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## Sushma-Qureshi talks called off

India says Pak PM Imran's true face exposed after SPOs killings

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
A day after the Modi Government confirmed External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's talks with her Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi on the sidelines of the upcoming United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York next week, India on Friday called off the meeting citing Pakistan's complicity in the "brutal" killing of three policemen in Jammu & Kashmir as well as the release of postal stamps glorifying Kashmiri terrorist Burhan Wani.

Accusing Pakistan and Prime Minister Imran Khan of "evil designs" after three policemen were kidnapped and killed by terrorists in Shopian in J&K, India said talks with Pakistan in such an environment would be "meaningless". "The true face of the Pakistan Prime Minister has been exposed in his first few months in office," said Ministry for External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Raveesh Kumar here on Friday.

"The latest brutal killings of our security personnel by Pakistan-based entities and the recent release of a series of 20 postage stamps by Pakistan glorifying a terrorist and terrorism confirm that Pakistan will not mend its ways," the MEA spokesperson said.

He noted that "two deeply disturbing developments have taken place" since Thursday's announcement of a meeting between the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan in New York later this month. "In view of the changed situation, there will be no meeting between the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan in New York," he said.

Eyebrows were raised on Thursday as India confirmed the meeting even though incidents of cross-border killings of Indian security personnel did not stop and Islamabad was seen to be setting the agenda for the meeting rather than the

New Delhi. India on Thursday gave green signal to the meeting following Pakistan Prime Minister's September 15 letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking the resumption of dialogue between the two countries.

On Friday, the MEA said, "After Imran Khan's letter, we thought Pakistan is moving towards positive changes, a new beginning. But now it seems behind their proposal were evil intentions."

India is also furious over the release of 20 special stamps by Islamabad glorifying Burhan Wani — the Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist killed by security forces in 2016 — in the guise of solidarity with Kashmiris.

While agreeing to the meeting after Imran Khan's request, New Delhi had sought to clarify on Thursday that it would be "just a meeting" and "not resumption of dialogue". "Let's distinguish between meeting and dialogue. This doesn't change our stand on terrorism," MEA spokesman had said day before. He said the Government has agreed to the meeting but no agenda has been set so far.

This would have been the first high-level talks between the two sides since the Pathankot terror strikes from Pakistan in 2016. The Pathankot attack on January 2, 2016, by a heavily armed Pakistani group in the Pathankot Air Force Station had then led to a similar breakdown of the dialogue resumption process between the two neighbours.

On Friday morning, three policemen were dragged out of their homes in Kashmir's Shopian by terrorists and killed. On Tuesday, a BSF jawan's body was found mutilated with his throat slit after he went missing when the Pakistan Rangers fired at a patrol team clearing elephant grass along the international border.

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Police officers pay last respects to colleagues who were killed by terrorists, during a wreath-laying ceremony at a base camp at Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir on Friday

## LeT, HM terrorists kill 3 SPOs for refusing to quit police job

**KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR**

Terrorists shot dead three policemen shortly after abducting them from their residences in two villages of south Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday for refusing to obey their diktat to resign from their posts. The killings triggered a spree of resignations of the Special Police Officers (SPOs) even as the officials maintained that no formal resignations have been received.

Sources said four persons, including three policemen, were abducted from Kapran and Batagund villages of Shopian district in the wee hours of Friday. Hours later, bullet-riddled bodies of the three SPOs were recovered from Lumni Wangam village in Shopian. The fourth abductee

### COPS AT receiving end

- 6 April 2015: 3 constables killed in Shopian
- 1 May 2017: 5 policemen, 2 J&K Bank guards killed in Kulgam
- 20 June 2017: 6 cops, including SHO, killed in Shangas, Anantnag
- 29 August 2018: 4 policemen shot in Shopian
- 21 Sept 2018: 3 SPOs killed in Shopian

Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, who was brother of an SPO, was set free and returned home.

Police in a statement said preliminary investigation



revealed the role of "terror outfits Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) in this barbaric act of terror."

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## 70% States under BJP now, win rest in upcoming polls: Shah to party workers



Bharatiya Janata Party national president Amit Shah lights the traditional lamp to inaugurate the newly constructed auditorium at the Kushabhau Thakre premises in Raipur on Friday

**STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR**

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President and Rajya Sabha member Amit Shah on Friday threw up a challenge to party workers and asked them to take a pledge for rooting out Congress party from the country.

"Now 70 per cent of the country covering 19 States have BJP Governments in power; so remaining states have to be brought under party's fold by first winning the 2018 Assembly polls and then again in 2019 Lok Sabha polls," he said.

He was addressing the 'Shakti Kendra Karyakartha' (Booth Level Workers) Convention held at Logistic Park premises on Friday.

"The victory is ours. There is need to win polls from Panchayat to Parliament, so that party rules the country for next 50 years," Shah said. Elections are won by

spreading ideology and policy of party. Everyone has the details of 15 years of BJP government in Chhattisgarh and more than 4 years rule under Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centre. Everyone has to reach out to the voters, convince them and motivate them to vote for the party," he said.

Leaders do not win election; it is the hard work and willpower of party workers, which ensure elections are won. It all started from 10 members of Jan Sangh having faced continuous failures but continued to strive and now BJP has 18 crore members, the highest in the world, the party's National President said.

"Loss of Congress was gain of BJP, which took its tally to 19 states where the BJP governments exist. AICC President Rahul Gandhi is asking what has been done in last 4 years; instead he should answer what was done in country by his last

four generations," Shah said. They (Congress) have left many states as BIMRAU States, he said.

Shah highlighted the Jan-Dhan yojana to link back accounts, health insurance scheme of Rs 5 lakh, LPG distribution, vaccination drive, Mudra Scheme covering 12 crore youth, hike in MSP for farmers, including the surgical strike.

Country would not tolerate illegal immigrants as they are consuming the resources of local people; so when in Assam NRC was implemented, Rahul Gandhi started voicing human rights violation. But what about human rights of local residents, who are being denied job, food and other facilities at cost of immigration," he asked.

"I ask Rahul Gandhi to clear his stand on the issue as BJP is clear that it would not tolerate illegal immigrants," Shah said.

## Hollande claim gives Rafale deal new twist

DefMin says Govt had no say in commercial call; Cong accuses Centre of complicity helping private player

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

In a significant development, a French media report quoted former French President Francois Hollande as purportedly saying that the Indian Government proposed Reliance Defence as the partner for Dassault Aviation in the ₹58,000 crore Rafale jet fighter deal and France did not have a choice.

Reacting to Hollande's remark that is at variance with the stand taken by the Indian Government, the Defence Ministry spokesman said on Friday, "The report referring to



former French President Hollande's statement that Government of India insisted upon a particular firm as offset partner for the Dassault Aviation in Rafale is being verified."

The spokesperson said, "It is reiterated that neither the Government nor the French Government had any say in the

commercial decision." Dassault Aviation, the makers of Rafale, had chosen Reliance Defence as its partner to fulfill offset obligations of the deal. The Government has been maintaining it did not have any role in selection of the offset partner.

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## MNC girl outwits 7 who try to rape her at skyscraper

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

A 21-year-old woman executive engineer working with an MNC foiled a rape bid by seven of her rowdy neighbours at her high-rise residential complex in an upscale society at Sector-86 in Gurugram on Thursday around 9.45 pm.

Acting on her complaint, police have arrested five accused out of seven on the charge of rape bid while two, who are brothers, are absconding, police said.

"When I reached the society I thought of taking the stairs. When I reached the first floor, I noticed a person there. He made some queer noise; when I moved forward he grabbed my hand. I got scared and threw his hand and managed to run away. I noticed that some others were following me," the victim said in her complaint.

"They attempted to rape me and threatened me and my parents with dire consequences if we report the matter to police," she claimed in her complaint.

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## Seal marriage lawns defying laws in 48 hrs after notices: SC panel

**CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI**

A day after The Pioneer reported how wedding lawns are flouting MCD and green laws with impunity, the Supreme Court appointed Monitoring Committee has cracked down on such marriage venues and motels located in south and north Delhi.

The committee conducted an inspection of the farm houses and motels falling under the jurisdiction of South and North Delhi Municipal Corporations and noticed violations like unauthorised construction, misuse of properties, air conditions pandals, shamiyanas, sheds on their premises and holding social functions. It was found that permission from the respective municipal corporations was never



The Monitoring Committee has written to both the corporations, directing them to seal them 48 hour after serving notices.

Confirming the development, senior officials of south and north corporations said they have received the official communiqué and will start sending notices soon.

"Basements for these motels were found being used for commercial purpose in violation of permitted use as per sanctioned plan, which was permitted for parking and services only," the letter stated.

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### CAPSULE

**11-YR-OLD GIRL RAPED BY HOSPITAL STAFFER**  
New Delhi: An 11-year-old girl, admitted at the ESI Hospital in Rohini, was raped by a sweeper of the hospital on Friday.

**SURGICAL STRIKE DAY: ROW OVER UGC CALL**  
Kolkata/New Delhi: A political row broke out on Friday over the UGC communication to varieties to observe September 29 as "Surgical Strike day". The TMC said it won't follow the direction in West Bengal and joined the Congress to allege the move was part of BJP's political agenda but the Centre asserted this reflected patriotism and not politics.

## PM Narendra Modi in Chhattisgarh today

**STAFF REPORTER ■ JANJIGIR-CHAMPA**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit poll-bound Chhattisgarh on Saturday at farmers' heartland Janjgir-Champa district.

In a tweet, the Prime Minister said, "Glad to be visiting Chhattisgarh tomorrow. I shall be in Janjgir Champ were I will lay the foundation stone for highway projects and a railway line. I would also visit exhibitions on handloom and agriculture, sectors where Chhattisgarh has done well under @drdramansingh Ji." Senior Congress leaders of Chhattisgarh have planned to show black flags to Prime Minister during his programmes at Janjgir-Champa as a mark of protest against alleged police brutality to Congress cadres in Bilaspur city recently.



**ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Ban on human activities and focused conservation undertaken since 1983 in Uttarakhand's Nanda Devi National Park has further enriched the wilderness and forest composition of the park situated in high altitude of Western Himalayas, according to a research.

Researchers from GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development had carried out a month-long study to assess floristic diversity, community composition and regeneration status of different forests in the park post-prohibition of human activities in almost last four decades in the National



Park. They noted that the prohibition of anthropogenic activities, which was imposed to save the peak of Nanda Devi (7816 m) housed in the National Park, helped bring positive changes in the region

too in the form of growth of high value plants, diversity, forest composition and improved ecological conditions of the region spread over 624 kilometer square. Giving details of the high

rich plant varieties they found during the expedition, the authors said, "A total of 409 taxa belonging to 203 genera and 71 families (377 Angiosperms, 7 Gymnosperms and 25 Pteridophytes) were documented from the National Park. Two types of forest communities, ie Betula utilis along timberline, and mixed forest of Abies spectabilis with B. utilis form the dominant forests inside the National Park. Earlier they were scarce in numbers."

"Maximum species richness was observed in Dibrugetha (128) followed by Dharansi (43) and Sarsopalt (34) among the studied alpine meadows of this National Park," said researchers Vikram

S Negi, Lalit Giri and K Chandra Sekar in their study published in the latest issue of Current Science journal.

"Tagged as World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1988, the park is situated around the peak of Nanda Devi (7816 m) in the hill State of Northern India. Till 1983, tourism was allowed in the Biosphere Reserve which has two core areas — Valley of Flowers and Nanda Devi National Park which is home to Nanda Devi Peak also. However, the government banned tourists' entry in the region to save the peak of Nanda Devi from environmental degradation." Dr Vikram S Negi told The Pioneer.

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'SURGICAL STRIKE DAY' CELEBRATIONS

# Political row erupts over UGC's decision

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/ KOLKATA



JAVADEKAR SAID THE UGC COMMUNICATION REFLECTED 'PATRIOTISM NOT POLITICS', AND IT IS NOT COMPULSORY FOR THE ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS TO ORGANISE ANY SUCH EVENT. HE REJECTED THE CRITICISM BY OPPOSITION PARTIES AS 'ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS AND FALSE'

Government for trying to "malign and politicise" the Army and said educational institutes will not abide by UGC's directive. Countering him, BJP State president Dilip Ghosh said the TMC Government has made it a practice to oppose each and every decision of the Centre. Javadekar said the UGC communication reflected "patriotism not politics", and it is not compulsory for the academic institutions to organise any such event. He rejected the criticism by opposition parties as "absolutely ridiculous and false".

Talk sessions by ex-servicemen about sacrifices by the armed forces, special parades

by the National Cadet Corps(NCC) and visit to exhibitions are among the prescribed events by the University Grants Commission(UGC) for the celebration. Colleges have been asked to organise parades by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and lectures by ex-army officers.

On September 29 in 2016, the Indian Army carried out "surgical strikes" on seven terrorist launch pads across the Line of Control(LoC) as a response to an attack on its base in Uri earlier that month. The Army had said its special forces inflicted "significant casualties" on terrorists waiting

there to cross onto the Indian territory.

"This is an agenda of the BJP and it is trying to push this agenda by using the UGC ahead of elections. It is a matter of shame that they are using the UGC to achieve their political agenda. We won't abide by the directions of UGC," Chatterjee said at Kolkata.

"We would have understood it had they asked us to observe the day in the name of sacrifices made by our soldiers. We have full respect for our soldiers and their sacrifices." "The Indian Army has always been kept above politics and controversies. But now we are seeing that the BJP is trying to malign and politicise the Indian Army. This is not right and we won't support it," Chatterjee said.

Sibal sarcastically asked whether the UGC would "dare" to celebrate November 8, the day when demonetisation was announced in 2016, as 'surgical strike day'. "UGC directs VC's of all universities to celebrate 29th September as

Surgical Strike Day. Is this meant to educate or to serve BJP's political ends?" Sibal tweeted.

"Will UGC dare celebrate 8th November as Surgical Strike Day depriving the poor of their livelihoods? This another jumla!" the former Union HRD Minister said.

Javadekar told reporters in Delhi the ruling BJP differed with the Congress as it only gave advice to institutes to follow a programme while the opposition party made its decisions compulsory when it was in power. "Where is politics? This is not politics but patriotism," Javadekar said, adding that students needed to be informed about the surgical strikes, and military and civil works soldiers do.

He claimed that students and institutes had made suggestions that the second anniversary of surgical strikes should be observed. Asked why it was not commemorated last year, he said a good suggestion can be executed anytime.

# No SPO resigned in Jammu & Kashmir, says MHA

## Terms reports as 'false propaganda'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Friday said no Special Police Officer has resigned in Jammu & Kashmir following the killing of three police personnel by banned terror group Hizbul Mujahideen and termed such reports as "false propaganda" by "mischievous" elements.

The Ministry also said that the terror groups are rattled by the action taken by the security forces against the terrorist groups and as many as 28 terrorists have been neutralized in Shopian alone this year.

28 terrorists have been neutralised this year in Shopian alone where the three policemen were killed on Friday. "Due to pro-active actions of Jammu & Kashmir police, terrorists have been pushed to the corner and are being driven to desperation," the Home

Ministry said.

"Reports have appeared in a section of media that some SPOs in Jammu & Kashmir have resigned. The J&K police has confirmed that these reports are untrue and motivated. These reports are based on false propaganda by mischievous elements," the Union Home Ministry said in a statement.

"Jammu & Kashmir has a professional and committed police force which is fully geared up to meet the security challenges, including those related to Panchayat and Urban body elections," the statement further read.

There are over 30,000 SPOs and their services are reviewed from time to time. Some mischievous elements are trying to project that those SPOs whose services are not renewed due to administrative reasons, have resigned. Terrorists are on backfoot in Jammu & Kashmir, the Home Ministry said.

The three policemen were abducted from their homes in south Kashmir's Shopian district and shot dead in cold

blood by the Hizbul Mujahideen, the Jammu & Kashmir police said.

Earlier, reports in the Kashmiri media suggested that the killings had triggered panic in the lower ranks of the police department with at least six policemen resigning from service. Two of them issued video messages dissociating themselves from the police ranks.

"My name is Irshad Ahmad Baba and I was working as a constable in the police. I have rendered my resignation..." said one of the SPOs in a video message being widely circulated on social media in Srinagar.

Tajalla Hussain Lone, another SPO, said he had resigned from the police department on September 17 and was issuing the video to put to rest any doubts, and that Hizbul Mujahideen commander Riyaz Naikoo has several times warned local policemen, especially SPOs, to resign from the force, saying that the Government is using them.

# CBI defends its chief, terms Asthana's action 'malicious'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a row between CBI Director Alok Verma and the agency's second-in-command Rakesh Asthana, the public relations wing of the CBI swung into action to defend the chief and malign his deputy. The CBI spokesperson issued a statement terming CBI Special Director Rakesh Asthana's complaint to the CVC against the agency chief of his interference in certain cases as "malicious" and "frivolous". The row between the two officers has raised several eyebrows on the selection of officers, including Verma, as the agency chief and their integrity.

In an unusual move, the CBI issued a statement after reports about Asthana filing a complaint before the Central Vigilance Commission alleging interference in the probes undertaken by the special investigation team under him. The statement comes amid reports that Verma interfered in the investigation of IRCTC tender scam.

This is for the first time that dirty linen is being washed in the open and two top officials are embroiled in allegations of corruption.

"It is unfortunate that baseless and frivolous allegations are being made publicly without proper verification of facts to malign the image of the Director CBI and intimidate the officials of the organisation," reads the CBI statement.

The CVC has sought for certain case files from the CBI on the basis of a complaint filed by the Special Director, CBI, the statement said.

"In its response to the CVC letter, the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of CBI has pointed out that the complaint is an attempt by the complainant to intimidate the officers of CBI who are investigating his role in at least half a dozen cases. The CBI said that the CVC should opine on the maintainability of the complaint and consider it malicious and frivolous in order to protect the integrity of the organisation," the CBI said.

Irrespective of the maintainability of the complaint, CBI has provided most of the files as requested by the CVC and the remaining will be submitted soon.

The CBI also claimed that there is no substance in the media reports that CBI is not cooperating in the enquiry.

The allegation of preventing raids against the accused in the IRCTC case is absolutely false. The investigation of the case has resulted in filing a chargesheet before the designated court. This could not have been possible without the explicit approval of the Director CBI, the agency further claimed.

CBI has pointed out in its letter to CVC that the issue relating to the IRCTC case was raked up earlier also and brought before the Supreme Court on two occasions. The matter was dismissed by the Supreme Court. The petitioners were also in possession of information from highly confidential internal documents, which is a serious offence, it added.

# NDA treating people of J&K like 'guinea pigs': Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the Centre over the security situation in Jammu & Kashmir, the Congress on Friday alleged that the NDA Government was playing with the "crown of India" and treating the people of the State like 'guinea pigs'.

Congress spokesman Abhishek Singhvi alleged that there had been a marked quantitative increase in ceasefire violations, deaths of security personnel, civilian killings, and terror incidents in Jammu & Kashmir since the BJP came to power at the Centre and in the State.

He blamed the Government for the deteriorating security situation in Jammu & Kashmir and cited the abduction and killing of three policemen and the reported resignations by police personnel in the State.

The Home Ministry, however, said on Friday that no policeman has resigned in the state following the killing of the three police personnel by terror group Hizbul Mujahideen and described such reports as "false propaganda" by "mis-



chievous" elements.

"There is a quantitative and qualitative change. The quantitative change is reflected in any of the four parameters — ceasefire violations, death of security personnel, civilian deaths, terror incidents," Singhvi said.

It is "shocking" that 414 jawans have died since the BJP came to power at the Centre and in the State, he said. Singhvi said, "256 civilians have died. As I have said on all parameters there is 100, 200, 300 per cent increase. In the case of ceasefire violations,

there was silence on the part of the Government.

Singhvi alleged that mutilations have been on the rise since 2016 and also cited the recent killing of a BSF jawan who was found with his throat slit.

He also slammed the Government's decision to agree to the meeting between External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

However, later in the evening, India called off the meeting citing the "brutal" killing of the three policemen in Jammu & Kashmir as well as the release of postal stamps glorifying Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani. Singhvi slammed the Government's Pakistan policy as a "No Pak policy".

"It is knee-jerk, it is episodic, it is momentary, it is transient, it depends on the mood of the moment. This Government has no moral right to continue. The Government is playing with crown, with the pride of India," he said.

# Bitcoin ponzi scheme: ED attaches property worth ₹42.88 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) attached immovable properties and bank balances worth ₹42.88 crore derived by accused Amit Bhardwaj and his accomplices in Bitcoin Trading Ponzi scheme under the banner of Variabletech Pvt Ltd Singapore.

These attached properties include six offices of Bhardwaj located at Dubai (UAE) and the flats and bank balances of his two marketing agents Hemant Bhope and Pankaj Adlakha. The ED probe has revealed that Amit Bhardwaj had started a company at Singapore under the banner of Variabletech Pvt Ltd in 2015 and through its web-site www.gainbitcoin.com, he launched a ponzi scheme of Bitcoin trading.

Bitcoin is a virtual cryptocurrency which is popular amongst a section of the investors. Under the said scheme, Bhardwaj, through his team of marketing agents, used to lure the gullible people by asking them to buy Bitcoins out of their investments and then invest these Bitcoins in his gainbitcoin scheme by promising high returns.

Through this scheme, Bhardwaj and his marketing agents were able to collect investments worth about 80,000 Bitcoins. However, instead of paying back the promised returns to the investors in Bitcoins, Bhardwaj offered them returns in his own newly launched crypto-currency token MCAP which had nearly no value on crypto-currency exchanges.

A large numbers of investors in Bhardwaj's firm were cheated in this way, the ED said.

The ED initiated investigation under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 resulting in the provisional attachments of immovable properties and bank balances worth ₹42.88 crore.

