mm this monsoon, as scarcity hit," Rupani said, without giving number of such tehsils.

"Subsidies would be given to gaushalas (cow shelters) and panjrapoles (animal shelters) and new panjrapoles would be opened in the affected areas," he said.

Drinking water will be provided to the district from the Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada river, Rupani said.

He said that drinking water pipeline projects worth ₹296 crore for Kutch district would be taken up on war footing.

Gujarat is staring at water scarcity as it has received just 73.87 per cent of rainfall this monsoon, a state government release said.

It added that Kutch has received just 26.51 per cent of average rainfall so far, while north Gujarat got 42.93 per cent, central Gujarat 66.83 per cent, Saurashtra 72.20 per cent and south Gujarat got the highest of 94.79 per cent.

# HDK hits back at Yeddyurappa

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

The day after BJP alleged that Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy and his father were a commission agents, Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy hit out at BJP strongman BS Yeddyurappa and said the BJP introduced commission culture in the State.

Strongly refuting the allegations by Opposition leader in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly BS Yeddyurappa that his father and he are running the JD(S)-Congress coalition Government and it is functioning as a Commission Agent, Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Thursday charged that "it was Yeddyurappa who introduced Commission system in Politics while in power."

He said "It was Yeddyurappa who created percentage politics during his tenure as Chief Minister and now blaming us without any basis. We are trying to provide most transparent administration and such baseless allegations were uncalled for from a person who is more than my age and holding an important position."

He told the media in Bengaluru on Thursday "it

was Yeddyurappa and his party leaders who indulged in looting State and Country's natural wealth. They are the real looters."

He said Yeddyurappa should maintain dignity and should not make baseless allegations against him and his father who served as Prime Minister. "He should be careful before making any charges against my family. Earlier he was stating that he will send both Father and son to jail if he comes to power, but the fact is that he (Yeddyurappa) was the one who went to jail and not us," he retorted.

Chief Minister reiterated that BJP is still indulged in 'Operation Kamal', and said an MLA Shivalli was contacted by Yeddyurappa and tried to lure him by stating that 18 MLAs have agreed to switch over. He said "According to information, BJP will take 18 MLAs to Maharashtra and bring them with military force to Vidhana Soudha, the State secretariat, to take over the charge. I am getting the details about their minute to minute move and I very well know when to make them public. Even now meeting is going on in Bowring institute to lure Legislature Suresh Gowda." "If I reveal the

true picture of Yeddyurappa and remove the mask he is wearing to mislead the public, then he will not be having a place to hide," he added.

Kumaraswamy's outburst comes in the wake of Yeddyurappa yesterday alleged stating that "father and son are running the government and Ministers are passing the bills only after getting 8 to 10 per cent commission."

Meanwhile BJP strongman and Opposition Leader in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly BS Yeddyurappa, who is also BJP State President, said that Kumaraswamy has no moral right to talk about him."

Yeddyurappa's statement comes in the wake of Kumaraswamy earlier in the day asking him to be careful making allegations against his family members and warned that he will not be spared if makes any baseless allegations.

Yeddyurappa alleged that it was father and son duo who had indulged many corruption including de-notification of lands. "Let them appoint an inquiry by any agency since their government is in power. I am ready to face. Let him not teach me how I have to speak and maintain my dignity," he added.

However he said his party will reveal all charges with relevant documents to prove 'father and Sons' involvement relating to land grabbing and de-notification of land.

In another development congress strongman and minister in the coalition government DK Shivakumar who is facing the wrath of the ED has said BJP is indulging in politics of revenge. He denied the charges made by BJP that he had given money to Congress leaders in Delhi.

He accused the BJP of mis-using central agencies to harass him and pull down the Congress-JDS government in the state. Pleading innocence, the high-profile minister said he was not involved in hawala transactions and was ready to face "any type of torture" by central agencies. He asserted he would come out clean.

DK Shivakumar's denial came after BJP spokesman in Delhi Sambit Patra demanded that the top Congress leadership respond to the purported "confessional statements" made by his alleged associates claiming the money trail in a hawala network led to the Congress headquarters.

# Madhavi critical

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Madhavi, who was critically injured in the attack by her father last evening continues to be serious, doctors at Yashoda hospital said. However, her husband B Sandeep was discharged after treatment. Her father Manohara Chary had attacked the newly wed couple with a sickle on a busy road at Erragadda on Wednesday evening.

It was being seen as attempted "honor killing" as Manohara Chary was upset with Madhavi for marrying a Dalit youth.

According to the hospital authorities a team of doctors including neurosurgeons, cardio vascular experts and plastic surgeon performed a ten hour long operation of Madhavi last night. She suffered deep laceration on the neck severing the vessels which supply blood to the brain. Her ear was also split and she suffered major loss of blood by the time she was brought to hospital.

Deputy Commissioner of police West Zone AR Srinivas who produced the accused before the media said that Manohara Chary was angry with his daughter for marrying outside his caste against his wishes.

"However he had no intention of attacking Sandeep and only wanted to kill his daughter", the DCP said. Sandeep became target of his fury when he tried to save his wife.

Police have booked a case

# Pope temporarily relieves bishop of pastoral duties

PTI ■ KOCHI



Bishop Franco Mulakkal, who was questioned by Kerala police for the second day over rape charges by a nun, has been temporarily relieved of his pastoral responsibilities by Pope Francis, the Catholic Bishop Conference of India (CBCI) said Thursday.

The Pope appointed Bishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Bombay Agnelo Rufino Gracias as the Apostolic administrator of the diocese of Jalandhar with immediate effect, a CBCI statement said.

The announcement came even as the senior Catholic priest is being questioned by the Special Investigation Team for the second day here

Thursday.

The Pope took the decision in response to Mulakkal's September 16 letter offering to "step aside temporarily" as the Bishop of the Jalandhar diocese, Kerala Catholic Bishops Council Spokesman P Varghese Vallikkattu told PTI.

He wrote the letter after Kerala police summoned him to appear before it for questioning in the case.

Bishop Mulakkal has been accused of repeated rape by the Kerala-based nun of Missionaries of Jesus Congregation of the Jalandhar diocese. He has denied the charges.

# Case filed against Babul Supriyo

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after black flags were shown to Union Minister Babul Supriyo, a police complaint was lodged against the Asansol BJP MP for allegedly foul-mouthing a differently able person at Nazrul Manch in Bengal's second largest city. The singer-turned politician was seen rebuking a person for allegedly "creating disturbance" in his programme when he threatened to break his leg. He reportedly told the person "what happened to you? What is the problem? I will break your legs (if you do not stop this nonsense)."

The complaint was lodged at Asansol South Police Station, police said.

The incident took place on Tuesday when the Union Minister was visiting Asansol's where he was addressing a function at Nazrul Manch.

The function was organised for the physically challenged people.

The Minister was subsequently shown black flags by alleged Trinamool Congress supporters who were protesting against the construction of a railway over bridge at Kumarpur. They apprehended loss of livelihood if the bridge was constructed without making alternative arrangements for them.

The Minister and the protesters allegedly had heated exchanges before he left the place. Subsequently on Thursday the police complaint was lodged against him.

# Owaisi rules out joining TRS Govt in future

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen president and MP Asaduddin Owaisi has expressed confidence that the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti will return to power in the coming Assembly elections in the State but ruled out the possibility of his party sharing power in future. "I am not interested in power politics. My only interest is that social justice should be done to the weaker sections," he told the media in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Owaisi was of the opinion that TRS led by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao will

return to power on the basis of its welfare programmes. When asked whether MIM will join the Government if TRS returns to power, he said, "MIM was never interested in power politics or joining any Government. My only wish is that justice should be done to the weaker sections", he said.

The speculations that MIM might be interested in joining the government started when Asaduddin Owaisi's younger brother and MIM floor leader in the state assembly Akbaruddin Owaisi said that a situation may arise after the election when his party will ask others to support it in forming the government like it hap-

pened in case of HD Kumaraswamy in neighboring Karnataka. Replying to a question about it Asaduddin Owaisi said that the remarks of Akbaruddin were distorted by the media. "Media reports what it likes and wants", he said.

MIM and TRS had friendly relationship over the last five years and the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao acknowledged it publicly when he said that MIM was a "friendly party". As part of the tactical understanding the TRS will have a friendly contest with the MIM. In 2014 MIM had won 7 assembly seats all in Hyderabad city and was now trying to increase it to 10.

# Two LeT ultras killed in Kashmir

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Two suspected Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists were killed in a prolonged firefight in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday triggering clashes between local protesters and the security forces in the area.

Official sources said that a joint team of Army, paramilitary CRPF and police cordoned off Shukhbaba Sumlar area of Bandipora district in north Kashmir on Thursday after intelligence input on the presence of ultras in the area. During the operation, a fierce exchange of fire took place leading to killing of two terrorists.

They said that the area was under tight cordon as presence of more militants was suspected.

The sources said that the bodies of slain militants were not retrieved and the slain could be cadres of Lashkar e Tayyeba.

There was no immediate report of any casualties on the security forces' side.

**Form No. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT LUCKNOW**  
600/1 University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow 226007  
(Area of Jurisdiction : Part of Uttar Pradesh)  
Summons for filing Reply & Appearance by Publication  
(Summons to Defendant under section 19(3), of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)  
Original Application No. 263 of 2018 Date: 23.8.2018  
HDFC BANK LTD. ....Applicant

**VERSUS**

**Avision Infra Pvt. Ltd. & Others** .....Defendants  
To:  
1. Avision Infra Pvt. Ltd., Through Director Bhaskar Mall, C-1251 Indra Nagar, Lucknow, UP-226016 .....Defendants  
2. Bhaskar Mall, C-1251 Indra Nagar, Lucknow, UP-226016 .....Defendants  
In the above noted application you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets, along with documents and affidavit (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/ duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 24-10-2018 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Registrar  
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

**Form No. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT LUCKNOW**  
600/1 University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow 226007  
(Area of Jurisdiction : Part of Uttar Pradesh)  
Summons for filing Reply & Appearance by Publication  
(Summons to Defendant under section 19(3), of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)  
Original Application No. 262 of 2018 Date: 23.8.2018  
HDFC BANK LTD. ....Applicant

**VERSUS**

**Sarvan Kumar & Others** .....Defendants  
To:  
1. Sarvan Kumar, 926 AB Nagar, Unnao, UP-209801 .....Defendants  
2. Rama Shankar, 926 AB Nagar, Unnao, UP-209801 .....Defendants  
In the above noted application you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets, along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/ duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 15-10-2018 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Registrar  
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

**शेन्ट बैंक Cent Bank**  
होम फाइनेंस लिमिटेड Home Finance Limited  
(Incorporated in India)  
UGF-4, CHINTELS HOUSE, 16- STATION ROAD, LUCKNOW (UP)-226001

**POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd, Branch office UGF-4, Chintels House, 16 Station Road, Lucknow-226001, UNDER SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices upon the borrowers/guarantors mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers/guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said act on the below mentioned dates. The borrowers/guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd, Branch office UGF-4, Chintels House, 16 Station Road, Lucknow-226001.

S No	Name of the Borrowers	Description of the mortgaged Property (All the part and parcel of the property consisting of)	Date of Demand Notice	Amount in Demand (Rs.)
1.	Shyam Manohar Dubey & Ranno Dubey, Typ-2/195 Sec-K Pnt Colony Lucknow	Plot no 1 kh no-73 Ibrahim Lucknow, Plot area 900 sqft Boundaries-East-15 feet wide road, West-house digar North-house of seller, South-house digar	31.05.2018	2487749/- +with further Intt. exp & other Charges etc thereon
2.	Akhtar Siddiqui & Hina Kaisar Siddiqui & Nadeem Siddiqui, Plot no. 1 kh no-126, Chinhat Lucknow	Plot no. 1 kh no-126, Chinhat Lucknow, plot area 1290 sqft. Boundaries-East-10 feet wide road West-plot digar, North-other house, South-other house	22.06.2018 17.09.2018	3329231/- +with further Intt. exp & other Charges etc thereon
3.	Jagdamba Prasad & Rrina Devi, typ-1/135 Dooraanchra Colony, Sec-K, Ailganj, Lucknow.	Plot no. 11 b kh no-36 min Farid puri Ward Kanahiya Madhapur Lucknow, Plot area 1200 sqft Boundaries-East-20 feet wide road West-plot digar, North-house Shatrohan Lal, South-Now Gali.	31.05.2018 17.09.2018	2487749/- +with further Intt. exp & other Charges etc thereon
4.	Arachan Singh & Pawan Singh, house no 91 Kailash Vihar, Gindan Khera Sarojani Nagar Lucknow.	Plot/Kh No-1369 Vill Behsa par Bijnara Lucknow. Plot area 1000sqft. Boundaries-East-Property of Ajmal West-Rasta, North-Plot of Seller, South-Plot Seller	13.11.2017 17.09.2018	1557950/- +with further Intt. exp & other Charges etc thereon
5.	Mr. Mohd Maroof Khan & Mrs. Shalmeen Khatoun R/o House No-01 Kh no-300, Vii Kakauli Ward Faizullganj, Lucknow	House No-01 Kh no-300 Vii Kakauli Word Faizullganj Lucknow Dist-Lucknow. Boundaries: North - House Seller, South - plot Aragi deegar, East - 15ft. Road, West - plot Aragi deegar.	15.02.2018 17.09.2018	25,64,991/- +with further Intt. exp & other Charges etc thereon

The above-mentioned borrowers/guarantors are hereby given 30 days notice to repay the amount, else the above said mortgaged property will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, as per provision under the rule 8 and 9 of security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Date: 20.09.2018, Place: Lucknow Authorised Officer, Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd, Lucknow Branch

**इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank**  
Zonal Office: 2-B, Habibullah Estate, 11 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Hazratganj, Lucknow 226001, Uttar Pradesh, Tel No. 0522-2622777, 2614020 Fax No.: 0522-2230804 E-mail Id: zolucknow@indianbank.co.in

**NOTICE OF INTENDED SALE (Including for e-auction mode)**

Date Time & Place of E-Auction-26.10.2018 at 11.00 AM to 01.00 PM With unlimited extension of 5 minutes till sale is concluded in E-auction mode <https://indianbank.auctiontigr.net>

Last date and time for submission of bid through e-auction mode-25.10.2018, till 04.00 PM

Notice of intended sale under Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement Rules) 2002 under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

S.No	Name & Address of Account/ Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor	SCHEDULE The specific details of the assets which are intended to be brought to sale are enumerated hereunder: Mortgage/Hypothecated Assets Item Wise-Description of Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Reserve Price (Rs.)	Prior Encumbrance
<b>Branch: Vikas Nagar</b>					
1.	<b>Borrower: M/s Anjani Traders, Shop Address: Picnic Spot Road, Khurram Nagar, Beside Shama Bakery, Lucknow-226022</b> <b>Proprietor: Mr. Faizbhav Gour S/o Shri Vimal Kishore Gour</b> House no. M.L.I.G. 4/629- F, Sector- H, Jankipuram Yojna, Ward-Jankipuram, Lucknow-226021	All the part and parcel of the land measuring area 38.76 sq. mtr. Situated at House no. M.L.I.G. 4/629- F, Sector -H, Jankipuram Yojna, Ward -Jankipuram, Lucknow-226021.	17.02.2018	Rs. 30,00,000	NIL
2.	<b>Guarator/Mortgagor: 1- Shri Vimal Kishore Gour S/o Late. Radha Raman Gour, House no. M.L.I.G. 4/629- F, Sector- H, Jankipuram Yojna, Ward- Jankipuram Lucknow- 226021, 2- Smt. Radha Devi Gour w/o Shri Vimal Kishore Gour, House no. M.L.I.G. 4/629- F, Sector- H, Jankipuram Yojna, Ward- Jankipuram Lucknow-226021</b> CC/Loan A/c No. 6544423311	U.P. belonging to 1. Shri Vimal Kishore Gour and 2. Smt. Radha Devi Gour Bounded by: North: 6 mtr. wide road, South: House, East: House No. 4/629-G, West: House No. 4/629-E	17.02.2018	Rs. 30,00,000	NIL
1.	<b>Borrower: Mrs. Pinki W/o Mr. Viksheet Lochan Tripathi</b> Plot No. 6, Part of Khasra no.486, Village. Jarhara, Shiv City Colony, Ward - Indira Priyadarshini, Lucknow-226016	All the part and parcel of the house measuring area 92.936 sq. mtr. Situated at part of Khasra No. 486, Vill- Jarhara, Shiv City Colony, Ward- Indira Priyadarshini, Lucknow belonging to Mrs. Pinky. Bounded by: North: Arazi Deegar, South: Arazi Deegar, East: 20Ft Wide Road, West: Talab	19.03.2018	Rs. 14,78,283/-	NIL

**Sub: Loan account of above Borrower with Indian Bank Vikas Nagar Branch. Above mentioned borrowers availed facilities from Indian Bank, the repayment of which are secured by mortgage of schedule mentioned properties hereinafter referred to as "the Properties".**

**Above mentioned borrower/mortgagor/guarantor & other failed to pay the outstanding, therefore a Demand Notice mentioned above dated under Sec 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (for short called as "The Act"), was issued by the Authorised Officer calling upon above mentioned borrower/mortgagor/guarantor and others liable to the Bank to pay the amount due to the tune mentioned in the demand notice, the same could be procured using the 'seal bid option' such that the activities could be done online. The tender form and the terms and conditions would be available in the website from 22.09.2018 to 25.10.2018, from 10.00 am to 04.00 pm.**

**The last date for submitting tenders/bids complying with all necessary terms along with EMD in the stipulated manner is 25.10.2018 by 04.00 pm.**

**The tenders should be accompanied with EMD taken in DD/BPO/RTGS/NEFT /Account Transfer and /or any other acceptable mode of money transfer without time lag, failing which the tender becomes disqualified.**

**The Nodal Bank account No./IFSC Code etc. for online money transfer is as under:**

S.No	Nodal Bank A/c No.	IFSC Code
1.	A/c. No. 6127853725 in the name of E - Auction EMD Account, Lucknow - Zone	IDIB000L002

The sale shall be conferred on the person making highest offer/tender/bid subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor. The Undersigned/Authorised Officer reserves right to accept or reject the bid /Tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Once the e-auction is completed and sale is conferred on the person making the highest offer/ tender/ bid, the successful bidder will be intimated in person / by email, as the case may be, who has to remit 25% of the amount of the sale price (which is inclusive of earnest money deposited) immediately, i.e. on the same day or not later than next working day as the case may be by DD / BPO/RTGS/NEFT Account Transfer and /or any other acceptable mode of money transfer, failing which the EMD amount remitted will stand to be forfeited.

