

**WORLD 5**

TRUMP HAS INSECURITY OF A TEENAGE GIRL: JOHN KERRY

**OPINION 6**

'TRADE AGREEMENTS WILL STRENGTHEN TIES'

**MONEY 10**

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RAIPUR, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2018; PAGES 12 ₹3



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## Cong bids to end Goa stalemate

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

alliance and illness of Parrikar," Kavlekar said.

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

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

### POLITICAL impasse

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

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

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

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

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

## Bikers hack Rly guard's hands for not opening crossing gate

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI/SONEPAT

In a horrifying incident that has put a big question mark on the safety and security of railway gatemen, three men on a bike severed the hands of a gateman after he refused to open a level-crossing gate in north Delhi's Narela area because a train was approaching, railway officials said on Monday.

Gateman Kundan Pathak's hands were reattached after a major surgery that went on for more than four hours in a hospital in Rohini, said Northern Railway spokesperson Nitin Chowdhury. The 28-year-old, who also received serious injuries to his legs and neck, was attacked around 1 am on Monday while posted at a level-crossing at Delhi-Haryana border. In the incident, the gateman's friend who had come to meet him was also attacked by the assailants.

The victim hails from Bishanpur in Banka district of Bihar and was manning gate number 19 at Safiabad crossing which is adjacent to Narela in the national Capital. Pathak's friend Chandan Kumar Singh, who comes from the same village in Bihar, was with him when three men on a bike came and demanded that the level-crossing gate be opened.

"Due to security reasons, Pathak refused as the 1801 Muri Express train was approaching, following which the accused beat him and



28 year-old Railway gateman Kundan Pathak undergoing treatment at Saroj Hospital in Delhi. Kundan's hands were reattached after a major surgery that went on for more than four hours Pioneer photo

chopped off his hands with a sharp weapon. Chandan was also injured in the attack," said Tara Chand, Station House Officer (SHO), Government Railway Police (GRP), Sonepat (Haryana).

The SHO said the Muri Express stopped after getting a distress signal and rushed Pathak to a hospital in Sonepat where he received emergency first aid.

He was then taken to the Northern Railway Central Hospital in Delhi and finally

shifted to Saroj Hospital in Rohini, whereas Chandan has been admitted to Ram Manohar Lohia hospital, said the SHO.

Pathak's one hand was almost severed and the other was detached from the forearm and severely mutilated, the official said.

"All expenses are being taken care of by the Railways," said the spokesperson, adding that an FIR has been lodged against unknown persons and investigation is going on.

## Don't be afraid to ask questions: Modi's pep talk to school kids

Khelokey to khiloge, PM tells children on 68th b'day in Varanasi

PTI ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spent his 68th birthday on Monday in his Lok Sabha constituency in Varanasi during which he gave a pep talk to schoolchildren telling them never to feel afraid to ask questions, saying it is a key aspect of learning.

Modi, who is on a 2-day visit to Varanasi, first interacted with students of a primary school at Narur on the outskirts of the temple town and later met students of the Kashi Vidyapeeth and the children assisted by them at the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) campus.

"As students, it is vital to ask questions. Never feel afraid to ask questions. It is a key aspect of learning," Modi said in his interaction at the Narur school on a variety of subjects, calling the children "future of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with a schoolchild from Kashi Vidyapeeth as part of his 68th birthday celebrations in Varanasi on Monday PTI

India". A smile lit up the face of the schoolchildren when the PM said they must give importance to sports and must go out and play since it is essential. "Students must give importance to sports. It is important to learn various skills, this will help you forever," he said.

After Modi left the school, one of the students said, "Modi kaka told us 'khelokey' to khiloge" (you will bloom only if you play).

"I came to your school on the special day of Vishwakarma jayanti. My greetings to everyone on this special day," he told the students.

Earlier, the students welcomed him enthusiastically saying "Swagatam PM." The school is aided by a non-profit organisation, Room to Read.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

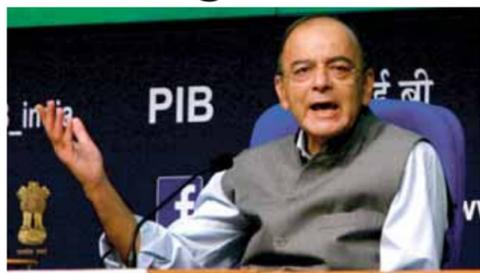
The Government on Monday unveiled another important step to address the problems being faced by the public sector banks in view of shrinking credit growth and ballooning NPAs. As part of the measures, the Centre announced that State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB), Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank will be merged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

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

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

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

The Modi Government had constituted a ministerial committee headed by Jaitley in October to oversee merger



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

prospects of State-owned PSU banks. The other committee also included Union Railways and Coal Minister Piyush Goyal and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

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

ditions that are adverse to their present one.

The Government owns majority stakes in 21 lenders, which account for more than two-thirds of banking assets in the Asia's third biggest economy.

But these PSU banks also account for the lion's share of NPAs and need crores of rupees in new capital in the next two years to meet global Basel III capital norms.

## Lalu has become politically irrelevant, says Pappu Yadav

SUJEET KUMAR ■ PATNA

Bihar's seasoned politician Band Lok Sabha member Pappu Yadav says that jailed veteran politician Lalu Yadav has become irrelevant in politics and his main backer, the powerful Yadav youth, are desperately looking for a new face outside the Lalu family to lead them.

"The era of Lalu's monopoly in Bihar, mainly on Yadavs and Muslims, is virtually over. Yadav youth have no sympathy and affiliation with him now. The entire Lalu family exploited the Yadavs and Muslims in Bihar for decades," claimed the 50-year-old Pappu Yadav, the founder of Jan Adhikar Party, in an interview.

Pappu Yadav is in active politics for about three decades and he was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 1991. He defeated senior leader Sharad Yadav in the 2014 parliamentary polls in Madhepura to become a Lok Sabha member for the fifth



time. Pappu Yadav's wife Ranjeet Ranjan is a Lok Sabha member from the Congress from Bihar's Supaul seat.

As per 2011 census, Yadavs make up 14 per cent of Bihar's population while Muslims constitute 16.9 per cent. Yadavs and Muslims have always been the core vote bank for Lalu Yadav, the former chief minister of Bihar. "The older generation among Yadav and Muslim have some sympathy for Lalu because he is in ailing after being convicted in the fodder scam but I can tell you the Yadav youth dislike him and are looking for a fresh face who can economically empower them," said Pappu Yadav. Continued on Page 4

## DS Misra appointed as CSERC chief



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

DS Misra has been appointed as Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Vinod Deshmukh has been appointed as Member (Legal)

Advocate Vinod Deshmukh has been appointed as Member ( Legal ) of the Commission.

## Democratic RSS engaged in rashtra nirman: Bhagwat

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"RSS ka kaam vyakti nirman hai aur RSS iski methodology hain", Bhagwat said sum-

ming up the role of his organisation which has been subject of multiple scrutiny in its over 90 years existence.

He said the RSS is not concerned with as who would run the Government as this is to be decided by the people of the country who should be endowed with good character and 'achcha acharan' and re-emphasised that his organisation is working to raise a society where people work for every one's progress and well-being.

"Har mohalla, Gao main aisi toli khari karna, achche swayamsevak khare karna, Sangh yahin hain, isse jyada kuch nahin hain", RSS leader said.

Delivering his address in the first day of the three-day lecture series here at 'Vigyan Bhawan', the RSS head said there was a great misconception that the Sangh was a "dictatorial organisation" and

asserted that the outfit works with the consensus of all 'swayamsevak' and has not place for a remote control. He said even the founder of the RSS Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar decided on running 'shakhas' three months after it came into existence in 1925 when other 'swayamsevak's so decided.

Bhagwat said even his participation in 'Shakha' is monitored by the 'Shakha' head of which he happens to be a member in Nagpur.

The RSS chief said the RSS is self-reliant and does not take a 'single paise' from outside as it runs with voluntary contribution of RSS works described as "gurudakshina".

Clearing air about women not being visible in the RSS, he said RSS was not an organisation of 'sanyasin' and pointed out to the existence of 'Rashtriya Sevika Samiti', the women wing of the Sangh.

He said the RSS does not run after the publicity. "We remained faceless for so long so that it does not lead to arrogance" among those becoming known and famous. He said the publicity department was set up only in 1980. "Meri prasidhi nahin, Karya ki Prasidhi" (not my fame but that of my work), is the aim of a 'swayam-sevak' in Sangh, Bhagwat said.

The RSS chief prefaced the RSS exposition by first giving a detail account of Hedgewar's work in the freedom struggle and his thought saying to understand RSS start with Hedgear." Bhagwat quoted RSS founder telling first swayamsevak that they should be devoting themselves like a seed does by surrendering itself to the soil.

Bhagwat would be present on Tuesday and Thursday. On Tuesday he would give his understanding of Hindu and Hindutva and on the last day reply to the written questions.



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat with other leaders at the event titled "Future of Bharat: An RSS perspective" in New Delhi on Monday PTI

# Jawan kills 2 colleagues, commits suicide in HP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## INSHORT

### PM GETS GREETINGS FROM ALL ON BIRTHDAY

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

### SINGHANIA GETS MEXICAN HIGHEST HONOUR

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

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

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

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

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

### AWARENESS CAMP AT POSHAN MAH HELD

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

### UNIFIED COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE ON SEP 28

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

### PLEA SEEKS BAN ON HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES

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

### CENTRE CAN IMPLEMENT BOUNDARY DISPUTE REPORT

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

### Centre employees asked to undertake cleanliness drive in office premises

New Delhi: The Centre has asked all departments under it to undertake cleanliness drive on their premises, according to an official communiqué. All Central Government employees have been asked to contribute six hours of 'shramdaan' (labour) during the ongoing fortnight-long cleanliness drive. "Shramdaan activities may include cleaning of office complexes, residential colonies and public places including cleaning of drains, public toilets, waste collection drives, and awareness campaigns," the Ministry of Personnel said in the directive issued to secretaries of all central government departments. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Swachhta hi Seva' movement on September 15. It will continue till October 2. **PTI**

## BUREAUCRATIC RESHUFFLE

# Sanjay Agarawal appointed Agricultural Secy

Tarun Kapoor appointed DDA Vice Chairman

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

According to an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Agarawal, a 1984 batch officer, who is at present serving in his cadre state Uttar Pradesh, will be Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers

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

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

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

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

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

Besides, over 20 officers have been promoted to the

rank of additional secretaries from joint secretaries. Gyanesh Kumar and Govind Mohan have been made Additional Secretaries in the Home Ministry. They are joint secretaries in the same ministry.

Gujarat-cadre IAS officer K Srinivas and Lok Ranjan have also been appointed Additional Secretaries in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). They are Joint Secretaries in the DoPT. IAS officer Sujata Chaturvedi, who is at present serving in her cadre state Bihar, has also been appointed Additional Secretary in the DoPT.

Uttar Pradesh cadre IAS officer Devesh Chaturvedi will be Additional Secretary in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare. He is Joint Secretary in the same department. There are some other officers who have also been promoted to the Additional Secretary ranks.

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# Activists' house arrest extended till Sep 19

Will examine allegations against them: SC

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

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

The bench said if there are

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Nothing has come from the government's (Pakistan) side. This issue has been going on for a very long time. If anything comes about we will let you know," he said.

Earlier, addressing the gathering, Singh said India's border is unique and therefore "one solution" cannot be devised to make it more secure. "From plains to deserts and mountains and other terrains, one kind of solution cannot be applied to our border and the variety of the terrain has to be factored in while designing any solutions for making the border security more robust and smart," he said.