# Cong: Skill India benefitted people in 'BJP ecosystem'

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday demanded a probe into the Narendra Modi-led Government's much vaunted "Skill India", claiming that the scheme was a massive scam benefiting people within the "BJP eco-system". Citing media reports and RTI replies, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi alleged that the scheme launched in 2015 to "train 40 crore people" was actually a "shortcut to profitable business for the unscrupulous".

"Skill India Mission has turned out to be a massive scam with people within the BJP ecosystem, its cronies, middlemen, touts and mafia pocketing the money for the same and listing ghost beneficiaries. "The mission of skilling has evolved into a mechanism of fast billing for BJP's friends. In the name of making youth employable, Modi Government's Skill Development Ministry seems to have created a shortcut to profitable business for the unscrupulous," said Singhvi.

The Congress also targeted Textile Minister Smriti Irani over the alleged scam. "Irani, who leaves no opportunity to exert her larynx on variety of inane issues, is absolutely mum on the rampant corruption under her watch, why?" asked Singhvi. He also cited the Government-appointed Sharda Prasad Committee that had "criticised the Modi Government for setting an unachievable target of skilling 40 crore youth". "The committee had further found that the Modi Government had been missing its targets over the previous two years as far as skilling the workforce was concerned," said Singhvi, demanding a probe into the scam and recovery of "crores of people's money lost due to these irregularities".

# EC to train its staff in sign language for Lok Sabha polls

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to make upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha polls accessible for all, the Election Commission (EC) has decided to train all the electoral officers and staff to get adequately trained in sign language and finger spelling alphabet. During the training session, the election officials will be given training in election related sign languages symbols such as 'election', 'voter identity card', 'address', 'polling booth', polling station, political parties, voter slips with photo, voter guides and other things.

Sources in the EC said that the Commission has directed all the electoral officers and staff to get adequately

trained in sign language and finger spelling alphabet. The election watchdog has written to all concerned to hire professionals to receive the training and also provided huge posters of sign language and finger spelling alphabet for the differentially abled to be displayed on all election related premises.

According to EC officials, during the training programme session, the election officials will be provided basic knowledge as well as election related sign languages or finger spelling symbols such as 'election', 'voter identity card', 'address', 'polling booth', political parties, electronic voting machines, voter slips with photo, electronic voting machines. Finger-spelling (or



dactylography) is the representation of the letters of a writing system and sometimes numeral systems, using only the hands. These manual alphabets (also known as finger alphabets or hand alphabets), have often been used in hearing impaired education, and have subsequently been adopted as a dis-

tinct part of a number of sign languages.

In a communique to Chief Electoral Officers of States and Union Territories, the EC said, "It may be seen that September 23, has been declared as International Day of Sign Languages by United Nations. Accordingly, the sign language training sessions may be conducted on any working day in the week which is also the "International Week of Deaf".

The EC also made it clear that the training should be conducted by sign language expert with a suitable experience in the

subject. "The idea of this exercise is to acquaint the officials with the issues that concern and the questions that are frequently by such voters," said officials of EC. "During the session, the election staff will be sensitised on the needs of the persons with hearing impairment. Under the programme, a polling scenario will be recreated to enable the officials and staff better understand what is required of them while dealing with voters with hearing disabilities," said EC officials.

Earlier, the EC has provided training to chief electoral officials and deputy electoral officials of states and union territories wherein the officers were acquainted with basic as well as election related sign languages symbols on last week.

Besides, information related to basic etiquette while conversing with persons with disabilities was also shared with the Officials of the Commission and they were sensitised regarding the needs of hearing impaired persons. The training was conducted with the help of the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) to prepare election officials to communicate with voters with hearing disabilities.

For the hearing impaired, the EC had stated that sign language windows will be provided in all audio-visual training and awareness content of the commission. For the visually-challenged electors, the EC had stated that it would be issuing braille voter identity cards.

# Enliven your soul at Bangalore meditation pyramids

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The much-awaited, Global Festival of Spiritual Sciences (GFSS) 2018 is being held in one of Asia's largest meditation pyramids, Pyramid International Valley, at the outskirts of Bangalore from September 29 to October 4 where you can have a holistic experience of wellness and spirituality to enliven your soul.

What's even more advantageous is that your queries will be answered by some of the most admired and influential masters and healers in the world in the ambience of the nature, making the entire event —11th edition of GFSS 2018— even more spiritual.

This spiritual festival features gurus like Susan Hough, Jasmuheen, Prof Kaya, Dr Lakshmi Newton and Christiane Muller and many others will be speaking on



topics ranging from the 'Physics of Consciousness' to 'Dream Interpretation & Symbolology', from 'Indigenous Wisdom of the Native Medicine Wheel' to 'Connecting Ancient Wisdom with Quantum Physics' to set your soul alight.

The festival will also have activities like Tai Chi, yoga and meditation sessions

besides dance performances by Zia Nath, a danseuse and whirling expert and a sound Immersion session by Aurelio, a sound therapist and live music performance by Adam Apollo.

To keep children engaged, the GFSS -2018 will have interesting line up of mindful and fun activities such as Kid's yoga, storytelling, organ-

ic gardening, pottery and much more.

"It is a celebration of letting out your negativity and impure thoughts. This year with line-up of global speakers, musicians, and yogis one can learn the power of creating one's own unique vibe," said Pinky Daga, CEO, Thrive Art & Soul, a state-of-the-art holistic wellness portal and organiser of the event.

This festival is open to all individuals coming from different walks of life like students, working people and homemakers.

For those who are new to spirituality, the celebratory aspect makes it less intimidating, explains Pinky Daga. "Masters break down esoteric subjects into their basics. So, even those who've never even heard of spirituality are able to experience it and this begins an inner transformation within them," she added.



Muslim devotees carry 'Tazia' during a Muharram procession, near Jama Masjid in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

IANS

# Amit Shah seeks blessings of Saint Yudhishtir Lal

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president and Rajya Sabha member Amit Shah called on Saint Yudhishtir Lal at Shadhani Durbar on Friday.

He was on a day's visit to Raipur to address the booth level party workers meeting at Logistic Park and other events, in capital city.

Chief Minister Raman Singh, BJP State President Dharamlal Kaushik and other party leaders were present.

Shadhani Darbar is a prominent religious centre for Sindh community where community members from Pakistan also arrive and offer their prayers.

Shah had directly gone to the Durbar from Airport.

He had called on the Saint as part of party's nation-wide 'Sampark Se Samarthan'

**F**To build our culture one need not to damage the culture of other. It is a national party which has truth and simplicity and at an international level also it has made a mark. On the sides of Sindhu culture, the Vedas have been evolved. After Partition, when the earlier generations came and settled, then like in food, the 'ghee' mixes every one merged into the country.

AMIT SHAH

(Contact to Support) personal outreach programme to highlight the achievements of the BJP government at the Centre in the last four years.

Saint Yudhishtir, while interacting with Shah said that the mission with objective to revive the glorious past of India has been undertaken and the goal would be achieved.

In eternal religion (Sanathan) it is recognised that a righteous king should rule, the Saint said.

"To build our culture one need not to damage the culture of other. It is a national party

which has truth and simplicity and at an international level also it has made a mark. On the sides of Sindhu culture, the Vedas have been evolved. After Partition, when the earlier generations came and settled, then like in food, the 'ghee' mixes every one merged into the country," he said.

One protocol exists between India and Pakistan that regarding the visit of religious place, Shahandi Durbar is one of them.

He said that former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani had visited it then he

had directed the Chief Minister Raman Singh to regularly visit the place. "Today is my lucky day as I got a chance to visit 300- years-old Durbar. I had come to take blessings. In year 2017 had visited, and then the saint Yudhishtir had asked to visit," said Shah.

The BJP president further said, "I had visited Durbar of Sindh Community several times. I Had also participated in several events which bring joy . I seek their blessings so that we can all be involved in reconstruction of the country and achieve success."



## Party's 'fourth win' will be 'Rajtilak' of workers: CM



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

No barriers can cause any hindrance to stop party workers, if they have the obsession to work hard and are striving continuously for welfare of the people, Chief Minister Raman Singh said on Friday.

"This is what the party workers had done in past three occasions in 2003, 2008 and 2013 in Chhattisgarh. They are the core strength of the party and are helping to repeat formation of government for the fourth consecutive time and also to set a record," he said.

It would be the 'Rajtilak' of the party workers, said Singh. He was addressing the Shakti Kendra Karyakartha (Booth Level Workers) Convention held at Logistic Park premises here. Shah along with other party leaders were present.

Making a call to the party workers, the CM said they should make promise to the BJP national president Amit Shah to win the State election by 65-plus seats in 2018 and also the 11 Lok Sabha seats in 2019 to form the

BJP Government again at the Centre. "Every worker has something in hand for comparison; Chhattisgarh before 2003 and after fourteen-and-a-half years of BJP rule and four years of Modi Government, where it stands now," he said.

The CM said party workers have to reach 32 lakh beneficiaries of both State and Central schemes. Highlighting details of few schemes and decisions to be spread among electors, Singh said that in memory of founder of Chhattisgarh, former PM late Atal Bihari Vajpayee memorial soil from each village would be collected, for the 'Atal Memorial', paddy is being procured at rate of Rs 2,050/Rs 2,070 per quintal while Rs 750 crore bonus is being distributed to tendupatta collectors, among others.

He asked the workers to recall the terror period from 2000 to 2003 when 5 quintals of paddy was being purchased and before procurement, paddy was being dipped in water to test it, those were the days, which are now gone in past, Singh said.

## Traffic cop dies as tree falls on him during VIP duty

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A traffic policeman was killed while on duty at VIP road when a tree fell on him during arrival of Bharatiya Janata Party's National President Amit Shah to the city.

A tree fell over him and he succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment at a private hospital, police said. The Station House Officer, Mana informed that the name of policeman is Akash Gosai and is a resident of Kayabandha in Atal Nagar.

Inclement weather persisted in the morning and strong wind was also blowing. In between, the cop who was standing under the tree while on duty got seriously injured when tree fell over him, police said.

He was immediately rushed to a private hospital in the capital but he succumbed to

In another incident, former Parliamentary Secretary and former MLA from Dharamjaigarh, Om Prakash Rathia and three other BJP leaders were injured in a road mishap while they were on way to Raipur to attend the programme of Amit Shah

injuries during treatment, police said.

In another incident, former Parliamentary Secretary and former MLA from Dharamjaigarh, Om Prakash Rathia and three other BJP leaders sustained serious injuries in a road mishap while they were on way to Raipur to attend the programme of Amit Shah. The incident took place at the main road of Mandir Hasaud around 5 am on Friday. The leaders have been admitted to a private hospital where their condition is reported to be stable.

## 24 retired Govt officials join BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A total of 24 senior retired Government officials joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in presence of BJP national president Amit Shah at the Logistic Park venue of booth level party workers convention held here on Friday.

Former Director General of Police (DIG) Rajiv Shrivastava, former DID N K S Thakur, former IRS Ashok Singh, IFS Krishna Kumar, former IFS Rakesh Tiwari, former Information Broadcasting Service officer Vimal Chandra, former DSP Mohan Dubey and NTPC former Manager

Hemant Dhagamwar joined the party.

The others were — social worker Shubhangi Apte, former IRS Arvind Shrivastava, former Assistant Superintendent of Police RK Sharma, former DSP Banshilal Kurrey, Bhojendra Uike, Colonel Sunil Mishra, former DSP Ajit Choubey, former DSP Pradeep Mishra, former DSP Shamsheer Khan, Historian and Archaeologist Hemu Yadu, Mohammed Siraj, music therapy expert Ghanshyam Sharma, Psychologist Dr Neeta, former Jail trainer Subash Verma, former journalist Kishore Trivedi, former IAS RC Sinha are included.

## Ujjawala scheme a complete failure: Sushmita Dev



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

All India Congress Committee (AICC) Women's Cell National Chief and Member of Parliament from Silchar, Assam, Sushmita Dev had mocked the government schemes like Ujjawala and smart phone distribution while terming them as a 'complete failure'.

She is in Chhattisgarh to lead the Congress party's 'Mahila Adhikar Yatra's' being taken out in all the 27 districts headquarters of the State.

Addressing media persons here at State Congress Office Rajiv Bhawan, Dev said as the subsidy of LPG gas cylinder under Ujjawala Scheme is only for once the beneficiaries are taking the benefit of the

Regarding 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' campaign, the fund allocated to each of the district is on an average 43 lakh and thus the amount released for the girl child below 15 years of age is mere 5 paise. How situation of girl child would become better with this meager amount of assistance, she questioned

scheme and were dumping the gas stove in a corner as it were of no use further.

How could a poor family be able to purchase the cylinder for the second time for Rs 900, she questioned.

Regarding 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' campaign, the fund allocated to each of the district is on an average 43 lakh and thus the amount released for the girl child below 15 years of age is mere 5 paise. How situation of girl child would become better

with this meager amount of assistance, she questioned.

The Yatra was launched in the state at Bilaspur on Thursday and was taken out in Rajnandgaon district headquarters on Friday. Asserting that the situation of women in the country have become more vulnerable and citing the report of an international newswire service, she added women in India are less secure than the countries like Afghanistan and Syria.

## NMDC's Nagarnar Plant Coke Oven set for heating on Sept 28

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

NMDC Ltd's Nagarnar Plant is all set for inaugural heating up of its Coke Oven in Bastar division of Chhattisgarh. The Coke Oven will be inaugurated on September 28.

Union Minister for Steel Chaudhary Birender Singh and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh will light up the Coke Oven on September 28, 2018, officials informed.

Notably, the charging of the Coal Handling System has already been done at the plant and gains significance because the 3 MTPA capacity Nagarnar Steel Plant is expected to handle close to 2.5 million tonnes of coking coal annually to feed its two Coke Ovens.

Coking coal is converted to coke for charging into blast furnace to reduce iron ore to molten steel.

NMDC has already placed order for procurement of the first consignment of coking coal, officials informed.

The Coal Transfer Car was inaugurated at the Coke Oven Complex of Nagarnar Steel in May this year.

With this inauguration, one set of complete equipment had been put in place for commissioning of the Coke Oven Project.

The Coke Transfer Car has been manufactured and supplied by Bhilai Engineering Corporation, Bhilai which has also been awarded the EPC (Engineering and Project Construction) contract for the complete Coke Oven package at a cost of Rs 1,978 crore.

NMDC had started the 220KV GIS (Gas Insulated Switch) Main Receiving Substation in February this year, followed by Power supply to the Sinter Plant.

Subsequently, as per schedule, power will be stepped down to 33KV and conducted to the 11 sub-stations that will distribute power to different units of the steel plant by the Plant Power Distribution



**Union Minister for Steel Chaudhary Birender Singh and Chief Minister Raman Singh will light up the Coke Oven on September 28, 2018**

System (PPDS) through overhead cable gallery system.

NMDC will put all its efforts to roll out the first HR

coils from its upcoming 3 MTPA Nagarnar Steel Plant in Bastar by March 2019, officials informed.

The steel plant project is getting ready for its commissioning of various units progressively, for which operational power supply system is already energized during first week of March 2018, they informed.

In order to facilitate the commissioning activities of steel plant, procurement action for initial requirement of various raw materials, spares, consumables, etc., are also under process.

NMDC already is in the process of implementing an ambitious project of laying Slurry Pipeline from Bailadila to Jagdalpur and further upto Visakhapatnam, officials informed.

The capacity of the pipeline is 15 MTPA and this will be associated with facilities like Beneficiation Plant at Kirandul and Bachel, Pellet Plant at Nagarnar and Vizag.

The Slurry Pipeline between Bachel to Nagarnar is being executed by NMDC and

from Nagarnar to Vizag is envisaged to be executed in SPV mode. The works for Bailadila to Jagdalpur segment (140 Km) has been taken up. This project is challenging in terms of obtaining various clearances and permissions from statutory bodies and complexity of the route, officials informed.

The company 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.

## Congress leaders in Janjgir today to show black flags to PM

**...As a mark of protest against alleged police brutality to Cong activists in Bilaspur**

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Senior Congress leaders of the State would start from various district headquarters on Saturday and will join together at Janjgir-Champa to show black flags to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his programmes as a mark of protest against alleged police brutality to Congress activists in Bilaspur.

Party sources informed that Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress

(CGPCC) president Bhupesh Baghel will proceed from Raipur along with Congress activists while Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly TS Singhdeo will depart from Bilaspur to reach Janjgir on Saturday. Senior Congress leader Charandas Mahant would be present at Janjgir.

All the leaders in the form of three rallies would meet at a point at Janjgir and will jointly move forward to show black flags to oppose the Prime Minister Narendra Modi where he is going to address a public meeting after dedicating to the public Madhwa Power Plant established by the State Government, sources said.

# JCC (J) extends second leg of Vijay Yatra



After striking an alliance with Bahujan Samaj Party a joint Yatra would be taken out by the party and the new date would be announced soon

**STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR**

Jana Congress Chhattisgarh Jogi (JCC) (J) President and former State Chief Minister Ajit Jogi has extended the party's campaign for the upcoming Assembly polls by taking out second leg of 'Vijay Yatra' (Victory March).

A JCC (J) Spokesperson informed that the Yatra which was to be taken out from Sunday has been extended.

After striking an alliance with Bahujan Samaj Party a joint Yatra would be taken out by the party and the new date

## LeT, HM terrorists kill 3 SPOs for refusing to quit police job

**From Page 1**

Further investigation is going on to identify the culprits in the crime.

The martyred policemen have been identified as Firdous Ahmad Kuchey (follower), Kuldeep Singh (SPO) and Nisar Ahmad Dhobi (selection grade constable). A Twitter handle purportedly belonging to the Hizbul Mujahideen group has claimed responsibility for the abduction and killing.

Acting police chief Dilbagh Singh told reporters that the police have conducted recent operations against the terrorists successfully and killings of SPOs shows their desperation.

Former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah expressed shock over the

killings. The abductions and execution took place four days after terrorists had issued warning to the serving SPOs to tender resignations. Posters of banned HM outfit had appeared in the area earlier this week warning the SPOs to give up their jobs.

The SPOs are temporarily engaged cops working on consolidated remuneration between Rs 5,500 and Rs 6,000. The SPOs are generally engaged for menial works in police stations while many of them are involved in counter-insurgency operations. Most of the SPOs are not given access to firearms. Subject to satisfactory conduct, the SPOs are eligible to absorption in the regular constabulary after three years of service.

Terrorists have intensified attacks on SPOs. Last month, around two dozen SPOs resigned in Tral sub-district of Pulwama after separate attempts on the lives of their two colleagues in Luraw and Pastuna villages.

The killings took place at a time when the authorities have announced holding urban local

body elections in October and panchayat elections in November and December. Even as notifications for two phases of municipal polls have been issued, no candidate has filed nomination papers in Kashmir.

Two prominent mainstream parties National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party have announced to stay away from the polls but the Congress has decided to take a plunge in order to "refuse open field to the communal forces of the BJP and the RSS".

The killing of police officials has further reduced chances of turnover in the Valley. This is second direct attack on police personnel in less than a month's time. Last month, 11 relatives of police personnel were abducted and later set free by the Hizbul Mujahideen that described the action as retaliation to security forces' campaign against terrorists' families and relatives. Shortly after the abductions, relatives of ultras, including father of Hizbul commander Riyaz Naikoo, were released

from police stations. The action, however, is believed to be the primary cause for premature shifting of then police chief Shesh Paul Vaid.

Meanwhile, an alert was sounded in south Kashmir areas directing all the cops on leave to be alert and report back on duty at the earliest.

Top police officials immediately rushed to Shopian town after the cops' bodies were found. A wreath-laying ceremony led by the Inspector General of Police (Kashmir range) was held before the bodies were handed over to the next of kin of martyred cops.

Sources said over 20 SPOs have announced their resignations through social media networking sites and also from mosques since Friday morning in Shopian district.

Latest reports said two SPOs apparently under terrorists' captivity, announced their resignations and making appeal to other SPOs to follow the suit.

The J&K Police have denied any resignations of SPOs officially received by the department.

Former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti blamed the Centre's policies for the abduction and killing of three policemen saying that "dialogue, the only way forward seems to be a distant dream for now".

"Three more policemen have lost their lives to ultras' bullets. Outrage, shock, and condemnation will be expressed by all of us on expected lines. Unfortunately, it brings no solace to the families of the victims," Mehbooba tweeted.

"Clearly, with the rise in kidnapping of police personnel and their families, the Centre's muscular policy is not working at all. Dialogue, the only way forward seems to be a distant dream for now," Mehbooba added.

The NC leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah also condemned the killing of the SPOs while emphasising on resumption of dialogue process.

"Seeking dialogue with Pakistan is based on our aspiration to see an end to instability, violence, death and

destruction in Jammu & Kashmir. We have always sought dialogue both on the internal and external fronts and will continue to seek dialogue regardless of how such genuine and practical appeals are distorted," Omar Abdullah said here, adding New Delhi and Islamabad need to restore the credibility and sanctity of the institution of dialogue.

"The State (J&K) has witnessed enough death, destruction, mayhem and turmoil and we cannot delay the resolution of the problem any longer," he said.

CPI (M) leader and legislator MY Tarigami described the killings as "unfortunate and tragic", saying the martyred policemen were unarmed.

"The martyred policemen were not on combat duty but were abducted unarmed from their homes," he said.

Whose 'cause' is being served by such killings? Whether a person is killed by the bullet from one side or the other side, it is a Kashmiri who is losing a life. For how long such killings will continue?" he asked.

# Nanda Devi Park regains pristine glory post..

**From Page 1**

He said the comparison of the present study with the earlier studies conducted in 1993 and 2003, has indicated positive

changes on plant diversity, forest composition and ecological conditions of the National Park.