The balance sale price shall be paid within 15 days of confirmation of sale or extended time in writing. If the balance amount is not remitted within stipulated time, the amount of 25% remitted will also stand to be forfeited.

The Inspection of the Schedule mentioned property and related documents and upto date EC may be had by the intending purchasers/bidders at his expense on 16.10.2018 between 10.00 am to 05.00 pm.

The Reserve price and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for the sale of the secured assets is fixed as mentioned in the schedule.

The Tender/bid Form with the terms and conditions can be had on-line from the website <https://indianbank.auctiontigr.net> and using the provision in the system/software, the same could be procured using the 'seal bid option' such that the activities could be done online. The tender form and the terms and conditions would be available in the website from 22.09.2018 to 25.10.2018, from 10.00 am to 04.00 pm.

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The Inspection of the Schedule mentioned property and related documents and upto date EC may be had by the intending purchasers/bidders at his expense on 16.10.2018 between 10.00 am to 05.00 pm.

The Reserve price and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for the sale of the secured assets is fixed as mentioned in the schedule.

The Tender/bid Form with the terms and conditions can be had on-line from the website <https://indianbank.auctiontigr.net> and using the provision in the system/software, the same could be procured using the 'seal bid option' such that the activities could be done online. The tender form and the terms and conditions would be available in the website from 22.09.2018 to 25.10.2018, from 10.00 am to 04.00 pm.

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S.No	Nodal Bank A/c No.	IFSC Code
1.	A/c. No. 6127853725 in the name of E - Auction EMD Account, Lucknow - Zone	IDIB000L002

**Place: Lucknow Date : 21.09.2018 The Authorised Officer, Indian Bank**

Right note

Mohan Bhagwat has showcased RSS' ability to respond dynamically to changing circumstances and contexts

Though long-time Sangh watchers were quick to point out that Dr Mohan Bhagwat, in his three-day engagement with a wide audience in the heart of Lutyen's Delhi earlier this week, did not say anything which the RSS has not been saying for a while now, the fact remains that both as a riposte to those who have denominated the Sangh and as a message of moderation to the simpatico, his outreach has succeeded in what it set out to do.

It is in this context that the various statements on a host of issues made by the RSS Sarsanghachalak Bhagwat need to be seen. For example, he effectively took the wind out of the sails of those who have laid the blame on the spike in lynching incidents, especially of suspected cow smugglers, by unequivocally deploring cow vigilantism. In fact, he went a step further by suggesting that those with real devotion for the cow and her progeny should first start keeping cows at home or in their localities and take care of them rather than letting them roam the streets. He did, as he would and as have the dozens of Congress and other non-BJP Governments in various States, point out that the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution call for the protection of the cow and her progeny and that is a stand the Sangh supports.

50 WORD EDIT True sportsmanship As usual, cricket fans locked horns on social media after India thrashed Pakistan by eight wickets in Asia Cup. But heated rivalry on the cricket pitch soon turned into the moment of the day when a photo of India's Yuzvendra Chahal tying the shoelaces of Pakistan's Usman Khan went viral. This is what we call true sportsmanship.

Middle class muddle

While nearly half of India considers itself as middle class, that just isn't correct when global parameters are invoked...

It has been called the great Indian awakening but the discourse about India's burgeoning middle-class, many have suspected, has been in some ways an over-exuberant diversion from the sobering reality that post-independence India is still a poor or at least far from being a comfortably affluent country. And not just in terms of disparities of wealth distribution which is an empirically proven fact. So, who exactly comprises India's middle class, anyway? There has been a lot of argument on the definition of who and what constitutes the middle class. Generally, per capita income or daily income is taken into consideration while calculating national income.

A Pew Research Center study released last week, looked into the break-up of income levels across the world. It studied the changes in income levels across the world's population and pointed out that the first decade of the 2000s saw a historic reduction in global poverty. Despite this change, however, the actual number of people who could be considered as in the middle-income group, remained under 15 per cent. The study claims that more than 90 per cent of India still qualifies as poor or low-income — i.e. the vast majority of India's 1.2 billion citizens. Globally, the equivalent proportion is 71 per cent. As far as middle-income Indians go, only two per cent of the country actually falls into this zone, compared to 13 per cent of the globe. What's significant is that almost every Indian from, say, an urban professional demographic considers himself/herself to be middle class. That just isn't correct when global parameters are invoked. The study also found that while there has been a decline in the poverty rate in India from 35 per cent (2001) to 20 per cent (2011), which corresponds to almost 133 Indians exiting poverty in that decade, poverty's retreat gave birth to a mushrooming of what could be called the lower middle class rather than a 'middle class'. The truth is Indians moved from the poor category to a low-income quite rapidly but further progression has been problematic in the main. In The New Middle Class, which was based on a multi-year collection of data by the Centre for the Advanced Study of India, Devesh Kapur and Milan Vaidhyanav found that nearly half the Indian population defines itself as middle class. While it is true that the poverty rate has shown a systematic decline in the first decade of the 21st century, the projection of an emerging middle class as defined globally by the Pew Research Centre is anything but a reality.

The critical economy of India's oil imports

In view of rising crude oil prices, India must opt for a comprehensive strategy by which the entire transport structure is geared towards higher efficiency and lower oil dependence



RK PACHAURI

There is much comment and discussion currently on the weakening of the Indian rupee. As is the case with developments of this nature once a state of equilibrium is achieved, underlying causes behind the slide in the rupee's value will be forgotten, and we will continue with business as usual. There are reasons why the parity between the US dollar and Indian rupee has been disturbed.

It is obvious that the economic crisis in 1974

One immediate effect would be an increase in inflation, and lower consumer spending and investment which could have a negative effect on the growth of GDP and employment opportunities. But, a weaker rupee also provides opportunities for increasing exports, because in dollar terms the cost of manufacture in India would go down, making products from India competitive in the global market. One major factor contributing to weakening of the rupee is higher crude oil prices, which is leading to inflation in the economy driven by higher transport costs.



GOVERNMENTS HAVE TYPICALLY PAID LIP SERVICE TO REDUCING OUR DEPENDENCE ON OIL IMPORTS, EVEN THOUGH PERIODICALLY THE COUNTRY HAS SUFFERED FROM SUDDEN SPIKES IN GLOBAL OIL PRICES THE EFFECT OF WHICH WAS GENERALLY TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE ENTIRE INDIAN ECONOMY

led to political unrest. Consequently, Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister imposed the Emergency in June 1975. It would not be right to state that the political problems of that particular period ended once elections took place in 1977, and the Congress Government was replaced by a coalition led by Morarji Desai. The 1973-74 quadrupling of oil prices had a major impact on politics in India, and clearly that impact has not yet played out fully.

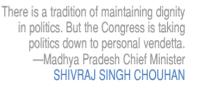
passenger movement within France connecting the cities of that country at speeds exceeding 300 km/hour had a major impact in reducing oil consumption, because the railways moved towards electric traction. Most of Europe followed a similar approach in due course. What stands out in these country cases is the development of a strategic mission and its implementation within a given period of time. In India we have used the term 'energy security' glibly in every relevant forum and in policy pronouncements, but the reality has run counter to intent. The result is that we get more and more dependent on private vehicles both in intra-city and inter-city transportation.

It is time that energy security and reducing dependence on oil imports becomes an important goal in national development. Perfunctory pronouncements on increasing the share of electric vehicles or a few high-speed trains here and there are fine, but what one needs is a coherent and comprehensive strategy by which the entire transport structure is transformed towards higher efficiency and lower oil dependence. If we don't accept this challenge, there will be periods in the future when the Indian economy will be held hostage to unexpected oil price increases.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



Shivraj Singh Chouhan is following the Centre's footsteps. He's made thousands of hollow promises that he hasn't kept. —Congress president RAHUL GANDHI



There is a tradition of maintaining dignity in politics. But the Congress is taking politics down to personal vendetta. —Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Alternative history, anyone?

What would have happened if after the 1970 election, Sheikh Mujeebur Rehman's Awami League had formed a majority Government at the Centre?



NADEEM PARACHA



Alternative History (AH) is a popular fiction genre of speculative history where the story plots are based on 'what if' scenarios during certain important points of history. Famous AH novels include Philip K. Dick's Man in the High Castle set in a world in which Hitler wins the Second World War; Philip Roth's The Plot Against America in which a populist pro-Nazi candidate wins the US presidential election in the midst of the WW2; Kim Robinson's Years of Rice and Salt in which the 14th century of Europe's population, leaving Muslim and Chinese cultures to control the world.

How would Mujeeb have acted in such a scenario? Not very different from Zia Bhutto. Here's why: Like Bhutto's PPP, Mujeeb's Awami League too had a populist and 'socialist' manifesto. Indeed, as Prime Minister, Mujeeb would have done much in trying to shift the balance of the country's economic and political power from Islamabad to Dhaka. His policies too would have been largely populist. Like the Bhutto regime, Mujeeb would also have nationalised industries and businesses.

Though as Prime Minister of Bangladesh he nurtured friendly ties with India, such policies would not have been the case had he become the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Firstly, despite the fact that that there would not have been a war against India in 1971, there is scant reason to believe that India would not have tested a nuclear device in 1974. It would have still done that. Secondly, in the absence of the 1971 war, the Pakistani military would not have been weakened and its influence in civilian politics would have been far stronger than it was during the early years of the Bhutto regime.

Mujeeb's pro-Bengali bent would have drawn the same kind of reactions that Bhutto's allegedly pro-Sindh policies attracted from Sindh's Mohajirs in 1972. In fact, Mujeeb would have faced added displeasure from Punjab as well. And even though relations between the Awami League and the Baloch, Sindh and Pakistan nationalists were cordial before the election, there would still have been common in Balochistan because, to neutralise a push-back from Punjab, Mujeeb would have had to go along with the security narrative of a powerful and influential military — a narrative that would not have changed from the time of the Ayub Khan regime (1958-69). Pakistan's economy began to go downhill

during the 1968 protest movement against the Ayub regime. The Mujeeb regime would not have been able to reconstruct it through his populist economic manoeuvres. Eventually, just as Bhutto, Mujeeb too would have had to unconditionally move into the wealthy Saudi orbit and start to dispatch thousands of Pakistanis to rich Arab countries. This was also a time when the inflationary impact of the 1971 war for liberation of Bangladesh was affecting the Indian economy with an unhealthy deficit as a result, leading to large-scale printing of currency notes, which in turn led to too much money chasing a small quantity of goods. This was also a time when a large part of the country was affected by drought, which not only affected the rural economy, but also created problems of inadequate supply of farm products. It is obvious that the economic crisis in 1974

An opportunity India must not miss

Government's biodiesel programme holds the potential of sustainable entrepreneurship development and meeting all three objectives of economic growth — social equity, job creation and environmental sustainability, write SANJIB POHIT & PRADIP BISWAS

The Government's launch of a biodiesel programme represents a unique case for the development of numerous sustainable entrepreneurs, employment generation, empowerment of the subaltern masses by providing them ownership/occupational rights to wasteland and degraded forest land, and reduction of carbon footprints without compromising on food security. In other countries, land rights, particularly to occupy or use, are taken away from traditional users, like marginal farmers and cattle grazers, and instead transferred to large companies for Jatropa plantation.

Of course, local people find jobs in plantation-related activities, which in any way will be created, irrespective of whether the local people are planters or large corporates. This process of land-grabbing and depeasantisation not only disempowers the local people but also shrinks their traditional sources of livelihood.

In Mexico, for example, farmers are given subsidies so that they could switch land use from growing traditional crops to Jatropa. In some areas, large estates cleared secondary forest land for Jatropa plantation which would have adverse environmental consequences and could also become a cause for concern.

Even in Brazil, where the ethanol project for running vehicle was the most successful business, the military Government over there played a major role in coercing the farmers to transfer their lands at nominal prices to the corporates for farming sugar cane. State coercion thus helped the corporates in acquiring and consolidating millions of hectares of land for growing sugarcane. The Government's push for the biodiesel programme must be treated as a major innovation and deserves to be implemented more vigorously. The small size of entrepreneurship at this stage implies maximum job potential if India is to meet its announced blending target.

In the next stage, namely seed trading, landless people, who fail to get access to a wasteland for plantation, would be involved in trading seeds. They would purchase seeds from the planters in



villages and sell them to the oil extraction plant, in the neighbouring urban areas. Like the planters, seed traders would also operate at a small scale. Their number would depend on the required frequency of visits to a planter per year — capacity of a trader to visit number of different planters for collecting seeds, and their disposal to oil extracting plant usually located in the nearby urban areas. In oil extraction and biodiesel production, which is basically a manufacturing activity, a minimum scale of operation is essential for financial viability. Available plant size data indicates wide variation in size — ranging from 100 litre per day in Kochi (Kochi Refineries Ltd) to 5,000-10,000 tonne per day in Chiplun, Pune (Mint Biofuels Ltd). It is obvious that large plants would be suitable where farming is more concentrated as it would enable economies scale up. On the other hand, where farming is scattered, which is the case in most of the feedstock growing areas, relatively smaller

AN ESTIMATE OF MEETING ONLY FIVE PER CENT BLENDING OF BIODIESEL WOULD GENERATE 1.59 MILLION ENTREPRENEURS, OF WHICH, 1.58 MILLION WOULD BE ENGAGED IN PLANTATION, 8.46 THOUSAND IN TRADING AND ANOTHER 2.49 THOUSAND AS SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED MANUFACTURERS OF BIODIESEL

plants would be appropriate. Thus, the manufacturing of biodiesel from seeds also creates substantial opportunities for the development of sustainable entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurs in the final stage, viz blending biodiesel with the petrodiesel and its disposal, are the existing oil marketing companies. The scope for additional entrepreneurship or employment generation is low here since they will use the existing channels of the oil marketing companies.

What is the possible realm of job creation in this sector? Of course, it will depend on several factors, such as target level of blending (five per cent, 10 per cent or 20 per cent), oil content of seeds, average size of land at the cultivation stage, average number of entrepreneur at seed marketing stage and their marketing area and average size of processing plant.

Thus, it is clear that back-of-the-envelope calculation also depends on various factors. We have attempted to estimate the same, based on our previous estimates from field surveys. Our

back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that a very conservative estimate of meeting only five per cent blending of biodiesel would generate 1.59 million sustainable entrepreneurs, of which, 1.58 million would be engaged in plantation, 8.46 thousand would be in trading and another 2.49 thousand as small and medium-sized manufacturers in biodiesel manufacturing.

Overall, fulfilling this conservative target would generate as much as 46.29 million man-days. It can, hence, be concluded that the biodiesel programme has enormous potential of sustainable entrepreneurship development, meeting all the three objectives of economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability.

The Government must, therefore, put wholehearted efforts to achieve 20 per cent biodiesel blending targets by 2020, if not before. (Sanjib Pohit is Senior Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research, and Pradip Biswas is Associate Professor, College of Vocational Studies, Delhi University)

Following Sikkim's environment trail

At a time when India has the dubious distinction of being a laggard in nurturing the environment, we should emulate the tiny State of Sikkim



NAVNEET ANAND

This is one feat we could do without. A report, 'The World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision', released by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, estimated that by 2024, India could surpass China as the most populous country. While India's current population is estimated at 1.34 billion people, China is at the top with 1.41 billion people. On the contrary, our record on the environment front is not so good. According to a biennial report, 'Environmental Performance Index 2018' by Yale and Columbia universities along with the World Economic Forum, India ranks 177 among 180 countries in Environmental Performance Index. India's poor performance in the environmental health category is a cause for worry.

It is distressing that Delhi has earned the unenviable distinction of being one of the most polluted cities on earth, with perpetually worsening air quality. The scary smog that envelops the National Capital Region and chokes people's lungs is still fresh in memory. As hapless citizens look to the State to address such grave dangers, there have been instances where people have organised themselves to demonstrate their angst and anxiety. Delhiites display rage and anger in seminars, rallies and protests, they have organised themselves to protest against the ruthless felling of trees for road construction. But Delhi is not alone in this notoriety. All across the country, environmental degradation has shown a rare uniformity. But Sikkim offers a rare reprieve from this scary consistency and is worth emulation.

The tiny State, nestled in the Himalayan foothills in the North-East, has been driving a green revolution of its own kind. Despite being small and isolated, and with its people leading their lives in extremely tough mountainous terrain, Sikkim has emerged as one of India's environmental leaders. It's probably the only State that has witnessed afforestation. Due to sustainable environmental policies and novel initiatives, forest cover has increased by about four per cent in the last 25 years.