The gathering included defence officials and experts, business leaders and a group of 'sarpanches' from villages near the border. **PTI**

# Swaraj reprimanded Sidhu for messing up Kartarpur talks: Min

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First country to develop draft blueprint on Cooling Action Plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Centre employees asked to undertake cleanliness drive in office premises

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

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

# Govt shifts 4 IAS and 5 IFS officers in pre-poll reshuffle

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh Government in yet another key reshuffle made, on Monday, shifted 4 IAS and 5 IFS officers as part of a pre-poll exercise. Accordingly, Vivek Acharya, IFS was appointed as Director, Employment and Training, S Prakash, IAS, Director, Public Instruction and holding additional charge as Mission Director, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been posted as Managing Director, National Secondary Education Mission, Vineet Nandanvar, IAS, CEO, Zila Panchayat, Gariaband has been posted as Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Ms Nupur Rashi Panna, IAS, Section Officer (Revenue), Saraipali, Mahasamund district has been posted as CEO, Zila Panchayat, Kondagaon. Similarly, R K Khunte, Deputy Commissioner, Thakur Pyarelal Singh

Panchayat and Rural Development Training Institute, Nimora has been posted as CEO, Zila Panchayat, Gariaband, Alok Awasthi, IAS, MD, Chhattisgarh State Khadi & Village Industries Board has been given additional charge as Director, Chhattisgarh Administration Academy, P C Mishra, IFS, Commissioner, MGNREGS, Raipur had been also been made Principal Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development Department, the services of Anup Kumar Srivastava, IFS, Secretary, Agriculture Department and Commissioner (Sugarcane) had been returned to Forest Department, Jaisingh Mashkey, IFS had been made Secretary, Forest Department, Amarnath Prasad, IFS had been made Special Secretary, Forest Department, V K Chablani, Indian telecom Service, had been made Special Secretary,

Woman and Child Development Department, Alarmelmangai D. Special Secretary, Skill Development and Director, Mines and Minerals had been only relieved from the charge of Special Secretary, Science and Technology Department. Sanjay Shukla, IFS, Secretary, Housing and Environment Department had been given additional charge as OSD, Housing and Environment Department, Special OSD, Electronics and Information Technology Department and Commissioner and Director, City and Village Investment Department, the services of Sunil Mishra, IFS, MD, CSIDC had been offered as Member Secretary, CECB and Arun Prasad P. Additional Secretary, CECB had been made MD, CSIDC

# CM on 3-day tour of Bilaspur, Surguja division from today

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Raman Singh will be leaving for three-day tour of Bilaspur and Surguja division on Monday (September 18) under the ongoing State-wide 'Atal Vikas Yatra', officials informed. The Chief Minister will be visiting Bilaspur, Raigarh and Koriya districts on September 18, Kobra, Balrampur-Ramanujanj and Surajpur districts on September 19, and Surguja, Jashpur and Mungeli districts on September 20. As per the final tour schedule, Singh will leave from Raipur on September 18 via helicopter at 10.50 am and reach tehsil headquarter's Kota of Bilaspur district at 11.30 am, and at 1.15 pm, the Chief Minister will be addressing public meetings at Dharamjaigarh tehsil headquarter's of Raigarh district. At 3.15 pm, Singh will leave from Dharamjaigarh in helicopter and reach village

Ranai of Koriya (Baikunthpur) district at 4pm. After welcome programme in Ranai, he will attend the programme in village Patna at 4.40 pm, then attend the programme in village Mahora at 5.05 pm and another programme to be held in Baikunthpur at 5.35pm. In the evening at 6.15pm, Singh will come to Charcha of Koriya district and after addressing general assembly there, he will have night stay there. On September 19, the Chief Minister will address press conference in Charcha at 10 am, and leave via helicopter at 10.50 and reach village Madanpur (Rampur) of Korba district at 11.30 am, and after attending the public meeting there, he will reach Ramanujanj of Balrampur district at 1.15pm via helicopter. After attending public meeting there, Singh will reach Pratappur of Surajpur district at 3.30 pm and



address public meeting there. He will visit Silphili at 4.40 pm, Telaichar at 5.10 pm, Vishrampur at 5.40pm, village Parri at 6.10 pm. Singh will meet students of Livelihood College at Parri. The Chief Minister will reach district headquarters Surajpur at 6.50pm, and inaugurate newly-built Collectorate building. Thereafter, Singh will have night stay there. On September 20, the Chief Minister will address

press conference in Surajpur at 10.30 am, and after that he will reach tehsil headquarters Sitapur of Surguja district via helicopter at 11.30 am, Patthalgaon tehsil headquarters of Jashpur district at 1pm, and tehsil headquarters Lormi of Mungeli district at 3.40pm. After addressing general assemblies at aforementioned places, Dr Singh will return from Lormi to Raipur at 5.15pm. The Chief Minister will be addressing public meeting to be held in Kota block headquarters of Bilaspur district during state-wide Atal Vikas Yatra on September 18, tomorrow. On the occasion, Singh will be inaugurating, laying foundation and doing bhumi puja of 44 development works worth nearly Rs 130.89 crore for development of the region. In the public meeting, the Chief Minister will also distribute goods and financial aid to 587 beneficiaries under

various beneficiary-oriented schemes of the government. Singh will be inaugurating 25 construction works worth nearly ₹ 111.34 crore, which includes Sakri-Ganiyari-Kota Road (nearly 22km) worth ₹ 76.57 crore, Bansajhal Diversion Scheme worth ₹ 11.72 crore, Kota-Belghanna Road (5km) worth ₹ 11.58 crore, power substation of capacity 33/11 KV worth Rs 1.70 crore in Ratanpur, and CV Raman Kota power substation of capacity 33/11 KV worth nearly Rs 1.55 crore. In the public meeting, Singh will lay foundation and bhumi puja of 10 works worth ₹ 19.55 crore, which includes construction works related to Lufa Diversion Yojana worth nearly ₹ 9.17 crore, construction works related to Navagaon Diversion Scheme worth nearly 7 crore 77 Lakh, Billiband Nal-Jal Praday Yojana worth nearly ₹ 46 lakh, Kurdur Nal-Jal Praday worth ₹ 44 lakh, and Tendua Nal-Jal Praday Yojana worth nearly ₹ 44 lakh.

# 86 test practice centres for competitive exams in C'garh: Centre

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh now has 86 'Test Practice Centres' (TPCs) for competitive examinations in 21 districts with a total of 8067 computers installed at these centres, the Central Government informed on Monday. The Union Minister for HRD Prakash Javadekar had inaugurated a network of more than 3,400 Test Practice Centres (TPCs) spread across the 622 districts in the country. A total of 25 Test Practice Centres (TPCs) joined Minister of HRD through Google Hangouts in this inauguration in New Delhi on Monday. These test centres have been set up to facilitate students appearing in entrance

examinations for Higher Education to hold practice sessions to enable them to get used to the changed mode and pattern of examination. While interacting with Test Practice Centres (TPCs), the Union Minister said that the government is committed to provide quality education with equity, therefore we are launching Test Practice Centres across the country for those students who do not have computers and smart phones. Now no student will suffer due to lack of resources, the Minister added. He further said that the government has changed the pattern of JEE (Mains) and UGC NET Examination from this year. Now it has become computer based instead of Pen and Paper mode. The new exam pattern is

more Transparent, leak proof, scientific, student friendly and fast. In order to provide facility for practice for the changed pattern, National Testing Agency (NTA) has established Test Practice Centres across the country. NTA has also launched a practice App through which students can practice on their own or on their computers or on smartphones. This is the real revolution in the field of competitive examinations, the Minister explained. While interacting with students, HRD Minister informed students that now students can access IIT PAL (Professor Assisted Learning) video lecture on SWAYAM Platform for the preparation of JEE. The HRD Minister received overwhelmed response from all 25 Test Practice Centres.

Students from various centres appreciated and thanked the government for this particular initiative. Secretary, Higher Education R. Subrahmanyam and DG, NTA Vineet Joshi were also present during the video conference. In order to bring efficiency, transparency and qualitative difference in competitive examination process for Higher Education, MHRD has set up 'National Testing Agency' (NTA), (www.nta.ac.in) a premier testing organization, to conduct entrance Tests for higher educational Institutions. The NTA has been mandated to conduct JEE (Main), NEET (UG), UGC-NET, CMAT and GPAT examinations. NTA has established, a network of 'Test Practice Centres' (TPCs) across the

country in about 622 districts in 33 States/UTs, so that students of rural areas and others, get an opportunity to practice the Computer Based Test (CBT) before the exam. The TPCs will provide Mock Tests to the candidates of JEE (Main) and UGC-NET examinations. For setting up TPCs, the NTA has engaged a large number of schools and colleges, that have 30 or more Internet connected PCs/laptops at one location. Depending on the demand, the TPCs function for one shift (02:30 PM - 05:30 PM) on all Saturdays and two shifts (11:00 AM - 02:00 PM, 02:30 PM - 05:30 PM) on Sundays. As on date, more than 3400 TPCs have been setup including 689 Kendriya Vidyalayas and 403 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas.

# Officials carrying out poll survey using EVMs alleges Congress

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A Congress party delegation comprising Party's State General Secretary Ramesh Varlyani, former Mayor Kiranmayi Nayak and Amit Shrivastava on Monday met Chief Electoral Officer Subrat Sahoo and complained to him about the officials conducting voter's awareness in Surguja region while reportedly taking polls surveys in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The delegation members complained that some of the officials carried out poll survey in the villages of Jajga, Khondhala and Kharsura in Udaipur block of Ambikapur assembly constituency. The officials during the voter awareness drive are asking



the villages to press their preferred electoral party symbol and are thus conducting a kind of survey, they said. This process is disrupting the transparent electoral process, they said. It is also learnt that some of the officials in Ambikapur and Koria districts are also taking with them the voting machines at their residences. They had

kept the machines for a week in their residences thus violating the instructions of the Election Commission, the leaders said. All these incidents smell of a conspiracy against our leader T.S. Singhdeo and it is demanded that such machines should be kept aside and should not be used in the election process, the leaders further demanded

# NMDC to start work on slurry pipeline soon

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

NMDC Ltd has commenced the process for laying of Slurry Pipeline System and water pipeline system between Bachel and Nagarnar, officials informed. Notably, NMDC is also seeking Right of Use (ROU) / Right of Way (ROW) permission for developing a land corridor for its Slurry Pipeline project from Bailadila to Nagarnar in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, officials informed. The company which is also in the process of laying a 15 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) slurry pipeline is executing the project in two phases. The first phase is being executed from Bachel to Nagarnar in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh at an estimated outlay of Rs 4,000 crore; and the second phase will be executed from Nagarnar to Vizag in Andhra Pradesh at an outlay of Rs 6,000 crore, officials informed. Notably, to transport pellet feed concentrate from Bailadila to Vizag via Jagdalpur, the company will have the pipeline laid along the highways with a provision of partial off-take to feed its proposed 3 MTPA Steel plant coming up at Nagarnar.



**The company which is also in the process of laying a 15 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) slurry pipeline is executing the project in two phases**

NMDC is operating iron ore mines at Bailadila Complex in South Bastar Dantewada District Chhattisgarh and is

# 2 dead in IED blast triggered by Maoists

STAFF REPORTER ■ SUKMA

Two persons, including a woman, were killed when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), suspected to have been laid by Maoists, went off in Chhattisgarh's restive Sukma district, police said on Monday. The incident took place last Friday in Metagudem village, when some locals informed the police about it, according to Superintendent of Police (SP) Abhishek Meena. As per preliminary information, the IED exploded on the village's outskirts, killing two persons on the spot, he said. The identity of the deceased was yet to be ascertained, he said, adding that a police team has been sent to the village to gather details. Maoists have many times planted IEDs to target security forces deployed in the Bastar region. Such incidents led to death of police personnel, villagers and cattle in the past.

# Incident took place last Friday in Metagudem village, when some locals informed the police about it, according to SP Abhishek Meena

having long term commitment for supply of iron ore to major steel plants across the country. Hence, J.V. Company between NMDC and Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation (CMDC) i.e. NMDC-CMDC (NCL) was formed for development of a new deposit in the already prospected areas i.e. Bailadila Deposit-4 with a production capacity of 7 MTPA for meeting the iron ore requirement of Steel plant at Nagarnar, near Jagdalpur.