Also, proportionate distribution of individuals in

seedling, sapling and tree layers showed considerable variation in the population structure of different communities, Negi said. Pitching in for such bans

in the other biosphere reserves areas particularly at the time when the country is looking to increase its green cover, the researchers felt that the present

results could be a pilot to strengthen conservation measures across the Protected Area Network. They also suggested establishment of a few perma-

nent long-term monitoring sites as per globally accepted protocols to understand the relation between vegetation shifting and climate warming.

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर मण्डल क्रमांक 2 (छत्तीसगढ़)**

**ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)**

दिनांक 17.09.2018

निम्नांकित कार्यों हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 01.10.2018 है।

एन.आई.टी. क्र./ निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	ठेकेदारों की संख्या
1	2	3	4
NIT NO. 289 Tender No. 44736	बलीदाबाजार में 50 सीटेंड प्री मेट्रिक अनुसूचित जाति बालक छात्रावास भवन का निर्माण विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित।	रु. 148.23 लाख	"स" श्रेणी एवं अधिक
NIT NO. 290 Tender No. 44737	लवन विकासखण्ड बलीदाबाजार में 50 सीटेंड प्री मेट्रिक आदिवासी कन्या छात्रावास भवन का निर्माण विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित।	रु. 148.23 लाख	"स" श्रेणी एवं अधिक
NIT NO. 291 Tender No. 44738	बलीदाबाजार में 50 सीटेंड पोस्ट मेट्रिक आदिवासी बालक छात्रावास भवन का निर्माण विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित।	रु. 186.39 लाख	"स" श्रेणी एवं अधिक
NIT NO. 292 Tender No. 44739	बलीदाबाजार में 50 सीटेंड पोस्ट मेट्रिक आदिवासी कन्या छात्रावास भवन का निर्माण विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित।	रु. 186.39 लाख	"स" श्रेणी एवं अधिक
NIT NO. 293 Tender No. 44740	ग्राम लच्छनपुर विकासखण्ड पलारी में 50 सीटेंड प्री मेट्रिक अनुसूचित जाति बालक छात्रावास भवन का निर्माण विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित।	रु. 148.23 लाख	"स" श्रेणी एवं अधिक
NIT NO. 294 Tender No. 44741	लवन विकासखण्ड बलीदाबाजार में 50 सीटेंड प्री मेट्रिक अनुसूचित जाति कन्या छात्रावास भवन का निर्माण विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित।	रु. 148.23 लाख	"स" श्रेणी एवं अधिक
NIT NO. 295 Tender No. 44742	रसेडा विकासखण्ड बलीदाबाजार में 50 सीटेंड प्री मेट्रिक अनुसूचित जाति बालक छात्रावास भवन का निर्माण विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित।	रु. 148.23 लाख	"स" श्रेणी एवं अधिक
NIT NO. 296 Tender No. 44743	भाटापारा विकासखण्ड भाटापारा में 50 सीटेंड प्री मेट्रिक आदिवासी कन्या छात्रावास भवन का निर्माण विद्युतीकरण कार्य सहित।	रु. 148.23 लाख	"स" श्रेणी एवं अधिक
NIT NO. 297 Tender No. 44766	सिमाग में न्यायालयीन अधिकारी हेतु 01 नए एक टाईप आवासगृह का निर्माण कार्य।	रु. 38.66 लाख	"द" श्रेणी एवं अधिक

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दरतावेज व अन्य जानकारि ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> अथवा विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। निविदा में होने वाले समस्त संशोधन का प्रकाशन केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर किया जावेगा, पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।

अधीक्षण अभियंता  
लो.नि.वि. रायपुर मण्डल क्र. 2 (छ.ग.)  
आपकी थी चाह, हमने बनाई राह

G-55646/7 Ryp/Dtd 20.09.18

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग, सूरजपुर (छ.ग.)**

पत्र क्रमांक 2375/व.से.वि.का.अ./लोक स्वा.यां.विभाग/2018

सूरजपुर दिनांक: 17/09/2018

ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक-17 दिनांक 10.09.2018 टेंडर सिस्टम नम्बर 43545

**शुद्धि पत्र क्रमांक-1**

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा क्रमांक-17 दिनांक-10.09.2018 का टेंडर सिस्टम नम्बर 43545 में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है :-

1. उक्त कार्य के निविदा प्रपत्र में दर्शित शर्त क्रमांक 3 कार्य का अनुभव में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है :-

छ.ग. शासन, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग, मंत्रालय, महानदी भवन, नया रायपुर के आदेश क्र. एक 10 /1/07 2016/34 2/3782 रायपुर दिनांक 31.12.2016 के अनुसार

**कार्य के अनुभव**

3. स्वयं के नाम पर अथवा फर्म/कंपनी के नाम पर कार्य का निविदाकार को अनुभव होना चाहिये। निविदा में दर्शित कार्यों की मात्रा की गणना का अंकलन निम्नानुसार है :

**विगत पांच वर्षों में :-**

3.1 **डी.आई./सी.आई./अन्य पाईप लाईन :-**

(1) 5000 मीटर तक की लंबाई के यू.पी.सी. पाईप लाईन जिसका अधिकतम व्यास 200 मि.मी. व्यास तक के हो सकते हैं, के लिये केवल उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीयन आवश्यक होगा।

(2) 5000 मीटर से अधिक लंबाई के यू.पी.सी. पाईप एवं डी.आई./सी.आई./अन्य पाईप लाईन (यू.पी.सी. को छोड़कर) कार्य जिसका अधिकतम व्यास 200 मि.मी. व्यास तक की सभी लंबाई के पाईप लाईन कार्य के लिये निविदा में दर्शित पाईप लाईन को कुल लंबाई के 25 प्रतिशत कार्य का अनुभव किसी एक अनुबंध में सफलतापूर्वक किया जाना आवश्यक होगा।

(3) 200 मि.मी. व्यास से अधिक व्यास के पाईप लाईन कार्य के लिये निविदा में दर्शित अधिकतम व्यास के 50 प्रतिशत व्यास के पाईप एवं निविदा में दर्शित उक्त पाईप लाईन की लंबाई के 50 प्रतिशत लंबाई के सफलतापूर्वक कार्य का अनुभव किसी एक अनुबंध के अंतर्गत किया जाना आवश्यक होगा। इसके साथ ही निविदा में दर्शित कुल लंबाई के पाईप लाईन कार्य का 25 प्रतिशत कार्य भी किसी भी एक अनुबंध के अंतर्गत सफलतापूर्वक किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

2. उक्त कार्य की निविदा के समय सागणी में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

प्री-बिड डिस्क्शन की तिथि	
पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि	संशोधन तिथि
17.09.2018 (11.30 से 2.30 बजे तक)	24.09.2018 (11.30 से 2.30 बजे तक)

निविदा डालने की तिथि	
पूर्व में निविदा डालने की तिथि	संशोधन तिथि
30.09.2018 (अपराह्न 5.30 बजे तक)	8.10.2016 (अपराह्न 5.30 बजे तक)

निविदा को अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

**कार्यालय अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग सूरजपुर (छ.ग.)**

G-55629/7 Ryp/Dtd 20.09.2018

## Hollande claim gives Rafale deal new twist

**From Page 1**

Hollande's remark has escalated the political slugfest over the multi-billion dollar deal. The French media report quoted Hollande as saying, "We did not have a say in this...The Indian Government proposed this service group and Dassault negotiated with (Anil) Ambani group. We did not have a choice, we took the partner who was given to us."

The Congress and other Opposition parties latched on to the report and stepped up their attack on the Modi Government over the deal. The Congress alleged that the Government's "complicity, collusion and conspiracy" to benefit Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "crony friend" has been exposed following Hollande's reported comments. "Cat's out of the Bag!!! Complicity, Collusion & Conspiracy of Modi Govt in denying the

PSU, HAL a ₹30,000 crore 'off-set contract' to benefit PM's crony friend exposed!" Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted.

Congress leader P Chidambaram said, "In the NDA-negotiated Rafale aircraft deal, we have got no aircraft, we have got only lies. What is the new lie that the government will put out in response to Mr Hollande?"

"President (Former) Francois Hollande should enlighten us how the price went up from ₹590 crore in 2012 to ₹1,690 crore in 2015 per Rafale fighter jet? Escalation of a mere ₹1,100 crore. I am sure the Euro equivalent would not be a problem to calculate," Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari tweeted.

Modi had announced the procurement of 36 Rafale jets after holding talks with then French President Hollande on April 10, 2015 in Paris.

The Opposition has been accusing the Government of choosing Reliance Defence over State-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd to benefit the private firm.

## Sushma-Qureshi talks called off

**From Page 1**

The Modi Government's confirmation of the meeting even after the discovery of the mutilated corpse of the Border Security Force (BSF) soldier was questioned by the Opposition in the light of the BJP Government's past refrain that there would be no talks unless there was a cessation of terrorist activities by Islamabad.

The Opposition Congress targeted the Government on its Pakistan policy after the killings.

"On September 19, 2018, the USA clearly stated that Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) are main contributors to terror, they are linked to al-Qaeda," said Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi.

"The Government has betrayed each and every part of Jammu & Kashmir. The mutilations are unspeakable horror," he said.

**भारतीय सेना में शामिल हों**

**JOIN INDIAN ARMY**

RECRUITING DIRECTORATE WEBSITE: [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in)

**सेना में धर्म शिक्षक के रूप में जूनियर कमीशन अफसर बनें**

1. सेना में शिक्षक के रूप में जूनियर कमीशन अफसर बनने के लिए धर्म शिक्षक भर्ती 87 और 88 पाठ्यक्रम के लिए उम्मीदवारों से आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

2. ऑनलाइन आवेदन पंजीकरण 05 अक्टूबर 2018 से प्रारंभ है।

3. ऑनलाइन आवेदन पंजीकरण करने की अंतिम तिथि 03 नवम्बर 2018 है।

**BECOME A JUNIOR COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN THE ARMY AS RELIGIOUS TEACHER**

1. Applications are invited from male Indian candidates for recruitment as Religious Teacher in the Army as a Junior Commissioned Officer for RRT 87 & 88.

2. Online applications registration will open from 05 Oct 2018.

3. Last date for online Application registration is 03 Nov 2018.

**नोट:**

1. सेना में भर्ती पूर्णतया पारदर्शी और मुफ्त है। दलावले से सावधान रहें।

2. विस्तृत नोटिफिकेशन के लिए, कृपया [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in) पर जाएं

**Note :**

1. Recruitment in the Army is totally transparent and free. Beware of touts.

2. For detailed Notification, visit [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in).

davp 10601/11/0014/1819

**भारतीय सेना में शामिल हों**

**JOIN INDIAN ARMY**

RECRUITING DIRECTORATE WEBSITE: [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in)

**सेना में हवलदार (सर्वेक्षक स्वचालिक मानचित्रकार) की भर्ती**

1. सेना में हवलदार (सर्वेक्षक स्वचालिक मानचित्रकार) बनने के लिए पुरुष उम्मीदवारों से आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

2. ऑनलाइन आवेदन पंजीकरण 05 अक्टूबर 2018 से प्रारंभ है।

3. ऑनलाइन आवेदन पंजीकरण करने की अंतिम तिथि 03 नवम्बर 2018 है।

**RECRUITMENT OF A HAVILDAR (SURVEYOR AUTOMATED CARTOGRAPHER) IN THE ARMY**

1. Applications are invited from male Indian citizens for recruitment as a Havildar (Surveyor Automated Cartographer).

2. Online applications registration will open from 05 Oct 2018.

3. Last date for online Application registration is 03 Nov 2018.

**नोट:**

1. सेना में भर्ती पूर्णतया पारदर्शी और मुफ्त है। दलावले से सावधान रहें।

2. विस्तृत नोटिफिकेशन के लिए, कृपया [www.joinindianarmy.nic.in](http://www.joinindianarmy.nic.in) पर जाएं

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davp 10601/11/0016/1819

## MNC girl outwits 7 who try to rape her at skyscraper

**From Page 1**

"These hooligans were always drunk and had entered into scuffle with other residents earlier as well. They also carried illegal weapons and allegedly threatened several residents in the society. A probe should be initiated against them," a resident of the society on the condition of anonymity, said.

"A case under sections including 376 (rape) and 511 (attempts to commit offences) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered against the culprits at Kherki Daula police station and is being investigated," the ACP said.

## Seal marriage lawns defying MCD, green laws in 48 hours: SC panel

**From Page 1**

It further said the Monitoring Committee decided that all the Farm Houses and Motels which are violating "Sanctioned Building Plan" and "Completion Plan" be sealed immediately after serving notices. They will be given a 48-hour time (excepting holidays) as per existing policy, asking them to reply as why their Farm Houses and motels premises being misused should not be sealed?

Earlier on September 18, The Pioneer reported that despite the Supreme Court's orders to not allow sprawling party lawns in the national Capital to host opulent weddings, owners of these lawns are raking moolah while buses are looking the other way. Sources said officials take their cut on daily basis to let them violate the municipal law and green norms.

The majority of these party lawns are run on diesel gensets and cause traffic jams on already busy roads. Since these party lawns do not have proper water connections, groundwater is illegally extracted and tankers could be seen moving in and out. Motels and party lawns in areas under South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), North Corporation are violating, the laid down norms with impunity while having "additional built-up areas" and are still running without facing any action.

As there are many such venues across the city, they are operating in areas at Qutub Minar, MG Road, Arjangarh, Bhati mines, Chattarpur Road and GT Karnal Road. Many of the farmhouses built air-conditioned pandals illegally even outside their premises without inviting any objection from the zonal department of the municipal corporation.

According to sources, all these units allegedly paid Rs three to five lakh for organising such wedding functions to the officials of the respective zonal offices. As per estimates, 12000 such illegal pandals, shamiyana and illegal wedding venues exist in the capital along with national highways, causing huge traffic jams.

# US sanctions Chinese military for buying Russian weapons

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States hit a Chinese military organisation with punishing financial sanctions for buying Russian fighter jets and missiles as it stepped up pressure on Moscow over its "malign activities". It was the first time the Trump administration targeted a third country with its CAATSA sanctions, designed to punish Russia for its seizure of Crimea and other activities.

told journalists, insisting on anonymity. "CAATSA sanctions in this context are not intended to undermine the defense capabilities of any particular country. They are aimed at imposing costs on Russia in response to its malign activities."

CAATSA, or the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, was passed in 2017 as a tool that gives the Trump administration more ways to target Russia, Iran and North Korea with economic and political sanctions.

With regard to Russia, CAATSA arises from the country's "aggression in Ukraine, annexation of Crimea, cyber intrusions and attacks, interference in the 2016 elections, and other malign activities," the State Department said.

"We will continue to vigorously implement CAATSA and urge all countries to curtail relationships with Russia's defense and intelligence sectors, both of which are linked to malign activities worldwide," it said. The



senior official said EDD and its director, Li Shangfu, were hit with sanctions because of the purchases made from Rosoboroneport, Russia's main arms export entity already on the CAATSA blacklist for its support of the Assad regime in Syria. The sanctions freeze any of EDD's and Li's assets in US jurisdictions. They restrict EDD's access to global financial markets by blocking foreign exchange transactions under US jurisdiction or any transactions in the US financial system. The Russians named for CAATSA blacklisting have all been named previously under other US sanctions regimes. They include private paramilitary contractor PMC Wagner, and Russian Defense Ministry procurement group Oboronlogistika, and KNAAP, Russia's largest aircraft manufacturer. They also include 25 Russians and three Russian companies who were indicted over the past year by Russia collusion investigator Robert Mueller for their involvement

## Russia: US playing with fire by imposing new sanctions

Moscow: The US' latest batch of sanctions targeting Russian businesses and China undermine global stability and are akin to playing with fire, officials here said on Friday. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov's comments came after Washington on Thursday imposed a new batch of sanctions, hitting 33 of Russia's most high-profile citizens with ties to the Kremlin. Ryabkov said the sanctions were aimed at Russian defence organisations, politicians and businessmen. "It would be good for them to recall the notion of global stability, which they recklessly upset by whipping up tensions in Russian-US

relations," Ryabkov said in a statement cited by TASS news agency. "It's foolish to play with fire, because things could get dangerous." "We've been keeping a close eye on how the US applies its sanctions against our country. This seems to have turned into some sort of national sport, with yesterday's anti-Russian measures becoming the 60th since 2011. "Every new round of sanctions shows that our enemy's previous attempts to pressure Russia have failed to yield any result. Numerous US blacklists duplicate each other more and more. That's funny, but this is true," the minister said. IANS

in political meddling and hacking during the 2016 election.

In addition, the chief of the Russian military intelligence

## China protests, warns of consequences

Beijing: An "outraged" China on Friday lodged a diplomatic protest with the US for imposing punitive sanctions on its military unit for buying Russian weapons, warning of "consequences" if the sanctions are not revoked. The US State Department said on Thursday that the purchases of Russian Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets and S-400 surface-to-air missiles by China's Equipment Development Department (EDD) of China's Ministry of Defence violated US sanctions on Russia. Both the EDD and its director, Li Shangfu, have been named in Thursday's sanctions. It is the first time the Trump administration

targeted a third country with its Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act of 2017 (CAATSA), designed to punish Russia for its seizure of Crimea and other activities. Reacting to the US move, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said, "China is strongly outraged by this unreasonable action of the US and lodged stern representations." "What the US has done gravely violated the basis norms governing the international relations and harmed the state-to-state and military-to-military relations between the two sides," he said. PTI

## Trump drops civil tone, slams Kavanaugh accuser credibility

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Abandoning his previous restraint, President Donald Trump challenged by name the woman accusing his Supreme Court nominee of sexual assault on Friday, declaring that if the alleged attack was so terrible she would have reported it to law enforcement.



Trump's change in tone — and apparent shift in tactics — came as Christine Blasey Ford's lawyers negotiate with the Senate Judiciary Committee on the terms for her possible testimony next week in a dramatic showdown over her accusation that threatens Judge Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation.

had seemed all but certain. It has also bloomed into a broader clash over whether women alleging abuse are taken seriously by men and how both political parties address such claims with the advent of the #MeToo movement — a theme that could echo in this November's elections for control of Congress.

Trump tweeted, "I have no doubt that, if the attack on Dr. Ford was as bad as she says, charges would have been immediately filed with local Law Enforcement Authorities by either her or her loving parents. I ask that she bring those filings forward so that we can learn date, time, and place!" The President previously had avoided naming Ford or plainly casting doubt on her account. Ford alleges Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her more than 30 years ago when they were teenagers. Kavanaugh has denied the allegation.

In another tweet, Trump, who was in Las Vegas for various events, wrote: "Judge Brett Kavanaugh is a fine man, with an impeccable reputation, who is under assault by radical left wing politicians who don't want to know the answers, they just want to destroy and delay. Facts don't matter. I go through this with them every single day in D.C."

The accusation has jarred the 53-year-old conservative jurist's prospects for winning confirmation, which until Ford's emergence last week

Ford is willing to tell her story — but only if agreement can be reached on "terms that are fair and which ensure her safety," her lawyer said Thursday. She said Ford needs time to make sure her family is secure, prepare her testimony and travel to Washington.

## UNGA address: US Prez to focus on protecting American sovereignty

United Nations: President Donald Trump will talk about protecting US sovereignty, expanding relations with countries that share similar values and call for a halt to the spread of weapons of mass destruction during next week's gathering of world leaders at the UN General Assembly, his top diplomat to the UN has said.

South Korea, Egypt, France, Israel, Japan and the UK. Trump is "looking forward to talking about the foreign policy successes the US has had over the last year and where we are going to go from here. He wants to talk about protecting US sovereignty," and expanding relations with countries that share similar values, US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley said.

Trump will participate in a number of UN General Assembly (UNGA) events and bilateral meetings from September 24-27. Trump will also hold bilateral meetings with Secretary General Antonio Guterres, President of General Assemblies Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, leaders of

Haley cited the example of US decisions to exit UN's Global Migration Compact and Paris Climate Change Accord, saying "all of these things that we felt like were mandating things on the US, those aren't things we want to be involved in. We really value sovereignty of the country."

## May demands EU respect in Brexit 'impasse'

London: British Prime Minister Theresa May on Friday issued the European Union (EU) with an ultimatum to come up with an alternative plan for Brexit and treat the UK with respect in the negotiations.

said our proposals would undermine the single market. He didn't explain how in any detail or make any counter-proposal. So we are at an impasse," she said.

a detailed explanation and counter proposals. So we now need to hear from the EU what the real issues are and what their alternative is so we can discuss them. Until we do, we cannot make progress."

Her televised statement from Downing Street came after a day of upheavals in Salzburg at Austria, during which European Council Head Donald Tusk announced that the UK's Brexit plans were unworkable. May hit back at the EU leaders for rejecting her plan with no alternative at this "late stage of negotiations", saying it was "not acceptable". "I will not overturn the result of the referendum nor will I break up my country," a defiant British PM said. "Yesterday Donald Tusk

Her statement further noted: "Throughout this process I have treated the EU with nothing but respect. The UK expects the same, a good relationship at the end of this process depends on it. "At this late stage in the negotiations, it is not acceptable to simply reject the other side's proposals without

She said the two sides were still "a long way apart" on two big issues: the post-Brexit economic relationship between the UK and EU, and the "backstop" for the Irish border, if there is a delay in implementing that relationship.

The two options being offered by the EU for the long-term relationship — for the UK to stay in the European Economic Area and customs union or a basic free trade agreement — were not acceptable, she said. May said the first option would "make a mockery of the referendum", while the second would mean Northern Ireland would be "permanently separated economically from the rest of the UK by a border down the Irish Sea."