Sikkim is a State with many firsts when it comes to green policies. It is the first Indian State which is fully organic. It is also India's first State to ban open defecation and plastic use. It has come out with novel initiatives like 'Mitrini' and 'Ten Minutes to Earth', which were implemented and are being followed for over a decade now. Sikkim is the only State which is open defecation free today. Urinating in public can attract a fine of up to ₹500. The Government made it mandatory to have a toilet at home. The State even banned fireworks in 2014 to contain noise and air pollution.

Sikkim has not only introduced policies to remain India's cleanest and greenest State but has initiated novel initiatives, like Mitrini to forge amity between people and trees. Sikkimese can adopt trees and get into a relationship of brotherhood or sisterhood with trees. This kind of initiatives has brought a sense of preserving the environment at the grass-root level.

The Environment Policy of Sikkim states that the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment, to safeguard the forests and wildlife and to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for the living creatures. More than 80 per cent of the land resources of the State is under the management of the Department of Forests, Environment and Wildlife. Sikkim's forest cover has increased from 44 per cent to 47 per cent at a time when most States are struggling to protect their existing forest covers.

Our movement to make Sikkim a complete green State will be pursued till we reach our goal. We aim to give Sikkim a unique identity as a natural university of the world, pledged the current Government.

In January 2016, Sikkim gained global attention when Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared it as India's first fully organic State. Nearly 15 years ago, the State Government had decided to shun chemical pesticides and fertilisers and return to natural methods of farming. Today, Sikkim has the distinction of becoming the first State in India to go 100 per cent organic, but achieving this feat was an uphill task.

Sikkim's Chief Minister, Pawan Chamling, who is also often referred to as the greenest Chief Minister, announced a slew of measures to further support the cause of organic farming. In order to encourage organic farmers and to ensure the success of the organic mission, the State recently announced transport subsidy, goods compensation, crop insurance and price support among other incentives to organic farmers of the state over the next five years. The longest serving Chief Minister in the country, Chamling was also honoured for his pioneering work in the field of organic farming during a ceremony at Germany's Lagau on the occasion of the One World Festival last year. At a time when there have been rising concerns about life-threatening hazards, Sikkim has led the way towards preserving the environment. Chamling once said, 'Development is impossible without the protection of the environment and a democratic atmosphere.' It's time other States take a leaf out of this and emulate Sikkim.

(The writer is a strategic communications professional)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SAVE THE PLANET

Sir — It's good that North Korea and South Korea have agreed to end all their nuclear and relevant missile programmes. It's a praiseworthy step towards achieving global peace. The US must respect this move and cancel all sanctions against North Korea. Today, nearly all countries have nuke warheads to deter each other but the most dangerous threat is that of climate change, which is rushing towards the entire world at its full speed. Recent terrific storms, floods, heavy rains, among others, are the

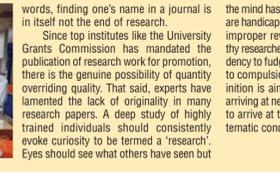
most bitter results of the man's endless greed to earn maximum possible money at the earliest. The need of hour is to minimise the use of petrol and diesel run vehicles, industrialisation, construction activities, including residential towers, sky walk bridges, fly over bridges and maximum use of car pools, planting of saplings and trees. All this should be done on war-footing across the world. If this is not done now, doomsday won't be very far away for this beautiful planet.

END POLITICS

Sir — This refers to the report, "Ordinance makes triple taluq crime" (September 21). The Union Cabinet's approval of an Ordinance to ban the practice of triple taluq is truly historic and commendable. Undoubtedly, an excellent research is one which is multidisciplinary. A mixture of old and new ideas contribute to the richness of a research work. Though entry into international publications is a highly acclaimed and rewarding experience, that cannot be the yardstick to judge the ingenuity of a research work. In other

India's research culture needs to catch up

There is a dire need for our country to catch up with the rest of the world in areas of research. A good research covers observations, experiences, theory and case studies. Undoubtedly, an excellent research is one which is multidisciplinary. A mixture of old and new ideas contribute to the richness of a research work. Though entry into international publications is a highly acclaimed and rewarding experience, that cannot be the yardstick to judge the ingenuity of a research work. In other



ganapathi Bhat Akola

WHAT A WIN!

Sir — It was a superlative performance by the Indian cricket team in Dubai which led to a decisive victory of Pakistan by eight wickets. The Indian men excelled well in all departments of the game. Bowling was neat and fine with Kedhar Jadhav and Bhuvneshwar Kumar sharing three wickets each. Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan registered good innings. The present momentum must live up to the Asia Cup.

UNACCEPTABLE

Sir — It is shameful and embarrassing that even after independence, people in our country are forced to earn their livelihood by taking up the manual scavenging job. Without a mechanised system, change will not come. The Government must opt for a systematic approach to eliminate the very existence of sanitation workers. Robhan Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**OPEN-ENDED (GROWTH)**

SCHEME	NAV
<b>HDFC MUTUAL FUND</b>	
Index Fund Sensex Plus Plan-Direct Plan	469.996
Index Fund-Sensex Plus (FV-Rs32.161)	462.5623
Index Fund Sensex Plan-Direct Plan	331.3008
Index FundSensex Plan (FV Rs 32.161)	327.7263

<b>ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND</b>	
Blended Plan A - Dividend	13.5898
Blended Plan A - Direct Plan Bonus	10.9152
Blended Plan A - Growth	22.7587
Blended Plan A-Direct Plan - Dividend	13.6408
Blended Plan A-Direct Plan - Growth	23.0933

<b>KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND</b>	
Bluechip Fund - Dividend	34.364
Bluechip Fund - Dividend - Direct	37.369
Bluechip Fund - Growth	228.77
Bluechip Fund - Growth - Direct	242.85
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend	23.442
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend - Direct	27.119
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth	38.203
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth - Direct	40.74
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly	20.1091
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly Direct	20.3155
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend	10.7167
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend - Direct	11.0179
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Regular	23.0621
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth	25.5315
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth - Direct	26.2585
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Direct	23.5356
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend	24.786
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend - Direct	26.633
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth	114.372
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth - Direct	121.483
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Growth	14.1709
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Monthly Dividend	11.628
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Quarterly Dividend	11.4411
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Growth	13.7974
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Monthly Dividend	11.3618
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Quarterly Dividend	11.3262
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend	16.288
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend - Direct	17.093
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth	16.269
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth - Direct	17.017
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend	21.087
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend - Direct	23.352
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth	51.73
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth - Direct	55.605
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Div	17.815
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Growth	19.554
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund-Direct Plan - Div Option	20.828
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund-Direct - Growth Option	21.068
Small Cap Fund - Dividend	37.864
Small Cap Fund - Dividend - Direct	40.874
Small Cap Fund - Growth	73.324
Small Cap Fund - Growth - Direct	78.628
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend	24.135
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend - Direct	25.7
Standard Multicap Fund - Growth	33.842
Standard Multicap Fund - Growth - Direct	35.779

<b>SAHARA MUTUAL FUND</b>	
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH - Direct	66.6989
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH OPTION	62.988
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND - Direct	22.6775
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND OPTION	22.2674
Growth Fund-Dividend	40.8963
Growth Fund-Dividend- Direct	41.6393
Growth Fund-Growth	140.8378
Growth Fund-Growth- Direct	156.939
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING -Direct-Dividend	20.328
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	27.4715
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option	18.6575
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	25.5499
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Dividend	22.3093
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	30.2472
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option	21.7563
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	29.575
Midcap Fund-Auto Payout	77.7786
Midcap Fund-Auto Payout- Direct	82.955
Midcap Fund-Bonus	77.7786
Midcap Fund-Bonus- Direct	82.955
Midcap Fund-Dividend -Direct	34.8086
Midcap Fund-Dividend Plan	34.303
Midcap Fund-Growth Option - Direct	82.955
Midcap Fund-Growth Plan	77.7786
Power & Natural Resources Fund - Dividend Option	18.112
Power & Natural Resources Fund- Growth - Direct	22.8266
Power & Natural Resources Fund- Growth Option	21.2354
Power & Natural Resources Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.0357
R.E.A.L. Fund - Dividend Option	21.0768
R.E.A.L. Fund - Dividend Option- Direct	21.494
R.E.A.L. Fund - Growth Fund	21.0734
R.E.A.L. Fund - Growth Fund- Direct	23.178

Star Value Fund-Dividend - Direct	18.3862
Star Value Fund-Dividend Option	18.092
Star Value Fund-Growth - Direct	25.1319
Star Value Fund-Growth Option	23.3907
Super 20 Fund - Dividend - Direct	16.3573
Super 20 Fund - Dividend Option	20.3821
Super 20 Fund - Growth - Direct	22.1289
Super 20 Fund - Growth Option	20.4019
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Dividend Option	32.1771
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	45.3822
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Dividend Option	31.6654
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Growth Option	44.4614
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct -Dividend	37.9959
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	52.9531
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Dividend Option	37.4703
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Growth Option	51.6834

<b>SBI MUTUAL FUND</b>	
MAGNUM NRI FLEXASSET PLAN-DIVIDEND	30.3025
MAGNUM NRI FLEXASSET PLAN-GROWTH	30.1918
ONE INDIA FUND - DIV (PREV CLOSE ENDED UPTO 14/01/2010)	10.43
ONE INDIA FUND - GR (PREV CLOSE ENDED UPTO 14/01/2010)	10.43

**OPEN-ENDED (INCOME)**

<b>DHFL PRAMERICA MUTUAL FUND</b>	
FIXED MATURITY PLAN - SERIES 47 - DIRECT PLAN -GROWTH	14.096
FIXED MATURITY PLAN - SERIES 47 - REGULAR PLAN -GROWTH	13.9784

<b>ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND</b>	
Blended Plan B - Dividend Option - I	15.0425
Blended Plan B - Growth Option - I	23.9631
Blended Plan B - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.266
Blended Plan B - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.4926
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend Option - I	17.362
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth Option - I	24.0808
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.3063
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I	10.0227
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend Option - I	10.7
Blended Plan B - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I	10.3661
Blended Plan B - option I-Bonus	11.9703
Blended Plan B-Direct Plan - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.092
Child Care Plan Study - Cumulative	69.6122
Child Care Plan Study - Direct Plan - Cumulative	72.4243
Dynamic Bond Fund - Annual Dividend	10.6484
Dynamic Bond Fund - Bonus	19.6984
Dynamic Bond Fund - Daily Dividend	10.0171
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Daily Dividend	10.5669
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Growth	20.425
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2129
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend	10.4618
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Annual Dividend	10.6164
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Bonus Option	20.23
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend	10.4779
Dynamic Bond Fund - Growth	19.6985
Dynamic Bond Fund - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2388
Dynamic Bond Fund - Monthly Dividend	10.9566
Dynamic Bond Fund - Premium Plus Growth	20.7632
Dynamic Bond Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.408
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.7894
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	22.5035
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan Bonus	12.628
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Growth	17.983
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	N.A.
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	18.0131
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.8172
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	11.9883
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.6497
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Direct Plan - Growth	23.4449
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Dividend	11.8549
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Dividend	23.3622
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Growth	11.7874
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	21.8977
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	17.978
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Direct Plan - Growth	10.8352
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Dividend	17.7495
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Growth	11.6845
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Dividend	21.7637
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Growth	11.7708
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Dividend	20.4818
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Direct Plan - Growth	20.4088
Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.1844
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0692
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	13.4735
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.0015
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Growth	13.4637
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0025
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.9999
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan I - 1 Retail Qtrly Div Payout	10.0022
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Direct Plan - Growth	17.6211
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Growth	17.5944
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 Plan - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.0023
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	10.0271

Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.0296
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	20.0513
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0013
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Growth	19.9985
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Direct Qtrly Div Payout	10.0085
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	10.0083
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	20.7912
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.1854
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	17.5014
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0061
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Growth	17.4312
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Cumulative	13.9619
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct - Cumulative	13.9796
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct - Dividend	10.9291
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	14.9423
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	14.9835
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Cumulative	14.9023
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct - Cumulative	14.9454
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct - Dividend	10.441
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	13.774
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	13.7979
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Dividend	10.8654
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Qtrly Div Payout	10.2479
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	21.1917
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Quarterly Div Payout	10.0015
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.6172
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.6425
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Qtrly Div Payout	10.224
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0124
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	20.9682
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0051
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	14.1819
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	14.2363
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Quarterly Div Payout	10.0016
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Dividend	10.0038
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Growth	22.1759
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct Plan - Growth	14.0323
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.2204
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Dividend	10.0039
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Growth	13.9772
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Instl Qtrly Div Payout	10.2061
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Dividend	10.0799
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Growth	22.795
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0051
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.1535
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7073
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Dividend	10.005
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Growth	13.469
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Quarterly Div Payout	10.2309
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Dividend	10.0742
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Growth	20.25
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0168
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7138
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Quarterly Div Payout	10.0095
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Dividend	10.1825
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Growth	17.716
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F Retail Qtrly Div Payout	10.0046
Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0009
Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	19.7164
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.001
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	18.1794
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.2084
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	18.1012
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Dividend	10.1688
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan - II Retail Qtrly Div Payout	10.234
Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	20.0008
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.9183
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.8735
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Half Yearly	13.6318
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Monthly	12.7914
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Quarterly	13.8562
MIP - Direct Plan - Growth	49.7829
MIP - Direct Plan Bonus	13.7171
MIP - Dividend Half Yearly	12.8242
MIP - Dividend Monthly	12.3608
MIP - Dividend Quarterly	13.5226
MIP - Growth	48.1366

<b>JM FINANCIAL MUTUAL FUND</b>	
Income Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	19.4791
MIP Fund (Direct) - Bonus Option - Principal Units	25.9834
MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Annual Dividend	20.9404
MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Quarterly Dividend	19.5151
MIP Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.7788
MIP Fund (Direct)- Dividend Option - Monthly Dividend	12.6302
MIP Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	24.5085
MIP FUND-Annual Dividend	19.4034
MIP FUND-Growth	24.1503
MIP FUND-Monthly Dividend	11.4362
MIP FUND-Quarterly Dividend	18.1976
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Daily Dividend Option	13.7245

Short Term Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option	10.5703
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.3498

<b>KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND</b>	
Banking and PSU Debt - Annual Dividend	16.1842
Banking and PSU Debt - Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.188
Banking and PSU Debt - Direct Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.2604
Banking and PSU Debt - Growth	39.8862
Banking and PSU Debt - Monthly Dividend	10.4715
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Annual Dividend	17.1427
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Growth	40.4865
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Monthly Dividend	10.5731
Bond - Annual Dividend - Direct	21.9761
Bond - Growth - Direct	49.9137
Bond - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	13.5083
Bond Regular Plan Annual Dividend	29.2595
Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan	30.696
Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan - Direct	22.7736
Bond Regular Plan Direct HF dividend	40.4758
Bond Regular Plan Growth	47.7577
Bond Regular Plan Quarterly Dividend	10.6797
Bond-Deposit-Dividend	13.6554
Bond-Deposit-Growth	42.9354
Bond Short Term Plan - Direct Plan - Normal Dividend	10.2247
Bond Short Term Plan-(Dividend)	10.0911
Bond Short Term Plan-(Dividend) - Direct	10.9017
Bond Short Term Plan-(Growth)	33.0319
Bond Short Term Plan-(Growth) - Direct	34.4332
Bond Short Term Plan-(Half Yearly Dividend)	12.0472
Bond Short Term Plan-(Half Yearly Dividend) - Direct	12.2347
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan-Growth Option	2034.9063
Corporate Bond Fund- Direct Plan- Growth Option	2398.0499
Corporate Bond Fund- Direct Plan- Monthly Dividend Option	1101.2648
Corporate Bond Fund- Institutional Plan-Growth Option	2090.4924
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Growth Option	2347.8046
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	1047.717
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Quarterly Dividend Option	1066.6837
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan- Monthly Dividend Option	1040.0538
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan- Weekly Dividend Option	1052.3061
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan-Daily Dividend Option	1052.6393
Corporate Bond Fund- Standard Plan-Daily Dividend Option	1052.7994
Corporate Bond Fund- Standard Plan-Weekly Dividend Option	1202.9839
Credit Risk Fund - Annual Div	

# US praises India for its counter-terrorism actions

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has praised India for its significant counter-terrorism actions and said Pakistan-based terror groups continued their terror attacks in the country. In its annual 'Country Report on Terrorism', as mandated by the Congress, the State Department on Wednesday said the Indian leadership has expressed resolve to prevent terrorist attacks domestically and to bring to justice the perpetrators of terrorism, in cooperation with the US and other like-minded countries. The parts of India seriously impacted by terrorism in 2017 included Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast Indian states, and parts of central India in which Maoists remain active, it said.

"India continued to experience attacks, including by Pakistan-based terrorist organisations as well as tribal and Maoist insurgents. Indian authorities blamed Pakistan for cross-border attacks in the state of Jammu and Kashmir," the report said. India, the report said, continued to apply sustained pressure to detect, disrupt and degrade terror operations within its borders.

Over the course of 2017, India sought to deepen counter-terrorism cooperation and information sharing with the US, including through the first-ever Designations Dialogue held in Delhi in December, it said.

In the same year, India and the US pledged to strengthen cooperation against terrorist threats from groups, including Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Taiba and D-Company, it said.

During a June 2017 summit, President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi directed officials to establish a new mechanism for cooperation on terrorist designations.

The report further said the Indian government closely monitored the domestic threat from transnational terrorist groups like ISIS and Al-Qaeda.

The State Department praised India for its significant counter terrorism actions.