Vishwakarma Puja held across Raipur on Monday Santosh Sahu | Pioneer

# Will contest from Rajnandgaon against Raman Singh: Jogi

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Former Chief Minister and Congress Chhattisgarh (JCC) Supreme Ajit Jogi had ruled out possibility of striking an alliance with any of the political parties including the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) for the upcoming Assembly polls in the State. Addressing media persons here on Monday, Jogi said that his outfit JCC (J) is going to contest the upcoming polls in all the 90 assembly seats in the State. Replying to a query as to who from his family are going to contest polls, Jogi said it was



not yet decided. It is only decided that I am going to contest the polls from Rajnandgaon assembly seat against the Chief Minister, he said. With Jogi ruling out the possibility of having an alliance with BSP the rumours are floating over the same came to an end that Jogi was in touch with the BSP leaders of the state and soon

a declaration regarding an alliance could be made. Meanwhile, the BSP too has reportedly lost its base in the state which was once in certain pockets of Janjgir Champa and Bilaspur districts. That may be the very reason the JCC (J) was not desperate to talk with the leaders of the party. Congress too was eyeing on BSP support for the possible alliance but the matter of seat share reportedly became impediment in it. The BSP was demanding more seats and Congress expressed its inability to provide that much of seat share.

# Cop commits suicide by hanging self

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A jawan of District Police allegedly committed suicide on intervening night of Sunday and Monday by hanging himself to a ceiling fan at his police lines colony based residential quarter falling under Kotwali Police Station jurisdiction, police said. Station House Officer (SHO), Kotwali, Shivanand Tiwari informed that neighbours informed the police on Monday morning and police immediately rushed the spot. The name of the deceased is Lok Pratap Singh, a native of Pithora region of the Mahasamund District. Singh was alone in the residential quarter as his wife and a lone child had gone to his in-laws house a few days ago on the occasion of local festival 'Teej', he said. The reason behind Singh committing suicide is yet to be known and we can comment only after post mortem report comes, Tiwari said. The deceased was posted as a driver with the District Police, police said. He was alone since past couple of days and when some neighbour peeped inside his house on suspicion found him hanging to the ceiling, police said.

# DPR soon to build bridges in Bastar, Dantewada districts

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The State Government will get a Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared for construction of bridges under Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Bastar and Dantewada districts, officials informed. The State Government has provisioned ₹ 93.61 crore in the budget of current fiscal 2018-19 for construction of nearly 417 km long roads

and 34 bridges, informed PWD Minister Rajesh Munat in May this year. Out of the total provisioned amount, ₹ 5.03 crore has been provisioned for construction of 27.2 km roads and two bridges in Bastar district. Likewise, ₹ 1.80 crore have been provisioned for construction of three bridges in Sukma district, ₹ 4.60 crore for construction 15-km road and one bridge in Bijapur dis-



trict, ₹ 6.92 crore for construction of 36.6 km road in South Bastar (Dantewada) district, ₹ 5.96 crore for construction of 49-km long road

and two bridges in North Bastar (Kanker), ₹ 4.24 crore for construction of 15-km road and a bridge in Narayanpur district of Bastar Division, ₹ 4.24 crore for construction of 15-km road and a bridge in Kondagaon district. Munat informed that under Surguja division, Rs 8.16 crore have been provisioned for construction of 42-km road and three bridges in Surguja district, ₹ 14.56



crore for construction of 49-km road and five bridges in Koriya district, ₹ 10.77 crore for construction of 58.5 kms long road in Surajpur district, ₹ 3.11 crore for construction of four bridges and 7.6 kms in Balrampur-Ramanujanj district, ₹ 15.50 crore for construction 75 kms of roads and four bridges in Jashpur district and ₹ 8.72 crore for construction 35.5 kms of road and four bridges in Gariaband district.

# Process to disenfranchise 'illegal' B'deshis begins

**137 STRUCK OFF VOTERS' LIST IN KENDRAPADA**

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

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



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

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

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

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



**50 nearby houses damaged**

**PNS ■ ROURKELA**

At least a woman was killed and another critically injured when some explosive materials went off in a house at Rourkela city on Monday. About 50 houses were damaged due to the blast in the vicinity. The impact of the blast was so heavy that the roof of the house was completely blown away and about 15 more houses of the adjacent area were destroyed. Sources said the blast took place at the house of one Jawaharlal Srivastava, a business man of the city at Telegupada area of Madhusudanpalli under Plantsite police station of the city. On Monday, Jawaharlal and his two sons had gone to their shop at Plantsite area whereas his wife and two daughters-in-law were present in the house. At about 12.15 pm, suddenly the explosion accompanied with a heavy sound took place. Majority of the houses in the locality have asbestos roofs, except the double storied house of Jawaharlal. The youngest daughter in-law of Jawaharlal, identified as

Rekha Srivastava (25), died after being buried under the debris of the roof of the house, whereas the elder daughter-in-law, identified as Doly (30), was recovered in critical condition and was rushed to IGH, Rourkela. Gayatri, wife of Jawaharlal, however, escaped with just minor injuries. Injured Doly was later shifted to VIMSAR, Burla, since her condition had become critical. A team of police and fire officials and senior police officials like DIG (WR) Kavita Jalan and Rourkela SP Uma Shankar Dash rushed to the spot and supervised the inspection. The police after preliminary inquiry suspect some explosive materials to be present in the house as the reason for the blast. "We suspect that some explosive materials present in the house went off in this case," said SP Rourkela, Dash. "However, we are investigating into the matter and the exact reason of the blast can be confirmed only after the investigation is over," Dash added. Meanwhile, arrangements were made by the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) for providing food to the victim family members for a couple of days.

# 50K police personnel to be on ZP polls duty in Punjab

**PNS ■ CHANDIGARH**

Around 50,000 Punjab police personnel will be on duty during Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections held to be held on September 19, officials said Monday. "Adequate security arrangements are being made for the polls. There will be a deployment of 50,000 Punjab police personnel during the elections," said V K Bhawra, director general of Punjab police (provisioning and modernisation). The Akali Dal had earlier sought deployment of paramilitary forces for ensuring free and fair polls. Opposition parties — AAP, Akali Dal and BJP — had accused the state government of "murdering democracy" for allegedly stopping their candidates from participating in

**Meanwhile, the state government has declared a holiday on September 19 in the wake of the polls**

the upcoming polls by resorting to hooliganism. Meanwhile, the state government has declared a holiday on September 19 in the wake of the polls. All government offices, corporations and schools will be closed on the day, an official spokesman said. The counting of votes will take place on September 22. A total of 17,268 polling booths will be set up and 86,340 personnel will be put on election duty. A total of 35 observers will be appointed to ensure peaceful conduct of the polls, officials said.

# Badal berates Punjab CM Capt Amarinder

**PNS ■ CHANDIGARH**

As the ruling Congress party and the Shiromani Akali Dal engaged in a game of rallies with both announcing to hold a show of strength in each other's home-ground, Punjab's former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal on Monday reminded his successor Capt Amarinder Singh that Lambi is "your own constituency." "You had contested from Lambi, and even though it banished you, it is still in some way your constituency because you had made promises to the people here," said Badal, a day after Chief Minister Capt Amarinder had announced to hold a rally in Badal's bastion, Lambi. "Please come with armfuls of gifts for the people here in the form of promises fulfilled, and I will personally welcome you," said Badal. Akali patriarch said: "I am glad that our rally has forced you to think of the people and to come out of your pleasure dome, though this is an expensive for us to help the people of Punjab to see the face of their Chief Minister. It seems we will have to hold

a rally every time we want the Chief Minister to come out to serve the people." Badal said that he was glad that Captain Singh will come and meet the people of Lambi whom Captain Singh had declared "as his own", though he never showed his face here after the campaign was over. "He had completely forgotten Lambi after making tall promises during the campaign. However, that is a small issue and

I do not intend to let it come in the way of my welcoming you. Please come here after duly fulfilling all the promises you had made to the people — or at least the major ones among those like total farm waiver, jobs for each house, Rs 51,000 as Shagan scheme amount, and Rs 2,500 as old age pension, among others," said Badal. He added, "If you are gracious enough to do that, I will personally roll out a red carpet

for you when you visit us because even I am a voter in the constituency which you had forgotten all this time." Badal said that if the Chief Minister came to Lambi after fulfilling most of the major promises he had made to the people, he would not only welcome him personally but would also lay out a langar for all the guests and all the Congress workers who accompany him for the rally. "I hope the Chief Minister accepts my hospitality," said Badal.

# SAD-BJP TO MEET GUV ON LAW AND ORDER

**Chandigarh:** A high-level joint delegation, led by SAD president Sukhbir Badal and Punjab BJP president Shweta Malik, will meet Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore on Tuesday to apprise him of the deteriorating law and order situation in the state and would urge him to take immediate corrective steps. "The situation is get-

ting worse each day and the Congress government is busy in petty politicking, enjoying spoils of office and its Ministers are busy in one upmanship with each other which has left them with no time to concentrate of problems of the state," said SAD's senior vice-president Daljeet Singh Cheema on Monday.

# APPREHENSION OF LAW & ORDER IN FARIDKOT RALLY WAS CONG LEADERS' CONCOCTION: SAD

Lambasting at Punjab Government for raising objections over organising SAD's rally at Faridkot, the Akali Dal on Monday said that Sunday's "peaceful rally" clearly demonstrated that the apprehensions of breach of law and order situation was not hinged on the intelligence reports but "a figment of imagination and concoction of Congress leaders' mind" as they were dead scared of the success of the rally.

# Hry CM expresses displeasure over handling of CM window complaints

**PNS ■ CHANDIGARH**

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Monday expressed discontentment with such departments as are not taking proper action on the complaints received on CM Window. The Chief Minister has directed the HSIDC, Industries and Commerce, Rural Development and Panchayats, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Urban Local Bodies Departments to hold a separate meeting on this issue. He also directed to suspend four officers and officials, and get registered FIRs against four others. This was informed by Rakesh Gupta, Additional

Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, at a meeting with nodal officers of CM Window, here. The meeting was presided over by Gupta and Bhupeshwar Dayal, OSD to Chief Minister. The Chief Minister has directed that strict action would be initiated against nodal officers for not showing seriousness in addressing the complaints received on CM Window, Gupta said. Cautioning officers of the Rajya Sainik Board, Town and Country Planning and School Education Departments, he said if there is no improvement in their functioning, a separate review meeting would be held with these departments, and action would be initiated against the erring officials.

He also directed the Rural Development and Panchayats, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Urban Local Bodies Departments to promptly redress the complaints received on CM Window. As these departments are directly linked with people, officers should address the complaints pertaining to these departments at the earliest, he added. Gupta also said that the Chief Minister had sent a written communication to the Additional Chief Secretary, Cooperative Department, on a complaint received on CM Window of embezzlement in cooperative societies in Panipat. He directed registration of an FIR against Senior Accountant of Karnal in a case of Social Justice and Empowerment Department.

# Puri tea seller celebrates Modis b'day

**SAROJ KUMAR MISHRA ■ PURI**

A tea seller in Puri observed the 68th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by cutting a cake and distributing 3,000 cups of tea to people for free. It is his fourth year in row the tea-seller celebrated Modi's birthday with much gaiety. The stall-owner is a fan of Modi, who runs his shop near roadside in front of Puri Urban Cooperative Bank in the city. "Like Modi, I am also a small tea-seller. Since 2015 on this very day, I have been distributing tea to passersby for free. It is my fourth year," said Akhaya Jayasingh, the tea seller. He told, since Modi has become the PM, so he was

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



inspired to celebrate the birthday in distributing tea to people. "I like Modi for his good works for the poor of the coun-

try," said Akhaya, adding that he has seen many PMs in his life but for him, Modi is completely exceptional.

At 10 am, his 6-year-old daughter Arya Jayasingh inaugurated the "Tea for Free" by cutting 2.5 pound of cake surrounded by the invitees and fans of Modi. Then tea distribution began for which he engaged half a dozen of staff members. This year he raised the cup numbers to 3,000 which was 2,000 in 2017. In 2015, he had started with 1,800 cups. He used earthen cups which he brought from Kolkata since Modi is spreading messages of Swachh Bharat and stressing on eco-friendliness. Asked about the expenditure in stall decoration, cake and tea, he said to have pegged a budget of ₹15,000 this year which was less last year. Enthused with works, in 2016, the State Bank of India (SBI) had sanctioned ₹40,000 Mudra loan by specially felicitating Jayasingh.

**CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD.**  
(A GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH UNDERTAKING) (A SUCCESSOR COMPANY OF CSEB)  
O/O THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CC-1, OLD MANTRALAY BEHIND BSNL OFFICE, RAIPUR  
Website - www.csebg.gov.in/office Mail ID - secc.raipur@csebg.gov.in Phone No. 0781-2574800, 2574801 Fax No. 0781-2574805

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-BIDDING**  
E-tenders are invited against following NIT for following work under the jurisdiction of S.E. (City Circle-I), CSPDCL Raipur as mentioned below:-

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Tender Amount without GST	Tender Form Cost	EMD (%)
1.	TR-120/dt. 17.09.2018	Awarding contract for additional man power (01 skilled + 02 un-skilled for each shift) attending HT/TLT maintenance, FOC work, D.O. TMC works & Revenue realization work i.e. RC/DC work under the jurisdiction of EE City Dn. West, CSPDCL Raipur for 01 number additional FOC:-Changorabhata Raipur for continues 24 Hrs.	Rs. 12,50,000/-	Rs. 500/- 90/- GST =590/-	Rs. 12,500/-
2.	TR-121/dt. 17.09.2018	Awarding contract for hiring of 01 no. additional vehicle capacity 01 ton pick-up/utility vehicle for attending HT/TLT maintenance, FOC work, D.O. TMC works & Revenue realization work i.e. RC/DC work under the jurisdiction of EE City Dn. West, CSPDCL Raipur for 01 numbers FOC:-Changorabhata, Raipur for continues 24 Hrs.	Rs. 20,85,200/-	Rs. 500/- 90/- GST =590/-	Rs. 20,852/-

Details of Tender, Technical Specifications, Terms and Conditions etc. are available on our website www.csebg.gov.in, www.cspdcl.co.in and e-bidding http://cispr.cspdcl.co.in. Last date and time of submission of bid is on 07.10.2018 up to 03:00 P.M. and due date of opening is on 07.10.2018 at 03:30 P.M. The tender document can also be downloaded from CSPDCL's official website mentioned above. The cost of required Tender fee/EMD may be deposited in this office through MICR Demand Draft drawn in favour of 'The S.A.O.-I, C.S.P.D.C.L., Raipur' should be received in this office on or before 07.10.2018 up to 03:00 P.M. which is non-refundable.

**SAVE ENERGY FOR BENEFIT OF SELF AND NATION Superintending Engineer City Circle-I, CSPDCL, Raipur**

**OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER IN CHIEF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, ATAL NAGAR, DIST. RA-IPUR (C. G.)**

**(CENTRAL TENDER CELL) E-Procurement Tender Notice**  
Main Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

Tenders are invited for the Following works:-

S. No	System Tender No./Date	Name of Work	PAC Amount (Rupees in lacs)	Last date of Tender Downloading
1	43706 (First Call) 07-09-2018	Construction of Bhothidih- Champanan Road Length 3.70 Km. i/c Culverts at Distt. Raipur. ( Under Nabard Scheme)	477.84	01-10-2018
2	44250 (First Call) 12-09-2018	Construction Of PMGSY To Sonpur Approach Road (Including Culverts) Length = 3.10 Km. Distt. Balrampur (C.G.) (Work Code - W12549)	702.85	04-10-2018
3	44011 (First Call) 12-09-2018	Construction of Gharghoda Lailunga Road i/c Drain in Km 35/4.68 (100) = 500 mtr. (Jaistambh Chowk to NTPC office) at Gharghoda Distt. Raigarh	248.30	04-10-2018
4	44251 (First Call) 12-09-2018	Construction of Lolesara-Dholiya-Bilai-Bhoimbhata-Piparbhatta-Chorbhatti Road (Length 12.60 km), i/c. Culverts, Distt. Bemetara.	1859.54	04-10-2018

For more details on the tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal.

Chief Engineer  
(CENTRAL TENDER CELL)  
Office Of Engineer In Chief  
P.W.D. Atal Nagar, Dist. Raipur (C.G.)

G-55496/5 Ryp/Dtd 17.09.18

विकास का यात्रा - मजबूत इरादा  
आपकी थी चाह, हमने बनाई राह

**Credible Chhattisgarh**  
विश्वसनीय छत्तीसगढ़

**MAGMA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**  
REGD./CORPORATE OFFICE: 8 SANT NAGAR, EAST OF KAILASH, NEW DELHI -110065

APPENDIX IV (SEE RULE 8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY))

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Magma Housing Finance Limited of above Corporate office under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred as the "said Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice dated 21/05/2018 sent on 24/05/2018 calling upon the below Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) /Section -14 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this 12 day of Sept. 2018.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Magma Housing Finance Limited for the amount and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SR. NO.	NAME OF BORROWERS	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY	DATE OF STATUTORY DEMAND NOTICE	AMOUNT IN DEMAND NOTICE RS.
1.	1. GURRAM HARI SHANKAR S/O LATE GURURAM NARSIMHA (BORROWER), R/O PRAGATI NAGAR, WARD NO. 21, BHILAI CHARODA, BMY DURG, C. G. 490025, AND PART OF KHASRA NO. 80/1, P.H. NO. 46/49, CHORHA (RAMPUR), WARD NO. 17, RIC AHUWARA, TEHSIL DHAMDA, DIST. DURG, C.G. 490025, 2. G LAKSHMI NARSHIMHA W/O LATE GURURAM NARSIMHA (CO-BORROWER) R/O PRAGATI NAGAR, WARD NO. 21, BHILAI CHARODA, BMY DURG, C. G. 490025,	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY / DIVERTED LAND: BEARING PART OF KHASRA NO. 80/1, COMPRISING AREA 0.025 HECT. OR 2600 SQ FT OR 241.63 SQ MTRS, SITUATED AT WAKE MAUZA CHOURAHA, WARD NO. 17, RAMPUR WARD, P.H. NO. 46/49, RNM AHUWARA, TEHSIL DHAMDA, DISTRICT DURG CHHATTISGARH 490025. BOUNDED BY-NORTH: LAND OF NAWAL SETHI, SOUTH: ROAD, EAST: LAND OF SHRI ARLAN ANTHONY, WEST SELLER'S SURPLUS LAND.	21.05.2018	Rs. 1198930/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Only) payable as on 09/05/2018 alongwith interest @ 13.25% p.a. Thereon.

Sd/-  
AUTHORIZED OFFICE  
MAGMA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

PLACE: DURG CHHATTISGARH  
DATE: 18.09.2018

# Lalu has become politically irrelevant, says Pappu Yadav

**From Page 1**

"Every sensible brain in Bihar, particularly among Yadavs and Muslims, know that Lalu kept them economically poor deliberately in a bid to use them as vote bank for years. They had no option but to back up Lalu family but now youths are determined to get rid of Lalu family to overcome backwardness" claimed Pappu Yadav. He said that Yadavs in Bihar never trusted Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and there was still a big disconnect and trust deficit exist between Nitish Kumar and the Yadav community. "For roughly three decades, Lalu tactically didn't allow leaders from Yadav community to grow to a level where his

leadership can be challenged. Thus the entire Yadav caste was further pushed to backwardness and so the case was with minorities in Bihar. Muslims were left with no option but to vote only for Lalu. But now youths are looking for a better option outside Lalu family," Pappu Yadav contended. Pappu Yadav slammed the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government and said development of Bihar had been stalled, youth migration to other states in search of jobs had risen, the law order situation has worsened and sexual assault on women and girl child has increased to all time high now. He added that Bihar had also become a safe haven for mob lynchings.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. (B&R) AMBIKUR CIRCLE AMBIKAPUR**

Invitation Date :- 11.09.2018

**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
01. Earnest Money should be paid in favor of Executive Engineer of concerned Division.  
02. For tender detail please visit <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>  
03. No. of Invited Call - First Call, Capable Contractor- S.No. 1 to 2 'D' and above, S.No. 3 to 4 'C' and above, Bid Due Date- 25.09.2018.

S No.	N.I.T. No.	Online System Number	Name of Work	P.A.C. in lacs	Concern Division
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	291	44295	Construction of Sainik Vishramgrah at Ambikapur Distt. Surguja (Division Ambikapur)	90.78	Ambikapur
2	292	44334	Construction of Guard House Cum Armoury (Including Magazine Room) Building at Mainpat Distt. Surguja (C.G.) (Division Ambikapur)	38.24	Ambikapur
3	293	44367	Construction of Proposed Utility Centre for Surguja University at Bhakura Distt Surguja including Electrification Work (Division Ambikapur)	105.57	Ambikapur
4	294	44378	Construction of Guest House at Surguja University at Bhakura Distt Surguja including Electrification Work (Division Ambikapur)	147.27	Ambikapur

G-55505/6 Ryp/Dtd 17.09.18

Superintending Engineer  
P.W.D. Ambikapur Circle Ambikapur

**TO WHOMSOEVER THIS MAY CONCERN**

This is to inform that my name as appearing in the PAN Card No.ACUPD2209G and Aadhar Card No. 600449837151 is **NITIN KUMAR DAGA**. Based on these supporting documents, necessary changes in all other documents will be made. Nitin Kumar Daga, 1169/26, Sushil Villa Ravi Nagar, Next to Jagrati Mandal, Opp. Pandari Bus Stand, Raipur 492 001 Dated: 12th September, 2018

MOON'S PYONGYANG VISIT

Denuclearisation high on agenda

AFP ■ SEOUL

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



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

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

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

"Through various meetings and phone calls, President

and the vice chairman of Hyundai Motor.

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

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

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

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

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

Moon has a better understanding of what the US is thinking than Chairman Kim," he said.

Moon will become the third South Korean leader to visit Pyongyang and will hold at least two meetings with Kim, who may make a rare appearance at the airport to welcome his guests, the chief of staff said.

Trump has insecurity of a teenage girl: John Kerry

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Taliban attacks kill 27 members of Afghan security forces

AP ■ KABUL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 killed, 3.11 million evacuated as Typhoon Mangkhut hits China

PTI ■ BEIJING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mangkhut made landfall in western Guangdong on Sunday afternoon before moving into neighbouring Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, bringing with it torrential rains and gales.

Though the worst appears to have passed for Guangdong province, local meteorological authorities warned residents to remain alert for floods and landslides in Guangxi.

Mangkhut earlier lashed the Philippines, sparking landslides and building collapses that killed at least 65 people, with another 43 missing. Hong Kong was also buffeted by fierce winds that tore off roofs, downed trees and caused cranes perched atop half-built skyscrapers to swing ominously. However, there were no reported deaths in Hong Kong, a city well prepared for tropical cyclones.

Parents of 13-yr-old rape victim in Nepal meet Oli

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The grieving parents of a 13-year-old girl in Nepal who was raped and murdered in July in the country's remote west, met Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Monday and sought justice for their daughter whose brutal killing triggered nationwide outrage.

Prime Minister Oli told the parents that he had directed the Ministry of Home Affairs to reinvestigate the case and briefed them about the Government's actions, including suspensions of police personnel, My Republica reported.

The girl's parents came to the capital last week to draw the attention of the Government towards the case.

Oli said the Government would leave no stones unturned to nab those involved. "No matter how wealthy, strong or politically connected the culprit is, we will book the criminals," Oli said.

The girl was raped and murdered on July 26. Her body was found in a sugarcane field the next day.

Angry crowds took to the streets accusing police of protecting the person responsible for the brutal crime.

The victim's father alleged that top police and civil official had coerced him to sign a paper and quickly perform the



Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal had earlier defended the investigation as well as the way the incident was handled

last rites of his daughter with about 300 police personnel deployed, Nepalese media reported.

Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal had earlier defended the investigation as well as the way the incident was handled.

The parents had last week met President Bidhya Devi Bhandari and asked the Government not to deny justice to their daughter.

Bhandari had said that "justice should not be delayed and denied to the victim and her family".

WORLD'S 1ST HYDROGEN TRAIN ROLLS OUT

Bremervorde: Germany on Monday rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train, signalling the start of a push to challenge the might of polluting diesel trains with costlier but more eco-friendly technology

BIRD HIT NEPALESE AIRLINE PLAIN CONTINUES FLIGHT

Kathmandu: A private Nepalese airline's plane was hit by a bird shortly after take-off from Tribhuvan International Airport here on Monday, but the pilot continued to fly, risking the life of 52 persons on board.

UK OPP WANTS BAN ON FOETUS GENDER TESTS

London: Britain's Opposition Labour Party on Monday called for a ban on sex determination tests for pregnant women to counter a bias among South Asian communities in favour of male babies.