Reiterating her Brexit stand of "no deal is better than a bad deal", May said the best outcome would be to leave with a deal and the UK had put forward a third way — her Chequers plan, which Tusk rejected on Thursday on the ground that it would undermine the single market. PTI



## GLOBE TROTTER

### VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT TRAN DAI QUANG DEAD

Hanoi: Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang died on Friday at the age of 61 after a serious illness, state media reported. "President Tran Dai died at 10:05 am on the 21st of September at the military hospital," the official Vietnam News Agency reported Friday.

### PARDON REPORTERS-UN CHIEF TO MYANMAR

United Nations: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday said he hoped that Myanmar's Government will pardon two Reuters journalists who were sentenced to seven years in jail after they reported on massacres in Rakhine state.

### 'MOON'S N DIPLOMACY DANGEROUS GAMBLE'

Seoul: South Korean President Moon Jae-in has embarked on a "dangerous gamble", analysts said, after he secured only minimal concessions from Kim Jong Un to reboot the North's nuclear negotiations with Washington.

### MOST NATIONS TO MISS CHRONIC DISEASES TARGET

Paris: More than half of all countries will likely fail to hit the UN target of reducing premature deaths from a quartet of chronic diseases by a third before 2030, researchers said on Friday. Cancers, heart and blood-vessel disease, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disease combined to kill 12.5 million people aged 30 to 70 worldwide in 2016, they reported in a major study.



Shia Muslims attend a procession to mark Ashoura in Karachi on Friday

## 5 people, 3 of them infants, stabbed at day care centre in NY

New York: Police say three infants and two adults were stabbed at an overnight day care centre in New York City. All are in critical but stable condition. Authorities say the stabbings happened just before 4 am Friday at a home in Queens. They said a three-day-old girl and a one-month-old girl were stabbed in the abdomen, and a 20-day-old girl suffered cuts to her ear, chin and lip. Police said the father of a child at the centre and a woman who worked there were also stabbed.

A 52-year-old woman was found in the basement of the home in the Flushing neighbourhood. Police say she had slashed her own wrist and is in custody at a hospital. Police say a butcher knife and meat cleaver were found at the scene. A motive hasn't been determined. It isn't clear whether the day care center was licensed.

## At least 126 dead in Lake Victoria ferry disaster



Nairobi: The death toll in a ferry capsized in Lake Victoria climbed to 126 on Friday, as Tanzanian rescue workers pressed on with the search to find scores more people feared drowned.

The MV Nyerere may have been carrying as many as 200 passengers — double the ferry's capacity — when it capsized close to the pier on Ukara Island on Thursday, according to reports on state media.

Witnesses reached by AFP said the ferry sank when passengers rushed to one side to disembark as it approached

the dock. The death toll rose to 126 by mid-afternoon Friday, according to Tanzania's transport Minister. "We are sad to report there are 126 dead," Isack Kamwele told state television, adding that a further update would be provided at 6pm local time. Mwanza governor John Mongella had earlier said the number of survivors was 40, but it was unclear whether any new survivors had been found since rescue operations resumed with police and army divers on Friday morning. AFP

## Dozens of ex-graft convicts to run in Indonesia elections

Jakarta: Dozens of Indonesians who served jail time for corruption are set to run for public office, the country's electoral agency said Friday, as the world's largest Muslim-majority nation kicks off campaigning at the weekend.

of Representatives is widely viewed as one of its most graft-riddled institutions. However, the Supreme Court ruled last week that 38 people previously convicted of graft could run for office, despite their criminal records. The decision came after Indonesia's electoral agency tried to block their eligibility.

The ex-convicts are among more than 8,000 people vying for seats in parliament and regional councils with 186 million registered voters eligible to cast a ballot in national polls on April 17.

"We were actually against this, but since the Supreme Court gave them the green light to run, there's nothing we can do," General Elections Commission head Arief Budiman told AFP on Friday.

Election campaigning starts from Sunday. Indonesia is riddled with corruption at all levels of society and its House

## Sharing is contagious: Study

New York: While we have always heard that sharing is caring, a new study has shown that an individual's tendency to be generous depends on how many people around him or her are sharing.



the University of Pennsylvania. The study, published in Current Biology, is based on Hadza hunter-gatherer people in Tanzania — also one of the last populations left on the planet.

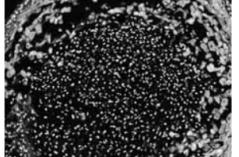
The findings showed it is not that people, who like to share, choose to live with those having same habits. Rather, they adapt their own sharing tendencies so as to match that of the group they currently live in. In other words, sharing, being contagious, is driven by local group norms and behaviour and not individual generosity. "We were surprised to find

that people do not have a stable tendency to cooperate and are instead influenced by those around them," said Coren Apicella from the University of Pennsylvania. "If you find yourself surrounded by selfish people, you don't necessarily have to find a new crowd, but by being generous yourself, you can get others to be generous as well," added Kristopher Smith, from

During the study, the team visited 56 camps in Tanzania over six years. They asked nearly 400 Hadza adults to play public goods game where, instead of money, they were asked to consider sharing straws of honey, their favourite food. Each person started with four straws, which they could put toward the whole group or not. The honey straws contributed to the group got tripled. IANS

## 1st human oesophagus created in lab using stem cells

New York: In a first, US scientists have used stem cells to grow human oesophagus — known as the food pipe — in the laboratory, an advance that will enable personalised disease diagnosis, regenerative therapies.



the organoids can be used to study diseases like eosinophilic oesophagitis and Barrett's metaplasia, or to bio-engineer genetically matched oesophageal tissue for individual patients," he added. In the study, published in journal Cell Stem Cell, team focused on the gene Sox2 and its associated protein — known to trigger oesophageal conditions when their function is disrupted. The scientists used mice, frogs and human tissue cultures to identify other genes and molecular pathways regulated by Sox2 during oesophageal formation. During critical stages of embryonic development, the Sox2 gene blocks the program-

ming and action of genetic pathways that direct cells to become respiratory instead of oesophageal. The Sox2 protein inhibits the signalling of a molecule called Wnt and promotes the formation and survival of oesophageal tissues. Conversely, absence of Sox2 during development process in mice can result in oesophageal agenesis — a condition in which oesophagus terminates in a pouch and does not connect to stomach. Those tests showed bioengineered and biopsies tissues were strikingly similar in composition, team said. Cincinnati Children's scientists have previously used PSCs to bio-engineer human intestine, stomach, colon and liver. IANS

## New nano-filter cleans water 100 times faster: Scientists

Canberra: Australian scientists said on Friday they have developed a nano-filter that can clean contaminated water 100 times faster than the current technology, pointing to better access to the crucial resource worldwide.

researchers from the University of New South Wales, reports Xinhua news agency. Water contamination remains a significant challenge globally, with one in nine people without access to clean water close to home, and heavy metal contamination "causes serious health problems and children are particularly vulnerable", RMIT researcher Ali Zavabeti said.

mentally-friendly, scalable and low cost," said Zavabeti, whose team's findings were published in the Advanced Functional Materials scientific journal. "Previous research has already shown the materials we used are effective in absorbing contaminants like mercury, sulphates and phosphates. "With further development and commercial support, this new nano-filter could be a cheap and ultra-fast solution to the problem of dirty water." IANS

The filter removes oils and heavy metals including lead from water via an alloy that combines gallium-based liquid metals with aluminium, helping to absorb the contaminants with aluminium oxide compounds, RMIT University said in a statement about the innovation that also involved

Our new nano-filter is sustainable, environ-

Water contamination remains a significant challenge globally, with one in nine people without access to clean water close to home, and heavy metal contamination "causes serious health problems and children are particularly vulnerable", RMIT researcher Ali Zavabeti said. "Our new nano-filter is sustainable, environ-



Mayawati's move

BSP is only doing what most hard-nosed regional parties will do to prepare for 2019; Congress' woes will mount

It has been a political pity-inducing sight to see Congress leaders floundering over the past 24 hours. First, as they tried to make sense of BSP leader Mayawati's lethal blow to the prospects of a tie-up with them in the Hindi belt by going ahead and unilaterally announcing a pre-poll alliance with former Congressman Ajit Jogi's regional outfit Janata Congress in Chhattisgarh for the Assembly polls due in the State, while simultaneously announcing candidates for 22 Assembly seats in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh too even as the grand old party thought it was in discussions with the BSP supremo on seat-sharing. Subsequently, the Congress veterans' even more pathetic attempts to explain her move as only for State Assembly polls which would not impact plans for a nationwide grand Opposition alliance or mahagathbandhan for the Lok Sabha poll in 2019. Really. The penny seems still not to have dropped for the Congress. Indian politics is ruthless, regional parties will sing secularism in one voice with the Congress only till they feel it has the capacity to deliver minority votes and no regional leader of stature will agree to work under the Congress or even with it unless it gets its own house, which is support base, in order. A look at the line-up regional parties willing and/or eager to do business with the Congress and the issue will clarify itself — the only States where the regional parties are willing to take the Congress along is where it has been reduced to a rump and polls five to eight per cent of the vote which could prove very useful in pipping the BJP to the post. Wherever the Congress is the BJP's principal opponent, regional forces know an alliance with the Congress could mean risking their support base getting appropriated by the grand old party as it attempts to build its social coalition of yore.

So, in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan the BSP is playing hardball, in Punjab, Delhi and Goa, ditto AAP. In Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, on the other hand, where regional parties are the main players and the Congress a bit player, Akhilesh Yadav, Lalu Prasad, Mamata Banerjee and MK Stalin are more accommodative because the single-digit vote share of the Congress in these States does not threaten them; in fact, it could make the difference between scraping through and winning big. Of course, all political understanding is not the preserve of editorial writers and the Congress has enough senior leaders who are well aware of this reality. Some of them have even spoken of resurrecting the long-forgotten Panchmahal Resolution which spoke of rebuilding the Congress from the ground up, not desperately seeking allies and re-establishing itself as the second pole of national politics given the BJP has already firmly occupied the other pole. But such is the fascination of the current Congress leadership with the heavy on their light on results Leftist cabal to which it seems to have outsourced its ideological orientation, which is then used to establish the party's 'political line', that the portents for the party seem very ominous indeed. It is hurtling down the same path to irrelevance that the Communists forged for themselves post-Independence when they were seen as the second force in Indian politics to a situation today where their electoral glories are confined to winning JNU students' union polls. The brutal political reality is that the BJP in its current avatar seems to have so spooked Congressmen and Congresswomen that they are behaving like lemmings rushing en masse to the sea.

50 WORDEDIT Audit airlines

Increasing incidents of Indian aircraft running into trouble must ring alarm bells. While flights making emergency landings for a variety of reasons have become a recurring phenomenon, the most recent incident wherein an air pressure mix-up led to Jet Airways passengers' being left bleeding and panic-stricken must prompt a complete audit of all airlines safety practices.

For gender equity

Centre's ordinance criminalising triple talaq, whatever its politics, is a step towards achieving gender equality

The Union Government's use of the Ordinance route to criminalise instant triple talaq was on expected lines. It was due to the inability of the Rajya Sabha to legislate business, which prevented it from taking up the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill thanks to ruckus in the House and a lack of consensus on the issue, that the Modi Government was compelled to fulfil its promise to Muslim women to bring end to the practice of Muslim men granting instant triple talaq to their wives. Neither, however, was opposition to the Ordinance unexpected. As has been the norm, helming the anti-ordinance agitation were Muslim clerics and various Opposition parties who flayed the move for a clutch of reasons. While some accused the Government of 'intervening in personal laws' others termed the Ordinance as 'harsh on Muslim women instead of providing them succour'. The Congress smelt political conspiracy and accused the Government of treating the matter more as a 'political football' than a matter of justice to Muslim women. But the elephant in the room, as it were, is that the objective behind the move, which is to bring about gender equity, was elided by all.

As regards the argument of Muslim clerics, the problem is that the issue is no longer a matter of 'personal law' or under the aegis of Muslim Personal Law because the Supreme Court had in a majority verdict ruled that instant triple talaq is illegal, unconstitutional and not an integral part of the religion of Islam. Further, the apex had asked the Government to bring forth legislation against talaq-e-bidat. The Government was duty-bound to do so, and it did. When opposition in the Upper House stalled the Bill, it resorted to the proclamation of an ordinance. Cut and dried, that is the correct position. As for the objections about the penal provisions being harsh towards Muslim women, as in they would be left uncared for financially while their 'husbands' who have divorced them via triple talaq languish in jail, several provisions of the Ordinance have been amended to take care of women in such a situation given the patriarchal structure of Indian Muslim society. To cite an example, provision has been made for providing a sustenance allowance to a victim of illegal triple talaq. Also, only the woman herself or her close blood relatives can file a case thus eliminating the possibility of interference from other parties. The Ordinance further provides for bail to the husband but only after hearing the wife. Besides, opportunities for reconciliation too are kept open provided the woman wants it. This issue goes beyond the boundaries of politics. Gender justice must always trump claimed religious practice. That is the whole point of individual rights and freedoms in the Constitution that assure each individual citizen of India the right not to be discriminated against.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS Everybody loves a good fascist

An inquiry into the genesis of fascism is perhaps appropriate given the penchant of the Indian political class to use its adjective form as a pejorative for all seasons against opponents without understanding its meaning



PRAFULL GORADIA

In the wake of the arrest of five urban Naxals by the Pune police, Congress chief Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP-led Government of being fascist. This writer doubts if the Congress president knows what fascism means; although he is educated and certainly not an 'amphib gawar' to use his party leader Sanjay Nirupam's phrase for the Prime Minister.

The expression fascist as a condemnation was first used frequently in India Gandhi's time. Her grandson is merely following the tradition set by her. Surely, other Congress leaders know that fascism is not a synonym for despotism though some can be despotic and despots fascists. The first is a particular ideology while the latter is a brutal autocracy which was equally a feature of Stalinism exterminating the bourgeois and the kulaks; Nazism mass murdering Jews and white

American settlers' brutal treatment of Native Indians. Fascism is class collaboration as communism is class conflict and capitalism is (accused of) class exploitation. Western Europe was deeply concerned by the Russian revolution of 1917 led by Vladimir Ilych Lenin and felt threatened. One of the reactions was the innovation of a new contrarian ideology, namely, of class collaboration, in order to keep class conflict from taking over society.

Some years ago in the US, there was a celebration to commemorate Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary. That was an occasion when the secular fundamentalists were provoked to call the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Vishva Hindu Parishad, fascists. A meeting presided over by well-known journalist late Kuldip Nayyar was held to dissuade the distinguished Sonal Mansingh from going to Washington to give a dance performance in connection with the celebration. Because, in the view of those at the meeting, the organisers of the commemoration were fascist. What they did not realise was that the word was not the political abuse that they thought it was. Benito Mussolini initiated the fascist movement in March 1919 at Milan and founded the party called Partito Nazionale Fascista in November 1921. It ruled Italy for two decades. To recapitulate what fascism was,



The word 'fascio' means a bundle or a bunch implying unity. To be effective, the answer had to be something that would prove attractive to the peasants, the workers as well as to their unions. This was discovered in 'class collaboration' as represented by fascism. Prof Alfredo Rocco, Minister of Justice in the Mussolini Cabinet, set forth the gist of this new ideology in the course of a speech at Perugia in 1925. According to him, society does not exist for the individual but the individual for the society. Economic progress is a social interest and all classes of people should combine or collaborate to maximise production. The interests of the employers and the employed are identical. To ensure that this is practiced, there must be a system of state discipline over class conflicts. Strikes and lock-outs alike were held to be illegal and punishable by heavy fines, and in certain cases, imprisonment. Wherever possible, the employers and workers in each industry, trade or profession, were organised together in a syndicated association. Where it was not possible to form such syndicates, the unions and the employers' associations remained separate but combined to form guilds to coordinate and ensure cordiality. If collective bargaining could not end satisfactorily, disputes were referred to law courts assisted by experts. This is how class collaboration was conceptualised by the Fascist Party

in Italy. In practice, the economy was toned up by rearmament and public works. Soldiers were recruited in large numbers and so were workers in factories to produce arms. This would bring profits to the bourgeoisie who could then pay the proletariat well. Urban prosperity would increase demand for agricultural produce. What was left of the under-employed youth was absorbed by the armed forces. The promise to the whole nation was foreign conquest which would bring economic surpluses. The Albanian adventure and the invasion of Abyssinia were two efforts to fulfil this promise until, of course, World War II broke out. Another example of the practice of fascism or class collaboration, albeit on a much more limited scale, was in Spain under Gen Francisco Franco. Neither the Italian nor the Spanish experience is widely known in great detail in India. What the members of the Indian intelligentsia are familiar with, however, are the doings of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party. It was founded by Hitler and his six comrades in Munich in 1920. The economic depression in Germany was much greater than witnessed in Italy. The country paid an exorbitant price for its defeat in World War I. Runaway inflation as well as the world depression ignited by a crash in share prices on Wall Street in New York in 1929 made matters unbearable for Germany.

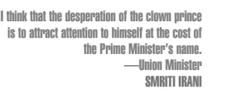
It was widely believed that the initial attraction of the German people towards Hitler and his programme of class collaboration was more or less were on the lines of Mussolini's Italy although on a far grander scale to save the economy and bring prosperity which Germany experienced in some measure in the 1930s before the Nazi racist, authoritarian ideology took over. Japan is another example of a fascist experiment. With the restoration of the Meiji regime in 1850 and the reforms initiated in 1868, were sown the seeds of ferment and economic progress. The gates of Japan opened and foreign contacts began with industrial development growing, and the number of urban workers increased. By 1922, a Communist Party was founded. In the rural areas, silk farms sprung up and there was a fragmentation of farms. Also, discontent grew among the tenants who worked there. Greater came the share market crash which triggered the Great Depression in 1929. The Japanese economy received its share of tremors. One of the remedies to relieve the pains of the economic crisis was expansion through military conquest. The fact that the Japanese population had more than doubled since the Meiji restoration meant that more and more jobs were necessary. The ghost of Karl Marx and the scenes of the Russian Revolution were not invisible

to the Japanese mind. War appeared to be the possible panacea which eventually led to the 1941 naval attack on Pearl Harbor, the American base of warships on its Pacific coast. This was followed by the land invasion of British and French colonies in South-east Asia. Just before the Pearl Harbor attack, Defence Minister Gen Tojo Hideki was made the Premier. The war moulded all classes of the Japanese people into one. This was an experiment of fascism in Asia. So much for fascism and its smaller as well as grander variations. But what is its ugly connection with politics in India? India is not Europe. 2018 is not 1920. Communism is dead. There is poverty here but no Great Depression sparked by a financial collapse of the Wall Street kind on the horizon. The Indian ethos has no record of imperialism and, therefore, no promise of foreign conquests would be credible. If an attempt is being made to compare minorities in fascist states and Muslims of India, it is ridiculous and perverse. No one in their right mind has accused Muslims of betraying India, not even the BJP whose only contention has been that there has been appeasement of the Muslim community's clergy and its whims. All in all, to call anyone a fascist in India is to talk nonsense. (The writer is a well-known columnist and an author)

POINT COUNTERPOINT



People are now heard saying that the country's chowkidar is a thief. This is what the people in Rajasthan and elsewhere feel. —Congress president RAHUL GANDHI



I think that the desperation of the clown prince is to attract attention to himself at the cost of the Prime Minister's name. —Union Minister SMRITI IRANI

Subsidy sops must stop

The very bane of public policy has been the Government's interference in subsidising goods and services. Subsidies must be replaced with direct cash transfers



UTTAM GUPTA



The Modi Government has revolutionised the way subsidies are disbursed to beneficiaries by leveraging technology, especially the use of direct benefit transfer (DBT) on the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile platform. This has made a dent on pilferage, and gargantuan resources, thus saved, are being used for development and enhanced funding of welfare schemes for wider and deeper coverage. But large-scale pilferage still continues. This happens in ways that even escape the radar of our ever alert Prime Minister. At the fundamental level, it can be sourced to the very existence of controls in sectors, such as food, fertilisers, petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL), and power, which continue to guzzle huge amounts despite savings via DBT. Here, a question arises: How do controls lead to pilferage?

Take, for example, food and fertilisers. To make it affordable to the poor, the Government controls their maximum retail price (MRP) at a low level, unrelated to the cost of production and distribution. The differential amount is reimbursed to manufacturers/agencies as subsidy. Whereas, 80 per cent of the population gets food at a subsidised rate, as regards fertilisers, all farmers have access to these at low MRP. Among POL in the case of LPG, even as oil marketing public sector undertakings (PSUs) sell at full price, beneficiaries receive subsidy in their account. However, kerosene is sold to them at a subsidised price. Retail prices of petrol and diesel are de jure decontrolled, but de facto, the Government controls them by issuing diktat (albeit unwritten) to PSUs, which account for over 90 per cent of the sales.

When the Government orders manufacturers/suppliers to sell products at a price lower than what it costs, it is obliged to fully compensate them for the shortfall. This is where the rub lies. Assured of full neutralisation, they won't have an incentive to cut cost and work efficiently. They are even tempted to claim

higher cost or even make fictitious claims. Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), wheat is given to the beneficiaries at two rupee per kilogram as against the much higher cost of supplying it at ₹25 per kg. The latter includes MSP of ₹17 per kilogram paid to the farmer and eight rupee per kilogram as handling and distribution charges, reimbursed to the handling agencies, such as the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The charges are given on 'actual basis'. These subsidies and irregularities committed by agencies — this was pointed out by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). The 'leaders' getting away with monthly salary in lakhs could easily pass muster under a cost-based mechanism. In 2016, there were reports of disappearance of food stocks in Punjab causing a loss of over ₹200 crores to the exchequer.