## 'Pak-based terror outfits JeM, LeT pose regional threat in subcontinent'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has said the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba militant groups continue to pose a regional threat and that Pakistan did not adequately address America's concerns on terrorism in 2017. Although al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan has been seriously degraded, remnants of its global leadership, as well as its regional affiliate al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), continued to operate from remote locations in the region that historically have been exploited as safe havens, the US State Department said in its annual Country Reports on Terrorism for the year 2017. "Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba continued to pose a regional threat in the subcontinent," it said on Wednesday.

The report notes that from August to December 2017, the Trump administration placed a pause on spending new Foreign Military Financing for Pakistan, holding these funds until Pakistan addressed key US concerns, including the threat posed by the Haqqani Network and other terrorist groups that enjoyed safe haven in Pakistan.

"Pakistan did not adequately address these concerns in 2017," said the report. Although Pakistan's National Action Plan calls to "ensure that no armed militias are allowed to function in the country," several terrorist groups focused on attacks outside of the country continued to operate from Pakistani soil in 2017, it said. These groups included the Haqqani Network, besides the LeT and JeM which are directed against India.

Though Pakistan continued military operations to eradicate terrorist safe havens in the Federally Administered Tribal

Areas, their impact on all terrorist groups was uneven, said the State Department report. According to the report, the Pakistani military and security forces undertook operations against groups that conducted attacks within Pakistan, such as the Tehreek-e-Talibani Pakistan. Even as the Pakistani government pledged support to political reconciliation between the Afghan government and the Afghan Taliban it did not restrict the Afghan Taliban and Haqqani Network from operating in Pakistan-based safe havens and threatening US and Afghan forces in Afghanistan.

"Pakistan did not take sufficient action against other externally focused groups such as Lashkar e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in 2017, which continued to operate, train, organise, and fundraise in Pakistan," the report said.

Pakistan detained Hafiz Saeed, leader of LeT and its front organisation Jamaat ud-Dawa (JuD), in January 2017, but a Pakistani court ordered his release from house arrest in November 2017, it said.

In its report, the State Department rued that progress remained slow on the Pakistan government's efforts to implement UN sanctions related to designated entities and enforce anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) controls.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), it said, continued to note with concern that Pakistan's outstanding gaps in the implementation of the UN Security Council ISIS and al-Qaeda sanctions regime have not been resolved, and that UN-listed entities — including LeT and its affiliates — were not effectively prohibited from raising funds in Pakistan, nor were they denied financial services.

# Landslide kills 18 people in Philippines

AP ■ NAGA

A massive landslide buried dozens of homes near a central Philippine mountain Thursday, killing at least 18 people and sending rescuers scrambling to find survivors after some sent text messages pleading for help.

The slide surged down on about 30 houses in two rural villages after daybreak in Naga city in Cebu province, city police chief Roderick Gonzales said by telephone as he helped supervise the search and rescue. Seven injured villagers were rescued from the huge mound of earth and debris. Some victims managed to send messages after the landslide hit, Gonzales said, adding that elderly women and a child were among the dead. Naga city Mayor Kristine Vanessa Chiong said at least 64 people remained missing. "We're real-



Rescuers dig through the rubble to search for possible survivors following a landslide that buried dozens of homes in Naga city, Cebu province central Philippines on Thursday.

ly hoping we can still recover them alive," she said. The landslide hit while

several northern Philippine provinces are still dealing with deaths and widespread damage

wrought by Typhoon Mangkhut, which pummeled the agricultural region Saturday

and left at least 88 people dead and more than 60 missing.

A massive search is still underway for dozens of people feared dead after landslides in the gold-mining town of Itogon in the north.

Cebu province was not directly hit by Mangkhut but the massive typhoon intensified monsoon rains across a large part of the archipelago, including the central region where Naga city lies about 570 kilometres (355 miles) southeast of Manila.

Rescuers were treading carefully in small groups on the unstable ground to avoid further casualties.

"We're running out of time. The ground in the area is still vibrating. We're striking a balance between intensifying our rescue efforts and ensuring the safety of our rescuers," Naga city Councilor Carmelino Cruz said by phone.

## Japan's Abe re-elected as party head, to stay on as PM

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was re-elected as head of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party in a landslide Thursday, paving the way for up to three more years as the nation's leader. The decisive victory may embolden Abe to pursue his long-sought revision to Japan's US-drafted pacifist constitution, although the hurdles remain high and doing so would carry political risks. "It's time to tackle a constitutional revision," Abe said in a victory speech. "Now the fight is over." Abe said he's determined to use his last term to pursue his policy goals to "sum up" Japan's postwar diplomacy to ensure peace in the country. "Let's work together to make a new Japan," he said.

Abe, who has been prime minister since December 2012, has cemented control of his party and received support from conservatives for bringing stability and continuity to economic and diplomatic policies. With a third term as party leader, Abe is poised to become Japan's longest-serving leader in August 2021. Still, he faces several challenges, including dealing with Japan's aging and declining population, a royal succession in the spring, and a consumption tax hike to 10 percent he has already delayed twice.

He faces security concerns stemming from North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, and China's increasingly assertive activity in the region, as well as intensifying trade friction with the US which could shake his friendly relations with President Donald Trump. Abe has said he is determined to push for a revision to the US-drafted 1947 constitution, a decades-old pledge of the Liberal Democratic Party since its foundation in 1955 and a goal that none of Abe's predecessors has been able to achieve.

Abe has said he hopes his party could submit a draft constitution revision to a parliamentary session later this year ahead of a national referendum. Abe is proposing to add a



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a press conference as Abe was re-elected as head of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party at the party headquarters in Tokyo on Thursday.

clause to Article 9, which bans the use of force in settling international disputes, to explicitly permit the existence of Japan's military, now called the Self-Defense Force.

Many conservatives see the constitution as a humiliation imposed on Japan following its World War II defeat. Among them was Abe's grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, who served as prime minister 1957-1960. Kishi was imprisoned as a suspected war criminal during the US occupation. Constitutional revision is divisive and it's unclear whether Abe could get enough votes for passage.

Abe and his senior party members want to rush a revision while their ruling coalition still holds two-thirds super majority in both houses — a requirement to propose a revision. The next parliamentary election is due next summer. For the public, the constitution is a lesser concern than issues such as pay, education and the high cost of child care, surveys show. If a revision is voted down in a national referendum, Abe would likely have to step down. Abe has survived a series of scandals, including cronyism allegations against him and his wife. Despite attacks from opposition parties and criticism in the media, he has seen his support ratings bounce back to about 40 per-

cent, considered high for a Japanese leader after nearly six years in office. An extended term for Abe is generally seen as good news for stability and continuity.

"A stable government under a strong leader is good for the economy and diplomacy, and Prime Minister Abe has established a rather significant presence in diplomacy," said Yu Uchiyama, a University of Tokyo politics professor. But his long and strong leadership has caused a lack of political competitiveness, Uchiyama said. "The biggest concern about Japanese politics is how to restore competition in politics and reactivate democracy," Uchiyama said.

In Thursday's leadership vote, Abe handily defeated his sole challenger, Shigeru Ishiba, a former defense minister. Abe won 553, or about 70 percent of 807 votes. Abe took 80 percent of parliamentary votes, while support from regional rank-and-file party members was at 55 percent, though it fell within projections. Experts see the margin of victory in regional member votes as a more accurate indicator of general public sentiment than the parliamentary votes. Abe's softer showing there means he will have to be more mindful of voices coming from outside parliament.

## '59% of all terrorist attacks in 2017 in 5 Asian countries'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Almost 59 per cent of all terrorist attacks in 2017 took place in five Asian countries, including India and Pakistan, a US report said Thursday. The other three countries include Afghanistan, Iraq and the Philippines. The total number of terrorist attacks worldwide last year decreased by 23 per cent. Similarly, the total deaths due to terrorist violence decreased by 27 per cent, according to the report. The decline in terrorist violence was largely due to dramatically fewer attacks and deaths in Iraq, Nathan Sales, State Department coordinator of counterterrorism, said during a conference call with reporters Thursday.

"Although terrorist attacks took place in 100 countries in 2017, they were concentrated geographically. Fifty-nine per cent of all attacks took place in five countries. Those are Afghanistan, India, Iraq, Pakistan, and the Philippines. Similarly, 70 per cent of all deaths due to terrorist attacks took place in five countries, and those are Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, and Syria," he said. The annual State Department Country Report on Terrorism, he said, notes a number of major strides that the United States and its allies made to defeat and degrade terrorist organisations in 2017. "We worked with allies and partners around the world to expand information sharing, improve aviation security, enhance law enforcement and rule of law capacities, and to counter terrorist radicalisation with a focus on preventing recruitment and recidivism," Sales said.

However, despite these many successes, the terrorist landscape grew more complex in 2017, he said. "ISIS, al-Qaeda, and their affiliates have proven to be resilient, determined, and adaptable," Sales added. He said foreign terrorist fighters were heading home from the war zones in Iraq and Syria or travelling to third countries to join ISIS branches there. "We also are experiencing an increase in attacks by home-

grown terrorists — that is, people who have been inspired by ISIS but have never set foot in Syria or Iraq. We've seen ISIS-directed or ISIS-inspired attacks outside the war zone on soft targets and in public spaces like hotels, tourist resorts, and cultural sites," Sales said.

"We've seen this trend in places as far as Bamako, Barcelona, Berlin, London, Marawi, New York City, Ouagadougou, and many others," added the top counter terrorism official from the State Department.

Iran, he alleged, remains the world's leading "state sponsor of terrorism" and is responsible for intensifying multiple conflicts and undermining US interests in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Bahrain, Afghanistan and Lebanon. Sales said Tehran uses a number of proxies and other instruments such as Lebanese Hizbollah and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Quds Force.

The threats posed by Iran's support for terrorism are not confined to the Middle East; they are truly global, he asserted. "We have seen Iran's and its proxies' terrorist-related activities across the globe. There are active fundraising networks in places as far afield as Africa, in South America. We've seen weapons caches planted around the world," he said.

Al-Qaeda, he said, was a determined and patient adversary. It has largely remained out of the headlines in recent years as it has been content to let ISIS bear the brunt of the international response, but one shouldn't confuse that period of relative quiet with al-Qaida's abandonment of its capabilities or intentions to strike the US and its allies, Sales said.

"That is why we are continuing to keep the pressure on al-Qaeda, its affiliates, and its individuals. The report details a number of efforts that we've taken to designate — and I mentioned in my opening remarks — efforts that we have taken to designate al-Qaida affiliates in Syria, in Mali, as well as individuals who are associated with the group," he said.

## Trump tells OPEC to lower oil prices

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Thursday issued a fresh call on the OPEC oil cartel to lower crude prices, saying the United States was providing Middle Eastern energy giants with security.

"We protect the countries of the Middle East, they would not be safe for very long without us, and yet they continue to push for higher and higher oil prices!" he tweeted.

"We will remember. The OPEC monopoly must get prices down now!" Trump has earlier called for members of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries — primarily cartel



kingpin and US ally Saudi Arabia — to raise their production, and warned importers to stop buying oil

from Iran or face US sanctions. Two of OPEC's founding members, Iran and Venezuela, are under sanctions from Washington.

A new set of US sanctions is due to hit the Islamic republic's oil industry on November 4.

Output from Iran has hit its lowest level since July 2016, according to the International Energy Agency, as top buyers India and China have distanced themselves from Tehran.

In 2016, major producers both within and outside OPEC agreed to slash production in an attempt to boost prices following the 2014 oil market crash.

## Pak invites Saudi to be 3<sup>rd</sup> partner in CPEC

Islamabad (PTI): Saudi Arabia will be the third "strategic partner" of the USD 50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a senior Pakistani minister announced Thursday, soon after Prime Minister Imran Khan returned from his first foreign trip to the cash-rich kingdom. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the flagship project of the multi-billion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a pet project of Chinese President Xi Jinping aimed at enhancing Beijing's influence around the world through China-funded infrastructure projects.

Addressing a press conference here on Khan's two-day visit to Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE), Minister of Information Fawad Chaudhry said that Pakistan's main interest lies in cooperation with Saudi Arabia on matters of trade and security.

Pakistan has invited Riyadh to join the CPEC as the third "strategic partner", The News quoted him as saying. Saudi Finance and Energy Ministers will visit Pakistan in the first week of October,

Chaudhry said. He said the projects that Saudi Arabia would be investing in the CPEC will be smoothed out during the Saudi delegation's visit.

China has rejected accusations that its financial backing for the CPEC was a "debt trap" that could compromise cash-strapped Pakistan's sovereignty. The CPEC is the fastest-moving and flagship part of President Xi's global Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The CPEC aims to construct and upgrade the transportation network, energy projects, a deep-water port at Gwadar and special economic zones to eventually support Pakistan's industrial development as a manufacturing hub by 2030. Chaudhry said Prime Minister Khan has assured Riyadh that Pakistan will stand with Saudi Arabia.

"We have also assured the Saudi leadership that we will continue to provide security to their country and provide strategic support wherever needed," he said on the close defence partnership between the close allies.

## 'Globalisation may have been prehistoric practice'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Ancient civilisations engaged in globalisation more than previously believed, according to a study which suggests that an integrated global economy is not a recent phenomenon and may have benefited societies for ages. The researchers from University of Central Florida in the US found that societies often experienced booms and busts simultaneously, a process known as synchrony.

They used radiocarbon dating and historical records to measure energy consumption through a period of history ranging from about 10,000 to 400 years ago, a time frame that encompasses a large portion of the current Holocene era. The greater the energy consumption, the more likely a society was booming with population and political and economic activity. Some of the areas examined included the western US, the British Isles, Australia and northern Chile.

The radiocarbon dates came from preserved organic items such as seeds, animal bones and burned wood from ancient trash deposits at these sites.

Radiocarbon dating measures the radioactive decay of the atom carbon-14 from organic matter to find the organic matter's age. The findings, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences suggest that



early globalisation was possibly a strategy for societies to grow through migration, trade and conflict with other, distant societies when a society's carrying capacity began to be overloaded. It is especially important to study societies' resilience, or ability to recover from a disaster, over the long term, and radiocarbon dating is a useful tool for this assessment, researchers said.

The rise and fall of societies seems to be an inherent part of civilisation. "Our data stop at 400 years ago, and there has been a huge change from organic economies to fossil fuel economies," said Jacopo A. Baggio, an assistant professor at University of Central Florida. "However, similar synchronisation trends continue today even more given the interdependencies of our societies," said Baggio.

The study suggests the process of societies creating connections and becoming interdependent, known as globalisation, also played out among human society millennia ago.

"If every culture was unique, you would expect to see no synchrony, or harmony, across human records of energy consumption," said Jacob Freeman, an assistant professor at Utah State University in the US. Although interconnectedness has advantages for societies, there can be downsides as well, said Erick Robinson, a post-doctoral assistant research scientist at the University of Wyoming in the US.

## GLOBE TROTTING

### Emilia Clarke shows off dragon tattoos

London: "Game of Thrones" star Emilia Clarke showed off her dragon tattoos Wednesday. The 31-year-old actor got three little dragons flying away inked on her right-hand wrist after declaring earlier this year that she was planning on getting a "GOT"-inspired tattoo as a tribute to her role. Daenerys Targaryen, popularly known as Mother of Dragons, in the fantasy epic series. Clarke took to Instagram to share the news. "MOD 4 LYFE! @\_dr\_woo\_made sure this mamma ain't NEVER forgetting her babies..." Clarke captioned the photo. She had earlier said, "I'm going to get a dragon right here (points at wrist) kind of flying away. So I think that's cool. A little kind of peace out." The actor joins fellow "GOT" stars Sophie Turner and Maisie Williams got matching inkings to commemorate the date when they clinched their roles as Sansa and Arya Stark. "GOT" returns for its eighth and final installment next year.



### 'Wonder Woman' scribe Allan Heinberg to pen female-led Marvel drama

Los Angeles: Allen Heinberg, writer of "Wonder Woman", is set to develop a female-driven Marvel drama at ABC. The Disney-owned network has handed out production commitment to the top-secret project, Deadline reported. True to Marvel style, details about the premise are being kept under wraps, though it is expected to shine light on lesser-known characters in the comic book giant's library. Heinberg has earlier served as showrunner on ABC's "The Catch". He will also executive produce alongside Marvel TV head Jeph Loeb. Currently, Marvel's "Agents of SHIELD" will return in next year for an abbreviated 13-episode order. It is unclear if this would be the show's final season. ABC previously aired "Agent Carter" and "Inhumans", from the MCU, which have both been cancelled. It was announced Wednesday that popular Marvel comics character Loki and Scarlett Witch are all set to get stand-alone TV shows that will air on Disney's new streaming video service, set to launch in 2019.

# Kim, Moon join hands



South Korean President Moon Jae-in, second from right, and his wife Kim Jung-sook, right, stand with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, second from left, and his wife Ri Sol Ju on the Mount Paektu in North Korea on Thursday. AP

AP ■ PYONGYANG

The leaders of the rival Koreas took to the road for the final day of their summit Thursday, standing on the peak of a beautiful volcano considered sacred in the North and a centerpiece of propaganda used to legitimise the Kim family's rule, their hands clasped and raised in a pose of triumph. Their trip to the mountain on the North Korean-Chinese border, and the striking photo-op that will resonate in both Koreas, followed a day of wide-ranging agreements they trumpeted as a major step toward peace. However, their premier accord on the issue that most worries the world — the North's pursuit of nuclear-tipped missiles that can accurately strike the US mainland — contained a big condition: Kim Jong Un stated that he would permanently dismantle North Korea's main nuclear facility only if the United States takes unspecified corresponding measures.

Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in flew separately to an airport near Mount Paektu on Thursday morning where they then met up and drove to the mountain.