Pak denies Afghan trade route for India

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has refuted media reports that it has expressed readiness to talk on the restoration of the India-Afghanistan trade route using its land.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi rejected the reports after US Ambassador to Afghanistan John Bass was quoted as saying by an Indian newspaper

that Pakistan had approached Afghanistan earlier this year and indicated its willingness to resume trade between Afghanistan and India through its land.

"Pakistan has not agreed to consider Afghanistan-India trade through our land," Qureshi was quoted as saying by the Express Tribune.

Pakistan does not allow India to use the land route for trading with Afghanistan, argu-

ing that "technical and strategic" issues connected to transit trade should be resolved first.

Bass was quoted as saying by the Indian daily that "A couple of months ago, for the first time the Pakistani Government expressed a willingness to start talks with its Afghan counterparts for parameters to enabling trade between India and Afghanistan through Pakistan."

Mattis condemns Russia's influence-peddling in Macedonia

AP ■ SKOPJE (MACEDONIA)

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis arrived in Macedonia Monday, condemning Russian efforts to use its money and influence to build opposition to an upcoming vote that could pave the way for the country to join NATO — a move Moscow opposes.

Mattis told reporters travelling with him to Skopje that there is "no doubt" that Moscow has been funding pro-Russian groups in order to defeat the referendum on a name change later this month. "They have transferred money and they're also conducting broader influence campaigns," Mattis said.

"We ought to leave the Macedonian people to make up their own minds." Macedonians will vote Sept 30 on whether to approve the new name of North Macedonia in an effort to placate Greece, which has for years blocked Macedonia's path to NATO

and the European Union.

But any progress toward NATO membership by the Balkan nation is strongly opposed by Russia, which doesn't want the alliance to expand to areas formerly under Moscow's influence.

Mattis is the latest in a string of international leaders visiting Macedonia to voice support for the referendum, and he's the most senior US official to go there.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, German chancellor Angela Merkel, and Austrian chancellor Sebastian Kurz have all visited and made public endorsements of the name change, saying it's critical in order for the country to join NATO, after years of waiting.

Mattis said that he and other NATO allies "say right up front in open press what we think."

"We're not passing money to people behind the scenes, we're not putting together parties that we control or try to control." Russia has already been

called out for trying to influence the vote.

In July, Greece expelled two Russian diplomats accused of supplying funds to protest groups who were opposing the name change deal. Russia denounced the expulsions as unjustified.

Greece, a member of NATO, has for years vetoed attempts by Macedonia to join NATO, complaining about the country's name ever since Yugoslavia broke up in the early 1990s. Greece argues that the name implies a territorial claim against the northern Greek region of Macedonia and its ancient heritage.

NATO leaders in July formally invited Macedonia to begin membership talks on the condition that it wouldn't become effective until the name change was implemented.

But there is widespread concern about Russian impact on the vote. "There is this influence campaign to try to buy off peo-

ple and try to support pro-Russian organizations," said Laura Cooper, the deputy assistant defense secretary for Russia and the region.

She said she couldn't give specifics about the pay-offs, but said the US is aware of financial support that Moscow has given to pro-Russian individuals and groups that are working to undermine the referendum.

Russia, she said, is "swooping in now with disinformation and other forms of malign influence to try to change the minds of the Macedonian people."

As examples, she cited efforts to convince people that the vote isn't relevant and isn't the last step for NATO admission.

Evelyn Farkas, an expert on the region who is a fellow with the Atlantic Council and a former Defense Department adviser, said Mattis' visit to the tiny nation could help sow support for the name change.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GRID CONSTRUCTION DIVISION PDD, AMBEDKAR CHOWK, RAILWAY ROAD, JAMMU (J&K), TELEFAX: 0191-2437028, E-mail ID: xengdjm@gmail.com**

**INVITATION FOR e-BIDS FOR**

E NIT No.: GCD/J08 of 2018-19 Dated :- 13.09.2018

Executive Engineer, Grid Construction Division, PDD Ambedkar Chowk Jammu (J&K) (hereinafter referred to as "the Employer") for and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, wishes to receive e-bids for Turkey project including Supply, Transportation, Erection, Testing and commissioning of following work in Jammu Region of Jammu & Kashmir :-

**"Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Twinning of 220 KV Bus Bar (Main and Reserve) from Double ACSR Zebra to Double STACIR HTLS Conductor (Equivalent to Moose) of the existing 220/132/66 KV Hiranagar Substation (J&K) associated with Transmission System Strengthening of JKPPD under PMDP Scheme-15."**

Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this Standard Bidding Document (SBD) shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the standard bidding document with full understanding of its implications.

The scope of work covered under package "Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Twinning of 220 KV Bus Bar (Main and Reserve) from Double ACSR Zebra to Double STACIR HTLS Conductor (Equivalent to Moose) of the existing 220/132/66 KV Hiranagar Substation (J&K) associated with Transmission System Strengthening of JKPPD under PMDP Scheme-15" is brought out in subsequent clauses of this section Technical specifications, Volume-II.

The above scope of work is indicative and the detailed scope of work is given in the Technical Specification (Volume-II) of the Bidding documents.

The completion period for subject Package shall be the period as specified in special conditions of contract.

The detailed qualifying Requirements (QR) are given in Section-III, Vol-I of the bidding document.

The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below :-

**A. Estimated Project Cost :- Rs.98.11 Lacs**

**B. Date & Time of downloading of Bidding Document :- 17.09.2018 from 1600 hrs.**

**C. Start date for receipt of Clarifications :- 18.09.2018 from 1000 hrs.**

**D. Last date for receipt of Clarifications :- 20.09.2018 upto 1000 hrs.**

**E. Pre-Bid Meeting :- 22.09.2018 at 1300 hrs.**

**F. Replies to Clarifications :- 24.09.2018**

**G. e-Bid submission (start) date & time :- 25.09.2018 from 1000 hrs.**

**H. e-Bid submission (end) date & time :- 09.10.2018 upto 1600 hrs.**

**I. Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date and time :- 16.10.2018 at 1200 hrs.**

**J. Venue of opening of technical & commercial e-Bids :- office of the Executive Engineer, Grid Construction Division, Ambedkar Chowk, Jammu (J&K), Pin Code - 180004 or any other place to be intimated.**

**K. Cost of e-Bid document :- Rupees 5000/- (Non-refundable)**

**L. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit :- Rs. 1.9622 Lacs**

**M. Last date of submission of Hard Copy :- 09.10.2018 upto 1400 hrs.**

The bidders need to submit the proof for purchase of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through Demand Draft of any nationalized/scheduled Bank pledged to Executive Engineer, GCD, Jammu Payable at Jammu (J&K). The scanned copy of Demand Draft must be enclosed along with the e-Bids but the original Demand Draft should reach the office of Executive Engineer, GCD, Jammu by last day of submission of hardcopy Commercial and Technical e-Bid.

All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee issued by a nationalized/scheduled Bank only pledged to the Executive Engineer, GCD, Jammu. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

Hard copy of original instrument of EMD should reach to the office of the Executive Engineer, GCD, Jammu, (J&K) by 09.10.2018 upto 1400 hrs. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Grid Construction Division, PDD, Ambedkar Chowk, Jammu (J&K)

No. DIP/J-2801-P/18 Dated:- 15.09.2018

**GURUGRAM METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (GMDA)**

**TENDER NOTICE**

GMDA invites bids from eligible bidders through e-Tendering mode on the Government of Haryana web portal <http://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in> before 27-09-2018 as under:-

S/N	Name of work	Value (Rs.) (Approx.)	EMD (Rs.)	Time (Months)
1	Providing & fixing wire mesh jali and barbed wire fencing on tee iron and M.S. center plate frame fixed with cement concrete blocks around waterbody in Wazirabad, Gurugram.	46,35,000/-	92,700/-	6
2	Providing & fixing wire mesh jali and barbed wire fencing on tee iron and M.S. center plate frame fixed with cement concrete blocks around water course in Sikanderpur Ghosi, Gurugram.	49,30,000/-	98,600/-	6
3	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Tau Devi Lal Park, Sector -22, Gurugram.	14,50,000/-	29,000/-	12
4	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Basai water treatment plant, Gurugram.	9,40,000/-	18,800/-	12
5	Maintenance of Horticulture work in Chandu Buhera water treatment plant.	9,75,000/-	19,500/-	12
6	Repair of boundary wall and petty works in Plaza Area Park, Leisure Valley, Sec-29, Gurugram.	3,05,000/-	6,100/-	2
7	Running operation maintenance and watch & ward of Musical fountain in Maharana Pratap Swam Jayanti Park, Sec-29, Gurugram.	2,97,000/-	5,940/-	6
8	Maintenance of Tubewell Electric Motors in MP/SJ Park (Leisure Valley), Sec-29, Gurugram.	88,000/-	4,400/-	6
9	Maintenance of Tubewell Electric Motors in Tau Devi Lal Biodiversity Park, Sec 52A.	88,000/-	4,400/-	6
10	Maintenance of Tubewell Electric Motors in Tau Devi Lal Park, Sec -22, Gurugram.	59,000/-	2,950/-	6
11	Maintenance of Tubewell Electric Motors in Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Sec -38, Gurugram.	59,000/-	2,950/-	6
12	Security Services in Tau Devi Lal Biodiversity Park, Sec -52A, Gurugram.	7,80,000/-	15,200/-	6
13	Security Services in Tau Devi Lal Biodiversity Park, Sec -52A, Gurugram.	7,80,000/-	15,200/-	6
14	Security Services in Plaza Area Park, Leisure Valley, Sec 29, Gurugram.	3,80,000/-	7,600/-	6

The detailed tender document including eligibility criteria can be downloaded from the above web portal by the firms/individuals registered there upon. Possession of Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and registration on the web portal is a prerequisite for e-tendering.

Advisor & Head UE Division, GMDA, Gurugram.

RO NO. 71750 Dt. 17-09-2018



# BJP targets TRS on 70th Liberation Day

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# HC notice to TN BJP leader for remarks on judiciary

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

When the video of his out-

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Naicker statue desecration mars festive season in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Petrol, diesel cheaper by ₹2 in Karnataka

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

Monday announced the cut in rate.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

The Congress, if elected to power in the coming assembly

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

# United Opposition is not a threat to us: Maurya

PTI ■ MATHURA

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

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

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

"We are not bothered about Mayawati, Akhilesh

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

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

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

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

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

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

# CEC meets representatives of political parties in Raj

PTI ■ JAIPUR

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

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

# Collectors in Telangana given training on election work

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

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

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer Rajat Kumar told reporters.

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

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

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

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

Special awareness campaigns towards voter enrolment were also conducted over the last three days across the state where every booth-level officer performed the assigned duties at the polling stations, he said.

# Girl sets self afire after lover hangs himself

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

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



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

# J&K Govt approves Single Window Act

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

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

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

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

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

# Kashmiri migrants can vote in upcoming civic polls: EC

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Shutdown hits normal life in Kashmir



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

**KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR**

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

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

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

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

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

The authorities deployed police and paramilitaries in

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

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

Meanwhile, unidentified militants shot dead a Territorial Army (TA) man Mukhtar Ahmad Malik alias Mukhtar Gola at his home in Shurat area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Saturday afternoon. Mukhtar Gola was a former cadre of pro-government militia known as Ikhwan, a counter-insurgent group that killed hundreds of militants in Kashmir Valley between late 1990s and early 2000.

# Three more Hizbul ultras held in Assam

**ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# KAPS unit 2 nuclear plant in Surat attains criticality

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

leaders to first think of defeating the BJP.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Burrabazar fire rages on

**PNS ■ KOLKATA**

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

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

**OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD**

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

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

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

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

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

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



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

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

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

DP/1398/OD/18

# Rajnath inaugurates smart fence pilot project in Jammu



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

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

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

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

Addressing a separate press conference, Rajnath announced that since it is a 'pilot project'

"we will monitor its performance and depending upon the feedback we will further improve it and make it more effective."

Singh said that the technology would be introduced along a 2026-km long border stretch that has been identified as 'vulnerable'.

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

Rajnath also dedicated the SMART fence pilot project to the jawans who made supreme

sacrifices in the line of duty while guarding the frontiers.

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

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

The Minister said that smart fencing at the borders is a technological solution devised to address the security issues in the border states and the two projects in five kilometers areas each have been installed along the Indo-Pak International Border in Jammu on a pilot basis.