In the 2000s, in fertilisers, the UPA Government contracted for import of gas — fuel used in manufacture of urea — at an inflated price knowing that the resultant higher cost of making fertilisers would be fully reimbursed under new pricing scheme (NPS). It had also imported urea at a high price which went up to an exorbitant ₹50,000 per tonne (2008-09)

against then MRP of only ₹4,830 per tonne. In a year in the early 90s, payment was made but not even a grain of urea came. There were irregularities in payment to manufacturers too. Under the retention price scheme (RPS) — earlier incarnation of NPS — some units were allowed inflated retention price. There were even allegations of gold plating — a euphemism for showing capacity lower than actual to get higher RP. Since, the same system continues even today, it is not easy to prevent inflated payments.

There is no rational basis to keep urea MRP at an exceptionally low level — a mere 1/4th to 1/2 of the production cost. Yet, this was a golden goose available to dubious traders to mint money by selling to chemical factories at high price. True, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought in mandatory neem coating of urea and claimed that this has stopped diversion. However, considering that there are 600 million bags to be policed, this seems to be too good to believe. In petrol and diesel, lack of competition allows oil PSUs viz Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, to get away with a high price based on import parity principle plus fortuitous benefit of import duty. For LPG and kerosene, they enjoy complete monopoly as private entities are barred from selling subsidised stuff.

In power sector, inflated tariff charged by independent power producers (IPPs) easily pass muster in the name of subsidised supplies made to the farmers and poor households. There are instances of inflated fuel price (via 'over-invoicing' of coal imports) getting accommodated in the bill, eventually paid by the exchequer. As in fertilisers, here also instances of gold plating have come to light. This loot of national resources needs to be stopped. But this can't be done merely through administrative cleaning up. To do this, the Government should go for policy reforms with focus on removing pricing and distribution controls. The control on MRP must go and subsidy to the poor should be given directly. With this, the very basis for entities claiming inflated cost will disappear. Instead, they will be forced to cut cost and increase efficiency to stay afloat. While benefiting all consumers, this will reduce subsidy outgo and help fiscal consolidation. When will Modi crack the whip? (The writer is a freelance journalist)



BINDU DALMA

The World Bank Group has increased economic participation in the global goal to reach Universal Financial Access (UFA) by 2020, as financial literacy and financial inclusion has now become the topmost priority for policymakers, regulators and development agencies globally. The UFA goal is that by 2020, adults who currently aren't a part of the formal financial system, must have access to a bank account to transact money. For increased economic participation, the spread of financial literacy is the primary enabler of financial inclusion — both are twin pillars in mitigation of poverty. Only by working jointly on both aspects can we herald the next revolution of prosperity and growth for India in the 21st century by enhancing scope for banking, insurance, mutual fund industry and housing for all. All four services are interlinked to financial inclusion, as also are growth promoters of the economy, which have their own multiplier effect in adding close to a percentage point to the gross domestic product (GDP). This can happen only when people are financially literate and begin to make informed investment choices. However, financial literacy, the first prerequisite for financial inclusion, is where India lags behind as most women remain financially illiterate. As International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Christine Lagarde said: "It's now a proven fact, women do better, economies do better." There exists an ocean of untapped opportunities in India to expand the scope of financial inclusion and financial literacy for women across all demographic strata, albeit,

the spread of literacy cannot be confined to being gender-specific. My passion towards this transformation stems from deep-rooted convictions based on my working life's experience since I began my career in the late 70s. I was the guinea pig of my experiments with money, and through sheer trial and error at an early age, I succeeded in transforming simple wages to savings, and savings to assets. Again, there was no genius to the idea but just the magic of disciplined savings and the compounding power of money. The skills of compounding money is now a science, a learning that must begin by including it in school curricula so that successive generations grow into disciplined investors and ethical borrowers.

Thereafter, financial literacy must be imparted to the millennials who comprise 34 per cent of our population, and who, research shows, are credit-oriented and spend more on lifestyle. So, they need to learn the discipline and risks of living life beyond their means. The middle-aged are securely married women and are educated, yet are uninitiated in finance — just because they find its vocabulary too difficult to comprehend. Then, there are divorcees and widows, comprising 12 per cent of the population, who need to be initiated, as most are under-literate on personal finance. Let's remember that the ultimate goal of every one of us is to own a secure asset in the form of home ownership along with building up a savings corpus, which provides dignity and insulates from future shocks.

Financial literacy is one of the most serious issues in the US, as also globally for women. Women earn 25 per cent less than men, and spend an average of 11.5 years out of the workforce. Individuals must be competent to make decisions not only about assets but also about debts. And debt is pervasive across all income strata and stands at alarmingly increasing levels, even 10 years post 2008 economic crisis. This means that we failed to learn from the perils of over-leveraging. Today, credit is lavishly available and institutions that promote credit to the exclusion of savings, place the poor in deeper bondage, as credit alone cannot save the poor from poverty.

As Finance Minister Arun Jaitley expressed: "If we have growth only on the basis of 31 per cent credit off take, history will record it as growth due to indiscriminate lending." While the incidence of indebtedness (IOI), which is a proportion of households having outstanding debt, today stands at an average of 47.4 per cent, average savings per annum per savers households was reportedly as low as ₹1,488 according to the 2018 pan-India National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) survey. With an abysmally low ability to save and rising levels of debt, how long will it take for the rural poor to climb out of poverty? The Government consequently has a major role to play in policy formation so as to mainstream the marginalised into creating an eco-system conducive to inclusion. The objective of the financial literacy and financial inclusion committee is to attempt to spearhead a financial revolution borne of Niti Aayog's proutrisation which is in sync with the global priority accorded to financial inclusion and financial literacy unanimously by the World Bank, the European Union, G-20, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The goal is to enable shared



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DISPARITIES CAN BE ADDRESSED THROUGH INCREASED OUTLAYS IN EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, IN PRIORITISING FINANCIAL LITERACY, AND BY INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE JOB FORCE

prosperity and bring down poverty by changing investment habits of people, and also secure in knowing that gradual asset creation is within their reach. An example of how rapidly financial literacy can spread and lead to financial inclusion is by demystifying complicated banking jargon by dumbing down financial vocabulary, and thereafter, disseminating learning and getting the masses to get operational in much the same way educationally illiterates in rural India could take to the working of smartphones, and enjoying the WhatsApp feature. This must be done through Government-accredited programmes disseminated through tele-learning, and use of mobile phones to penetrate the spread of financial literacy. Even the US Department of Education reports that 3.8 million American adult women possess literacy skills below a 'basic' level. Also, OECD studies show that women have lower financial literacy levels than men in both developed and developing countries. Since women live longer than men and have shorter working lives in paid employment,

they have lower average incomes from which they save for old age. With increasing life expectancy, there is a need to provision for increasing and inflationary cost of healthcare; women need to be sufficiently financially literate to be future-ready for any contingencies. By being forbidden from inheritance in many patriarchal societies, though laws are changing, women own lesser property. And they have been excluded from decision-making on deployment of family earnings since millennia, as it has been deemed the sole prerogative of the 'karta' or the head of the family in India.

Deepening financial literacy and subsequent inclusion would unleash the hugely untapped potential at the bottom-of-pyramid leading to a reduction in the cash economy, as more money finds its way into the banking ecosystem. That would also inculcate the savings discipline and increase capital formation, and this in turn, would release the availability of adequate credit to foster entrepreneurial spirit of the masses, as more people are enabled through the formal financial infrastructure and freed from dependence on unscrupulous money-lenders.

This far it's a slow progress, as India has climbed by just one rank to become 130 out of 189 countries in the 2018 United Nations Human Development Index (HDI). The increase in rankings is a quantum leap by 50 per cent since 1990, which reaches the levels taken by the Government have been successful in lifting millions out of poverty — per capita gross national income increased by 266 per cent. However, there still remains a huge gap of inequality as the gains of equitable economic development are yet to percolate to the base of the pyramid.

Those disparities can only be addressed through increased outlays in education and vocational training, in prioritising financial literacy, and by increasing women's participation in the job force, which is at an abysmal 27 per cent currently. Melinda Gates, co-Chairperson of the Gates Foundation once said: "When women have money in their hands and the authority to choose how to spend it, they grow in confidence and power by taking control of their own economic future."

(The writer, an author & columnist, is Chairperson, Committee on Financial Inclusion and Literacy for Women, Niti Aayog) Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

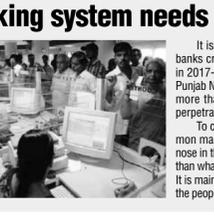
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ALAYING INSECURITY Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Right note" (September 21). It augurs well that Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat has among other burning issues, including cow vigilantism, clarified the Sangh's stand on Indian Muslims' status with the heartening message "if Muslims are unwanted, there is no Hindutva". This will allay fear of sorts lingering on the community's mind even as his invocation of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's words underscores the

monotheistic view as they say 'sab ka maalik ek hai'. But above all, what matters most is the emphatic translation of the words into action, failing which his sage advice will fall on stony ground. His claim that Hindutva does not exclude Muslims is falsified by the absence of Muslims in leadership positions in both the RSS and the BJP. It is intriguing that Bhagwat speaks of a Hindu Rashtra and the Constitution of India as the hard for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to reconcile its goals and compulsions. Its attempts at openness

and restructuring are futile. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's claim that the organisation keeps away from politics is belied by the diktats given to its political arm, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He claims that Hindutva does not exclude Muslims is falsified by the absence of Muslims in leadership positions in both the RSS and the BJP. It is intriguing that Bhagwat speaks of a Hindu Rashtra and the Constitution of India as the hard for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to reconcile its goals and compulsions. Its attempts at openness

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Indian banking system needs better administration

It is a shame that bad loans of Indian banks crossed a whopping ₹87,300 crore in 2017-18 fiscal, topped by scam-tainted Punjab National Bank which is reeling under more than ₹14,000 crore of non-performing assets (NPAs) allegedly perpetrated by Nirav Modi and associates. To common knowledge, it is the common man who is made to pay through the nose in the name of penalty for keeping less than what banks mark as minimum balance. It is mainly economic constraints that make the people unable to keep minimum balance

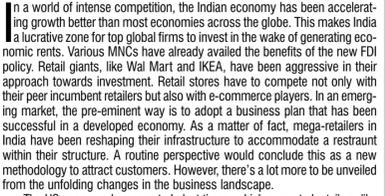
in their bank accounts. It is reported that our banks have collected an astronomical ₹5,000 crore from customers for non-maintenance of minimum balance in their account in 2017-18. This consists mostly of, so to speak, the hard-earned money of the people. It is the lack of minimum balance on the part of the administration to adopt a policy of letting bank frauds go abroad and penalising the masses. Sujit De Kolkata

texts that sanctify caste. It is no secret that the RSS draws its leadership from the upper castes. G David Milton Maruthanchandran

BETTER FUTURE Sir — This refers to the article, "An opportunity India must not miss" (September 21) by Sanjib Pohit & Pradip Biswas. Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari recently announced that the Government plans to exempt electrical vehicles (EVs) and other alternative fuel cars

Emerging flavour in retail business

To woo customers at food courts, retail biggies are experimenting with cuisines and pricing. This may lead to a change in the business environment



In a world of intense competition, the Indian economy has been accelerating growth better than most economies across the globe. This makes India a lucrative zone for top global firms to invest in the wake of generating economic returns. Various MNCs have already availed the benefits of the new FDI policy. Retail giants, like Wal Mart and IKEA, have been aggressive in their approach towards investment. Retail stores have to compete not only with their peer incumbent retailers but also with e-commerce players. In an emerging market, the pre-eminent way is to adopt a business plan that has been successful in a developed economy. As a matter of fact, mega-retailers in India have been reshaping their infrastructure to accommodate a restraint within their structure. A routine perspective would conclude this as a new methodology to attract customers. However, there's a lot more to be unveiled from the unfolding changes in the business landscape.

The US economy has seen turbulent times, which prompted retailers, like Costco, to initiate a restaurant at their retail outlets. The food court at a Costco store offers a variety of products, like a hot dog and a 20-ounce bottle of soda for just \$1.5. A slice of pizza for \$1.99 and full giant 18-inch pizza for a whopping \$9.95. The \$1.5 hot dog and pizza are the same since 1991 and is considered a steal for the company. The 18-inch delicacy that Costco sells for \$9.95 is one of the least priced pizzas in the US, compared to other economic vendors, like Sam's Club. Similarly, the Swedish home furnishing behemoth IKEA has restaurants in all their stores across the globe. Their signature dish 'meatballs' is known to be the best sofa-seller.

In the Indian market, Reliance Industries Ltd offers food items at a distinguished prices at their wholesale mart called Reliance Market, which vend all delicacies at a flat rate of nine rupee each. Their vast menu includes Indian items like mayo vadai, samosa, bread pakoda, tea and a couple of other items like veg mikkai roll, pizza, vegetable puffs, chocolate balls, cupcakes and doughnuts. This brings us to a dilemma that if these food courts are not generating significant profits, why are companies not curtailing operations in these domains? Drilling deeper, it was observed that core products like a \$1.5 hotdog and soda combo at Costco, the iconic meatballs at IKEA and the nine rupee menu at Reliance Market, have negative profitability for the company. The rationale behind these products is not just to increase footfall. The food products served at these stores tend to elevate serotonin levels, which enhances the mood of an individual. Once the consumer is satiated, it is more likely that he/she will be convinced by the staff, thereby adding to the sales. Customers are poised to shop as once they step into the store, and after some time they feel demotivated and tired. This becomes the right time to strike the customers with food as it makes them stay longer in the store. This, thus, increases their average shopping time.

But a different aspect has been observed based on the consumer's psychology. Food assists retail companies to position themselves as the 'most economical shopping option' in the mind of a customer. They deliberately take a hit in the form of losses from the food court. Intention is to give a new reference standard to the customers to compare prices of goods. A potential buyer perceives the store to be the most economical one as the food sold is really inexpensive. Further, these stores focus more on private label brands as they ramp up profitability. This not only enhances sales but also shields against the smashing losses by food courts. The concept is far cheaper and economical than advertisements. Topping it all, these stores offer food to customers with the same zeal even if they don't buy anything. This because subconsciously, a relationship is under development with the customer through the food table. Over a period of time, there's a high potential for the relationship to transfigure into cash. From a long-term strategic perspective, it is discerned that these companies have been successful in cross-selling products to the customer. Initially opened as a home furnishing store, IKEA has been consistent in garnering more and more revenues from the food court — in 2016, IKEA reported around \$1.6 billion revenues via food court from a total of \$36 billion. Similarly, Costco has come forth as one of the largest pizza chains in the US with more than 400 stores. Times have changed. A lot of customers come to these stores just to visit the food court, thereby increasing the revenue. With IKEA's foray into the Indian market, the retail landscape of the country is bound to change. IKEA has come up with local vendors for its Hyderabad-based store. Instead of selling signature meatballs, the Swedish company is focusing more on local food like Biryani, idli, among others. A large restaurant with a seating capacity of about 1,000 people in the centre of the massive 400,000 sq feet store accentuates aspirations of the retailing giant. This has been done to reposition brand to Indian customers as they seem to be more thrilled with 'desi' touch. Local foods give them a sense of belonging which accompanies in the formation of a healthier relationship with the customer. In the near future, if these companies hold back prices in the food courts, we can presume huge restaurant chains to materialise in the Indian market. (The writer is student at Great Lakes Institute Of Management, Chennai)

# 3 more terrorists shot in Kashmir, toll reaches 5

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Three more terrorists of banned Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) outfit were killed in a prolonged gun-battle in Sumlar forests of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday taking the toll of terrorists to five. Two terrorists were killed in the initial phase of the encounter on Thursday.

A defence spokesman said that weapons and war-like stores were recovered from the encounter site. The encounter was in progress when last reports came in from the area.

The encounter began on Thursday when a joint team of Army, CRPF and Special Operations Group (SOG) of J&K Police launched a massive operation in the Shokhbaba, Sumlar area of Bandipora. Security sources said that the operation was temporarily suspended through the night in view of darkness after killing of



two terrorists in the initial phase.

However, the multi-layered cordon remained intact and the search operation was resumed on Friday. They said that during the intense search operation the contact with the hiding terrorists was re-established triggering fresh gunfight. During the ensuing encounter, three more terrorists were killed.

Security sources said that the slain are suspected to be

LeT cadre.

Meanwhile, normal life was affected in Capital Srinagar as the authorities disallowed Ashura processions in the main city. The authorities imposed restrictions in the jurisdiction of five police stations in old Srinagar. The Friday congregational prayers were not allowed in Grand Mosque of Srinagar even as the authorities kept senior separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq under detention at his residence.

# Swamy accuses Cong of having hand in glove with LTTE

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

In a disclosure which could have repercussions across the political spectrum in the country, senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy stated on Friday that Sonia Gandhi, the then Congress president, P Chidambaram, the then Union Home Minister and Velupillai Prabhakaran, the chief of the dreaded Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were hand in glove with each other.

In a message posted on his micro-blogging platform, Swamy said Chidambaram had sent a message to Prabhakaran during the 2009 battle (which saw the annihilation of the LTTE) to await Indian Navy to come to rescue him. "Navy did come but it was Sri Lankan Navy. Prabhakaran walked out of the jungle into the beach thinking it was the Indian Navy and hence was killed," said Swamy in his posting.

He also said that PC (Chidambaram) had sent the

message to Prabhakaran at the behest of TDK (the abbreviation usually used by Swamy to describe Sonia Gandhi) during the final days of the May 2009 war.

He said the Indian Navy ship which was expected to reach the theatre of war did not leave Indian shores because of stiff Opposition from highest authorities. "Prabhakaran could not be informed by the Congress leadership about the change of plan," said Swamy.

Swamy's disclosure comes immediately after the visit of Mahinda Rajapaksa, former president of Sri Lanka to New Delhi at the invitation of Swamy. Rajapaksa, who was the President of Sri Lanka during the civil war of May 2009, had told Prashant Tiwari of *The Pioneer* in an exclusive interview that the Governments of India and Sri Lanka had worked in tandem in the 2009 civil war in the island nation which resulted in the annihilation of the dreaded Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a terrorist

THE AIADMK ON FRIDAY DECLARED THAT IT WOULD LAUNCH A MASSIVE AGITATION ALL OVER TAMIL NADU ON SEPTEMBER 25 TO HIGHLIGHT HOW THE DMK HAD BETRAYED TAMILS ALL OVER THE WORLD BECAUSE OF ITS 'COMPLICITY' IN THE CIVIL WAR

organisation.

"We had a mechanism during the war (against the LTTE in 2009) called the Troika, where three officials from both sides (India and Sri Lanka) were able to discuss any issue, even in the middle of the night," said Rajapaksa. Experts are of the view that the Troika had played a major role in scuttling the move to save Prabhakaran.

According to Rajapaksa, three high officials from Sri Lanka and India were deputed for regular exchange of information to facilitate proper coordination during the operation against the LTTE terrorists during the month of May 2009. "This was known as Troika System and these officials met even in the middle of the night. What we need is a system like this in our economic cooperation also," Rajapaksa had said.

This is in stark contrast to the claims by the DMK, then an important ally of the UPA Government led by Manmohan Singh. Karunanidhi, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had said that the Centre had told him that the operation by the Sri Lankan Government was only to nab LTTE chief Prabhakaran and India had no role in the military operations.

The AIADMK on Friday declared that it would launch a massive agitation all over Tamil Nadu on September 25 to highlight how the DMK had betrayed Tamils all over the

world because of its "complicity" in the civil war.

Karunanidhi in the company of his two wives had staged a "two-hour long fast" at Marina Beach questioning the then Union Government's complicity in the civil war in Sri Lanka and had called it off following assurances from the Centre that it had no role in the military operations. The LTTE had used innocent Tamils as human shields to save the LTTE chief Prabhakaran and his henchmen from the Sri Lankan army.

K P Munusamy, the AIADMK strongman told reporters at Chennai on Friday that the disclosure by Rajapaksa proved that the DMK too was engaged in the killing of Tamils in northern Sri Lanka during May 2009. "The Indian Government was offering military assistance to the Sri Lankan Government in the attack against the LTTE. The DMK is responsible for thousands of Tamils who got killed in the war," said Munusamy.

# Cong demands probe into mining lease renewals during Parrikar's last term

PTI ■ PANAJI

The Congress on Friday demanded a probe into renewal of iron ore mining leases during the previous tenure of Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) secretary A Chellakumar said former BJP Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar had revealed that renewal of mining leases, termed illegal by the Supreme Court, was done during the tenure of his predecessor Parrikar.

Parrikar had earlier held the chief minister's post from 2012 to 2014 and he was succeeded by Parsekar. Parrikar, currently admitted in New Delhi's AIIMS for a pancreatic ailment, became Goa's chief minister again in March 2017.

A complaint was filed before the Lokayukta alleging the involvement of Parsekar, the then mines secretary Pawan Kumar Sain and current mines and geology department director Prasanna Acharya in the illegal renewal of 88 mining leases, which were quashed by the apex court on February 7, 2018.

"Today, the truth has come out very clearly. It is not the Congress, it is nobody but their own party's ex-chief minister Laxmikant Parsekar (who) had told (the Lokayukta) very clearly that it is not him but Parrikar who is the cause of looting of ₹1,44,000 crore," Chellakumar claimed.

He sought to know why the State Government was silent over the matter and why no charge sheet had been filed. The Congress leader said a committee should be formed to investigate Parsekar's allegations.

The former Chief Minister, in a written reply to the Lokayukta last month, had said the policy to renew mining leases was framed by his predecessor (Parrikar) on the instructions of the Goa bench of the Bombay High Court.

"Parrikar had begun renewing the leases and during his tenure, eight or nine of them were already renewed," Parsekar had told the anti-corruption watchdog. "When I took over, I followed Parrikar's track," Parsekar, who was the chief minister of Goa from November 2014 till March last year, had said.

# Cong in Goa gives notice for removal of Assembly Speaker

PTI ■ PANAJI

The Opposition Congress in Goa on Friday gave a notice for removal of Assembly Speaker Pramod Sawant.

The party, which has 16 members in the 40-member Assembly, also gave a 14-day notice for convening of a session of the House for undertaking the process of removing Sawant from the post.