Photos showed the leaders smiling broadly as they posed at the summit, their wives grinning at their sides, a brilliant blue sky and the deep crater lake that tops the volcano in the background; they also toured the shores of the lake.

Members of the Kim family are referred to as sharing the "Paektu Bloodline," and the volcano is emblazoned on the national emblem and lends its name to everything from rockets to power stations.

Many South Koreans also feel drawn to the volcano, which, according to Korean mythology, was the birthplace of Dangun, the founder of the first ancient Korean kingdom, and has long been considered one of the most beautiful places on the peninsula. Not everyone was pleased, though.

About 100 anti-North Korea protesters rallied in central Seoul to express anger about the summit and displayed slogans that read, "No to SK-NK summit that benefit(s) Kim Jong Un." Moon departed for South Korea later Thursday, as the leaders bask in the glow of the joint statement they settled Wednesday. Compared to the vague language of their two earlier summits, Kim and Moon seem to have agreed on an ambitious program meant to tackle soaring tensions last year that had many fearing war as the North tested a string of increasingly powerful weapons.

Kim promised to accept international inspectors to monitor the closing of a key missile test site and launch pad and to visit Seoul soon, and both leaders vowed to work together to try to host the Summer Olympics in 2032.

But while containing several tantalizing offers, their

joint statement appeared to fall short of the major steps many in Washington have been looking for — such as a commitment by Kim to provide a list of North Korea's nuclear facilities, a solid step-by-step timeline for closing them down, or an agreement to allow international inspectors to assess progress or discover violations. It also was unclear what "corresponding steps" North Korea wants from the U.S. to dismantle its nuclear site. The question is whether it will be enough for President Donald Trump to pick up where Moon has left off. Trump told reporters Wednesday that the outcome of the summit was "very good news" and that "we're making tremendous progress" with North Korea. He didn't indicate in his brief remarks whether the U.S. would be willing to take further steps to encourage North Korean action on denuclearization.

Declaring they had made a major step toward peace, Moon and Kim stood side by side Wednesday as they announced their agreement.

"We have agreed to make the Korean Peninsula a land of peace that is free from nuclear weapons and nuclear threat," Kim said. "The road to our future will not always be smooth and we may face challenges and trials we can't anticipate. But we aren't afraid of headwinds because our strength will grow as we over-

come each trial based on the strength of our nation."

Moon urged unity for all Koreans in a speech he gave Wednesday night to the crowd gathered for North Korea's signature mass games. "We have lived together for 5,000 years and lived in separation for 70 years. I now propose that we completely eliminate the hostility of the past 70 years and take a big step forward in peace so that we can become one again." Historians say the 5,000-year timeline of Korean history is a groundless claim that became part of South Korea's official narrative after being inserted in school textbooks during the rule of former dictator Chun Doo-hwan.

This week's summit comes as Moon is under increasing pressure from Washington to find a path forward in efforts to get Kim to completely — and unilaterally — abandon his nuclear arsenal. Trump has maintained that he and Kim have a solid relationship, and both leaders have expressed interest in a follow-up summit to their meeting in June in Singapore. North Korea has been demanding a declaration formally ending the Korean War, which was stopped in 1953 by a cease-fire, but neither leader mentioned it Wednesday as they read the joint statement. In the meantime, however, Moon and Kim made concrete moves of their own to reduce tensions on their border.

# Korean DMZ: Poignant symbol of divided nation, hope for reunification

**Korean Demilitarised Zone (PTI):** A 250-km-long military demarcation line virtually divides the Korean Peninsula into two halves, but many hearts on both sides of the heavily fortified border still yearn to meet.

In and around the demilitarised zone, better known as the DMZ, that stretches 2 km wide on each side of the dividing line, symbolism of reunification run high.

From dazzling Dorasan station, the last railway station on the South Korean side located about 650 metres from the DMZ, with its 'Unification Platform', to countless colourful ribbons tied to barbed-wire fences nearby a preserved railway engine at Imjingak, carrying messages from people in the South for the family members lost or left back in the North, the desire to reunite is palpable in the air.

On the Unification Platform, a signboard put by Korail, South Korea's national railway operator, indicates "Pyongyang 205 km-Seoul 56 km" while a huge landscaped poster showing the tracks, carries the message — "Not the last station towards the South. But the first station towards the North", signalling the aspiration to reconnect.

And, as South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un wrap up their historic third summit Thursday, the two leaders made gestures, indicating a push towards establishing lasting peace in the region and accelerating the process of denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

"From the airplane, I observed North Korea's mountains and rivers and the streets of Pyongyang from the time they appeared until we landed.

No signs of division were visible at all from that point of view," Moon had tweeted Tuesday on the first day of the three-day summit.

The two leaders had hugged each other at the Sunan international airport in Pyongyang where Moon flew to from Seoul, becoming the first president to visit the North Korean capital in 11 years. In his address at the May Day Stadium, Moon greeted people as "Citizens of Pyongyang, our brethren in the North".

"By developing inter-Korean relations in an all-embracing and groundbreaking manner, we firmly pledged to reconnect Korea's arteries and to hasten a future of common prosperity and reunification on our own terms," Moon said. "We had lived together for five thousand years but apart for just 70

years. Here, at this place today, I propose we move forward toward the big picture of peace in which the past 70-year-long hostility can be eradicated and we can become one again," he said. During their summit, Kim agreed to make a visit to Seoul and the two leaders also 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 desire to become one was articulated in 1983, in a song '30 Years Lost' and was used as a themes song for the show 'Search for the Dispersed Families' which was aired on KBS, a Korean channel, from June 30-November 14, 1983, to reunite families torn apart by the Korean War, fought between the two Koreas from 1950-53 before an armistice brought it to a halt.

# US ready to negotiate with N Korea to transform relations: Pompeo

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo Thursday said America is ready to restart negotiations with Pyongyang, with the aim of denuclearising North Korea by 2021.

His comments came after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to make a historic first visit to South Korea soon and close a major missile testing site in the presence of international inspectors in a meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Pyongyang on Wednesday.

Pompeo, in a statement, welcomed Moon and Kim's reaffirmation of the Singapore joint statement of complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, including the permanent dismantlement of all facilities at Yongbyon in the presence of the US and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors.

"This will mark the beginning of negotiations to transform the US-DPRK relations through the process of rapid denuclearisation of North Korea, to be completed by January 2021, as committed by Chairman Kim,



and to construct a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula," he said.

The January 2021 date is the most specific timeline an official on either side has put forward publicly so far.

"We also welcome Chairman Kim's decision to complete the previously announced dismantlement of Tongchang-ri site in the presence of US and international inspectors as a step toward the final fully verified denuclearisation of North Korea, as agreed by

Chairman Kim at the Singapore summit with President Trump," Pompeo added.

On the basis of these important commitments, he said, the US was prepared to engage immediately in negotiations to transform its relations with North Korea.

During the Singapore summit, Trump and Kim agreed in broad terms to work towards denuclearisation. Since then, however, there has been little progress, with no clear process nor timeline laid out, while an abruptly cancelled trip to Pyongyang by Pompeo in August led to speculation relations had soured somewhat.

Pompeo said he has invited South Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho to a meeting in New York City next week, where they both are already scheduled to be in attendance at the United Nations General Assembly.

"Likewise, we have invited North Korean representatives to meet our Special Representative for North Korea, Stephen Biegun, in Vienna, Austria, at the earliest opportunity," he added.

# Kim seeks 2<sup>nd</sup> Trump summit 'at an early date': Moon

**Seoul (AFP):** North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is hoping for a second summit with US President Donald Trump soon, the South's President Moon Jae-in said Thursday after a three-day trip to his neighbour. "Chairman Kim Jong Un expressed hopes for a second summit with President Trump at an early date," Moon told reporters on his return to Seoul.

Kim and Trump held a historic and high-profile meeting in Singapore in June, where the North's leader committed to work towards denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, but no details were agreed. Washington and Pyongyang have subsequently sparred over what that means and how it will be achieved, with the Trump administration consistently referring to the denuclearisation of North Korea specifically. The process had become deadlocked until Moon's trip to Pyongyang, where Kim agreed to permanently dismantle a missile testing site. Experts were sceptical but the Trump administration immediately welcomed the move, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo inviting his North Korean counterpart to meet next week on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

# Republicans refuse to delay Kavanaugh Mon hearing, set Fri deadline for Ford to respond

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Republican majority leadership in the US Senate Thursday refused the postponement of the scheduled Monday hearing of Judge Brett Kavanaugh, who is facing sexual assault allegations, and set a Friday deadline for Christine Blasey Ford to respond.

In a letter to Democratic members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, its chairman Chuck Grassley also opposed the idea of an FBI investigation, a condition set by Ford for her to appear before the committee for testimony, a move which has been supported by Democratic lawmakers. In the absence of Ford appearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Republicans Thursday said they will go ahead with the confirmation process and the White House said it will fully support Kavanaugh, the US Supreme Court nominee.

Grassley, in his letter, dismissed the demand of FBI investigation. "Your letter requests that I demand that the FBI conduct an additional investigation into this matter. This request demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of the FBI background investigation process. Before nominating an individual to a judicial or executive office, the White House directs the FBI to conduct a background investigation," he said. "The FBI compiles information about a prospective nominee and sends it to the White House. The White House then provides FBI background investigation files to the Senate as a courtesy to help us determine whether to confirm a nominee. But the FBI does not make a credibility assessment of any information it receives with respect to



a nominee," Grassley argued. He said he has scheduled the hearing on coming Monday. Grassley alleged that Senator Dianne Feinstein only informed the FBI of the allegations after they were leaked to the media on the eve of a confirmation vote. "The proper course of action would have been to investigate Dr Ford's serious allegations as quickly and as thoroughly as possible, as I did as soon as these allegations were made known to me," he said.

The Democrat's request, he said, ignores the fact that Ford has already made her allegations public. The purpose of the background investigation process is to compile information in a confidential manner, Grassley said. "Confidentiality permits people to speak freely and candidly about the character and qualifications of the nominee. The White House requires the Senate to keep background investigation files private so that people can speak anonymously to investigators if they so desire. Because Dr Ford's allegations are in the public arena, there is no longer a need for a confidential FBI investigation," he said.

Grassley said the Senate Judiciary Committee has offered to hold a hearing with Ford in any format, time and place of her choice.

# Malaysia ex-PM faces 21 new charges

**Kuala Lumpur:** Malaysia's ex-leader Najib Razak is facing 21 money-laundering charges related to a transfer of USD 681 million into his bank account, police said Thursday, following his arrest over the multi-billion-dollar 1MDB scandal. Najib is expected to be charged in court Thursday afternoon after being detained a day earlier by anti-corruption investigators.

He has already been hit with seven charges over state fund 1MDB since unexpectedly losing power in May, but observers said the latest accusations against him are the most serious yet. Allegations that the politician and his cronies looted huge sums from the investment vehicle were a



major factor in the shock defeat of his long-ruling coalition at the hands of a reformist alliance headed by Mahathir Mohamad. Police questioned Najib Thursday morning. Afterwards, deputy national police chief Noor Rashid Ibrahim said in a statement that "as many as 21 charges involving USD 681 million have been prepared".

The charges under anti-money laundering laws relate to receiving, using and the transfer of illegal funds, he said in a statement.

Najib has already been charged with money-laundering, criminal breach of trust and abusing his position over claims he pocketed some USD 10 million from a former unit of 1MDB. He denies any wrongdoing.

However, the latest arrest related to a central allegation in the long-running scandal — that huge sums from the fund flowed into his bank accounts before a hotly contested election in 2013. When reports about the bank transfers surfaced in 2015, they represented a turn-

ing 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.

However, since returning for a second stint as premier, 93-year-old Mahathir has reopened investigations and vowed to bring Najib to justice. M1Malaysia Development Berhad was set up in 2009 and overseen by Najib.

But the leader and his cronies were accused of looting vast sums from it and using the money to buy everything from real estate to pricey artworks.

# Republican party in US apologises to Hindus after ad featuring Lord Ganesha 'offends' community

**Houston (PTI):** The ruling Republican party in the US has apologised to the Hindus after a newspaper advertisement featuring Lord Ganesha to woo the minority community voters in Texas ended up "offending" them. The advert, on the occasion of the 'Ganesh Chaturthi' festival, included the imagery of Lord Ganesha with the text, "Would you worship a donkey or an elephant? The choice is yours".

The elephant is the party symbol of the Republicans while Democrats have donkey as their party's symbol.

The Indian-American community described the political advertisement of the Grand Old Party in an Indian-American newspaper as "offensive" for featuring Lord Ganesha. The party's county unit, Fort Bend County Republican Party which published the ad, apologised and



clarified that it "was not meant to disparage Hindu customs or traditions in any way".

The ad, with arrows pointing to the body parts of Lord Ganesha, listed out qualities such as — 'A BIG HEAD, TO THINK OUT OF THE BOX; 'BIG EYES TO LOOK BEYOND WHAT YOU SEE; 'LARGE EARS TO LISTEN TO OTHERS ATTENTIVELY; 'LARGE STOMACH, TO PEACEFULLY DIGEST ALL

THE GOOD AND BAD IN LIFE' among others.

An advocacy group, the Hindu-American Foundation (HAF) of Houston, called on the Fort Bend County Republican Party to apologise for the advert about the celebration of the 'Ganesh Chaturthi' festival.

"While we appreciate the Fort Bend County GOP's attempt to reach out to Hindus on an important Hindu festival, its ad — equating Hindus' veneration of the Lord Ganesha with choosing a political party based on its animal symbol — is problematic and offensive," said Rishi Bhutada, HAF Board Member and Fort Bend County resident.

Using religious imagery in order to explicitly appeal for political support should best be avoided by any political party, he said. "The implication regarding the worship of ani-

mals as gods was also disheartening to the HAF leaders, as that is a common misconception taught in US schools, which frequently ends up becoming a taunt used to bully Hindu students," the HAF said.

Bhutada also called upon the Fort Bend County Republican Party to apologise for the offensive and inaccurate reference, not to run the advert again and for elected officials in the County to send the same message to the Party as well.

Sri Preston Kulkarni, the Democratic candidate for the US Congress from District 22 in Texas, seized on the Republican advert, calling it offensive in a tweet on Tuesday. "Asking Hindu-Americans if they would rather vote for a donkey or an elephant by comparing Ganesha, a religious figure, to a political party is highly inappropriate.

# Tweeting in Hindi gaining popularity in India: Study

**Washington:** Tweeting in Hindi is gaining popularity in India, according to a study conducted by researchers, including an Indian, in the US. Social media landscape in India evolved since 2014 when a majority of the tweets on Twitter were from the English-speaking urban population, says the study conducted by Joyojeet Pal and Liz Bozarth from the University of Michigan.

Hindi language tweets are more likely to be shared and favored in India when compared to English, said the study. A key indicator of this shift is that 11 of the 15 most retweeted messages by Indian politicians in the last year have been in Hindi. The study states that the Bharatiya Janata Party leads significantly in terms of social media following.

"While the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party still leads significantly in terms of social media following because of a top-down push from the center, other parties are also recognising the role of the social media in political outreach," said Pal, an assistant professor at U-M's School of Information and the lead author of the study.

They found that Prime Minister Narendra Modi leads significantly in online following, but the median recount of the Congress president Rahul Gandhi's tweets have consistently outscored median tweets of other Indian politicians from January to April 2018, the university said.

According to the research, Hindi language tweets perform better for the BJP, Congress, as well as regional parties post 2016. Non-Hindi regional language tweets do not perform as good as either Hindi or English. "A reason for this can be that his tweets



have taken on an aggressive style of confrontation that has helped the popularity of his messages," Pal said, adding that it has used one-liners, wordplay and rhymes, and are usually in regional languages.

Pal and doctoral student Lia Bozarth aggregated 274 politicians and political accounts based on two key attributes — politicians' status as party leaders or official post in the party machinery and significant online following, typically with 50,000 followers or more.

While the language use on social media does not map onto the language preference of a politician's electoral constituents, the research says that it serves as an indicator of who the politician is speaking to online.

"Language can also be an indicator of the kind of emotion being expressed. Some of the most retweeted messages in Hindi have sarcasm or insults," Pal said, adding that this aligns with previous research that stronger emotions are more likely to be in local language than in English," he said.

"We are moving closer to an era in which politicians can actively switch to communicating with their constituents directly through social media, bypassing the traditional news media altogether," Pal said. PTI

CHEF TALK

# 'Food is an identity marker'

Canadian food writer and cookbook author GAIL SIMMONS talks to CHAHAK MITTAL about how food is an art form and millennials need to realise the importance of consuming food rather than just appreciating its visual appeal

Food is not just a necessity, it is also an experience and expression of who we are. In fact, it is an organic extension of our identity and establishes our signature no matter how many times we cook or serve the same dish. Or so believes Gail Simmons, Canadian food writer and author of *Talking With My Mouth Full: My Life as a Professional Eater*. Says she, "It is our respective style that affects the taste of the food we are making, the influences in our life, our experiences from travel as well as our education. A chef's training, nurturing, conditioning and the background of his/her home affects his/her way of cooking as well as perceiving the concepts of food. A dish is unique to the person who makes it."

Gail believes that her 'cooking has evolved enormously. I keep trying something new every time. I keep learning through my work, my family and life, even my professional colleagues. I have worked as a cook but today I have evolved as a chef. On the shows I host, I walk in a chef coat and feel that there's nothing that I have wanted more. I have always wanted to learn, grow and explore more. It is the only reason why my cooking evolves every-time."