He said the number of casualties of the jawans on the borders would get minimised and the stress level among the jawans would also reduce to a large extent.

The Union Home Minister further added that with the digital smart fencing, our borders would become absolutely safe since it would virtually make it impossible for the terrorists to breach it and infiltrate across the borders.



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

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (SOUTH) III A BLOCK GREATER KAILASH I NEW DELHI-110048.				
N.I.T. NO. 31/S-III/(2018-2019)				
S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost/ Earnest Money	Date release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Improvement of water supply by P.I. 200mm dia D.I. Water line from E-2 G.K. II to DDA Park in Chitranganj Park under South _III (AC-50)	Rs.33,59,382/-	2018_DJB_158441_1 15.09.2018	01.10.2018 Up to 3.00 PM
2.	Improvement of underground tank located at Gali No. -30 & Gali No.-13, Tughlakabad Extn. under EE(South) -III (AC-49)	Rs.4697,078/-	2018_DJB_158441_2 15.09.2018	01.10.2018 Up to 3.00 PM

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

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

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

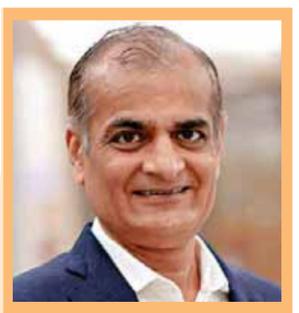


**I'm looking forward to working with USISPF's Board of Directors to build upon the key relationship between India and the US. The Tata group has been at the forefront of US-India business ties, and USISPF will be an important platform to further develop this relationship**

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

# BUZZ FROM GOVT/CORP

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



**Rashesh Shah, President, FICCI**

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

nections to households kitchens by September 30, 2026.

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

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

Adani Gas on its own bid for 32 cities.

Bharat Gas Resources Ltd bid for as many as 53 cities, while GAIL Gas Ltd put in offers for 34 cities.

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

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

## Sensex cracks 350 pts on profit-booking

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

Brokers said investors turned cautious and logged gains after recent rally, pulling down key indices.

The rupee again crashed below the 72-mark by plunging 81 paise to 72.65 against the dollar, despite the Government's steps to stem a steep fall in the currency.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

## Business Corner

**INNOVATIVE LITERARY INITIATIVE BY CORPORATE SECTOR**

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



## AAI TO DEVELOP PLAN FOR PALALY AIRPORT, SRI LANKA

AAI signed an agreement with Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India for preparation of Detailed Project Report for development of Palaly Airport in Sri Lanka.

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



## ITDC inks MoU with Morocco for tourism development

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Chairperson and

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

BHEL TO MANUFACTURE 30 SUCH LOCOMOTIVES FOR RAILWAY

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

"We are excited to further strengthen our relationship



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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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



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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

**Name:** Ganesh, (As per MLC) **S/o:** Late Babu Lal, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** Approx 35 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **ID Mark:** A mole on face. **Wearing:** White Shirt and Gray Paint. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.



**s.h.o**  
**P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.**  
**DP/1397/OD/18**  
**Ph: 011-25946700, 25946710**

**AXIS BANK**

Retail Asset Centre, Delhi: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Himalaya House, K.G. Marg, Delhi-110001. Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301. Retail Asset Centre, Ghaziabad: BF-1A, 2, 3, 1st Floor, Aditya City Centre, Niti Khand-1, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201012. Retail Asset Centre Faridabad: Axis Bank Ltd. SCO-3, Huda Shopping Centre, Sec. 16, Faridabad, Haryana-121002. Retail Asset Centre Gurgaon: Axis Bank Ltd. HSC Gurgaon, SG-107, DLF Galleria Complex, Near Post Office, DLF City Phase 4, Gurgaon-122009. Corporate Office: Axis House, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025. Registered Office: Trilshul, 3rd floor, Opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

**POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002**

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (1) (2) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

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

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

Date : 18-09-2018, Place: Delhi

Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

## L&T Infrastructure Finance revises Prime Lending Rate

PNS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

## Sebi bans fugitive economic offender from making open offer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The move is expected to help in preventing such offender from taking control of a listed company.

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Khambata had represented Resolution Professional of the debt ridden firm Essar Steel in this matter before the appellate tribunal and his name was missing in the final order.

Tribunal's direction came after an application was moved to include his name.

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

# PSG FACE REDS & ANFIELD

Ligue 1 toppers tie against Premier League giants in CL opener, Barca host PSV as Inter face Spurs

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Mohamed Salah outshone Neymar and Kylian Mbappe on the Champions League stage last season, but as Paris Saint-Germain's star duo head to Anfield on Tuesday seeking to make amends, the Egyptian is struggling to match the heights of his debut campaign at Liverpool.

Salah's failure to hit top form dates back to his last Champions League appearance four months ago.

Back in May, Salah was on the crest of a wave as his 44-goal campaign had carried Liverpool to the Champions League final and ensured qualification for this season's competition.

However, he lasted just 30 minutes in Kiev after injuring his shoulder when wrestled to the ground by Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos and the Spanish giants went on to lift the trophy in a 3-1 win.

That started a difficult few months for Salah as he was also robbed of being 100-per cent fit for Egypt's first World Cup in 28 years.

Without their talisman, the Pharaohs were beaten by Uruguay in their opening game and his goals against Russia and Saudi Arabia couldn't prevent Egypt returning home without a single point.

Salah has also gone to war with the Egyptian federation over the use of his image and the decision to host their base camp in Chechnya.

Egypt's star player was put in the awkward position of having to pose for photos with Chechen president Ramzan Kadyrov, who has been accused of human rights abuses.

That hangover has been felt on the field with Salah scoring just twice in Liverpool's opening five games of the campaign and missing chances he ruthlessly put away last season.

No one-man team - So far Salah's slackness hasn't cost Jurgen Klopp's men. A summer of shrewd investment to build on the already substantial progress made under the German is already bearing fruit with five straight wins.

"Of course, it's important that we don't



Liverpool players celebrate after Georginio Wijnaldum (No 5) scores opener against Tottenham in Premier League on Friday.

**Liverpool vs PSG**  
Live from 12:30am IST  
SONY TEN 2

have only one goalscorer," Klopp said after an impressive 2-1 win over Tottenham on Saturday, that should have been a far more comprehensive victory if the visitors had taken their chances.

"It's still early. Five games, fantastic we've won all of them, we have improved."

The 39 million euros (\$45 million) Liverpool paid for Salah from Roma was brilliant business not just based on Salah's production, but the hyper inflation that took place in the market just weeks later when PSG smashed the world transfer record by splurging 222 million euros on Neymar.

A further 180 million was then splashed on beating Europe's big guns to the signature of Mbappe, who confirmed his status as the rising star of world football in winning the World Cup for France.

Both Neymar and Mbappe will see themselves as heirs to the throne of Lionel



Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as the world's best player.

But it is Salah who is on the shortlist for FIFA's Best Player award alongside Ronaldo and Croatian midfielder Luka Modric of Real Madrid, after PSG failed to get beyond the last 16 of the Champions League last season.

The limited spotlight offered by Ligue 1 means Europe's premier club competi-



PSG attacking trio of Kylian Mbappe, Edinson Cavani and Neymar Jr celebrates after win

**Barcelona vs PSV**  
Live from 10:25pm IST  
SONY TEN 2

tion is where Neymar and Mbappe need to shine to be in the running for individual awards.

However, a blockbuster clash on a Champions League night at fortress Anfield is also the perfect stage for Salah to demonstrate to the world he is no one-season wonder.

**BARÇA THIS TIME?**

BARCELONA: Almost exactly an hour after the final whistle, Barcelona posted a tweet: "Congratulations to @realmadrid for winning the 2017/18 Champions League title."

Underneath some fans demanded the message be deleted immediately while others claimed it as a classy touch. "We are rivals, not enemies", one wrote.

Meanwhile, Barcelona's key players - Lionel Messi, Gerard Pique, Luis Suarez, Andres Iniesta - stayed quiet. Some had recently posted pictures of themselves surrounded by their families, with the World Cup just around the corner.

But from the words that have been spoken since, and despite the club's stately message, it is clear Madrid's triumph hit home.

Barcelona had failed and this made it even harder to bear.

"Obviously it's infuriating (for us)," Suarez said in an interview with RAC1 earlier this month.

"Madrid have won the Champions League in each of the last three years. They have made history and it's a thorn in our side." Chiefly, perhaps, because Barca will feel they were better than Madrid last season.

They blew them away in a 3-0 flurry at the Santiago Bernabeu and then played with 10 men for the second half at the Camp Nou and still drew 2-2. They even led with a man fewer until Gareth Bale's late equaliser.

Valverde was accused last season of

over-exerting his players in the league, particularly when it was clear it was won.

Three days before the capitulation to Roma, the likes of Messi and Suarez were playing 90 minutes to beat 14th-placed Leganes.

Valverde has indicated he will adapt. Ahead of their Group B opener at home to PSV on Tuesday, Sergio Busquets and Philippe Coutinho started as substitutes in Saturday's win over Real Sociedad, even if both were needed before the end.

Messi, who turned 31 in June, may also need to be preserved if he is to add a fifth Champions League success to his collection. Now captain, he appears hungrier than ever.

"It's time to win the Champions League," Messi told Catalunya Radio earlier this month.

"We've been knocked out in the quarter-finals three seasons in a row and maybe the last one was the worst of all because of the result and how the match was played."

"I think we have to aim for that, as a club, as a team and as a collective. We have a spectacular squad and we can do it."

**INTER EYE WINNING RETURN**

Eight years have elapsed since Jose Mourinho's reign as Inter Milan coach ended on a historic high of Champions League glory, and the fallen Italian giants are still struggling to recapture that magic from Madrid.

The Portuguese oversaw the most successful season in the club's history — a 2-0 win over Bayern Munich at the Santiago Bernabeu completed the first treble of Serie A, domestic Cup and Champions League in Italian history.

Since those days it has been lean times for the 18-time Italian and three-time European champions, with the only title of any sort a 2011 Italian Cup crown.

Luciano Spalletti's side return to the Champions League for the first time since the 2011-2012 season on Tuesday when they host Tottenham at the San Siro.

Expectations are high, but their return comes against a backdrop of continuing crisis as the Nerazzurri lie a lowly 15th with just one win and four points from four games.

## Shuttlers sight China glory

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU

Top Indian shuttler PV Sindhu will have to find a way to battle fatigue if she has to continue her consistent run in international circuit and regain the China Open, beginning here on Tuesday.

Sindhu showed signs of fatigue during her second-round exit at last week's Japan Open, her first early loss since the first-round ouster from the Denmark Open last October.

The 23-year-old Indian has been the most consistent this season with Silver medals in all the major events this year - the Commonwealth Games, the World Championship and the Asian Games.

She also reached the finals at the India Open and Thailand Open.

However, a hectic schedule left her with very little time to recover or savour the moment.

The Olympic and world championship Silver medalist had won the \$ 700,000 China Open in 2016 and will be one of the favourites to secure the women's singles title at the BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament.

The third seeded Indian will start her campaign against Hong Kong's Cheung Ngan Yi at the Olympic Sports Center Xincheng Gymnasium.

Two-time Commonwealth Games Gold medalist Saina Nehwal, who had clinched a Bronze at Asian Games at Jakarta, will be rejuvenated after skipping the Japan Open. The Indian faces a tough first round against Korea's Sung Ji Hyun.

Saina, who also had won the China Open title in 2014, has a 8-2 head-to-head record against Sung Ji and if she can surpass the Korean, fifth seed Chinese Chen Yufei will stand in her way.



Saina Nehwal reacts after winning a point against Fitriani; (right) PV Sindhu in action against VT Trang

**Sindhu vs Kawakami**  
Live from 10:15am IST  
STAR SPORTS NETWORK

In fact, Saina and Sindhu are on a collision course and might clash in the quarter-finals if they can clear the earlier rounds.

Among others, Kidambi Srikanth has looked a shadow of the man who clinched four titles last season. Though the seventh seeded Indian won the men's singles Silver at the Commonwealth Games, he has been inconsistent in the season so far.

Srikanth, who held the world No 1 ranking for a brief period this year, will look to build on his quarterfinal finish at Japan Open when he begins his campaign against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke.

However, world champion Kento Momota, who had ended his campaign at Malaysia and Indonesia, will once again



stand in his way in the quarterfinal. HS Prannoy too will look to go deep in the tournament after starting against Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus, seeded eighth.

Among others in fray, women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will face Korean pair of Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong.

In men's doubles, Commonwealth Games Silver medalist pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will square off against Malaysia's Goh V Shem and Tan Wee Kiong, while Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy will fight it out against Taiwanese combination of Liao Min Chun and Su Ching Heng.

In mixed doubles, Satwik and Ashwini will meet English combination of Marcus Ellis and Lauren Smith, while Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Sikki will take on Germany's Marvin Emil Seidel and Linda Efler in another match.

## Ballon d'Or on my mind, says Griezmann

AFP ■ PARIS

Atletico Madrid star Antoine Griezmann says he still can't fathom why he was not voted one of the world's top three players by FIFA — but hopes winning the "more prestigious" Ballon d'Or will make amends.

"It's a prize from FIFA and it seems a pity that no World Cup winners were nominated," Griezmann, who helped France to World Cup glory in Russia this summer, told Spanish sports daily AS.

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, World Cup finalist Luka Modric of Croatia and Egyptian Mohamed Salah, who enjoyed a stunning campaign with Liverpool last season, were the three players nominated by FIFA for the world ruling body's top prize.

Now grouped within the FIFA Best awards, it will be presented on September 24.

For Griezmann, who helped Atletico to Europa League glory as well as playing a pivotal role in France's World Cup win, FIFA's choice was unwarranted.

"We had a really good World Cup campaign, the whole team deserve to be awarded: (Kylian) Mbappe, (Raphael) Varane, (N'Golo) Kante, who had an amazing World Cup even though no-one talks about it, or even myself."

"But that's the way it is."

The snub has galvanised Griezmann's ambition to land the Ballon d'Or, the prize awarded by



Antoine Griezmann celebrate after scoring

France Football magazine to the world's top player as voted on by journalists around the globe.

"I think the Ballon d'Or has more prestige, a richer history," said Griezmann.

Conceived in 1956, it has been won by Ronaldo and Lionel Messi a record five times apiece. By contrast, the FIFA Best award has been a stand-alone award only since 2016, having spent the 2010-2015 period merged with the Ballon d'Or.

He added: "It's on my mind and I've got three months to give it everything (to win it). We'll see what happens."

Asked if he felt comfortable "sitting at the same football table" as five-time Ballon d'Or winners Messi and Ronaldo, Griezmann said: "Yes, I think so, although other players would be there as well."

## Mercedes cautious despite lead

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff said it was special to conquer "bogey track" Singapore but cautioned the F1 title race wasn't over yet after Lewis Hamilton's "stardust" propelled him to a potentially decisive 40-point lead over Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.

Team principal Wolff said there was no mystery to Mercedes' form, it was all down to sheer hard work back at the factory and the track.

"Singapore has been our bogey track for several years, so it is a special feeling to come here and win this race on pace," Wolf told reporters after Hamilton's pole-to-flag win and team-mate Valtteri Bottas's fourth place gave them a 25-point lead over Ferrari in the constructors' championship.

"The entire team has worked so hard to understand the car and take steps forward, and this result is an indication that our work is paying off. It was a weekend of many parts: a star-dust lap from Lewis in qualifying, a chess game of tyre management this evening, and some nervous moments with traffic and backmarkers during the race," Wolff added.

"It's just the strongest the team has ever



Lewis Hamilton, center, poses after winning Singapore GP

been." Wolff warned they had to keep up the intensity to win both drivers' and constructors' championships this season, starting with the Russian Grand Prix in two weeks.

"From our side, we can be pleased with a very solid weekend," he added. "We have leads in both championships, but they change nothing in the mindset of this team."

"We have six weekends to go and we know how quickly the situation can swing back against us. We will take it weekend by weekend, feet on the ground and determined to maximise our potential every time."

## Sakshi grabs World C'ship spot

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Struggling wrestler Sakshi Malik has made it to India's World Championship squad without facing the trials as her opponent Sarita Mor has withdrawn from the 62kg clash, due to an injury.

The Olympic Bronze medalist has been battling poor form since the start of the 2018 season. She could win only a Bronze at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and failed to win any medal at the Asian Games.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) wanted both Sushil Kumar and Sakshi to undergo trials but the former pulled out due to poor form.

"The trials in four categories were left. Out of those, we chose not to disturb Bajrang (men's 65kg) and Vinesh Phogat (women's 50kg). Sakshi was to fight Sarita but she has reported a knee injury so we are sending Sakshi to the Worlds," WFI Assistant Secretary Vinod Tomar said.



Sakshi Malik and Pooja Dhandia poses with medal

Sakshi had ended a runner-up at a UWW ranking event in Belarus, where she lost the Gold medal match 2-6 to Azerbaijan's Marianna Satsin on Sunday.

The performance is encouraging for Sakshi ahead of the World Championship, to be held in Budapest from October 20-28.

"The fourth category is women's 53kg. Ritu Phogat and Pinky will fight for that place. Ritu had competed in

the 50kg category at the Yasar Dogu International in Turkey but we feel she can do well in the 53kg as well. She has a good medal chance in this category, so, we decided to conduct a trial match between Ritu and Pinky," Tomar added.

The 53kg clash will be held on Tuesday in Lucknow under the supervision of National women's coach Kuldeep Malik.

The WFI official also informed that the inaugural U-23 National Championship, to be held in Chittaurgarh, Rajasthan from September 27-30, is an effort to identify next line of wrestlers.

"In the senior nationals, many juniors also compete but they get to clash against only with the aged wrestlers. They do not get great competition. They need to fight it out with strong wrestlers to be ready for international events. In the Under-23 Nationals, we will see better bouts and next stars will be identified," Tomar added.

## SINGLES

**GETAFE DOWNS SEVILLA 2-0**  
SEVILLA: Getafe defeated host Sevilla 2-0 on two goals by Angel Rodriguez before the break and a winning attitude all the way through the match. Although Sevilla was in possession of the ball for 70 per cent of the match and fired 15 shots towards the goal, just three of them were on target and all were saved by Getafe goalkeeper David Soria on Sunday. Getafe, on the other hand, fired just 10 shots towards their rivals' goal, with six of them being on target, and two of them - both by Rodriguez - got by Tomas Vaclik for the tallies. Rodriguez scored his first goal of the evening just three minutes into play and then took advantage of a Sevilla mistake to make it 2-0 in the 38th minute. Sevilla go down to its second consecutive loss in the fourth week of Spanish La Liga action.

**PKL SEASON 6 POSTPONED TO OCT 7**  
NEW DELHI: The start of the sixth season of the Vivo Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) has been postponed by a couple of days due to logistical reasons, the organisers Mashal Sports announced on Monday. The 6th season of the Vivo Pro Kabaddi League will start on October 7 instead of the earlier date of October 5 owing to logistical reasons such as caravan movement and stadium availability. Mashal Sports Pvt. Ltd, the rights owner and organisers of the league has made this considered decision in consultation with the principal stakeholders, a statement read. Chennai will continue to host to the first leg of the tournament from October 7. The playoffs would be held as planned in Kochi on December 30 and 31 with the final on January 5 in Mumbai.

**IND WOMEN TO KICK-OFF SAFF U-18 C'SHIP**  
NEW DELHI: Seven countries are set to kick-off the inaugural edition of the SAFF U-18 football Championship for Women which gets underway later this month in Bhutan. India have been clubbed in Group A, along with neighbours Sri Lanka and Maldives. The Indian girls kick-off their campaign against Maldives on September 28 before facing Sri Lanka on October 2. The tournament follows a round robin format where all the teams in each group play each other once. The top two teams get to qualify for the semi-finals (October 5), where the winner of Group A faces the runners-up of Group B, and vice versa. The final of the tournament is set to be held on Sunday, October 7. The Senior SAFF Women's Championship is scheduled to be held later in December.

**NADAL MAINTAINS ATP RANKINGS TOP SPOT**  
MADRID: Spain's Rafael Nadal maintained the No 1 spot in the men's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) world singles rankings released on Monday with 8,760 points, ahead of Switzerland's Roger Federer. The Spaniard continued to lead the rankings despite his forced retirement at the US Open over a knee injury, which also made him miss the Davis Cup semifinal against France on Sunday. Top-10 list witnessed no change as Serbia's Novak Djokovic is still occupying the third position, followed by Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina. Meanwhile, Argentine Guido Andreozzi rocketed 11 places to the 97th, following his victory at the Pekao Szczecin Open played at Szczecin, Poland against Alejandro Davidovich Fokina of Spain 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

**CANADA IN DAVIS CUP FINAL**  
TORONTO: Milos Raonic defeated Scott Griekspoor of the Netherlands in three sets, securing for Canada a berth in the Davis Cup final. Raonic took two hours and 23 minutes to triumph over Griekspoor 7-6 (4), 6-3 and 6-4 in the world group qualification playoff on Sunday. This was the ATP No 20 player's second win of the five-match tie, with the fifth match being cancelled once Canada got its third win. Fellow Canadian Denis Shapovalov had won his singles rubber on Friday night, but Daniel Nestor and Vasek Pospisil lost their doubles rubber on Saturday for their country's only loss to Holland's Matwe Middelkop and Jean-Julien Rojer. Canada now joins Argentina, Britain, Austria, Sweden, Serbia, the Czech Republic and Japan, all of which on the weekend managed to win for themselves a spot within the elite of the Davis Cup, which starting next year will be played according to a new format

# INDIA BEGIN TITLE DEFENCE

Defending champions eye big win against Hong Kong in Asia Cup opener before clash against Pakistan

PTI ■ DUBAI

A formidable India will be aiming to make short work of minnows Hong Kong in their Asia Cup opener Tuesday before getting battle-ready for their much-anticipated clash against arch-rivals Pakistan on Wednesday.

The match against Hong Kong will be an 'appetiser' before cricket junkies are treated to a lavish spread of main course which will be the Indo-Pak rivalry.

Even without regular skipper Virat Kohli, the Indian side, led by Rohit Sharma, is an intimidating one in the limited-overs format.

Although Rohit and his colleagues won't want to take Hong Kong lightly, in reality the match will only be a precursor or a glorified dress rehearsal before they take on an in-form Pakistan the very next day.

In the searing Dubai heat, where the mercury has risen up to 43 degree Celsius, the primary aim for the Men in Blue would be to get their combination right before the big game.

Hong Kong lost their opener against Pakistan by eight wickets in a thoroughly one sided showdown where they could manage only 116 runs.

Unless a miracle happens, there won't be a remarkable improvement in their performance against an Indian team that boasts of the likes of Rohit, Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Kedar Jadhav in batting along with Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal in bowling.

For the past few years, Mahendra Singh Dhoni's waning batting skills have repeatedly come under scanner and this tournament will give everyone a fair idea of his ideal position.

Whether it would end up being No 5, 6 or 7 will be the big contention going into the Pakistan game.

If Dhoni comes in at No 7, he will have to face a skilful Mohammed Aamir at the death along with a skiddy Usman Khan and talented Hasan Ali.

Possibly, Kedar Jadhav or Manish Pandey at No 5 and Hardik Pandya with his big hitting abilities at No 7 could prove to be ideal foil for the former India cap-



Indian players during the practice session on Monday ahead of their first game against Hong Kong BCCI

## PAKISTAN ARE FAVOURITES TO WIN ASIA CUP: MANJREKAR

MUMBAI: Former India batsman Sanjay Manjrekar believes India are one of the main contenders to lift the ongoing Asia Cup, but tipped Pakistan as the favourites given the neighbour country has been playing in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) regularly. Pakistan have begun their Asia Cup campaign routing minnows Hong Kong by eight wickets Sunday and have the added advantage of playing in the UAE, their 'home' ground. "I think Pakistan start as favourites more than India, because they have been playing in those conditions (in the UAE) for a while now and it's a team which is on the surge. "India, of course, are resting Virat (Kohli), which takes a lot of strength away from the team," Manjrekar, said. He was quizzed whether in the absence of Kohli, India were the favourites going into the tournament. "India are obviously one of the contenders, but when you look at favouritism, (question arises) which team can be rated as the strongest. "It's Pakistan because of where it (the tournament) is being played," explained Manjrekar.

## OUR AIM IS TO SORT BATTING ORDER: ROHIT

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Rohit Sharma on Monday admitted that the team's middle-order is still fluid and their objective will be to identify players for the number four and six slot during the Asia Cup.

The problem for India during the past one year is the lack of a settled middle-order, which was evident during the recent ODI series defeat in England.

Rohit made it clear that the likes of Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, Ambati Rayudu are fighting for the key middle-order slots.

"Lot of spots are up for grabs like Nos 3, 4 and 6. All these guys (Kedar, Manish, Rayudu) are eyeing for those slots. We want to give chances to as many guys for this particular series. In this tournament, we need to seal the batting slot Nos 4 and 6," Rohit said on the eve of the lung opener against Hong Kong.

Rohit's answer was an indication that Mahendra Singh Dhoni will bat at number five. Ambati Rayudu is back in the Indian team having cleared the YoYo test and he also performed well in the Quadrangular series for India A. Kedar Jadhav is back having recovered from a hamstring surgery.

"They are both important members of this team. Rayudu was originally part of England series and similarly Kedar before his injury. It was unfortunate that they couldn't play for some time and I am very happy that both are back in the team. I expect them to win matches for India," said Rohit.

Rohit didn't reveal whether he was open to rotating bowlers in this searing Dubai heat but did say that performers should be given a longer run.

"I haven't thought about it right now. We want to see how each individual react to different situations. At the same time, we want to give chance to as many guys as possible but also give more opportunities to those who are consistent. We would see how individuals respond to conditions and take decisions accordingly," said Rohit.

Having had a look at the match strip, Rohit's



Indian skipper Rohit Sharma speaks during press conference

assessment is that it will get slower as the game progresses.

"The wicket isn't that bad. It's going to get slower and slower as the match progresses. The first match we need to figure out the dimension of the ground and things like that," he added.

More than Hong Kong, it is the change in climate that might bother the players, coming from the cooler confines of English weather.

"It will be a challenge as a lot of our guys are coming from England. Some of us have been here for four days now and we are getting used to it."

About Hong Kong, the answer was on predictable lines.

"We are treating every opposition equally. We are looking at what we want to do as a team and if we do that a lot of worries and issues will take care of itself. Yes, the conditions are not going to be that easy. But it's game time now and we have to focus on the match."

On a personal note, Rohit is excited as well as nervous as this is the biggest tournament for him as India captain.

"I am excited as well as nervous. It is a big tournament for me. I know all the boys well. I understand them well which is necessary," he signed off.

tain, if he decides to come at No 6.

The middle-order that has been an issue for India for quite some time now and need to be sorted going into the World Cup next year.

It is expected that KL Rahul will bat at No 3 but the incoming deliveries from Aamir or Hasan could be a problem like it has been in England.

The BCCI has already hired a left-arm throwdown specialist from Sri Lanka to ensure that India have no trouble tackling Pakistan's battery of left-armers. Also, they have Khaleel Ahmed in the team to give the batsmen much-needed practice.

However, on flat decks with little movement from white kookaburra, the Indian batsmen can play their customary 'hitting on the rise' game with minimal footwork.

The Hong Kong encounter will be a match simulator for the likes of Dhawan,

India vs Hong Kong  
Live from 5:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1

Rahul and Pandya, who will have to adjust to the different length and pace of the track.

The Bumrah-Bhuvneshwar combination will be back in action along with the Kuldeep-Chahal combination, which has been a steady set-up for past one year.

The Hong Kong game will also be ideal warm-up for Bhuvneshwar, who has been out due to back injury.

He recently came back to competitive cricket for India A against South Africa A.

The stadium is expected to be packed to capacity on Wednesday but one

can expect a sizeable Indian population on Tuesday itself during the Hong Kong game.

## SQUADS

**India:** Rohit Sharma (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Ambati Rayudu, Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Shardul Thakur, Dinesh Karthik, Khaleel Ahmed.

**Hong Kong:** Anshuman Rath (captain), Aizaz Khan, Babar Hayat, Cameron McAulson, Christopher Carter, Ehsan Khan, Ehsan Nawaz, Arshad Mohammed, Kinchit Shah, Nadeem Ahmed, Raag Kapur, Scott McKehnie, Tanvir Ahmed, Tanvir Afzal, Waqas Khan, Aftab Hussain.

# Shah shines as Afghans post 249

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Rahmat Shah top-scored with a composed 72 before pacer Thisara Perera's five-wicket haul helped Sri Lanka bowl out Afghanistan for 249 in their opening match of the Asia Cup here on Monday.

Perera returned figures of 5/55 as Sri Lanka picked up seven wickets in the last eight overs of Afghanistan innings on a pitch that looked to be on the slower side.

Opting to bat after winning the toss, Afghanistan were off to a cautious start with the openers Mohammad Shahzad (34) and Ihsanullah Janat (45) putting on 57 runs in just under 12 overs.

Spinner Akila Dhananjaya made the first breakthrough when he had Shahzad trapped in front of the wicket. It was a loose shot and attempting to reverse sweep a length ball proved to be his undoing.

There was another half-century stand, between Ihsanullah and Shah, as the Afghanistan dressing room looked relaxed at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

However, Sri Lanka found another wicket after the two batsmen added exactly 50 runs for the second wicket. Umpire Gregory Brathwaite was not impressed with Akila's shout for an lbw, prompting the Sri Lankans to go for a review, and got the decision in their favour.

Returning to the side after missing the tournament opener against Bangladesh, off-spinner Akila returned with tidy figures of 2/37 in his 10-overs spell on a wicket that played slow, making stroke-making diffi-



Hashmatullah Shahidi, right, and Rahmat Shah run between the wickets AP

cult.

Skipper Asghar Afghan came to the middle, but his stay was short-lived as Shehan Jayasuriya foxed him, the two wickets in as many overs reducing Afghanistan to 110 for three at the end of the 26th over.

An 80-run partnership ensued between Shah and Hashmatullah Shahidi (37), helping Afghanistan to 190 when Dushmantha Chameera sent the Afghan top-scorer back to the pavilion. Shah's knock included five hits to the fence.

Shahidi was the next man to get out, falling to Perera. Mohammad Nabi scored 12-ball 15 before the seasoned Lasith Malinga cut short his stay in the middle.

The Lankan pulled back things in the death, picking up seven wickets, with

Thisara doing the bulk of damage.

## TAMIM OUT OF ASIA CUP

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal has been ruled out of the rest of the Asia Cup with a broken hand after batting despite his injury in the opening match, an official said on Monday.

"He got two fractures in his hand. He would not be able to continue here and also for the next three to four weeks," team manager Khaled Mahmud said from Dubai.

Tamim was hailed as national hero after he returned to bat with his injured hand for the final wicket during Bangladesh's 137-run win in Saturday's opening match against Sri Lanka.

The left-hander received a blow to his wrist in the second over of Bangladesh's innings when he was hit by a short ball from Suranga Lakmal.

He left the field for hospital for a scan, and when he returned to the ground with a sling on his injured hand his Asia Cup was thought to be over.

But the opener stunned all by striding out to bat after Bangladesh lost their ninth wicket for 229 runs.

He fashioned a hole in his glove in order to fit his taped wrist, and used one hand in facing a single delivery to give the strike back to Mushfiqur Rahim, who was batting on 112.

Mushfiqur then scored 32 off 16 balls alone in their 10th-wicket partnership, guiding Bangladesh to 261 runs before he was dismissed in the final over for 144.

आइये मिलकर बनाएं हमारे सपनों का नवा छत्तीसगढ़

अपने अमूल्य सुझावों के लिए मिस कॉल करें 8287812345

समृद्ध छत्तीसगढ़

**लक्ष्य 2025**

- "व्यवसाय करने में आसान" राज्यों की सूची में प्रथम स्थान पाना.
- भविष्य के लिए उद्योग निर्मित करना एवं 2025 से पहले देश के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद लक्ष्य में 5 ट्रिलियन डॉलर का योगदान करना.
- सकल घरेलू उत्पाद वृद्धि दर को 15% पर बनाए रखना.
- वर्ष 2025 तक रोजगार सृजन में सूक्ष्म, लघु और मझौले उद्यम का अंशदान 10% से अधिक करना.
- टेक्निकल टेक्सटाइल निर्माण इकाईयों को शुरू करना.

**रणनीति**

- इंसैटिव उपलब्ध करवाना, जैसे स्टाम्प शुल्क में छूट, व्याज अनुदान, स्थाई पूंजी निवेश अनुदान, प्रवेश कर की छूट आदि.
- राज्य में नए व्यवसाय स्थापित करने के लिए लगने वाला समय और व्यय कम करना.
- सड़क, रेल एवं वायुमार्ग द्वारा अंतरराज्यीय एवं राज्यान्तरिक रूप से जोड़ने हेतु परिवहन सेवाएँ एवं अधोसंरचना उपलब्ध करवाना.
- कृषि प्रसंस्करण, वनोपज, जनजातीय कला, पर्यटन आदि जैसे सूक्ष्म, लघु और मझौले उद्योगों के लिए बाजार उपलब्ध करवाना.

आप अपने विचार एवं सुझाव इन माध्यमों से भी दे सकते हैं. 8370000065 @NavaCG\_2025 @NavaCG2025

सबका साथ-सबका विकास

# Virat, Mirabai picked for Khel Ratna

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli and world champion weightlifter Mirabai Chanu were Monday jointly recommended for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, while star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was among 20 sportspersons picked for the Arjuna Awards.

Besides Chopra, other prominent names recommended for the Arjuna Awards were junior world champion sprinter Hima Das and Asian Games Gold-medallist middle distance runner Jinson Johnson, cricketer Smriti Mandhana, hockey players Manpreet Singh and Savita Punia, multiple Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist table tennis star Manika Batra and Asian doubles Gold-medallist tennis player Rohan Bopanna.

These recommendations by a selection committee headed by Justice (retd) Indermeet Kaul Kochhar are subject to approval by Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore. Once ratified by him, President Ram Nath

Kovind will present the awards on September 25 at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Kohli will become the third Indian cricketer to win the country's highest sporting honour after the legendary Sachin Tendulkar (1997) and the talismanic former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (2007) once the sports ministry officially accepts the committee's recommendation. "Yes, Virat Kohli and Mirabai Chanu's names have been recommended by the awards committee," a top source said.

It is learnt that India's top male shuttler Kidambi Srikanth was also in Khel Ratna contention for his good show in the Super Series circuit last year but lost out to the 24-year-old Chanu, who is the reigning world champion in the 48kg category.

Asian Games Gold-medallist boxer Amit Panghal was discussed for the Arjuna Awards but the committee decided against recommending him due to a failed dope test

back in 2012, a source said.

Similarly, the selection committee also decided against recommending veteran discus thrower Seema Punia for the awards due to his doping past. The 35-year-old Seema, who won a medal each in the Commonwealth and the Asian Games, had failed a dope test during the 2000 World Junior Championships. Former Asian Games Bronze-medallist and Commonwealth Games Silver-medallist Satish Kumar was the lone boxer to get the Arjuna honour this year.

Three shooters - Rahi Sarnobat, Ankur Mittal and Shreyasi Singh - also figured in list of 20 recommended sportspersons while there were two from para-sports - Ankur Dhama and Manoj Sarkar.

The 18-year-old Hima, who won a Gold and two Silver in the Asian Games, and golfer Shubhankar Sharma were not in the original shortlist but were later added for their impressive performances.

This year's award ceremony

was postponed to September 25 from the usual August 29 National Sports Day event due to clash of dates with the Asian Games in Indonesia.

The Khel Ratna awardees are entitled to a cash prize of ₹ 7.5 lakh, while the Arjuna winners are given ₹ 5 lakh.

Kohli, the world's No 1 Test batsman as per the ICC rankings, has been in stupendous form for the past three years and missed out despite nominations in the years 2016 and 2017.

The BCCI has been nominating Kohli for the Khel Ratna for the past three years but in 2016, it was given to Sakshi Malik, PV Sindhu and Deepa Karmakar for their good show at Rio Olympics.

For Chanu, the award comes as a massive morale-booster as she is currently recovering from a lower back injury, which forced her to skip the Asian Games. She is the current Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist and India's only medal hope in weightlifting going into 2020 Olympics.