The move came days after the party staked claim to form an alternate Government, contending that the BJP-led ruling alliance had lost majority in the Assembly.

The Government is headed by Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar who is hospitalised in Delhi for a pancreatic ailment.

The notice for removal of Sawant was given under "Rule 243 of Rules and Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Legislative Assembly of Goa, read with Article 179C of the Constitution of India," Leader of Opposition Chandrakant Kavlekar said.

Rule 243 States provision for moving a resolution to ask for permission of the House to discuss about impeachment of the Speaker.

Kavlekar, however, refused to specify on what grounds it wants Sawant to be removed as the Speaker, saying the reasons will be spelt out on the floor of the House.

The legislators said they propose to move the motion to remove Sawant from the office of Speaker of Legislative Assembly at the end of 14 days' notice period.

# Bombay HC allows abortion in 30th week as foetus found to have birth defect

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Friday allowed a 33-year-old woman, who is in her 30th week of pregnancy, to undergo an abortion as a medical test had revealed that the foetus has a developmental birth defect.

A division bench of justices A S Oka and A S Gadkari also granted the woman's request to undergo the abortion at a private clinic in Nashik.

On the High Court's direction, doctors at the Government-run J J Hospital here had examined her and approved the abortion at such a late stage, considering the condition of the foetus.

However, the Government had opposed her request to undergo abortion at the Nashik clinic.

She should be directed to undergo abortion at a Government hospital as the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act mandates that the procedure must be performed only at Government hospitals or private hospitals recognised for this purpose by the Government, it said.

In Maharashtra, private clinics and hospitals which perform MTP are required to be certified by civic bodies.



The clinic in Nashik is duly certified to perform legally approved medical termination of pregnancy.

However, the State Government is yet to complete the process of registering and approving private clinics for carrying out abortions in cases where the pregnancy has exceeded 20 weeks, the Government lawyer said.

Advocate Kuldeep Nikam, the woman's lawyer, said she should be allowed to undergo the procedure at the Nashik clinic as the doctors there knew her case history well.

The High Court acceded to the request, saying that she should not be penalised because the State had failed to complete registration of clinics.

The petition said that the woman already has a five-year-old son diag-

nosed with Down's Syndrome.

She and her husband approached the high court last week seeking permission for abortion, saying that they were already caring for a specially-abled child, and forcing them to continue with the present pregnancy would cause them much physical and emotional trauma.

Giving birth to another child with special needs would impose a financial burden on them as the woman is a housewife and the husband runs a small business, the petition said.

On September 11, the woman's doctor suggested that considering her first child's condition, she should undergo a scan to check if the present foetus had abnormalities.

The scan revealed that the foetus has "Schizencephaly", a rare developmental birth defect characterised by abnormal slits or clefts in the brain.

The condition causes developmental delays. It can also cause seizures and problems with brain-spinal cord communication, the petition said.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act permits abortions after 20 weeks only if continuation of the pregnancy poses a threat to the child's or the mother's life.

# Six die due to electrocution in Assam village

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

Six persons, including minor children, were electrocuted to death at a village under Rupohi police station in Assam's Nagaon district on Friday even as Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal ordered an inquiry into the tragic incident.

The incident took place at Uttar Khatowal village in Nagaon district when six persons, including children, got down to a fishery to fish and got electrocuted. "A faulty electric high voltage wire got snapped and reportedly electrocuted the villagers fishery. The locals intimated this to the local line man of the electricity board. The electricity was cut off initially and the six people got down to the fishery. However, after sometime, all the six persons died

due to electrocution," said the police.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal ordered an inquiry into the electrocution incident which reportedly killed six people at Rupohihat Legislative Assembly Constituency at Uttar Khatowal village in Nagaon district.

The Chief Minister have asked Additional Chief Secretary and Chairman APDCL Jishnu Barua to enquire into the incident. "The inquiry will primarily be encompassing within its ambit the circumstances leading to the electrocution and submit the report to the government immediately," a statement issued by the Chief Minister's office said.

Meanwhile, the irate mob attacked and vandalized the house of local line man holding him responsible for the incident.



SDRF personnel carry out the rescue operation after six fishermen were electrocuted to death and five fishermen sustained injuries following the fall of a high tension live electric wire into a pond in Nagaon district of Assam on Friday

# MUZAFFARPUR SHELTER HOME RAPE CASE

## Arrest orders issued against former Bihar Min's husband

PNS ■ PATNA

The Begusarai police is all set to arrest former Social Welfare Minister Manju Verma's husband Chandrashekhar Verma in connection with a case filed against him with Cheria Bariarpur police station last month for possessing illegal arms and ammunitions. An order to arrest him was issued by Begusarai Police Superintendent on Friday.

The SP moved following a directive by the Supreme Court which found the case against Verma serious and a division Bench directed the police to interrogate him.

The arms and ammunitions had been recovered during a search in the residential premises of the couple whose name figured in the infamous Muzaffarpur shelter home rape case. The Minister had to resign when the

name of her husband cropped up and the CDR of his phone revealed that he was in constant touch with rape case main accused Brajesh Thakur who was running the shelter home. It was also alleged that Verma had been visiting the shelter home and spending time there.

Manju Verma had stoutly denied the allegations and claimed that her husband visited the shelter home only once that too along with her when she went there in her capacity as social welfare minister.

The sensational case is being investigated by the CBI and now the apex court has decided to monitor it. The Supreme Court also took notice of the firing in remand home at Purnea in which two people died. The bench of Justice Madan B Lokur and Justice Deepak Gupta expressed surprise as to how weapon reached the remand home.

# Prez's rule looms large as uncertainty surfaces in K'taka

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

As the political uncertainty added to infighting and has hit the fragile coalition in Karnataka, political pundits feel the President's Rule looms large over the State. The war of words between Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy, who is struggling to keep the coalition intact, and BJP chief BS Yeddyurappa for the last few days has reached a peak leading to fluid political situation.

In a fit of anger Kumaraswamy had asked the people to revolt (dring) against the BJP for trying to topple his Government but later he said his statement was misquoted. Yeddyurappa too charged JD(S) and Kumaraswamy as commission agents.

and appealed to Governor Vajubhai Vala to initiate action against the CM. Soon after the CM's statement, there was a snap protest by a few Congress workers at the residence of BJP state president BS Yeddyurappa. The saffron party has also threatened to take legal action against Kumaraswamy.

In a major development on Friday the JDs has called a legislature party meeting at Hassan on Saturday indicates the political fluidity in the state. Chief Minister who looks hasled went to former chief minister Siddaramaiah to discuss the political situation. The customary cabinet meeting on Thursday according to sources too discussed political situation arising out of operation Lotus threat by the BJP which plans to poach JDs and Congress MLAs. According to sources in

the BJP is planning to take some MLAs to resort in Pune or Mumbai. The BJP in the state has also authorised Yeddyurappa to take suitable action if need be to form the government.

The BJP accused chief minister of sedition and sought action over his remark asking people to rise in revolt against BJP for its alleged attempt to destabilise the collation government. The party has also officially lodged a complaint with DGP and said the chief minister has violated section 124(A) and other sections of IPC. Party workers Holding placards and raising slogans against JDs supreme Devegowda and his sons, including Kumaraswamy, protested in Bengaluru.

was supposed to protect the Constitution and citizens of the country was "provoking" people. Another BJP MP Prahlad Joshi termed the statement as the "most irresponsible and unpardonable offence" and said the chief minister's choice of words displayed his state of mind.

Upset over the alleged toppling game of the BJP, an angry Kumaraswamy had on Thursday warned BJP to be restrained in its speech about Gowda and his family, saying he can even ask people to rise in revolt against it if it continued to disturb Congress-Janata Dal-Secular coalition government headed by him.

Launching a no-holds-barred attack on state BJP chief B S Yeddyurappa, Kumaraswamy had said: "If you dig too much (into our

affairs), then we too have many things at our disposal." "Government is in our hand. Don't I have the authority to do whatever I can? I caution him to be careful," he added.

Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Thursday reminded Yeddyurappa on the denotification case. "Do not instigate me to lose my patience. I have my government and can take extreme decision," he said, warning the BJP top leader to stay away from making wild allegations against members of his family and stop attempting to topple the coalition government.

In another development the JDs legislatures have complained to the speaker about BJP's operation lotus and asked the speaker to protect the MLAs from horse trading and poaching.

# Disgruntled TRS leader Ramesh Rathod joins Cong

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

In a setback to Telangana IRashtra Samiti, a senior party leader and former MP Ramesh Rathod has quit the party and joined the main Opposition Congress party.

Rathod was angry on not getting the Assembly election ticket from his home constituency Khanapur in Nirmal district.

Ramesh along with his wife Suman joined the Congress party in Hyderabad in presence of AICC secretary RC Kuntia.

Speculations were rife for quite some time that Rathode was on his way out from TRS after his supporters had orga-



nized a big protest demonstration in Khanapur and Rathod issued warning to the TRS leader. A tribal leader Rathod and his family was quite influential in the area.

With this he has completed the round of joining all the three major parties in the state. He started his career with the Telugu Desam party where starting from the grass root he

worked his up to become party's politiburo and was elected to Lok Sabha from Adilabad.

But after his defeat in the last elections he joined the ruling TRS along with another senior TDP leader Tummla Nageshwara Rao and was working hard to cultivate the constituency. However in the list of TRS candidates announced by the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao he failed to find a place and the ticket was given to Rekha Naik.

Rathod was confident that on Congress ticket will emerge victorious from his constituency and the party will come to power in the next elections.

# All big cats died naturally: Guj forest dept

Not a single death due to viral infection

NAYAN DAVE ■ GANDHINAGAR

Amid lots of hue and cry over the deaths of 11 lions in the Gir Forest — the last abode of Asiatic Lions situated in western Gujarat, the State forest department claimed that the deaths of big cats were natural and not a single death occurred due to viral infection or other disease.

Many eye-brows have been raised following deaths of lions in Dalkhania and Jashadhar ranges situated in eastern part of Gir Forest. During 12th to 19th September as many as 11 lions died due to infighting and territorial war, confirms GK Sinha, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) and Head of Forest Force in Gujarat.



Reasons including aging, disease, injury, weakness and infighting for capturing territory are considered as natural in the case of lion's death. Hence the State forest department is considering these deaths of Asiatic Lions as natural. Despite the fact, 11 deaths within a span of eight days would be alarming for the state forest department considering that International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listed the Asiatic Lions (*Panthera leo*

persica) as endangered due to its small numbers and area of occupancy.

"Basically lion is a territorial animal and stay within its pride. As a result of it whenever the leader of a pride becomes weak, mostly due to aging, strong lions from neighbouring prides try to take his place and attack on the weak lion and his progenies. In such attacks, stronger lion not only kills the weaker one but his cubs also," said the PCCF.

Of the 11 lions died due to

territorial war, there were six cubs, two lionesses and three matured lions. As on Friday autopsy reports of eight lions have come and prima facie the experts are of the opinion that all eight big cats died of infighting. Post Mortem reports of remaining three Asiatic Lions are awaited, but mostly the cause of the death likely to be the same.

With a view to curb more deaths of lions due to infighting, the State forest department has shifted five mature lions from Dalkhania and Jashadhar ranges to other places in Gir forest. According to Sinha, deaths of lions due to territorial war were considered as natural phenomena and such incidences are occurring time to time. However, such high death toll within a short span due to infighting was alarming, he adds.

Generally, in one lion's territory up to three lionesses reside and after mating season each lioness would give birth

up to four cubs. Gestation period of lioness is around 110 days and in normal circumstances lioness become pregnant after an interval of 20 to 24 months. Of the total newly born lion cubs, only 25 to 30 per cent reach to maturity, while 70 to 75 per cent die due to some or other natural and unnatural reasons.

As per the last census of Asiatic Lions in the eight districts of Saurashtra region, 523 big cats were reported that including 109 mature male, 201 female, 73 sub-adults and 140 cubs (below one year). On an average every year 210 lion cubs born in Gujarat and of these nearly 140 die by the time they reach up to the age of three years. Hardly 70 of them are surviving and reach to maturity. During the year 2017-18 as many as 69 lions died in Gujarat. Of these 51 died due to natural reasons and 18 due to unnatural reasons including accidents, electrocution and other causes.

# 2 students die in firing; BJP wants CBI probe

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Opposition parties, including the Left and the BJP, staged road blockades in various parts of North Bengal after two students at Islampur in North Dinajpur district died of bullet injuries following clashes with the police.

The students of Daribhit High School in Islampur bordering Bihar were allegedly protesting against the appointment of Urdu and Sanskrit teachers keeping Bengali, History and other departments vacant.

Following clashes on Thursday a number of people including students and some policemen sustained bullet and other injuries, police said. Out of them one student died on Thursday and the other died at Siliguri on Friday leading to



massive protest by the locals who said the police had fired at the protesting students.

However district SP Punit Kumar said the police had not fired at the crowd. "There was a skirmish and the police had to use force to control the crowd but there was no firing as per reports coming now." He however said the autopsy reports would give a clear picture as to what led to the deaths.

The SP said some people including "some BJP supporters have been arrested for inciting the crowd."

Meanwhile at least 10 other people were admitted to various hospitals and were undergoing treatment.

While the BJP immediately demanded a CBI investigation into the case and the Left asked for a judicial inquiry from Kolkata Education Minister Partho Chatterjee blamed the right wing parties for creating trouble in the region.

"We know who are creating trouble there. There are reports that the BJP is involved. But we can assure you that no one will be spared and strict action will be taken against those who are responsible," he said adding the district inspector of schools have been suspended for failing to handle the situation.

# Congress changes Bengal PCC chief to please Didi?

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a move loaded with positive vibes for Mamata Banerjee, the Congress on Friday made some sudden and crucial changes in the Pradesh Congress brass by removing State party president Adhir Chowdhury — a proclaimed anti-Mamata face — and bringing in his place a more accommodative Somen Mitra a septuagenarian leader.

Chowdhury has been made the chairman of the election (campaign) committee while other three senior leaders: AH Khan Chowdhury, a South Malda MP, Shankar Malakar and Deepa Dasmunshi have been made the acting vice presidents of the State unit, sources said.

There was no word from Chowdhury who has been in favour of a Left-Congress, rather than Congress-TMC alliance in the 2019 general elections as — "Mamata Banerjee has ruined our party organisation after we allied with her by engineering defections with blatant use of money and muscle power."

Mitra was the PCC president in 1998. Following serious differences with him

Banerjee the then Youth Congress split the party to form her own Trinamool Congress. Since then much water had flowed down the Hooghly with Mitra himself joining the TMC in 2009, winning from the Diamond Harbour MP constituency before quitting that party to rejoin the Congress again.

Chowdhury has earlier went on record saying that there would be no alliance with the Trinamool Congress till he was at the helm.

When asked to comment on whether he too would pursue the same anti-Trinamool policy in respect of electoral alliances, Mitra said he was "none to take a decision on the issue. It is for the high command to take a decision on alliances. When they will ask my opinion about the issue I will give it."

On what his opinion was regarding the longevity of a Congress-TMC alliance if it really became a reality, he said "as of now if we ally with the TMC then definitely we will get some seats from Bengal. But in the long run we will lose organizationally as has been seen through the past experiences when TMC has engineered defections in the Congress."

# Mecca Masjid blast case judge to join BJP

MIM, Congress raise red flag

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

A judge who had acquitted all the accused belonging to Hindu extremist groups in Mecca Masjid bomb blast case earlier this year has decided to join the BJP.

In a development, which has created a stir in political and legal circles in Hyderabad former IVth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge K Ravinder Reddy visited the BJP state office and met the BJP party leader and former Union Minister Bandaru Dattatreya.

Party sources said that he had come to the office with the plans of formally joining the party but was asked by the party leaders to wait for some time.

In his judgment of April 19 he had acquitted all the five accused belonging to Hindu groups including Swami Aseemanand alias Nabha Kumar Sircar, a RSS member citing lack of sufficient proof

and submitted his resignation soon after pronouncing the verdict.

Nine people were killed when a bomb exploded in the court yard of Mecca Masjid soon after Friday congregation. Later the CBI and the National Investigation Agency had arrested members of various Hindu groups including RSS, Lokesh Sharma and Devender Gupta.

Ravinder Reddy told the media that he had come to the BJP office to join the party on the invitation of the BJP leaders. "I had come after meeting the BJP President Amit Shah in Hyderabad last week and was also in touch with Bandaru Dattatreya. I had come on their invitation to join the party", he said.

Sources in the state BJP office said that no date was fixed for his formal joining and Dattatreya asked him to wait till a formal communication from the central leadership. Sources said that there was a need for some more discussions with in the party and all the state leaders including state president K Lakshman need to be taken into confidence.

Defending his decision to join the BJP, Ravinder Reddy said, "BJP is a patriotic party free of any dynastic culture. The party is committed to check anti national elements and to work for the national integration", he said. Ravinder Reddy said that he wants to contest the coming Assembly elections preferably from his home district Karimnagar or Medak.

When asked whether his move will not caste aspersions and raise doubts about his judgment acquitting the accused in the Mecca Masjid blast case, he said, "This has nothing to do with the judgment. I discharged my duties as a judge with integrity and honesty and delivered the judgment. I am now retired from service to serve the country and the people."

Though Ravinder Reddy sought to rule out the link between the Mecca Masjid blast case judgment and his decision to join BJP, there was a criticism from different quarters.

Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen president and MP Asaduddin Owaisi said, "We knew where he was going.

Now he will be rewarded by the BJP leadership."

Referring to the retired judge's decision to contest the coming assembly elections, he said, "I am sure Aseemanand and his friends will campaign for him and I hope the retired judge will lose his deposit."

Civil Liberties Monitoring committee (CLMC) has demanded the Supreme Court and the High Court to take notice of the strange case of judge Ravinder Reddy and order a fresh hearing of the Mecca Masjid blast case.

Committee general secretary Lateef Mohammed Khan

said that during the hearing of the case itself suspicions were expressed that the judge was not of clear mind. "Now this has been vindicated by his decision to join BJP". He alleged that there was a total collusion between the public prosecutor who was a BJP leader and investigators and under pressure from Hindutva organisations the accused were saved in a pre planned Mannar. "This raises a serious question of influence of Hindutva organisations on the lower courts and the Higher courts should take note of it and take action against such judges".

# CONG CRIES CONSPIRACY

Mohammed Ali Shabbir, leader of Opposition Congress in Telangana Legislative Council said that the judge joining the BJP exposes the deep conspiracy behind the acquittal of the accused of Mecca Masjid case. "There was a deep nexus behind it. NIA was influenced by the BJP. The prosecutor belonged to the BJP and now the judge after his retirement is joining BJP. This clearly shows that

how even the courts are being controlled and influenced. The doors of justice were also being closed for the people". He questioned how the accused could be acquitted even after giving confession to a judge. "I hold the TRS government in the state also responsible. They are in power. Why they did not challenge the lower court judgment in the High Court", he asked.

# KERALA NUN RAPE CASE Bishop Franco Mulakkal held

PTI ■ KOCHI

Bishop Franco Mulakkal, a senior member of the Roman Catholic clergy in India, was arrested on Friday night amid mounting public outrage over allegations of repeatedly raping and sexually assaulting a nun, police said.

The 54-year old Mulakkal was arrested by Kerala police after intense interrogation here over the last three days.

The development came a day after the Vatican relieved him "temporarily" of all pastoral responsibilities as the bishop of the Jalandhar diocese of the Missionaries of Jesus congregation to which the alleged victim also belongs.

Bishop Mulakkal had been arrested at 8 p and taken for medical examination, Kottayam district police chief Hari Sankar told reporters.

He would be produced in a magistrate court in Pala in Kottayam district tomorrow, Inspector General of Police (Kochi Range) Vijay Sakhare told PTI.

The nun had accused the clergyman of repeatedly raping and having unnatural sex with her between 2014 and 2016, a charge denied by him.



Rape accused Bishop Franco Mulakkal arrives for questioning by the special investigation team of the Kerala police in Thrirupunnithura on Friday

# Kerala CM asks US Keralites to contribute liberally to rebuild State

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Friday urged Malayalees in the U.S.A to contribute liberally to rebuild the flood-hit state and said he hoped Rs 150 crore would be raised from them.

Vijayan made the appeal at his first public function in New York early Friday after completion of his medical treatment.

The Chief Minister, who had left for the U.S for medical treatment at Mayo Clinic on September 2, is expected to be back in Kerala on September 24.

Addressing the gathering of Keralites, Vijayan said everyone should cooperate for revamping the state, which had last month witnessed the worst deluge of the century.

He said Keralites willing to contribute should become members of the global salary challenge, which envisages each participant contributing a month's salary for the state. State finance minister Thomas Isaac will visit the U.S next month to collect the financial assistance, he said. "Only through your cooperation can a new Kerala be built", he said, adding his government was expecting a contribution of Es 150 crore from the Malayalees in US.

At least 493 people had died in the rains and floods during the South West Monsoon.

# Chandrababu asked to appear before Maha court on Oct 16 in 2010 case

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

A court in Maharashtra has rejected a petition to recall a non bailable warrant issued against the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and asked him to appear in the court on October 16.

Dharmabad court in Nanded had issued the warrant against Naidu and 16 other leaders of Telugu Desam party in connection with a 2010 case of protest against Maharashtra's irrigation project Babil. They were asked to appear before the court today but only three of them including a former MLA Gangula Kamalakar today appeared. The court granted them bail.

Naidu's counsel G Subba Rao moved a petition to recall the warrant but the judge rejected it and issued a fresh warrant ordering all

the accused to appear before him on October 16. On the plea of the counsel that Naidu was not in a position to come judge remarked, "nobody is above law. Be it a Chief Minister or anybody else everybody has to abide by he court order. It is not possible to give special treatment to anybody".