A chef's master dish goes through a lot of experimentation, tasting and checking, understanding and patience. It might have also gone through immense failures before getting ready. However, what could be the greatest cause of failure in a chef's dish? Says Gail, "The amount of work and dedication that is put into the cooking really determines the success of the dish. It depends on a number of factors, including engineering the whole plan, the prime one being patience, which is extremely important, and also a proper understanding of the end result. It depends on the understanding of the chef as well who might haven't cooked the dish properly, which could be undercooked or overcooked, or vegetables which might not have been cut or chopped finely, or maybe some ingredients that might not be added to the dish in significant proportions. Depending on all these factors and making sure they are well-kept in mind, the dish could be absolutely great."

Knowing and learning how to cook food is not a lesson that could be mastered overnight. It takes a lot of practice and knowledge to blend certain ingredients, creating fusion with two or more dishes. What's more to it? Is it an art form as well? "Absolutely. Food is an art, it takes years of practice to expertise in the field. There are definitely methods and science to cooking but food is an art not just in how it appears to the person consuming it but also how it tastes and smells," says Gail.

She adds, "But do you know what is the most amazing part of cooking? It



is that it's the only art form that involves the use of all five of your senses. One needs to know how to taste it, touch it, to make sure its cooked properly, smell it and that it also appeals the eyes."

Talking about visual appeal of the food, presentation of a certain dish does make the dish get full marks but sometimes it's not what chefs really appreciate. "A picture on the phone cannot possibly capture its flavours." Isn't it an injustice done to chefs whose dishes get clicked even before they are tasted? On the phenomenon called food porn, Gail says, "People want the food to look delicious and appealing but I also feel that most of them are not professional photographers or food bloggers. They just want to flaunt the 'good-looking' food just like every other thing. Millennials now value how something

looks more than how valuable it actually is. The food is just taken to be photographed than tasted. It is because of this we are missing out on so much good food. I do get frustrated with this trend of taking pictures of food without understanding the story of food." Apart from her culinary skills and food talks, she reveals the things that she would want to make happen. "I want to spread the love for good food and balancing social injustice related to it due to hunger disparities across the world. It is really important to me. Allowing people the access to food and figuring out how more and more people can access fresh and healthy meals that will not only taste better but will also fulfill their needs. I also want to make people realise the need of adopting healthy practices for a healthier lifestyle." As her inspiration is largely derived

from her travel experiences and also "people whom I meet," Gail is rooted to her family, something that she draws from India. As she comes to Indian TV for the first time with her show *Top Chef: Season 14 (Charleston)*, she talks about what the show would bring for the Indian audience, "The show features chefs competing against each other in various culinary challenges and tasks. They are being judged by a panel of professional chefs and other notables from the food and wine industry. It is a fun show that brings eight new contestants competing against eight contestants who have returned from previous seasons." The show airs on September 24 every Monday to Friday at 9pm on AXN, premiering for the first time in India.



## Duet, not a duel

Chao Bella may offer two cuisines that pop up immediately on our consciousness but does not make a hash job of it, says SAIMI SATTAR

Italian or Chinese? For quite a few Indians, when they are eating out, the choice is often a toss-up between these two cuisines. And Chao Bella, which is a combination of two words (Chao in Mandarin means hello and Bella in Italian translates as gracious) offers just the place to give in to your whims. Dig into a plate of dimsums, follow it up with some pasta and pair up Chinese greens with some fried rice - and the combination does not seem to be a mish-mash.

Located in Crowne Plaza Today New Delhi Okhla, which is primarily a business hotel, the laidback ambience is best enjoyed at dinner. But a working lunch is what I had signed up for. The restaurant has come up with a new menu by cutting down on the number of dishes and focussing on quality over quantity. "Earlier there were 100 plus items from each cuisine. It confused the guests as to what would suit their palate. Now we've cut down and offer 35-40 of the best," says Chef Saurabh Agrawal said.

What also makes the restaurant stand out are the fresh, organic ingredients, many of which are prepared in house. But more about that as we proceed. I started with Beijing chicken dumpling soup where the broth was light, the chicken inside the dumpling succulent and flavourful. Next up was the Prawn and chives dimsum, which did not score as high as the soup but nevertheless primed the umami senses.

But it was with the main course that the meal really picked up. On my own, I am not a huge fan of gnocchi and usually never order it while eating Italian but here it came as the chef's recommenda-

tions and I am happy to say, I complied. The tomato sauce that Gnocchi Pomodoro had been cooked in was not run in a blender, rather simmered and cooked to the right degree of consistency, which brought out the flavour. Also rather than making it smooth like tomato puree, it was a bit lumpy which enhanced the flavour heightened by garlic and olive oil. The gnocchi on the other hand was fluffy and light. If I had to choose to make a meal of one dish on the menu, this one would be it.

"While this dish uses fresh tomatoes, even the sun-dried ones do not come out of a bottle. We slice tomatoes, string them and bombard them with solutions, cover and hang them to dry," says Chef Saurabh.

Next up was Steamed jasmine rice with Homemade spinach tofu. What made the dish stand out was the silken tofu. The chef informed the secret behind it. "While most of the restaurants use store bought tofu which uses preservatives, we make it every alternate day. This makes it moist and succulent," he said.

WHAT ALSO MAKES THE PLACE STAND OUT ARE THE FRESH, ORGANIC INGREDIENTS, MANY OF WHICH ARE PREPARED IN-HOUSE



## RECIPES



### GULABJAMUN CHEESECAKE

**WHAT YOU NEED**  
Kwarke cheese - 400gm  
Sugar - 120gm  
Sour cream - 200gm  
Heavy cream- 150ml  
Eggs - 02 no  
Corn starch - 02tbs  
Lemon zest - one pinch  
Orange zest- one pinch  
Gulab jamun - 08no  
Cracker biscuits- 02pkt  
Unsalted butter- 100gm

#### METHOD

- First crush the cracker and add butter to it then spread in the mold to cook for 12 minutes.
- Now mix kwarke cheese & sugar, add sour cream.
- Later add beaten eggs, corn starch, lemon and orange zest.
- Finally arrange gulab jamun in the tray and add the mixture in a cracker base for baking for an hour.

Courtesy: Chef Praveen Rathi at ERA lounge and bar, CP.

### COYO MATCHA SMOOTHIE

**WHAT YOU NEED**  
Coconut, fresh and grated - 2 tsp  
Banana - 1  
Foodhall Coconut Yogurt - 4 tbsp  
Almond Milk - 1 cup  
Dates, chopped - 2 tbsp  
Matcha Green Tea - 2 tsp

#### METHOD

- Freeze 1 sliced banana overnight and blend it with



almond milk and seedless dates in a blender.  
Add the remaining ingredients to the blender, pulse on high and serve immediately.  
Your super healthy vegan breakfast is ready.

oiled pan over medium high heat. Stir fry the carrots until slightly softened. Lightly season with a pinch of salt.

- Cut the pickled radish crosswise in half, and then cut lengthwise in half.
- When all the ingredients are ready, remove the rice from the rice cooker. While the rice is still hot, add the sesame oil and salt. Mix well by lightly folding with a rice paddle or spoon until evenly seasoned.
- Cut sheets of nori into quarters.
- Put a quarter sheet of nori, shiny side down and shorter side toward you, on a cutting board. Spread 1 tablespoon to 1-1/2 tablespoons of rice evenly over the nori, leaving a little bit of space on



the side away from you. Do this with your fingers. Keep wet towel and wipe your fingers frequently to keep the rice from sticking to your fingers. Lay the prepared ingredients on top of the rice, closer towards you.  
Lift the entire bottom edge with both hands and roll over the filling away from you, tucking in the filling with your fingers.  
Rub or brush the roll with a little bit of sesame oil for extra flavour and a shiny look.

#### FOR THE SAUCE

- Finely grind the sesame seeds in a spice grinder or mortar bowl. Mix with the remaining sauce ingredients. Stir well until the sugar is dissolved and the ground sesame seeds are evenly distributed.

Courtesy: Corporate Chef Vaibhav Bhargava at The Drunken Botanist.

### CHOCOLATE AVOCADO CHIA PUDDING

**WHAT YOU NEED**  
Avocados (very ripe): 2  
Organic honey (or maple syrup): 1/3 cup  
Cocoa powder: 1/3 cup  
Extra virgin coconut oil: 3 tsp  
Vanilla extract: 1 tsp  
Chia seeds: 1/2 teaspoon



#### METHOD

- Combine all ingredients other than the chia seeds in a blender and blend until smooth.
- Divide pudding among ramekins or cups and mix in the chia and refrigerate for at least a couple of hours.
- Sprinkle with chopped almonds and walnuts before serving.

## gorge us

Qba invites you to indulge in the special cocktail evenings where one can enjoy cocktail specials as mixologists guzzle some in-house-crafted cocktails. Select from varied offerings from Qba Libre, Old-fashioned, Qba Mule, Metropolitan, Margarita, Pina colada and more. **Date:** Till September **Venue:** E 42 & 43, inner circle, CP. **Time:** 12 pm to 11:45 pm

Amuse House, European Bistro is set to serve the peeps with its rich, diverse, and cultural cuisine. Step in for the uniquely crafted menu. Enjoy smoked mushroom risotto, manchego stuffed chillies, grilled goat cheese beetroot and much more. **Price:** ₹1,800 **When:** Ongoing **Time:** 12 pm to 1 am **Venue:** C- 108, Ansal Plaza, August Kranti Marg.

Kiara Soul Kitchen, the pan-Asian fine dining restaurant is all geared up to nosh the vegan folks in the city. Relish the Asian delicacies such as Kakeage roll sushi, Gram flower dumplings in rich yogurt gravy, Thai flavoured red rice, Organic black rice with choice of curry and much more. **Venue:** M 30, First Floor, M Block Market, Greater Kailash 2 (GK2) **Time:** 11 am to 11 pm (Monday closed) **Price:** ₹2,500 plus taxes

Gravity Space-bar's new menu brings to you brand new dishes to make you salivate. For quick bites, they have added the Raw mango and onion bhajija, Falafel pao, Cayenne chicken popcorn, Three chicken loaded fries and Tawa sausage masala. For sweets, they have launched live cheesecake demos till 9pm. Also, the Paan gol gappa and Caramel brownie tower. **Price:** ₹1,500 (plus taxes) for two **Time:** 12 pm to 12 am **Date:** Till October 15 **Venue:** Gravity Space-Bar, Sector 29, Gurugram.

DLF Cyberhub is all set to recreate the vibes of Oktoberfest, the global festival will be a 16-day fiesta running from the end of September to the first week of October. It's time to have some fun beer games with your buddies while savouring the delicious side treats. The fest will begin with an outstanding band performance by Astitva band on September 21. **Time:** 6 pm onwards **Date:** September 21 to October 5 **Venue:** DLF Cyberhub, Gurugram.



Trend Slazer

'Award validates my choices'

Actress **ANUSHKA SHARMA** who has received the Smita Patil award for best actor, said it validates the choices that she has made so far in her career. "It's a special day for me because I completed 10 years in the industry. So receiving this award validates the choices that I made in my career. I didn't have anyone to guide me in my journey. Even my parents don't belong to this industry so they also don't know how the industry works," said Anushka.



'With changing times, people want to see actors look more real now. Perfection isn't real. We all have imperfections and everyone's body is built differently. I don't ever want to give a false image of perfection. What's wrong with being confident and loving yourself? Absolutely nothing.'

—Neha Sharma

On **MAHESH BHATT'S** 70th birthday on Thursday, his daughters Pooja and Alia announced that the veteran filmmaker will be directing *Sadak 2*, in which he will cast them. "Life has no full stops. Just when I thought it was autumn, another spring arrives out of nowhere. I feel like a volcano that is about to explode again. There is no end, there is no beginning, there is only this never-ending passionate flow of life," Mahesh wrote on social media.



Steven's personal automatons used

From director **STEVEN SPIELBERG'S** personal collection, filmmakers Jack Black and Cate Blanchett have used moving mechanical musicians along with a few musical instruments for their film, *The House with the Clock in the Walls*. The aim was to create a creepy, spontaneous, yet delightful sequence of the gothic children's thriller. Jack said, "We had some amazing artistry that went into the automatons. Some of them are actual antiques." The film, directed by Eli Roth, is slated to release in India both in English and Hindi on September 21.



What if you wake up one day to find that you have no memory left? All the years you spent growing up, your family, friends, loved ones, the memories everyone grows to cherish, are all lost. That's what Alzheimer's does. It is a thief, that not just steals from you, but steals the very thing you need to remember what's been stolen. It is often said that the longer you live, the more likely you are to develop a chronic condition. Your risk of getting arthritis, Parkinson's, or another non-infectious disease that diminishes your quality of life increases with each year. But of all the disorders that plague us late in life, the one that stands out as a particularly big threat to society is the Alzheimer's disease. It is a progressive, degenerative form of dementia that affects a person's memory, behaviour and thinking so severely, that the person afflicted may not even be able to recall any events from the past, including something that happened a few moments ago. India has an increasing geriatric population, with a life expectancy of almost 70 years. Almost four million people in India suffer from some form of dementia, with approximately 1.6 million being affected by Alzheimer's. This number is set to triple by 2050. What's even more disheartening, is that there is no definitive treatment or



THE MEMORY THIEF

cure to slow its progress, and it cannot be prevented. However, it is crucial to know early symptoms of Alzheimer's. Firstly, a cognitive and behavioural decline from previous levels of functioning and performing; a gradual onset of cognitive deterioration over months and years; patient may seem fazed, disoriented and confused; memory loss is most prominent, especially in the area of learning and recalling new information; language problems, in which case one struggles to find the right words; there is an inability to recognise objects and faces and to comprehend separate parts of a scene at once, a dif-

It's World Alzheimer's Day. Here's how we understand the disease in our daily lives

ficulty with reading text (Alexia); a marked decline in the ability to reason, judge and solve problems. It also includes occasional memory lapses, repeating sentences, losing the ability to speak, read or write, misplacing personal belongings, forgetting names of family members and eventually losing the ability to perform basic tasks and the ability to think and reason. So how does Alzheimer's progress? It typically progresses slowly in three general stages — mild (early

stage), moderate (middle stage), and severe (late stage). Since it affects people in different ways, every person experiences symptoms differently. On an average, a person with Alzheimer's lives four to eight years after diagnosis, but can live as long as 20 years depending on other factors as well. With Alzheimer's patients become restless, agitated or depressed, leading to complications such as falls, malnourishment or even certain infections which are not cur-

able. But every cloud has a silver lining and the good news is that no matter how isolating Alzheimer's can be, growing awareness about the condition has ensured that no one has to go through it alone. While, currently a treatment to stop Alzheimer's from progressing hasn't been discovered, there are medications to treat the symptoms of dementia. In the past three decades, research on dementia has provided a much deeper understanding of how Alzheimer's can affect the brain. Dr Praveen Gupta, director and head of department, Neurology, Fortis Memorial Research Institute,

Gurugram, lists some diagnosis methods for the disease: While there is no specific test through which Alzheimer's can be ascertained and diagnosed, doctors rule out all other possibilities by testing the blood and urine. Multiple brain scans (CT, MRI, EEG, and PET) are conducted to get a clearer image of the functioning neural pathways. It could be severe enough to affect daily activities. The mini mental state examination (MMSE) is a common cognitive test. It is sensitive to the severity of the disorder (a score under 10 is said to be severe). Biomarker tests are carried out to check whether someone is at higher risk or not. Loss of Odour Identification Test can be administered as degeneration of the olfactory senses is indicative of the severity. Looking at it from a human perspective, patients with dementia are often unable to assert their basic rights and freedoms. Home care plays a critical role in dealing with Alzheimer's, which includes providing companionship, personal care like bathing, using the toilet, eating or exercising; care for wounds, injections and therapy. With new development, we are at a turning point. However, until the next breakthrough, we need to provide love and care for the ones who raised us.

—Inputs from IANS



KUSHAN MITRA



Ten tips to rent a car abroad

Going on a driving holiday abroad is becoming ever more common for Indians and I recently did the same. But there can be some potholes in the process. Here are some tips to avoid those



was a more than capable replacement, it was a bit bigger with more luggage room and came with Ford's superb SYNC3 infotainment system which allowed me to use Google Maps navigation and Google Play Music with my phone, something I really appreciated. But I was a bit disappointed that I did not get the car I wanted.

TAKE FULL DEPRECIATION INSURANCE

Now this is a slightly controversial tip, adding full depreciation insurance that reduces your excess in case of damage or theft to zero. It can pretty much double the rental cost of your car but it ensured complete peace of mind for me. I was driving in some very narrow streets and almost all the cars that I saw had a few scratches here or there. Given that often driving on the 'other' side in many countries is alien to Indians, you can very easily have issues dealing with space and taking some corners, so a scratch here or there could easily happen. Some car rental firms are notorious for charging customers for even small scratches, so yes, if you do not want to worry, ensure you do this. In case you do not take this package, because it is expensive, ensure you check the car thoroughly and in good lighting for any pre-existing damage. You do not want to be charged for prior damage. Even so, it may not be a bad idea to at least take 'partial' coverage for damage or theft.

FULL TO FULL

Most car rentals across the world work on a 'full to full' basis, that is you get a full tank

(sort of) when you leave and you return the car with a full tank when you return. Car rental firms can be very difficult and charge major penalties if you do not do so, so ask the rental firm about fuel pumps close to the airport, or wherever you have rented the car from in advance, you do not want to be left holding the can, literally.

SECOND DRIVER OR NOT?

Personally, I do not believe this is a bad thing, because if more than one of you can drive, you should be able to drive in case the primary driver gets injured or maybe has had a few too many drinks. Check the costs of an additional driver before leaving. Don't think you can save a few dollars or Euros by doing this on the sly. In case an unauthorised driver has an accident, you will be liable for the full damage to the car.

FOLLOW THE RULES

This is stating the bleeding obvious but do remember that you are not in India and you can't really make a phone call for help or offer a bribe to get out of trouble. Driving in most other parts of the world is very organised and you should know your road signs very well. When to give way, when to not overtake and also be aware of speed limits. In the UK and the US, you should remember that limits are posted in miles per hour instead of kilometres. Some countries are a bit more 'lenient' when it comes to speed limits than others, but unless you are on an unrestricted German Autobahn you can't really lose it, and you should know the sign for the 'unrestricted' bit (A circular white board with three

thin black diagonal lines). However, while driving through towns, limits are strictly enforced in Germany and elsewhere, so be doubly careful and always keep an eye on the speedometer at all times. Fines can be huge for speeding and matters can be worse still for drunken driving, which might involve arrest and a time behind bars and you can't get out with a tweet to Sushma Swaraj over here. Remember, you are not in your own country while driving and you have to follow the rules where you are. Rules that preclude you from stopping willy-nilly and if you must get out of the car, you have to wear a high-visibility vest.

Also, most countries are very strict about child safety, so children must be put inside child seats or on booster seats. If they are not, keep in mind that the authorities can charge you for child endangerment and in extreme cases even take your children away from you. You can rent these seats at car rental agencies, but do book them in advance.

PLAN YOUR PARKING AND ROUTES IN ADVANCE

Of course, have a navigation system handy. Thankfully, Google Maps is fairly accurate in most countries but many cars do not have a 'plug and play' Android Auto or Apple CarPlay (Apple Maps is far superior in western countries). It may not be a bad idea to pick up a local SIM card with a data plan, so that you can have maps planned on your phone. I used Google Maps constantly on this trip and on prior international drives I have depended completely on car navigation systems. Also, many towns and hotels have 'paid' parking only, keep that in mind before you set out.

Parking can cost as much as 10 Euros per day or 1 Euro per hour in some towns and the systems are automatic. Please ensure you pay for your parking in advance lest you be charged a massive fine. Talk to the hotels where you are staying in advance to figure out parking.

MOST OF ALL, HAVE FUN

A driving holiday is a holiday after all, and a holiday is about fun. Don't be tense while driving and just remember to have fun while following all the rules.



Bikash Poddar

TAKE NOTICE OF THE UNNOTICED

The art exhibition, *Looking Beyond*, urges us to look beyond daily routines and admire the landscapes around us. By TEAM VIVA

architecture of different places has stories and memories embedded. The beauty of nature which I enjoyed in my childhood keeps coming back in my memories and I think that the world is a theatre which is a play of light, sound and force. For me, nature always plays a crucial role which is dynamic each and every time." Artist Parul Sharma, who is drawn to the aesthetics of simplicity, said that nature is permanent even if things change and aren't the same as we know them today. "There's a simplicity to it. It's humans who create complex notions." She also explained a Japanese concept of Wabi Sabi which refers to modesty, appreciation of simplicity and a sense of impermanence in life.



Parul Sharma

Parul added, "The exhibition is a culmination of different styles of art from oils to acrylics and paintings to sculptures, and when one takes a step back to see this as a holistic work, one can discern the common theme where the works urge you to look beyond the obvious. These works reflect everyday themes that are right in front of us and so easily overlooked because we are busy with the noise around us."

"The concepts I have worked upon are varied but the recurring concept is that of *The Golden Womb* and *The Tree of Life*," said artist Seema Kohli who seeks inspiration from life.



Gurudas Shenoy

# RONALDO FALTERS, JUVE STILL WIN

10-men Juventus beat Valencia 2-0 to start with win, Real, Bayern, Utd shine but Lyon surprise City at Etihad



AFF ■ VALENCIA

Juventus believe they can win the Champions League with Cristiano Ronaldo, but they had to start by beating Valencia without him after he was controversially sent off on his debut in the competition for the Italian champions on Wednesday.

A tearful Ronaldo left the pitch in disbelief in the 29th minute, having aimed a petulant, but seemingly harmless, kick at Valencia defender Jeison Murillo. The Portuguese player then made contact with Murillo's head while urging him to get up.

Ronaldo dropped to the floor like the tournament was lost after German official Felix Brych brandished the red card but Juve showed more composure, Miralem Pjanic scoring twice from the penalty spot to clinch a comfortable 2-0 win.

Valencia were even awarded a third spot-kick of the match deep into injury-time but Daniel Parejo missed.

It remains to be seen how UEFA judge Ronaldo's offence, and dissent, but he is set to miss the next European game at home to Young Boys on October 2.

After that comes the more threatening double-header against Manchester United.

"I can only say that VAR would have helped the referee make the right decision," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said afterwards. UEFA are yet to approve the technology in Europe's premier club tournament.

Valencia fans celebrated Ronaldo's dismissal at the Estadio Mestalla like a goal had been scored but, in truth, their team missed a golden chance to gain a foothold in Group H.

Instead, Ronaldo's absence had little effect. The Italians won — with ease.

"You could say he's

increased the players' desire to prove themselves," Allegri said. "He's raised the bar for everybody."

Juventus have claimed seven Serie A titles in a row but the Champions League is the one they want. They last won that in 1996 when Ronaldo was 11 and still playing youth football for Nacional.

Ronaldo started brightly, with an ambitious shot from distance, and then had a hand in teeing up two glorious chances.

He first crossed for Federico Bernardeschi to set up Sami Khedira, before misfiring into the path of Mario Mandzukic six yards out. Each fluffed their lines.

Valencia had openings too but lacked punch. Michy Batshuayi, on his first start for the club, twisted round Giorgio Chiellini but was denied at the near post.

Then, the moment the match will be remembered for — Ronaldo let frustration get the better of him and Murillo made the most of it, falling instantly. Brych was convinced.

## BALE ON TARGET

MADRID: Gareth Bale scored as Real Madrid moved on from the departures of Cristiano Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane with a 3-0 win over Roma on Wednesday to confidently launch their pursuit of a fourth successive Champions League title.

Iscu curled in a terrific free-kick just before half-time at the Santiago Bernabeu, with Bale powering in a second and Mariano Diaz striking late as



AFF ■ VALENCIA

Real made a convincing start to their Group G campaign.

Julen Lopetegui fielded 10 of the 11 players who began the 3-1 victory over Liverpool in last season's final, with Bale — the two-goal hero after coming off the bench in Kiev — taking the place of the departed Ronaldo.

Keylor Navas was selected in goal ahead of close-season signing Thibaut Courtois, while Roma boss Eusebio Di Francesco handed a senior debut to 19-year-old midfielder Nicolò Zaniolo.

Spain midfielder Isco put Real ahead on the stroke of half-time when he majestically whipped a free-kick over the wall from 20 yards.

Turkish winger Cengiz Under went close to an equaliser early in the second half after a darting run and stinging shot drew an excellent stop from Navas.

Bale then saw a deflected effort bounce back off the crossbar, but the Welshman doubled Real's lead on 58 minutes with an angled low finish after he was released into space down the left by Modric. Mariano, wearing the number seven shirt vacated by Ronaldo, rounded out the win in stoppage time with a searing shot into the top corner from the edge of the box in his first game back at Real since rejoining from Lyon.

## WAKE UP CITY

MANCHESTER: Manchester City assistant manager Mikel Arteta admitted the English champions were handed a wake-



up call in a shock 2-1 home defeat by Lyon to start their Champions League campaign on Wednesday.

Arteta took charge for the evening with Pep Guardiola serving a touchline ban for being sent-off in last season's quarter-final exit to Liverpool.

And Guardiola could only watch on in horror as Lyon punished a sloppy first 45 minutes from the pre-tournament favourites through Maxwell Cornet and Nabil Fekir.

Bernardo Silva pulled a goal back in an improved second-half performance, but couldn't prevent City slumping to their first defeat of the season.

In contrast to their stunning domestic form, City have now lost their last four Champions League games.

Lyon have won just two of their opening five Ligue 1 matches of the season, but pouncing on City's sloppiness.

"We need to be capable of repeating this performance in order to fulfil the objectives we have," said Lyon coach Bruno Genesio.

"The end of the game was tougher as they brought it back to 2-1 and brought on talented players. I suffered as I was



scared they'd score a second goal. "We would have taken 2-2 before the match but given the way the game went we'd have been disappointed not to leave with the three points."

## OLD BOY STARS

LISBON: Renato Sanches received a standing ovation from Benfica fans after he scored against his old club to inspire Bayern Munich to a 2-0 win in their opening Champions League fixture on Wednesday.

Sanches, who has endured a torrid few years since leaving Benfica for Bayern Munich in the summer of 2016, capped a fine performance in Lisbon with the first goal of his Bayern career.

"I'm so happy to have had a night like this in Lisbon, and I want to thank the Benfica fans," Sanches told Sky.

"It was a very special moment for me and I enjoyed it a lot." The young Portuguese's second-half goal crowned a perfect Champions League debut in the dugout for Bayern coach Niko Kovac.

Bayern took the lead after just ten minutes. Franck Ribery's cross found Robert Lewandowski in the box, and the Polish striker whipped the ball into the bottom corner.

And the second half belonged to Sanches, who burst out of the blocks after the break. Having denied Benfica with a brilliant tackle at one end, the Bayern midfielder then found the net at the other.

Flicking the ball out wide to Robben, Sanches then found space in the box and gratefully bundled in James's cross at the far post to make it 2-0.

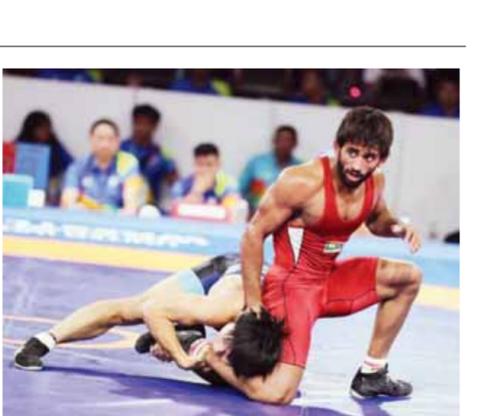
## POGBA PROPELS UTD WIN

BERN: Paul Pogba's brilliant opening goal was the catalyst as Manchester United overcame a difficult start to beat Young Boys 3-0 in Bern in their opening Champions League game on Wednesday.

Skipper Pogba struck to cut down the Swiss champions in their prime before he then doubled United's lead from a penalty just before the break.

The France star also set up the third goal for compatriot Anthony Martial in the second half, as Jose Mourinho's side safely negotiated this fixture on the synthetic surface at the Stade de Suisse.

"I can understand the reasons why we didn't start the game very well, why we took 20 to 25 minutes to be in control," said Mourinho.



Bajrang Punia in action during Jakarta Asian Games

PTI

## Bajrang annoyed after Khel Ratna snub

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ed earlier this month.

Miffed at being ignored for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, star wrestler Bajrang Punia Thursday threatened to take the legal action against the government for not considering him for the country's highest sporting honour.

Bajrang was nominated for the Khel Ratna by the Wrestling Federation of India following his twin Gold medals at this year's Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and Jakarta Asian Games.

But the government jointly bestowed the honour to India cricket captain Virat Kohli and world champion weightlifter Mirabai Chhanu (48kg).

The decision didn't go down well with Bajrang, who also won a Bronze medal in 2013 World Championships, and the wrestler is scheduled to meet Sports Minister

Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore on Friday to plead his case.

"I'm really disappointed and shocked. I'm meeting Sports Minister Friday after (mentor) Yogi bhai (Yogeshwar Dutt) spoke to him and arranged the meeting. I just want to know why I was being ignored. I want to know the reason," Bajrang told reporters here.

"It's in his hands now. I want to know whether I am deserving or not. If I deserve then only give me the award."

Asked if he will go to the court if he fails to convince the Sports Minister, Bajrang said: "It would be the last option. I feel I deserve the award this year and that's why I have applied for it. "One doesn't feel good to beg for an award but it is the biggest honour for any sportsperson and a wrestler's career is very uncertain. Anytime an injury can end your career."

Bajrang feels he deserves the recognition for his consistent performances over the last few years.

"I had never imagined I won't get it this year. Look at my performance in the last 4 years. There was no point system earlier but with the point system in place now I feel I have the numbers behind me," he said.

Bajrang said the Khel Ratna snub had taken a toll in his preparations for the World Championships to be held in Budapest, Hungary from October 20 to 28.

"This decision has hit my World Championship preparations. It was a big jolt to me. It is difficult times for me. I hope I don't have to approach the court and concentrate on my preparation," he said.

Insisting that he has support from all quarters, Bajrang said he will not involve the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) in this matter.

"I didn't talk to the federation about this matter. They have forwarded my name that means they are with me. But this is my personal fight," he signed off.

In a departure from tradition, the National Sports Awards this year will be given away on September 25 instead of August 29 because of clash of dates with the Asian Games that concluded

## KOHLI, CHANU TO RECEIVE KHEL RATNA

Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli and world champion weightlifter Mirabai Chhanu will receive the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna on September 25, the Sports Ministry announced Thursday.

The list was already out but the ministry made it official on Thursday.

Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was among 20 sportspersons picked for the Arjuna Awards, and they will be honoured by President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

On Wednesday, archery coach Jiwant Singh Teja was dropped from the list of Dronacharya award nominees due to a past case of indiscipline.

Teja was among five coaches named by the selection committee for Dronacharya award but it came to light that he had served a one-year ban following an incident of indiscipline during the 2015 World University Games in Korea.

Kohli, the world's No 1 Test batsman as per the ICC rankings, has been in stupendous form in the past three years though he missed out of the top award despite nominations in 2016 and 2017.

The 29-year-old Kohli has 6147 runs in 71 Tests with 23 centuries and 9779 runs in 211 ODIs, including 35 tons. Chhanu was chosen for the prestigious award following her gold medal in 48kg category at the World Championships last year.

She also bagged the yellow metal in this year's Commonwealth Games but didn't compete at the Asian Games due to injury.

The President will also present the Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Awards on the same day.

## THE LIST OF AWARDEES

**Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award:** Virat Kohli and Mirabai Chhanu.

**Arjuna Awards:** Neeraj Chopra, Jinson Johnson and Hima Das (Athletics); N Sikki Reddy (Badminton); Satish Kumar (Boxing); Smriti Mandhana (Cricket); Shubhankar Sharma (Golf); Manpreet Singh, Savita (Hockey); Ravi Rathore (Polo); Rahi Sarnobat, Ankur Mittal, Shreyasi Singh (Shooting); Manika Batra, G Sathiyan (Table Tennis); Rohan Bopanna (Tennis); Sumit (Wrestling); Pooja Kadian (Wushu); Ankur Dhama (Para-Athletics); Manoj Sarkar (Para-Badminton).

**Dronacharya Awards:** C A Kuttappa (Boxing); Vijay Sharma (Weightlifting); A Srinivasa Rao (Table Tennis); Sukhdev Singh Pannu (Athletics); Clarence Lobo (Hockey, Lifetime); Tarak Sinha (Cricket, Lifetime); Jiwant Singh (Judo, Lifetime); V R Beedu (Athletics, Lifetime).  
**Dhyan Chand Awards:** Satyadev Prasad (Archery); Bharat Kumar Chetry (Hockey); Bobby Aloysius (Athletics); Chougale Dadu Dattatray (Wrestling).

## U-16 sides aim to script history

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Drawing inspiration from each other's victories, the Indian under 16 men's and women's sides are eagerly eyeing a place in the country's football history.

While the U-16 men's side, currently in Malaysia, aspires to qualify for the FIFA U-17 World Cup, the U-16 women's team in Mongolia aims to make the AFC U-16 women's championship final.

The Indian girls have already begun their campaign and have won against

Hong Kong and Pakistan, while the colts face Vietnam on Friday in their first group stage match.

"We wish the boys all the very best for their matches hope that they will create history. The team has the potential to go a long way and I hope they secure qualification," head coach of women's national team, Firmin D'Souza said.

For the men's coach the performance of the girls was inspirational. "We have watched the girls win their first two matches and it was inspiration to watch them perform," Bibiano Fernandes said.

## Aussies vow 'hard but fair' series

AFF ■ SYDNEY

Skipper Tim Paine vowed Australia will play "hard but fair" against Pakistan as they embark on their first Test tour since a ball-tampering scandal and with fresh controversy raging following allegations by England's Moeen Ali.

The squad jetted out late Wednesday for their first Test series since the ill-fated tour of South Africa early this year, which led to 12-month suspensions for Steve Smith and David Warner.

Australia have five uncapped players in their squad for a tour in which they plan to adopt a more respectful culture and move away from the win-at-all-costs mentality blamed for the explosive ball-tampering row.

"The Australian way has always been to play hard and fair and that'll be no different this series," Paine told reporters before departing for the United Emirates.

"There's always a lot of eyes on the



Australian cricket team wherever we play, so that will be no different, and this team is really clear on what's expected and our standards, and we'll uphold them."

With Smith, Warner and fellow ball-tamperer Cameron Bancroft missing, along with injured fast bowlers Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins, it could be a tough tour for Australia, who have one of their weakest squads in years.

There are five debutants — Michael Neser, Brendan Doggett and Marnus Labuschagne, Travis Head and Aaron Finch. Paine is expecting a demanding tour played in temper-

atures likely to hit 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

"We are going to have to play really hard, tough cricket particularly from the batting side," he said.

"And then in the heat over there, it's the same for our bowlers; it's going to be about patience, trying to wear them down and being in a position late in the game where we can make a move."

Matt Renshaw, who was dumped ahead of the Ashes late last year, is likely to open along with Finch, who is an experienced one-day and Twenty20 campaigner but has never played a Test.

A slimmed-down Usman Khawaja, who says he has lost several kilos after stepping up his training regime, is expected to come in a number three with Shaun Marsh at four and potentially Head at five.

"We have spoken about partnerships and patience and pressure, which is going to be a real key over there," said Paine.

## Djoker to provide power for Europe at Laver Cup

AFF ■ CHICAGO

The second instalment of the Laver Cup comes at just the right time for 14-time Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic who is back in top form after winning the US Open.

Djokovic is making his debut in this week's three-day team event which has been dubbed the Ryder Cup of tennis although it lacks the tradition of golf's premier event.

"I would like to play with (Djokovic)," said event founder and Team Europe star Roger Federer. "I hope he feels the same way."

The exhibition event will take place on US soil for the first time this week when 12 of the world's top players square off against each other in a three-day team event in Chicago.

The tournament begins Friday and pits a team of six of the best ATP Tour players from Europe against a six players from the rest of the world.

Bjorn Borg's favoured Team Europe will try to defend their crown against Team World which will be captained by the legendary John McEnroe.

Federer, Djokovic, Alexander Zverev, Grigor Dimitrov, David Goffin

and Kyle Edmund will play for Team Europe.

"We're here to defend our title," Borg said. "And we're going to keep the cup in Europe." Jack Sock, Nick Kyrgios, John Isner, Frances Tiafoe, Kevin Anderson and Diego Schwartzman are representing Team World.

McEnroe sees the partisan crowd as a key to Team World's success.

"I'm very much looking forward to coaching this team," said McEnroe.

"We're excited about getting the home-court advantage, hopefully, in Chicago, which is a great sports town. I think we're looking forward to showcasing our talents this weekend."

"We have four of the six core guys from last year. We're hopeful that the crowd is as involved or more than they were last year."

The inaugural tournament took place in Prague in September which Team Europe won 15-9.

The format calls for shorter matches. If the players split sets, they go straight to a 10-point tiebreaker.

The event is named in honour of tennis legend Rod Laver, who won a record 200 singles titles, 11 Grand Slams and five Davis Cups for Australia.

## LOCAL EVENTS

### STATE ATHLETICS

The 52nd UP State Junior Athletics Championship will kick-started at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Friday. In a four-day event, Uttar Pradesh's under-14, U-16 and U-20 will be selected for the 30th North Zone Junior Athletics Championship, to be held at Rohtak from October 6.

### SUNDAY OPEN CHESS

Lucknow District Chess Sports Association is organising the 7th Shivani Cup Sunday Open Chess Tournament at Shivani Public School on September 23. The tournament is carrying a prizemoney of Rs 7,000. Interested may contact on 7459899385 or mail their entries on shivanichessacademy@gmail.com.

### KULDEEP SHINES IN MALAYSIA

Kuldeep Kumar Rastogi of UP Secretariat bagged a gold and a silver medal in the Asia Pacific Masters Games held at Penang, Malaysia from September 8 to 15. He won the gold in 5,000 m walk while a silver in 3000m walk.



Shikhar Dhawan, right, and captain Rohit Sharma greet each other during Pakistan game

# THREE IN A ROW?

After thumping long term rival Pak, India face Bangladesh in super four clash

PTI ■ DUBAI

Pakistan pummeled, India will look to up the ante against Bangladesh, who have a penchant for playing the party poopers, in their opening Super Four encounter of the Asia Cup here on Friday.

For India, the worry will be the team combination as Hardik Pandya has been ruled out of the tournament owing to back spasms, while Bhuvneshwar Kumar might be rested after back-to-back games against Hong Kong and Pakistan.

The pull-outs of Axar Patel and Shardul Thakur further compounded India's injury woes.

Left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed may come in place of Bhuvneshwar but it is still not clear as to who would be Pandya's replacement.

Manish Pandey can add batting depth and looks a possible addition in the middle-order, while Kedar Jadhav's off breaks are more than handy, and he is expected to take care of Pandya's quota of overs.

Openers Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan were amongst the runs in the first two matches while Ambati Rayudu and Dinesh Karthik looked solid against Pakistan.

It is Mahendra Singh Dhoni's batting form that could keep the team management worried.

Dhoni hasn't been firing and it will be interesting if Rohit promotes him in the batting order to give the veteran time to get settle down.

While India's rivalry with Pakistan is historic, the one against Bangladesh has been a bitter one post the controversial 2015 World Cup quarterfinal at Melbourne.

However, one can't deny that Bangladesh are now a quality 50 over side, a format they have mastered after a formidable run at home besides reaching the Asia Cup final in 2012.

Under the inspirational Mashrafe Mortaza and seasoned campaigners like Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Mahmudullah Riyadh, the team has the



Rubel Hossain, left, celebrates with teammates after dismissing Hashmatullah Shahidi

INDIA- BANGLADESH ONE DAY ENCOUNTERS			
Summary of Results			
Played	Ind	Ban	N/R
33	27	5	1
Asia Cup			
10	9	1	-
Faisal Features			

potential to go all the way.

With two quality pacers in Mustafizur Rahman and Rubel Hossain backed by the experience of Mortaza and Shakib on a slow deck, India could find run scoring difficult in the middle overs.

The Bangladesh team and its media's perception of India being the proverbial big bully adds a dash of excitement to the contests. Friday's encounter won't be any different as Bangladesh are forced to play back-to-back matches in Abu Dhabi (vs Afghanistan and in Dubai (Friday)).

This wasn't the original schedule, but the BCCI had managed to arm twist the Asian Cricket Council in tweaking it, causing a lot of heartburn.

"Even if we win against Afghanistan (on Thursday), we will be tagged as second in group and will have to travel to Dubai Friday after playing in Abu Dhabi today," Mortaza had said on the eve of the Afghanistan game.

So, that feeling of being undermined is very much there in this Bangladeshi team, and it won't be surprising if the infamous 'Mauka Mauka' chant is back in the lips of their fans.

Overall, the match has more ingredients to become a blockbuster than the one against Pakistan.

Meanwhile Pakistan will be aiming to put up a better batting show against Afghanistan at Abu Dhabi.

The likes of Babar Azam, Imam ul Haq and Fakhar Zaman might find it challenging to face Rashid Khan, especially after their big win against Sri Lanka.

## Axar, Shardul join Hardik in pull-out list

DUBAI: The Indian cricket team's injury woes were compounded on Thursday with spinner Axar Patel and speedster Shardul Thakur ruled out of the ongoing Asia Cup here, joining all-rounder Hardik Pandya in the casualty list.

Pandya was also ruled out of the tournament with an acute back injury he suffered against Pakistan on Wednesday. The en masse rule-out has led to growing concerns in the BCCI about injury management by the team's support staff.

Deepak Chahar has replaced Pandya in the squad, Ravindra Jadeja will come in for Axar, while Siddharth Kaul will be flown in as reinforcement for Shardul, the BCCI confirmed on Thursday.

Pandya is undergoing treatment and assessment by the Board's medical team. Left-arm spinner Axar injured his left index finger while fielding in the same game against Pakistan. He was sent for scans and the results showed that he had a tendon

tear.

Right-arm pacer Shardul experienced right hip and groin soreness after the game against Hong Kong.

Chahar, Jadeja and Kaul will join the team on Thursday.

Pandya not taking further part in the tournament was expected after he was stretchered off the field during the group league encounter against Pakistan on Wednesday.

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. He was then taken for medical examination. Later, the BCCI tweeted that Pandya was suffering from an acute lower back injury.

## SINGLES

### AZARENKA STORMS INTO TOKYO Q/F

TOKYO: Former world number one Victoria Azarenka thrashed Australian Ashleigh Barty 6-4, 6-2 to reach the Pan Pacific Open quarter-finals Thursday as she seeks a return to the top after giving birth in late 2016. The Belarusian, who slipped further down the rankings as a result of a lengthy custody battle over baby Leo, will face either top seed Caroline Wozniacki, who is chasing a hat-trick of Tokyo titles, or Italy's Camila Giorgi in the last eight. Earlier, Czech Barbora Strycova won a tempestuous encounter with Estonia's Anett Kontaveit 7-6, 3-6, 7-5 to set up a quarter-final against Japan's newly crowned US Open champion Naomi Osaka.

### BELGIUM, FRANCE SHARE FIFA TOP SPOT

LAUSANNE: Belgium have joined world champions France as joint leaders of the FIFA world rankings released on Thursday, the first time in the table's 25-year history that top spot has been shared. Belgium have notched up a pair of wins, including victory over Iceland in the inaugural Nations League competition to bring them level with the French, the team who beat them in the World Cup semi-finals. The only other change in the top 10 sees Denmark (10th, down one place) slip below Spain (9th, unchanged). Outside of the top ten, two Nations League wins for Ukraine (29th, up six) over Czech Republic (47th, down three) and Slovakia (26th, unchanged) means that they are the month's biggest movers, while Germany (12th, up three) have started to edge back towards a single-figure ranking after their World Cup debacle.

### SHUBHANKAR, LAHIRI TO LEAD AT WC

NEW DELHI: India will be represented by Shubhankar Sharma and Anirban Lahiri at this year's World Cup of Golf slated to be held at The Metropolitan Golf Club in Melbourne from November 21 to 25. Shubhankar, who enjoyed great success on the European Tour this season will be making his debut at the prestigious event. While Lahiri will be making his second appearance at the event. An excited Shubhankar said, "It's my privilege to represent my country in the forthcoming World Cup of Golf at Melbourne. In Anirban, I will have a great partner and senior to guide us through the grind of the event and hopefully win it for us." Anirban said, "I'm very excited to be pairing up with Shubhankar. He's a special talent. We both have the capability to bring back the trophy if we can play to our abilities."

### BHULLAR LIES SIXTH WITH 4-UNDER 67

SAITAMA: Gaganjeet Bhullar, who has been on a fine run this season, continued his excellent form as he opened the Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup on Thursday with a solid four-under 67 to be placed tied sixth after the first day. Bhullar, who has had eight top 10s this year, including a superb win in the Fiji International, is however still four shots behind the leader Daijro Izumida (63) and Thai Dhanthai Boonma, both of whom fired an identical six-under-par 65 at the Musashi Country Club. While Bhullar stayed hot, other Indians had a mixed day. Rahul Gangjee shot three-under 68 to be tied 15th, while Ajeetesh Sandhu carded two-under 69 and was tied 22nd.

### LANZAROTE TO CAPTAIN ATK IN ISL 5

KOLKATA: Spanish attacking midfielder Manuel Lanzarote will lead two-time Indian Super League champions ATK in the upcoming season, it was announced here on Thursday. The 34-year-old had an impressive last season with FC Goa, clocking well over 1500 minutes on the field with 13 goals and six assists to his name. Lanzarote will have Nigerian 35-year-old forward Kalu Uche and Brazilian 31-year-old striker Everton Santos in the attacking line-up. The 2014 and 2016 champions looked out of sorts in the last season, finishing ninth with 16 points from 18 games.

## Kedar's secret: Not bowling in the nets

PTI ■ DUBAI

Part-time spinner Kedar Jadhav has a knack of picking up crucial wickets and the Indian batsman attributes his golden touch to not bowling much in the nets.

Jadhav, who has made a comeback after recovering from a hamstring injury, made a compelling contribution of three wickets in the Asia Cup clash against Pakistan on Wednesday, picking up three wickets with his deceptive side-arm action.

"I don't bowl much in the nets. Honestly, I just bowl a couple of overs in the practice session before a match. I think if I try and work on my bowling in the net sessions, then whatever is there ... it might get broken. So I stay in my limit," said Jadhav, who has featured in 42 ODIs.

Jadhav also recalled how former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni's decision to hand him the



Kedar Jadhav celebrates after wicket



Manan Sharma (left) celebrate after taking wicket

ball in an ODI against New Zealand back in 2016, revealed the bowler in him. "Ever since Dhoni bhai asked me to bowl in that New Zealand match, my life has completely changed," he said.

Asked to pinpoint a reason for his wicket-taking ability, he said: "We try to do what we're expected to do - bowling in the right areas, you know, keeping the pressure while the fielders are in the circle. If we stick to the processes, the results will take care of itself, and that's what I feel is happening."

## Arthur slams batsman for defeat

PTI ■ DUBAI

Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur has blamed his team's batsmen for the heavy loss against India in an Asia Cup match, saying they could not handle the pressure and played well "outside" of their roles.

Pakistan made a disastrous start, losing two wickets for three runs before getting all out for 162.

"We sort of batted outside our roles, which was very disappointing. Imam-ul-Haq, it's not his role to be running down to Bhuvneshwar in the third over. It's not Sarfraz's role to be hitting over the top and getting caught out there. We've got X-factor guys whose role it is to do that," said Arthur.

"If Fakhar gets out playing that way, it's OK. If Asif gets out like that, it's OK, because that's his role. But the other four batsmen certainly need to take responsibility."

The South African felt the occasion got the better of the



Sarfraz Ahmad returns to pavilion

batsmen.

"(It was) the pressure that told on Imam. As I said, out of his role, he had two off eight balls or whatever, but Fakhar had just faced a maiden. He tried to have a go, he tried to hit the ball that's not in his area. I do think there was a little bit of pressure," he said.

The bowlers had too little to defend but Arthur said they could have done better.

"On a wicket like that, you need to strike really early if you're going to defend it. We didn't strike early enough. But, saying that, we went away from our plans too quickly. We said that our batters batted outside our roles and that wasn't acceptable. "With our bowling, we went outside our plans far too quickly. We wanted to bowl hard lengths, hit the top of off stump. It was tough to score then. There was a bit of panic when they didn't strike early. We panicked and went away from our plans," he said.

## DELHI START ON WINNING NOTE

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Youngster Himmat Singh struck a half-century under pressure after medium pacer Subodh Bhati's five for 24, as Delhi beat Saurashtra by five wickets in the opening group B encounter of Vijay Hazare Trophy Thursday.

Gautam Gambhir also started his newest captaincy stint with a stroke-filled 62 off 48 balls as Delhi chased a target of 238 in 46 overs.

Himmat (74 off 93 balls) and Lalit Yadav (36 off 54 balls) came together at 152 for five and batted sensibly to take the home team past the target.

Himmat hit five fours and two sixes, including one into the second tier, off Kamlesh Makwana.

It was skipper Gambhir, who started on a positive note and gave his team the required momentum, even as Unmukt Chand and Rishabh Pant were

dismissed cheaply. In all, he hit 10 boundaries before being adjudged leg before off Makwana and there was a mini collapse before Himmat took the team to victory.

In the morning when Saurashtra batted, they slumped from 222 for four to 237 all out, losing six wickets for 15 runs in four overs.

It was Bhati, who was inexplicably kept out of the original 15, came back at the

last moment and used his variations to good effect.

His slower deliveries were difficult to handle.

For Saurashtra, Cheteshwar Pujara scored a painstaking 53 off 89 while Sheldon Jackson struck 62 off 78 balls.

In the other Group B matches of the day, Chhattisgarh beat Madhya Pradesh by 122 runs, while Andhra defeated Odisha by six wickets.

## NADEEM PICKS 8 FOR 10

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Jharkhand spinner Shahbaz Nadeem on Thursday broke a two-decade-old world record for best bowling figures in List A cricket, with an incredible haul of 8/10 against Rajasthan in the Vijay Hazare Trophy here.

Left-arm Nadeem, who has been knocking on the doors of the Indian team for a while now, ran through the Rajasthan batting to end a sensational spell. Rajasthan were all out for 73 runs in 28.3 overs with Nadeem's final figures reading 10-4-10-8. Jharkhand eventually won the game by seven wickets.

The previous best bowling effort was also in the name of an Indian in Delhi left-arm spinner Rahul Sanghvi, who achieved figures of 8/15 against Himachal Pradesh in a 1997-98 match. Sanghvi appeared in just one Test for India, back in 2001 against Australia.

"I didn't know until some people



Jharkhand spinner Shahbaz Nadeem

Dhillon (1) off the first ball of the 22nd over.

"I was happy with my performance and the hat-trick made it more special. It is nice to do that," he said.

Nadeem said he was happy with the way he was bowling and felt that the stint as net bowler to the Indian batsmen at the ongoing Asia Cup in Dubai was helpful.

"Bowling to the batsmen in the national team helps a lot. I was able to work on my bowling. You can know where you stand when you bowl to top-quality batsmen. I am happy I got the opportunity," Nadeem added.

The Jharkhand spinner, however, is not fretting about an India call-up. "Right now I am bowling well, in the right areas. I have to keep improving. Instead of think about national selection, my focus is on each and every game I play. I feel I have to do my thing and leave the rest to God," he added.

## Sindhu, Srikanth move to Q/F

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU

Star shuttlers P V Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth registered hard fought victories to enter the quarterfinals of their respective events at the \$ 1 million China Open here on Thursday.

Third seed Sindhu bounced back after losing a close first game to record a 21-23, 21-13, 21-18 win in her second round women's singles match against Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan.

Srikanth's men's singles match against Suppanyu Avihingsanon too went down to the wire. The seventh seeded Indian won the first game comfortably but the Thai player levelled the match.



The decider could have gone either way but Srikanth held his nerve to advance in the competition with a 21-12, 15-21, 24-22 win.

However, India's campaign ended in the doubles and mixed doubles events.

Ashwini Ponnappa and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy went down 14-21, 11-21 against top seeds from China, Siwei Zheng and Huang Yaoliang in the round of 16.

Sikki Reddy and Pranav Jerry Chopra also met a similar fate, losing 16-21, 10-21 to sixth seeds Christinna Pedersen and Mathias Christiansen of Denmark.

In the men's doubles, Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy were outplayed by Chen Hung Ling and Wang Chi-Lin 9-21, 10-21.