Later the counsel sought some more time. Chandrababu Naidu after consulting the advocate general D Srinivas and other officials had decided not to appear in Maharashtra court and sent a lawyer from Hyderabad to represent him.

Chandrababu Naidu and several leaders of his party were arrested by Maharashtra police on border when they tried to enter the state to protest against Babil project. Naidu was then the lease of Opposition in United AP Assembly.

# Choksi moves CBI court to get NBW cancelled

Cites threat to life

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Fugitive jeweller Mehul Choksi, a co-accused in the Punjab National Bank fraud case, on Friday moved the special CBI court here for cancellation of a non-bailable warrant against him claiming he has reasons to believe that his return to India might endanger his life.

On May 22 this year, after taking cognisance of the second charge sheet filed in the ₹12,636-crore PNB fraud case by the CBI, the special court had issued the NBW against Choksi.

Choksi, in an application filed Friday through his lawyer Sanjay Abbott, said his apprehensions over his safety are based upon what transpired during a recent television



debate on the fraud.

He told the court that he was "shocked" to watch a debate on a national television news channel where two callers phoned in to share their opinion on the fraud.

The callers, Choksi claimed in the plea, "suggested that a special team be formed to track Mehul Choksi down and shoot him to death once he was brought back to India".

Choksi claimed that the callers said that such treatment would send out a strong message to society and prevent further cases of frauds and fiscal scams.

The fugitive jeweller also claimed that the news anchor concerned and the panelists did not object to the comments made by the caller. Instead, the anchor even laughed at the comments and the same makes it apparent that the anchor and the panelists too "tacitly" agreed with what the callers suggested, Choksi said in the plea.

"From the above two calls made by the callers and the tacit approval given to the same by the news anchor and the panelists, it is clear that the averments made by the applicant (Choksi) in the application filed before this court regarding a threat to his life and the fear of mob lynching is vindicated," the application read.

Choksi also sent some audio and video CDs claiming that they contained the cited footage from the news channel

debate. He has urged the court to make his submission a part of the court records and, in light of the same, to cancel the NBW issued against him.

The special court has now directed the Central Bureau of Investigation to file its reply to the application by October 3 this year, which is the next date of hearing in the case.

This is the second such application filed by Choksi before the special court, claiming a threat to his life and seeking that the NBW be cancelled.

In June this year, he had filed a plea claiming that he had been advised bed rest on account of his ill health following a "heart operation," and he feared that once in India, the probe agencies would not help him secure the kind of medical treatment and super-

vision he required.

At that time, he had also said that there existed a "trend of mob lynching" in the country presently, and he feared that if he returned to India, he might become a victim of such lynching.

The CBI charge sheet named Choksi, the managing director of Gitanjali group, former PNB MD and CEO Usha Ananthasubramanian, then PNB executive directors Brahmaji Rao and Sanjiv Sharan, and PNB deputy manager Gokulnath Shetty, among others as key accused in the case.

While urging the court to issue the NBW, the CBI had argued that its issuance would allow the probe agency to approach the Interpol for issuing a Red Corner Notice against Choksi, Nirav Modi and some other persons accused in the case.

# PM Modi to inaugurate Sikkim Airport on Sep 24

PTI ■ GANGTOK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Pakyong Airport in Sikkim on September 24, officials said on Friday.

The greenfield airport, located 30 km from here, will put Sikkim on the aviation map of the country.

The Prime Minister will address a public meeting at St Xavier's School ground in Pakyong after inaugurating the state's first airport, the officials said. The Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive at the Bagdogra airport at 4.10 pm on September 23 after which he will board an helicopter from there to fly to Gangtok, the officials said.

The Prime Minister will be received by the Governor of Sikkim Ganga Prasad and state Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling after his arrival in the state, the officials said.

He will stay at Raj Bhawan on September 23 and will inaugurate the Pakyong airport the next day.

The PM's programme at the airport will begin at around 10 am on September 24, a State Government official said Friday, adding that the PM will then address the people at 10.30 am at the St Xavier's School ground.

From there he will return to the Pakyong airport, board a chopper and fly to Bagdogra. The Pakyong airport was approved by the Centre in

2008 and was constructed at an estimated cost of ₹350 crore.

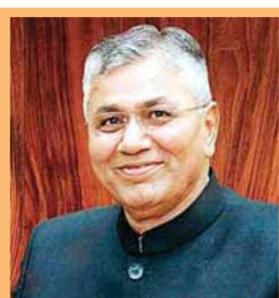
The project is being billed as an engineering marvel — it has been built at an height of 4,500 feet in an inhospitable terrain.

Once commissioned, it will be the 100th functional airport in the country.

As on date, Sikkim is the only state in the country without a functional airport.

Low-cost airline SpiceJet has been granted permission to fly to Pakyong from Kolkata under the Civil Aviation Ministry's regional connectivity scheme.

SpiceJet has already conducted a dry run at the airport with one its Bombardier Dash 8-Q400 aircraft successfully landing there on March 5.

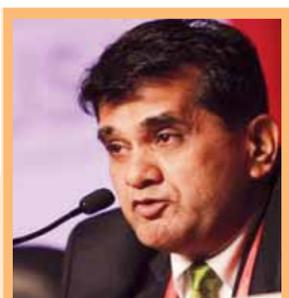


**So far as the shell companies are concerned, in the first phase, we have struck off around 2.26 lakh companies, which were not only non-compliant firms but also most of them were bogus. More than 400 companies were working from a one-room set up in the second phase, we have already struck off around 55,000 companies and more are on the anvil**

**PP Chaudhary, Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs**

# BUZZ FROM GOVT

**Indian branding is continuously innovating and digital branding has become as important if not more than conventional branding. Branding in India across sectors has been continuously evolving and is creating the right noise to reach their TG. Superbrands India will continue to mine out the top brands in India doing exceptional branding and honor them with Superbrands seal**



**Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog**

## Market crash wipes out ₹5.6L cr investor wealth

**MORE THAN 450 STOCKS HIT THEIR 52-WEEK LOW LEVELS ON FRIDAY**



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As the equity market plunged for the fourth day in a row, where the BSE benchmark index plummeted over 1,100 points in afternoon trade Friday, investor wealth witnessed an erosion of a whopping ₹5.6 lakh crore in four days.

The 30-share index cracked 1,127.58 points, or 3 per cent, to hit an intra-day low of 35,993.64 on Friday. It, however recovered most of the losses within minutes of the fall.

There were wild swings in the market, with the BSE Sensex finally settling at 36,841.60, down 279.62 points or 0.75 per cent.

"Nifty and Sensex were

down due to widespread selling that was seen in the financial services sector as credit risk emerged post-ILFS firesale and concern over its interest repayment. Yes Bank added fuel as RBI trimmed the CEO's term," said Mustafa Nadeem, CEO, Epic Research.

In four days, the index has lost 1,249.04 points.

Following the weak sentiment, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies slumped ₹5,66,187.15 crore to ₹1,50,70,832 crore on Friday.

From the 30-share pack, 17 stocks ended with losses led by YES Bank, which crashed 28.71

per cent, dragging the benchmark index.

Shares of housing finance firms fell sharply Friday, with Dewan Housing Finance tumbling 42.43 per cent.

"Housing finance companies nosedived on the basis of rumours of liquidity crunch which caused the stocks to fall up to 50 per cent. However, the stocks are fundamentally sound, but herd mentality had caused the sudden panic in these stocks, however, they have recovered from their day's low," said Jimeet Modi, Founder & CEO of Samco Securities & StockNote.

On BSE, 2,106 stocks declined and 586 advanced, while 148 remained unchanged.

More than 450 stocks hit their 52-week low levels Friday.

## Sensex dips over 1K points, regains some



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex tumbled about 280 points to close below the 37,000-mark on Friday after investors were jolted by an over 1,000-point plunge in afternoon trade.

The 30-share benchmark, which opened on a strong footing, suddenly tanked 1,127.58 points, or 3.03 per cent, to hit a low of 35,993.64 at 1309 hours, before staging an equally sharp recovery.

The fall came on the back of a massive selloff in NBFCs, led by DHFL which skidded over 50 per cent on fears of a liquidity crisis.

The Sensex finally ended lower by 279.62 points, or 0.75 per cent, at 36,841.60. This is its lowest closing since July 25, when it had finished at 36,858.23.

Yes Bank was the worst

performer on the index, losing a whopping 28.71 per cent. The Reserve Bank on Wednesday curtailed the term of its founding CEO Rana Kapoor and asked the private sector lender to look for his replacement by January 2019.

The broader Nifty too suffered a mid-session plunge and ended at 11,143.10, down 91.25 points.

The indices closed with losses for the third straight week. The Sensex lost a hefty 1,249.04 points, or 3.28 per cent, while the NSE Nifty fell 372.10 points, or 3.23 per cent, during the week.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) remained net sellers and offloaded equities worth ₹2,184.55 crore while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) made purchases worth a net ₹1,201.30 crore on Wednesday, provisional data showed.

## Fitch ups India's growth forecast to 7.8% for FY19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings Friday upped India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.8 per cent, from 7.4 per cent projected earlier.

In its Global Economic Outlook, Fitch, however, flagged tightening of financial conditions, rising oil bill and weak bank balance sheets as headwinds to growth.

"We have revised up our forecast for FY2018-2019 growth to 7.8 per cent from 7.4 per cent on the back of the better-than-expected 2Q18 out-turn. India's growth likely peaked in 2Q18 (April-June) though," Fitch said.

The Indian rupee (INR) has been the worst-performing major Asian currency so far this year.

"And despite the central bank's greater tolerance for currency depreciation, interest rates have been raised by more than anticipated," the global rating agency said in the report.

Fitch also forecast inflation picking up to the upper part of the central bank's target band (4 per cent, plus-minus 2 per cent) within the forecast horizon on relatively high demand-pull pressures and INR depreciation.

The upward revision in growth forecast comes in the backdrop of GDP expanding 8.2 per cent in April-June quarter, higher than Fitch's expectation of 7.7 per cent.

## Business Corner

**'ATAL BIMIT VYAKTI KALYAN YOJNA' ROLLED OUT**

Considering the change in employment pattern and the current scenario of employment in India which has transformed from a long term employment to fixed short term engagement in the form of contract and temping, the ESI Corporation has approved a Scheme named "Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna" for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.



**NLCIL INSTALLS RO DRINKING WATER PLANT**

As part of its CSR initiatives, with an aim to provide clean drinking water to the out patients and inmates of the National Institute of Siddha, Tamilnadu, NLC India Ltd. installed a 1000 LPH Capacity RO plant at Institute premises, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai.



**INDIAN OIL OBSERVES SWACHCHHTA HI SEWA**

Indian Oil is observing Swachhta Hi Seva (SHS) 2018 Campaign from September 15th to October 2nd 2018. The fortnight-long campaign focuses on a cleanliness drive as a part of the 150th birth year celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi. During the campaign, various Swachhta activities will be undertaken through Shramadan/Gift of Labour, by more than 20,000 employees across various units of Indian Oil.



**NAFED HOLDS 61ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

61st Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) was held at New Delhi on Friday. On this occasion, Nafed also launched its updated Website, Mobile App, Quarterly News Letter Vol-I. VR Boda, Chairman of NAFED apprised the members of the One Time Settlement reached by NAFED with Lender Banks and thanked to Prime Minister, Finance & Agriculture Ministers and other Ministries and their officials, members of General Body and Managing Director of NAFED for their contribution in this behalf which culminated in its charismatic revival.



**HDFC BANK** Department For Special Operations  
11th Floor, Indian Express Building, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002

**POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)**  
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 09.05.2018 calling upon the borrower M/s Hitech Grain Processing Pvt Ltd Borrower / Mortgagee, Mrs. Asha Mittal, Mr. Naresh Mittal, Mr. Vipul Mittal Director / Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 29,38,38,936.55 (Rupees Twenty Nine Crore Thirty Eight Lakh Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Six and Paise Fifty Five Only) and interest thereon w.e.f 06.05.2018 together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days of the receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagee(s), having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagee(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 under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rules, on this 20th day of September, 2018 at Noida. 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. The borrower(s) / Mortgagee, 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 HDFC Bank Ltd, for an amount of being Rs. 29,38,38,936.55 (Rupees Twenty Nine Crore Thirty Eight Lakh Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Six and Paise Fifty Five Only) and interest thereon w.e.f 06.05.2018 and interest thereon as aforesaid together with expenses and charges etc.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

S. No.	Description of the Property	Date & Time of Possession
1.	All that pieces and parcels of Property being Plot No. 39, Block B, admeasuring 6156 Sq Mtrs, in Sec-1, Noida, Dist-Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., 201301, which is bounded as under- On or towards North by- Plot No. B-38, On or towards South by- Plot No. B 34 & B 40, On or towards the East by- 27.12 meter wide road, On or towards the West by- Plot No. B-35, together with all the buildings and structures thereon and all the plant, machinery, equipments and accessories attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to earth.	24.09.2018 Time 11.00 AM onwards

Note: The above notice be also considered as 30 days notice for sale under rule 6, 8 and 9 of the Act.  
Place: Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Date : 20/09/2018 Authorised Officer, HDFC Bank Ltd.

**Office of Municipal Council Bahadurgarh**

**RE-Tender Notice**

Municipal Council Bahadurgarh invites e-tenders for Development Works in various places in Bahadurgarh city having Job no. 759 to 769 on the website <http://etenders.hry.nic.in>. Tender can be downloaded and submission from dated 21/09/2018 and will be closed online on dated 01/10/2018, 06:55 PM. Tender will be opened on 03/10/2018, at 11:00 AM onwards. Detailed terms and conditions can be seen on the website <http://etenders.hry.nic.in>.

**CONDITIONS:-**

- (i) Details regarding terms and conditions including the tender documents are available on the website <http://etenders.hry.nic.in> and also in Office of Municipal Council, Bahadurgarh.
- (ii) Contractors/firms and L and C societies will have to register by themselves on website <http://etenders.hry.nic.in>.
- (iii) The Payment for Tender Document Fee and EMD Amount submission can be made by eligible bidders/contractors online directly through Debit Cards & Internet Banking in Axis Bank Bahadurgarh A/c no. 627010100005371 (IFSC Code : UTIB0000627) in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Council Bahadurgarh and Proof of the same will be submitted by bidder along with online technical bid. Manual submission not required.
- (iv) Please see the Terms and Conditions and Eligible Criteria in DNIT Document

Sd/- President RO NO. 71996 Dt. 21-09-2018 Municipal Engineer Sd/- Municipal Engineer

## Centre favours additional cess under GST to help Kerala

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has proposed additional cess on select commodities under GST to raise funds to help Kerala tide over the damages caused due to floods, a state minister said on Friday.

The proposal of levy of cess is expected to come up for discussion at the GST Council meeting on September 28.

"Kerala welcomes the suggestion of hon'ble FM for a

## Sebi imposes ₹35-L fine on Falcon Tyres

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi on Friday slapped a fine of ₹35 lakh on Falcon Tyres for not providing the information sought by the regulator in a matter related to preferential allotment of shares of the firm.

In April 2012, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) issued various summons to Falcon.

One of the summons sought the balance sheet of Falcon for the financial years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12. Another summons directed the company to confirm whether it signed any deed of assignment with three other entities — Suncap, Regus and Salputri — for assigning a loan of ₹144.04 crore to itself.

In an order, Sebi said Falcon was informed to furnish required documents, but it had sought extension of time.

According to the order, despite multiple time exten-

sions being granted to the firm, it failed to file its reply which depicts an approach to not cooperate with the investigation.

"Thus, for not complying with the summons for supplying information/ documents sought by the IA (investigating authority) during the investigations, it is held that Falcon has violated... Sebi Act," the regulator said.

Noting that Falcon is "liable for monetary penalty", Sebi slapped a fine of ₹35 lakh on the firm.

In a separate order, the regulator imposed a penalty of ₹4 lakh on Excel Castronics' non executive director Pahal Jayeshbhai Madiyar for disclosure lapses.

In August 2014, the holdings of Pahal in Excel Castronics increased from 3,91,532 shares to 4,20,762 shares, which is 5.167 per cent of the share capital of the company.

**Govt. of Bihar**

**BIHAR STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO. LTD., PATNA**  
(Regd. Office - Viduyt Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna)(Contact No- 0612-2504655, M No- 7763817701, Fax No- 0612-2504655, Email ID - ce.trans664@gmail.com)  
(GST No. :- 10A AFCB2393H1Z1, CIN - U40102BR2012SGC018889)  
(Department of Project-I of BSPTCL)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tender Extension Notice for (NIT) NO.- 86/PR/BSPTCL/2018, PR No-6542**

Due date for submission & opening of Online tenders for NIT No.86/PR/BSPTCL/2018 for (i) Construction of 220/132KV (2x100 MVA) GSS at Korha with SAS and Residential Quarters(Additional Scope) (ii) Addition/augmentation of 160MVA 220/132 Transformer at 220/132/33KV GSS Kishanganj (New) on turnkey basis under State Plan (Published in Daily Newspaper on all India bases) is extended as follows:-

Last date of online sale of Bid Document/Request of bid/bid documents up to 15.00 Hrs. on 05/10/18  
Last date of online submission of tender up to 16:00 Hrs on 05/10/18  
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial Bid (Part-I) 16.00 Hrs onward on 06/10/18

Date of opening of price part: To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation ([www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in))

The tender documents are available at website [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) Tender fee (Cost of BOQ) to be paid through e-payment mode only. Tender documents must be accompanied with EMD in form Bank Guarantee/ DD in favour of "Accounts Officer, BSPTCL" failing which the tender shall be summarily rejected.

1. Eligibility Criteria Tender documents, etc are available in downloadable from at websites <http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>
2. "Bid Processing Fee is mandatory to be paid through online mode i.e. Internet Payment Gateway (Credit/Debit Card), Net Banking, NEFT/RTGS".
3. "Bid along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-payment portal [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) before the date & time specified in the NIT. The department doesn't take responsibility for the delay/ Non submission of Tender/ Non Reconciliation of online Payment caused due to Non-availability of Internet Connection, Network Traffic/ Holidays or any other reason".

**Chief Engineer (Project I)**

**E-tendering introduced in BSPTCL for tenders above Rs. 25 lacs.**  
For registration logon to [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) and eProcurement Help Desk First Floor, M/22, Bank Of India Building, Road No-25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Patna-800001 at 0612-2523006, Mob:9939035696

"विवादों के निष्पादन के लिए लोक अदालत का लाभ उठाये, परस्पर सहमति से न्यायिक निर्णय प्राप्त करें, समय एवं खर्च की बचत करें"

PR. No. 8831 (Ni Ni) 2018-19  
अविधेय शरारत एवं मादक द्रव्य के सन्धि में शिकायत टॉल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें।

**BIHAR STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO. LTD., PATNA**  
(Regd. Office - Viduyt Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna)(Contact No- 0612-2504655, M No- 7763817743, Email ID - ceproject2bsptcl@gmail.com)  
(GST No. :- 10A AFCB2393H1Z1, CIN - U40102BR2012SGC018889)  
(Department of Project-II of BSPTCL)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tender Extension Notice for (NIT) NO.- 41/PR/BSPTCL/2018, PR No-5843**

Due date for submission & opening of Online tenders for NIT No. 41/PR/BSPTCL/2018 for Construction of 220/132/33 KV, (2x160 + 3x50) MVA, GSS Asthawan (Dist.- Nalanda) including Residential Quarters with Construction of 02 Nos. 220 KV Line Bays & 06 Nos. 132 KV Line Bays at remote ends on Turnkey Basis under State Plan on turnkey basis (Published in Daily Newspaper on all India bases) is extended as follows:-

Description of work	Estimated Cost(Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Completion period
Construction of 220/132/33 KV, (2x160 + 3x50) MVA, GSS Asthawan (Dist. - Nalanda) including Residential Quarters with Construction of 02 Nos. 220 KV Line Bays & 06 Nos. 132 KV Line Bays at remote ends on Turnkey Basis under State Plan on turnkey basis.	109.46 Cr.	1.00 Cr.	18 Months from NOA.

Last date of online sale of Bid Document/Request of bid/bid documents: Up to 05/10/2018, 15:00 Hrs.  
Last date of online submission of tender: Up to 05/10/2018, 16:00 Hrs.  
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial Bid (Part-I) On 06/10/2018, 16:00Hrs. onward

1. Eligibility Criteria Tender documents, etc are available in downloadable from at websites <http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>
2. "Bid Processing Fee is mandatory to be paid through online mode i.e. Internet Payment Gateway (Credit/Debit Card), Net Banking, NEFT/RTGS".
3. "Bid along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-payment portal [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) before the date & time specified in the NIT. The department doesn't take responsibility for the delay/ Non submission of Tender/ Non Reconciliation of online Payment caused due to Non-availability of Internet Connection, Network Traffic/ Holidays or any other reason".

**Chief Engineer (Project II)**

E-tendering introduced in BSPTCL for tenders above Rs. 25 lacs. For registration logon to [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) and eProcurement Help Desk First Floor, M/22, Bank Of India Building, Road No-25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Patna-800001 at 0612-2523006, Mob:+91-7542028164. While participating in e-tendering process, the contractor shall have to get them registered to get user ID, Passwords and digital signature. This will enable them to access the Website: [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) only.

विवादों के निष्पादन के लिए लोक अदालत का लाभ उठाये परस्पर सहमति से न्यायिक निर्णय प्राप्त करें समय एवं खर्च की बचत करें

PR No. 8892(Ni.Ni) 2018-19  
अविधेय शरारत एवं मादक द्रव्य के सन्धि में शिकायत टॉल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें

**GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION SOLAPUR.**

**Sat Rasta, Near Karigar Petrol Pump, Solapur - 413003**  
e-mail-solapur.ee@mahapwd.com Phone No. 0217/2312310

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 23 FOR 2018-2019 (Online)

Sealed online B-1 e-tenders for the following work are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division , Solapur (Telephone No. 2312310) from the Contractors Registered with Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department in appropriate class.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In lack)
1	Repairs to Barshi Solapur Road S.H. 204 KM 37/200 to 64/800 Dist-Solapur.	Rs. 70.00 Lack
2	Repairs to Tandulwadi Musti Dhatri Walsang Achegaon Tilatigate Kanabas Bankalgi Sanjwad to join road S.H. 213 MDR 44 KM 22/00 to 43/00 Dist-Solapur	Rs. 65.00 Lack
3	Repairs to Alur Bhurikawathe Wagdari Shirwal Akkalkot Jeur Karajagi Mangrul Tadwal Mundhewadi SH 211 road KM 176/500 to 221/00 Dist-Solapur	Rs. 80.00 Lack

**NOTED:-** Details of Tender documents will be available and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering website <http://mahatenders.gov.in> & <http://mahapwd.com> as under.  
Above Tender Notice is displayed on P.W.D. website [www.mahapwd.com](http://www.mahapwd.com) From date 21/9/2018.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Work Division, Solapur.  
DGIPR/2018/2019/3105

# ARSENAL, CHELSEA START WITH WIN

## Aubameyang scores brace while Willian nets stunner to lead English giants off to winning start

AP ■ LONDON

Chelsea maintained its perfect start to the season when Brazil forward Willian scored in a 1-0 Europa League victory at PAOK Thessaloniki on Thursday.

Two goals from Ever Banega and Wissam Ben Yedder led Sevilla, the most successful team in Europa League history, to a 5-1 thrashing of Standard Liege while Eintracht Frankfurt opened its campaign by upsetting Marseille 2-1.

Arsenal, with former Sevilla coach Unai Emery now in charge, defeated Ukraine's Vorskla 4-2 thanks to a double from Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and AC Milan edged past Dudelange of Luxembourg 1-0.

Sitting atop the Premier League with five wins from five games, Chelsea rested Eden Hazard after the Belgium playmaker registered a hat trick in a 4-1 win against Cardiff on Saturday.

Chelsea manager Maurizio Sarri made five changes to his starting line-up against PAOK and his dominant team should have scored a handful of goals.

The out-of-form Alvaro Morata wasted several chances after captain Willian had finished off a speedy counter-attack in the seventh minute following good work from Ross Barkley.

"We played very well, were in control of the match, and it would have been difficult for anybody to play against us this evening," Sarri said.

Also in Group L, BATE Borisov of Belarus won 2-0 at Hungary's Vidi.

### SEVILLA ON FIRE

Sevilla shook off two recent defeats to rout Standard Liege 5-1 in its opening



Chelsea striker Willian battles for ball during his side's Europa League clash on Thursday; (left) Arsenal's striker Aubameyang celebrates after scoring his second goal

group-stage match of the Europa League football championship.

Back in action in a tournament they have won five times, the Andalusians on Thursday seized control from the outset at Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium and opened the scoring in the eighth minute on a curving free kick by Ever Banega into the top-right corner of the goal.

But Sevilla's intensity dropped after French midfielder Ibrahim Amadou left the game with an injury in the 15th minute, ceding territory and giving up the equalizer in the 39th minute on a goal by Malian midfielder Moussa Djenebo.

The home side, however, responded with two scores on either side of halftime.

Franco Vazquez fired a left-footed blast off the upright and into the goal in the 41st minute before Wissam Ben Yedder, who tallied 10 goals for Sevilla in last-season's Champions League, scored on a cross from Brazilian defender Guilherme Arana in the 49th minute.

Ben Yedder then made the score 4-1 in the 70th minute when he scored after Banega had gained possession of

the ball deep in Standard Liege's territory.

Banega then became the second Sevilla player to score a brace in the 74th minute when he converted a penalty that had been awarded for a foul by Zinho Vanheusden on Vazquez.

### AUBAMEYANG'S JOY

Aubameyang opened the scoring for Arsenal against Vorskla in the 32nd minute when he converted an Alex Iwobi cross.

Danny Welbeck headed in a center from Henrikh Mkhitaryan before Aubameyang made it 3-0 with a precise shot from outside the area.

Substitute Mesut Ozil added the fourth goal from close range but Vorskla reduced the arrears thanks to captain Volodymyr Chesnakov and Vyacheslav Sharpar.

For Emery, the Europa League is familiar territory, after he guided Sevilla to its three straight titles earlier this decade.

Also in Group E, Sporting Lisbon

scored twice in the second half to sink Qarabag 2-0.

### DAVID VS GOLIATH

It was a case of David vs Goliath when seven-time European champion Milan took on Dudelange, the first team from Luxembourg to reach the Europa League group stage.

Dudelange did well to keep out Milan until Gonzalo Higuain struck the only goal of the game in the 59th minute.

Also in Group F, Olympiakos and Betis drew 0-0.

### LATE EINTRACHT WINNER

Substitute Luka Jovic struck one minute from time as German Cup winner Eintracht Frankfurt came back from a goal down to defeat last year's Europa League runner-up Marseille 2-1 in a game played behind closed doors in France.

Marseille went ahead in the third minute at the Stade Velodrome as Florian Thauvin crossed from the right for Lucas Ocampos to score.

Frankfurt equalized in the second half through Lucas Torro before Jovic's late winner.

In the other Group H match, Lazio defeated Apollon 2-1.

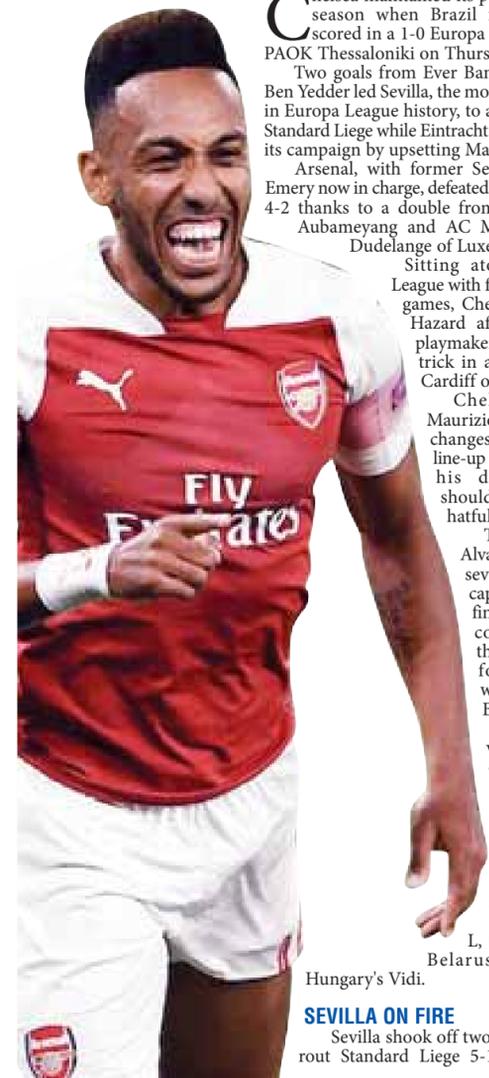
### OTHER GAMES

Rangers, managed by former England midfielder Steven Gerrard, recovered from conceding a first-minute goal to draw 2-2 at Villarreal, while Rapid Vienna beat Spartak Moscow 2-0 in the other Group G game.

In Group I, Genk defeated Malmo 2-0 and Besiktas eased past newcomer Sarpsborg 3-1.

In Group A, Bayer Leverkusen rallied from two goals down to win 3-2 at Ludogorets Razgrad in Bulgaria.

In a matchup between the champions of Scotland and Norway, Celtic beat Rosenborg 1-0. Also in Group B, Fredrik Gulbrandsen scored a minute before the end to give last year's semi-finalist Salzburg a 3-2 victory at Leipzig.



# India's campaign end in quarters



PV Sindhu returns a shot during World C'ship clash against Carolina Marin

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU

Top shuttlers P V Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth lost their quarterfinal matches on Friday, drawing the curtains on India's campaign at the one million dollar China Open BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament here.

After Srikanth was ousted 9-21, 11-21 by reigning world champion Kento Momota of Japan, third seed Sindhu went down fighting 11-21, 21-11, 15-21 to World No 6 Chen Yufei of China in a hard-fought contest, which lasted 52 minutes.

Sindhu had beaten the 20-year-old Chen four times in their last six meetings but on Friday she couldn't curb her errors or find a way to break her opponent's superior game plan.

In the opening game, Chen opened up a 6-3 lead. The Chinese produced some stunning strokes to grab a 11-5 lead with a powerful return which the Indian had no answers.

After the break, Sindhu took two points but there was a weak return at the net and another stroke went out. Sindhu's errors, coupled with Chen's superb placements, saw the Chinese move to 15-7.

Chen dictated the pace and punished any error from the Indian, who went out a few times. Eventually the Chinese sealed the game with a sharp smash.

After the change of ends, Sindhu tried to engage her opponent in rallies by varying the pace and it worked, as she led 6-1.

However, mental fatigue seemed to affect her judgements as Chen showed good reflexes and unleashed quick and precise strokes to narrow the lead to 5-6.

Chen shot a few shots wide, allowing Sindhu to make it 10-6. But she twice hit the net before a thunderous smash earned her a 11-8

advantage at the break.

The Indian extended the lead to 15-10. She tried to boost herself by celebrating each point and eventually roared back to contest when her rival hit long again.

In the decider, Chen stepped up the pace after an initial burst of points from Sindhu to lead 7-4. Chen maintained the three-point advantage at the breather.

Chen returned with a barrage of strokes on Sindhu's backhand and, aided by the Indian's errors, moved to a 14-8 lead.

Sindhu showed signs of recovery, pocketing four straight points, which included a crucial video referral, but she hit wide again as the score read 16-12 in Chen's favour.

In the end, Sindhu hit a long shot followed by a return at the net, giving Chen five match points and she sealed it with another powerful smash.

Earlier, Srikanth, who had a 3-7 head-to-head record against Momota, couldn't find a chink in Momota's armour and went down without a fight against the world No 2 in a lop-sided contest.

Srikanth had lost to Momota at the Malaysia Open and Indonesia Open in June and July respectively.

The Indian was no match for Momota, who has been in sensational form since making a comeback after serving a one-year ban for visiting an illegal casino.

Srikanth lagged 1-5 initially. He recovered to 4-5 with three straight points, but couldn't put up a fight as Momota surged to the first 19-6 lead before pocketing the huge game.

The second game was no different as Momota moved from 4-3 to 13-3 with nine straight points. He continued to dominate the proceedings to seal the contest without much effort.

# AGUERO EXTENDS CITY STAY

LONDON: Manchester City's record goalscorer Sergio Aguero extended his stay with the Premier League champions on Friday, signing a one-year contract extension.

The 30-year-old Argentine international — who broke the record last season and whose tally stands at 204 — put pen to paper on a deal that will see him through to the end of the 2021 season.



Sergio Aguero pens down contract

"I am happy for this additional year," said Aguero in a club statement.

"My idea was being here for 10 years. I've been here for seven years, it's going to be 10 when the contract expires.

"This was the main reason I signed. I'm very happy because they have treated me very well since the first day I got here." Txiki Begiristain, Manchester City's director of

football, said Aguero — who has been left out at times by manager Pep Guardiola in the last two years for Brazilian Gabriel Jesus — retained his status as one of the club's most pivotal players.

"We are delighted that Sergio is extending his stay. We are fortunate to have had one of the best strikers in the world at our club for so many years," he said.

# 'Football is the future of Indian sports'

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Super League (ISL) franchise Chennaiyin FC star striker Jeje Lalpekhlua believes India's rise in stature and international rankings is no coincidence.

India has always been crazy about football but since the ISL kicked off in 2014, the game has seen a new dimension.

Since 2014, Indian football's graph has also been on the rise and Jeje credits ISL for giving Indian football a new identity.

"The foundation of the game and the quality has improved now. There is a lot of difference between the first season and last season of the ISL (in terms of quality of football)," Jeje was said.

Jeje has been an undoubted star in the ISL and a regular with the national team under different coaches.

"People have realized that football is going to be the future of sports in India. Indian football is on a high level and I would like to see more of it in the future," he added.

The Mizoram-born forward also felt



Indian footballer Jeje in a file picture

that younger players were flourishing, given the number of opportunities they were being offered in the ISL. Moreover, the spotlight they enjoy in the ISL means that impressive performances could bring them under the national team's radar.

He also hoped that such an incentive will bring out good performances from them during the season which will benefit the Chennaiyin FC to defend their title.

"We have a lot of good Indian play-

ers in our squad. Last year Anirudh Thapa, Jerry Lalrinzuala and Germanpreet Singh did quite well in ISL and got a national call. This year we have Issac Vannalsawma," Jeje said.

"There is good mix of seniors and juniors in our squad. They will become an important part in the course of the league and will help us retain the title," he added.

### U-16 GIRLS GO DOWN 1-2

ULAAN BAATAR: Battling extremely cold weather, the Indian team Friday went down fighting 1-2 to hosts Mongolia in the AFC U-16 Women's Championship Qualifiers here.

Following the result, India relinquished pole position in group B to Laos, who are three points ahead, having played the same number of matches.

Laos has garnered nine points from three matches, while India are three points behind. They are slated to face off in the final group fixture on Sunday.

Meanwhile, a win against Laos will be enough for India to advance to the second round of qualification, owing to better head-to-head record.

# OSAKA ENTERS PAN PACIFIC SEMIS

AP ■ TOKYO

Naomi Osaka raised her game when she needed to, and it landed her a spot in the semifinals of the Pan Pacific Open.

The US Open champion, who upset Serena Williams in the final in New York at the beginning of the month, won her ninth straight match Friday, beating Barbora Strycova 6-3, 6-4.

"This was my third time playing her, and each time it was very close, so I knew she was very good," said the third-seeded Osaka, the first Japanese player to win a Grand Slam singles title.

Osaka will next face Camila Giorgi, who advanced after Victoria Azarenka retired from their match



Naomi Osaka returns a shot during match

in the first set. Giorgi was leading 5-3 when the match ended.

The 20-year-old Osaka converted all three of her break points and won 80 percent of points on her first serve.

She broke the eighth-seeded Strycova to take a 3-1 lead in the first set but was soon broken back. Leading 4-3, that's when Osaka took control. She immediately earned two break points, and Strycova double-faulted on the first one to put Osaka ahead 5-3.

In the second set, double-faults again cost Strycova, who was broken again at 2-2.

Also, fourth-seeded Karolina Pliskova defeated Alison Riske 6-1, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (4). She will next play Donna Vekic, who beat second-

seeded Caroline Garcia 6-3, 6-4.

### YOUZHNY CALLS IT A DAY

ST PETERSBURG: Top-seeded Dominic Thiem reached the quarterfinals of the St Petersburg Open with a 7-6 (4), 6-4 win over Jan-Lennard Struff on Thursday.

The Austrian player's next opponent will be eighth-seeded Daniil Medvedev of Russia, who prevailed against Mikhail Kukushkin 6-3, 6-4.

Russian veteran Mikhail Youzhny retired from tennis after losing 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-3 to fifth-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain.

The 36-year-old Youzhny won 10 tour titles and reached a career-high ranking of eighth in 2008.

## SINGLES

### TEJA RESIGNS AFTER DRONACHARYA SNUB

CHANDIGARH: Miffed at being dropped from the list of Dronacharya award nominees because of a past case of indiscipline, national compound archery coach Jivanjot Singh Teja on Friday tendered his resignation. "I have resigned as Indian archery team coach," a disgruntled Teja said. Stating that "gross injustice" was meted out to him, Teja said he was not demanding the award but wants a transparent process in the selection of the candidates. He said that the case of alleged indiscipline against him and the one-year ban from Archery Association of India that followed were things of the past and he had been cleared of these charges long ago. Teja said he had been wronged in this case since he was not at fault for the incident for which he was punished. "It is like branding me as a thief. This is gross injustice. I will knock the doors of the Prime Minister and the President," he said.

### BHULLAR STAYS IN TOP-10 IN JAPAN

TOKYO: Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar returned a card of one-over 72 on a tough scoring day but kept himself in the Top-10 at the midway stage of the Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup on Friday. Bhullar is now three-under 139 and Tied-9th after 36 holes. Bhullar lies five shots behind the new leader, Japan's Hiroshi Iwata (69) on a day when persistent rain made things difficult for the players. The rainy conditions made it tricky for players but Iwata stood firm as he added 69 to his first round 65 and is now eight-under 134 at the 150 million yen event sanctioned by the Asian Tour and Japan Golf Tour Organisation. Ajeetesh Sandhu shot 72 and with his first-round 69 he is now one-under 141 and Tied-23rd, while Rahul Gangjee (75) slipped to T-40 at one-over 143. They were the only Indians to make the cut as the cut fell at two-over 144.

### WOODS SEIZES SHARE OF LEAD AT TOUR C'SHIP

ATLANTA: Tiger Woods delivered easily the loudest roar in ending his round with an eagle three to share the lead on day one of the season-ending Tour Championship in Daytona. Woods found the green with his second shot into the par-five 18th and then brilliantly holed a just over 25 foot putt in a round of a five-under par 65 to tie fellow American Rickie Fowler in Thursday's heatwave conditions on the East Lake course. It is the second straight event in succession Woods has shared the first-round lead after he and Rory McIlroy were tied at the top with 62s on day one of the BMW Championship in Philadelphia. "To finish with an eagle was nice as I hammered that drive up the left side, and it was nice to see it not in the rough before hitting five wood to the green," said Woods. "Overall, I felt in control today. I had a lot of control over my shots.

### BRAZIL RECALL JESUS FOR FRIENDLIES

RIO DE JANEIRO: Manchester City striker Gabriel Jesus has been recalled by Brazil for friendlies against Saudi Arabia and Argentina in October. Coach Tite announced his squad on Friday, with three new faces: Bordeaux defender Pablo, Hannover midfielder Wallace, and Barcelona striker Malcom. He also brought in under-21 goalkeeper Philippe to give him international experience. The friendlies will be in Saudi Arabia on Oct 12 and 16. Jesus didn't score in Brazil's six-game campaign at the World Cup until the quarterfinal against Belgium. He wasn't summoned for Tite's first squad after Russia, for friendlies against the United States and El Salvador. Brazil won both. Jesus has scored once for Man City in five appearances this season. Tite also said Juventus winger Douglas Costa was not chosen after he was suspended on Wednesday for four matches in Italy after spitting on Sassuolo midfielder Eusebio Di Francesco.

### INDIA SHINES AT TRACK ASIA CUP CYCLING

NEW DELHI: India secured three Gold medals, three Silver and a Bronze on the opening day of the 5th Track Asia Cup Cycling here on Friday. Bilal Ahmed Dar opened India's tally with a Silver in Point Race of 15km in junior men category, winning 19 points. While Venkansa S Kengalattay bagged Bronze. Mayuri Lute won the country's first Gold medal in the women junior 500 metre. She outclassed Thailand's Kanyarat Hnokaew by clocking 37.538s with a speed of 47.95 km/hr. In the women elite 500 metre time trial category, India's M Sonali Chanu (37.140s) had to contend with Bronze, finishing behind two Indonesian cyclists. The Indian men's junior team performed as expected in the team sprint event, winning another Gold by defeating Kazakhstan. Esow, Abhishek and Jarnsh Singh of India clocked 46.804 while the Kazakhstan team clocked 47.747 in the finals.

Agencies

# Delhi to host Women World Boxing C'ship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The World Women's Boxing Championships, to be hosted by India after more than a decade, will be held from November 15 in the national capital, a top official of the international body said on Friday.

"The AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships will be held in New Delhi in November 13-25," an official of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) said.

The marquee tournament was last held in India in 2006 and remains the best for the country in terms of performance. India had topped the medal tally with four Gold, three Silver and one Bronze medal.

The celebrated M C Mary Kom, who has been nicknamed 'Magnificent Mary' by the AIBA, will be gunning for a sixth world title at the event which would conclude with the finals on November 24.

She won successive Gold medals in 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2010 editions.

"The deadline for registration in the AIBA Database to the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships is October 5," the official said.

In the last edition of the event, which started in 2001, India won just a Silver, through Sonia Lather in the featherweight (57kg) category. The first edition of the women's world championship was held in the United States in Scranton in 2001. All participating countries would be required to land in New Delhi before November 13.

### OSTAPENKO LOSES

SEOUL: Ekaterina Alexandrova broke top-seeded Jelena Ostapenko's serve five times on Friday to beat the defending champion 6-3, 6-2 in a rain-delayed match at the Korea Open.

In other quarterfinals, Kiki Bertens beat Evgeniya Rodina 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 and Ajla Tomljanovic defeated Mandy Minella 6-2, 4-6, 7-5.



# ढव छत्तीसगढ़ 2025

किसान हो रहे समृद्ध और खुशहाल

सड़कों का बिछ रहा नया जाल

**अटल  
विकास यात्रा**

22 सितम्बर 2018, दोपहर 12 बजे

पुलिस लाईन ग्राउंड, जांजगीर, जिला: जांजगीर-चांपा

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के मुख्य आतिथ्य में

- कृषक सम्मेलन
- बिलासपुर - पथरापाली 4 लेन सड़क का शिलान्यास
- सरगांव - बिलासपुर 4 लेन सड़क का लोकार्पण
- बिलासपुर - अनूपपुर तीसरी रेल लाईन का शिलान्यास
- हितग्राहियों को मोबाइल, रसोई गैस, प्रमाण-पत्र, पट्टा, ट्रैक्टर आदि का वितरण

**डॉ. रमन सिंह**

मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

**नितिन जयराम गडकरी**

मंत्री, सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग, भारत सरकार

की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति में संपन्न होगा

इस अवसर पर आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं