

OPINION 8
A HAUNTING
SILENCE

WORLD 12
B'DESH BACKS MODI
GOVT ON ARTICLE 370

SPORT 16
INDIA TO FACE
WINDIES IN 1ST TEST

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CBI arrests Chidambaram

Ex-FM appears at Cong HQ out of nowhere to address Press conference, CBI-ED sleuths scale walls to enter his house

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The hide and seek between former Union Minister P Chidambaram and the CBI ended after his dramatic arrest on Wednesday night. The CBI arrested Chidambaram from his Jor Bagh home minutes after he returned there from the AICC headquarters after addressing a Press conference in the presence of a battery of Congress leaders.

Around 8.15 pm, Chidambaram, who was untraceable for over 27 hours, appeared in the party office and told media that he was not evading arrest and asked the CBI to wait till Friday, when his petition is listed to be heard in the Supreme Court.

Along with senior Supreme Court lawyers and senior party colleagues Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi, he then drove to his residence nearly 10 minutes away from the Congress office. On his trail were CBI and ED officials. A CBI team reached his Jor Bagh residence 115-A within minutes of his return.

The CBI team first knocked at the gates to gain entry but finding no response, they scaled the walls. Once three officers reached inside, they opened the gates to allow other team members waiting outside. Soon a team of officers,



CBI officials arrest Congress leader P Chidambaram from his Jor Bagh residence in New Delhi on Wednesday

identifying themselves as from ED arrived at the scene.

Delhi Police personnel were posted to prevent any adverse law and order situation. After his arrest,

Chidambaram was taken to CBI headquarters, where doctors from RLM hospital took a routine health check up. He will be produced in the trial court on Thursday.

In the Press conference, Chidambaram put up a strong defence of himself and his family members, saying none of them has been accused of any offence by the probe agencies.

“Until Friday and beyond, let's hope the lamp of liberty will shine bright and illuminate the whole country,” he said, suggesting that the probe agencies should not arrest him until

the apex court decides on his bail plea. “I will respect law even if applied with an unequal hand by probe agencies,” he said reading out from a written statement.

“I am aghast that I was accused of hiding from the law. On the contrary, I was seeking the protection of the law. I was aghast that I was accused of running away from justice. On the contrary, I was engaged in the pursuit of justice,” Chidambaram said while rejecting allegations that he was

evading investigating agencies. He said he was working with his lawyers through the last night, preparing his papers for his bail application.

“I believe that the foundation of a democracy is liberty, most precious article of the Constitution is Article 21 that guarantees life and liberty. If I'm asked to choose between life and liberty, I shall unhesitatingly choose liberty,” he said. “To win freedom we must struggle. To preserve freedom too we must struggle,” he said.

His son, Karti Chidambaram, who is also accused of “wrongdoing” in the cases by probe agencies, termed the CBI/ED action as “political witch-hunt”.

“This is a political witch-hunt. Outrageous media leaks are the preferred tactics of the @dir_ed. I have nothing to do with INX or the FIPB. All my assets and liabilities are duly declared in statutory and regulatory filings. I have repeated this ad nauseam,” he tweeted.

Cong stands up for PC, RaGa says Govt misusing agencies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday defended its senior leader and former Union Minister P Chidambaram, who is facing corruption charges in the INX Media case.

While Rahul Gandhi alleged the Modi Government is using agencies like ED, CBI, and sections of a “spineless media” to character assassinate a versatile person like Chidambaram, party general secretary and Rahul's sister



Priyanka Gandhi claimed the former Union Minister was being “shamefully hunted down” because he speaks truth and exposes the failures of the Government.

Priyanka said the party will continue to fight for the truth no matter what the consequences are.

“An extremely qualified and respected member of the RS, P Chidambaram ji has served our nation with loyalty for decades including as Finance Minister and Home Minister,” she said.

I'll discuss Kashmir with PM Modi at G7 summit, says Trump

India has made it clear there is no role for a third party

PTI ■ WASHINGTON



Jammu & Kashmir.

Trump's comments to a question on the tension between India and Pakistan came a day after he made separate phone calls to Prime Minister Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Trump said he was happy to try and help calm the situation in Kashmir. “I'm going to be with Prime Minister Modi. I'll be with him over the weekend in France,” Trump said, referring to the G7 Summit in Biarritz during the weekend.

Behave yourself on road or pay through nose from Sept 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With new Motor Vehicles Act (Amended) in place, be ready to maintain road and traffic discipline as heavy penalties will come into force from September 1.

The new MVA provides for strict punishment for various traffic-related offences, including ₹10,000 fine for not giving way to emergency vehicles, ₹10,000 for driving despite disqualification, ₹10,000 for drunken driving, etc. Over speeding, driving without helmet, and not wearing seat belt would invite penalty in the range of ₹1,000-2,000.

Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said steps have been initiated to implement provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act 2019. Sixty-three clauses which do not require framing of new rules are likely to be implemented from September 1 subject to clearance from the Law Ministry. These clauses deal with penalties, licences, registration and National Transport Policy, among others.



“Subject to clearance from the Law Ministry, these clauses are likely to be implemented from September 1,” Gadkari said at a Press conference. The Road Transport Minister expressed hope that the MVA will help curb road accidents and bring down fatalities. Regarding the other clauses for which rules have to be framed, Gadkari said steps for this have already been initiated by the Ministry, and rules will be notified as and when the due processes are completed.

Govt integrates directorates with administrative depts To speed up decision making, enhance work efficiency

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In order to streamline the functioning of directorates and speed up the process of decision making, the State Government on Wednesday integrated different directorates with their respective administrative departments to function as composite departments with immediate effect.

A resolution of the General Administration and Public Grievance Department informed this.

The composite departments would run under certain conditions, it said.

The integrated department will function on the premises of the respective administrative departments/directorates keeping in view availability of space and public convenience.

There will be single file system through OSWAS and every proposal referred by the directorate shall not be required to be re-initiated or re-examined de novo in the department.

The sections such as office establishment, issue and

There will be single file system through OSWAS and every proposal referred by the directorate shall not be required to be re-initiated or re-examined de novo in the department

the guidelines of Finance Department.

The concerned staff will continue to remain in their respective cadres and will avail service benefits in their own cadre hierarchy.

On account of promotion, death, resignation or otherwise, the base level posts in the heads of department will stand abolished and in lieu of that, as per requirement, the same shall be filled up from Secretariat Common Cadre meant for HoD.

The Administrative Department will take necessary steps to make budget provisions for the composite department.

Necessary budget provisions for the integrated department shall be made from the next financial year in consultation with Finance Department.

The OSWAS system operative in the Secretariat will be modified to integrate the directorates with the departments immediately and directorates will submit only electronic files after due scanning of existing files.

CAPSULE

EX-MP CM BABULAL GAUR NO MORE

Bhopal: Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Babulal Gaur passed away on Wednesday morning at a private hospital here after a prolonged illness.

RAJIV GAUBA APPOINTED CABINET SECRETARY

New Delhi: Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba was on Wednesday appointed the next Cabinet Secretary for a tenure of two years.

'TAKING STEPS TO STOP WATER FLOWING TO PAK'

Mumbai: Union Water Resources Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has said the Government has begun the process of stopping the waters from the Himalayan rivers flowing into Pakistan without violating the Indus Water Treaty.

LET ULTRA, SPO KILLED IN BARAMULLA ENCOUNTER

Srinagar: A Lashker-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorist and a special police officer were killed on Wednesday while a sub-inspector was injured in an encounter with terrorists in Baramulla of J&K.

ABHINANDAN STARTS FLYING MIG 21

New Delhi: Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman has started flying MIG 21 jet again.

Rourkela college prof takes 11 classes in 15 months!

Gets salary of nearly ₹2L per month

AUROBINDA DAS ■ ROURKELA

To improve the teaching standard and making the teachers more accountable, the State Government has fixed minimum working hours for the college lecturers. But in a Government College, an associate professor who is getting about ₹1.80 lakh per month towards salary and other allowances has just taken eleven classes in 15 months, i.e., from January 2018 to March 31, 2019.

ate professor in history department at the Rourkela College.

The information provided by the Public Information Officer of the college to Rourkela Nagarika Samity general secretary Surendra Dash reveals so. The UGC guidelines say an associate professor should take at least 25 classes per month.

In his reaction after getting the information, Dash says it is a mockery to the Government system. According to him, a person who is getting about ₹2 lakh as salary has just taken 11 classes in 15 months. If arithmetically it is calculated then in 15 months, he has taken about ₹27 lakh and for each of his class, ₹2.50 lakh is spent.

Dash says it is just unfortunate and demands stringent action against the professor.

He further said that while paying a huge amount the Government fails to extract the work from an employee, in other way to weaken the education system the Government has been introducing the guest faculty system instead of posting regular Lecturers. It is also mockery of the highly qualified unemployed youths.

Not only this, the Government has fixed the remuneration for guest faculty at the +2 level at ₹400 per class and subject to maximum ₹16,000 per month and it is ₹500 per class with maximum limit up to ₹25,000 per month

at the +3 level.

So, taking advantage of that, in many cases the regular Lecturers instead of taking classes are forcing the guest faculties to take a larger number of classes.

So, in many cases a guest faculty though eligible to get remuneration for maximum of 40/50 classes takes 70 to 80 classes per month. Otherwise, he is threatened to lose his job.

The tragedy of the guest faculties does not end with that as since January, the guest faculties are not paid their minimum remuneration. So, in what direction the education policy of the Government is going could be imagined well, says Dash.

SC upholds State's medical bond policy

'Objective is to protect deprived sections' right

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Supreme Court has rejected a writ petition challenging the imposition of compulsory bond for admissions to post-graduate medical courses and super speciality courses by several State Governments, including Odisha.

The Odisha Government's counsel Shibashish Misra has brought to the notice of the apex court that all the 45 seats in the super speciality courses in the State are filled up on the basis of merit in the all-India counselling. The fee charged in the Government colleges is ₹45,000 per year and the stipend of ₹56,826 is paid to the doctors undergoing super speciality

courses. There is a serious shortage of super speciality doctors in the State and the Government's decision to introduce the bond system is in public interest.

A Supreme Court Bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and Hemant Gupta observed that the objective with which the State Governments have introduced compulsory service bonds is to protect the fundamental right of deprived sections of the society guaranteed to them under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Taking note of the fact that certain State Governments have rigid conditions in the compulsory bonds to be executed by the appellants and the felt need of uniformity in the matter, the apex court suggested for suitable steps to be taken by the Union of India and the Medical Council of India to have a uniform policy regarding the compulsory service to be rendered

by the doctors who are trained in Government institutions.

The petition was filed by the Association of Medical Super Speciality Aspirants and Residents who had sought quashing of the compulsory bond conditions.

Notably, as per the revised service bond policy for medical students in Odisha, students pursuing MBBS, post-graduation and super specialisation medical courses in Government colleges shall have to serve for minimum two years in the State. Those who fail to adhere to it will be penalised. If any candidate does not serve the State for the period after completion of the MBBS course, he or she will have to pay a penalty of ₹50 lakh. While compensation against the bond for PG students is ₹1.5 crore, those pursuing super speciality courses will deposit ₹2 crore.

Intelligence-based policing ideal to curb crime: Sarangi

Seeks separation of investigation, from law & order duties

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Sudhanshu Sarangi, who took charge as the Twin City Commissioner of Police on Wednesday from Satyajit Mohanty, said he would lay stress on intelligence-based policing to curb the rising crime graph in the twin cities

of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Sarangi said there are several strategies in policing like community policing, problem solving policing but he believes in intelligence-based policing.

Giving an example he said, people feel assured when they see a Police Control Room

(PCR) van in their area but the personnel in the police van should be able to identify the criminals. That is intelligence-based policing.

He said strong action would be taken against professional crime. For this information should be collected about the criminal syndicates active in the twin city, who are new entrants and who are coming from outside and committing crimes.

If there is no information



about them and their whereabouts then it would be groping in the dark.

He said besides, curbing crimes steps would be taken to ensure that life in the city goes in a smooth and disciplined manner. People's expectation is very high from the police.

Denizens must have a good and friendly experience with police who is possible if their issues are redressed and strict action is taken against crimi-

nals. The Commissionerate system was set up a decade ago. There is a need for review and steps should be taken accordingly.

Technology should be used more so that people are more benefited.

"We are committed to utilise technology during crime investigation and prevention since it is a prominent aspect of the 5T formula of the State Government.

Review of data related to criminals and action taken against them would be conducted on regular basis so that our crime fighting becomes more efficient," he added.

Steps would be taken to separate investigations of professional and organised crimes from maintaining routine law and order, said Sarangi and sought cooperation people of the twin cities for achieving better results.

Mishra takes charge as housing board chief

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Former Bhubaneswar North MLA Priyadarshi Mishra assumed charge as the Chairman of Odisha State Housing Board on Wednesday.

After taking charge, he stressed on 'zero tolerance' against corruption in the organisation.

He said that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's 5Ts formula would be followed and priority would be given on housing facilities in district headquarters.

Notably, last week, the Chief Minister had appointed several Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leaders, including



Mishra, to top posts of various State-run public sector undertakings (PSUs) and Government programmes.

Puri lawyers protest shifting Govt offices

PNS ■ PURI

Over 500 lawyers of Puri protested the shifting of Government offices to Sipusarubali area, a suburb near the sea beach. In its general body meeting on Tuesday, the lawyers echoed against the proposal of Government and termed it as a big conspiracy by politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen.

Before resorting to agitation, the lawyers also took a decision to send their team to the Collector for confirmation.

They decided to reassemble on Monday for next course of actions in a meeting.

"It is a plan to acquire valuable Government lands in throw away prices," said lawyer Chimay Dash.

In the proposal, the surrounding pathway near Meghanad Pacheri (outer wall) of the Jagannath Temple would be widened up to 75-meter

Dash alleged that it is ploy to cover up a big scam of high-profile people. Bar Association president Prashant Kumar Mishra and general secretary Bibhuti Tripathy were present.

Sources said the proposed office complex will be built on around 300 acre near Sapsarubali.

Cases are sub-judice on illegal

possession of nearly 2,870 acre land by private people.

It is worthwhile to explain here that the State Cabinet has approved Rs 265 crore for Puri for infrastructure of the Iconic city.

In the proposal, the surrounding pathway near Meghanad Pacheri (outer wall) of the Jagannath Temple would be widened up to 75-meter.

Besides, the entire Government offices would come inside a single boundary.

Among other infrastructure, some multistoried market complexes, parking lot, parks and recreation center will be developed.

Evictions near the Jagannath Temple are underway for 3rd consecutive day.

To meet Collector

State deliberately delaying Central projects: BJP

BHUBANESWAR: The BJP on Wednesday criticised the State Government that it is knowingly delaying approval of Central projects worth over Rs 1 lakh crore, proposed by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited two years ago, for political reasons against the interest of people.

"The State Government approved projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore recently, which included IOCL's Paradip Refinery expansion project, Haladia petrochemical project and Talcher Fertiliser. The Union Government had approved the Haladia petrochemical and Talcher fertilizer projects much earlier and was waiting to get NOC from the

State Government. By approving these projects now, the State Government is hoodwinking people," said BJP State vice-president Samir Mohanty at a Press meet here.

He alleged that the State Government has obstructed the development of the State by not approving Central projects on time.

Mohanty also alleged that the State Government is not cooperating with the Centre in the expansion of NTPC's 1,320-MW project at Talcher, which would bring investment of 10,000 crore. Among others, party's State secretary Kalandi Samal and Yuba Moacha State president Tankadhar Tripathy were present. PNS

Resentment brews over prepaid power meter

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The people of Sambalpur including a good number of organisations and the Sambalpur Bar Association in particular have sharply reacted to the decision of the State Government to instal prepaid electricity meter in Sambalpur and smart meter in Rourkela.

At the first phase, 4,500 pre-paid meters would be installed in the houses of the consumers to curb power theft, as declared by Energy Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra. But immediately after the declaration by the Minister, there have been sharp reactions and resentment everywhere in

the district.

Many people have termed it to be an insult to the people of Sambalpur. "While industries and rich persons are swindling thousands of crores of rupees of the department all over the State, why the Government is targeting the common people who use a minor quantity of power," asks Pt Amar Mishra, an elite citizen. "This is nothing but a step motherly attitude towards the people of Sambalpur," he says.

There are people who say that since people of Sambalpur have not voted for BJD in the last election, the State Government is in a mood to take revenge on them by such

activities. The social media is abuzz with postings venting ire against the Government. The members of the District Bar Association also held a Press meet on Wednesday to ventilate their anger on such an anti-people decision of the State Government and the Energy Department in particular. "We will not allow the Wesco to do so in our town first," warned president of the Sambalpur District Bar Association Bijitendriya Pradhan.

"We have no objection for pre-paid or smart meters, but it should be begun from the State capital and then in other parts of the State," suggests Prof SP Pati.

World Bank to identify sectors for development

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government on Wednesday requested the World Bank to conduct a Rapid State Diagnostic Study to identify sectors that need more development and others that need more support under the bank's 'Country Partnership Framework'.

The Government made this proposal on the occasion of a meeting held between a World Bank team and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the Lok Sava Bhawan here. The team was led by World Bank Country Director Junaid Kamal Ahmed.

During talks, the Chief Minister highlighted steps taken by his Governments for involvement self-help groups in develop-

ment process, eradication of poverty and ensuring good governance to the people. He stressed on more coordination between the World Bank and the Government.

It was decided to maintain a Social Registry for poverty eradication and successful implementation of other socio-economic programmes in the State.

It was revealed that Odisha has strategic partnership with some of the States under the Country Partner Framework of the World Bank. The framework began in 2018 and would continue till 2022.

Among others, Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari, Chief Secretary Asit Kumar Tripathy and Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mahapatra were present.

Criminal nabbed after gunfight in Cuttack

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A notorious criminal was injured in an exchange of fire with police at Jagatpur in the city on Wednesday. The criminal was identified as Manoj Patra alias Amit.

Acting on a tipoff, a joint team of the Jagatpur police and Special Squad tried to intercept and nab Manoj. But spotting the police he fired at them in a bid to escape from the spot.

But in the retaliatory firing, he suffered gunshot injuries on his leg and was subsequently nabbed.

Later, he was rushed to the SCB Medical College Hospital here. Two



police personnel also suffered minor injuries in the incident.

Police seized a gun, two bullets, four cartridges and a car from his possession. Police said Manoj was involved in as many as 18 criminal cases in various police stations in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Puri.

Sex racket busted in city 2 held, 3 women rescued

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Wednesday busted a sex racket running from a lodge near the Baramunda bus-stand under the Khandagiri police station in the city.

Acting on a tipoff, the Khandagiri police conducted a raid on the lodge and rescued three women engaged in the flesh trade. Reportedly, the women are residents of West Bengal.

The police also arrested a pimp and the owner of the lodge and seized some objectionable items, mobile phones and money from the spot.

All the five persons, including the women, were taken into custody for interrogation. The racket was operational for quite some time in the area, locals said.

'Language Rules 2019 violate Odia language right'

Bhasha Andolan demands abolition

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Bhasha Andolan, Odisha founder Subhas Chandra Pattanayak on Wednesday demanded early scrapping of the Odisha Official Language (Amendment) Rules, 2019 saying it adversely affects one's right to his language.

"The Orissa Official Language Act 1954 was

enforced soon after its passing as per Section 1 (2 and 3) of the Act. As per Section 2 (1), it had been decided to do all official works of the Government in Odia. But the Rules framed in 2019 have made the right to language enshrined in the Act void," alleged Pattanayak.

While the Rule 5-A (1) provides for awarding wide users of Odia in official work,

the Rule 5-A (2) provides for action against officials who don't use Odia adequately as per the The Orissa Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal). Rules, 1962. "From the rule 5-A (1), it is evident that the Government will award those who even don't use Odia fully. And from Rule 5-A (2), it is understood that stringent action will not be taken against nonuser of Odia," pointed out Pattanayak.

He said the 1962 Rules have never been applied against

any official for violation of Government norms.

"Common people should have the right to take action against officials who will not work in Odia. Right to Language is an unwritten basing right of common people.

Thus, anyone can opt for legal action against anybody who violates his or her right to language. Thus, the Odisha Official Language (Amendment) Rules, 2019 soon," demanded Pattanayak.

Bombs hurled at house in Cuttack

Property dispute suspected; 1 held

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Three unidentified bike-borne miscreants hurled bombs at a house in Bhutia Sahi under the Lalbagh police station in Cuttack city on Wednesday over a suspected land feud.

The miscreants came at around 1.30 pm and hurled four bombs at the house of one Goleka Parida near the

Dagarpada Hanuman temple.

While three bombs went off, one didn't explode. But there were no reports of any injury to anyone in the incident.

Later, one of the accused, identified as Hadia Parida, was nabbed by the Lalbagh police.

Sources said accused Hadia and the victim Goleka are cousins and they had past enmity over land. But the reason behind the bomb attack is yet to be ascertained.

While Hadia was nabbed, two of his associates managed to give the police a slip.

Even if permanent, Article 370 rightly abrogated



BISWARAJ PATNAIK

On April 3, 2018, the Supreme Court opined that Article 370 has acquired a permanent status since the Constituent Assembly had ceased to exist. Hence, the President would fail to fulfil the mandatory provisions required for abrogation under the circumstances. The apex court made it clear that since the Constituent Assembly did not make such a recommendation before its dissolution in 1957, Article 370 had taken on the features of a 'permanent provision' despite being titled a 'temporary provision' in the Constitution.

Repealing of Article 370

was a poll promise of the BJP, which it could not keep during the Vajpayee Government due to lack of a majority.

Ultimately, the BJP-led NDA Government gained an absolute majority and scrapped the Article to keep the tallest poll promise in history. There will be resistance and protests, but a ghastly obsolete, irrelevant, lopsided Article had to be deleted as it benefitted a select few.

History shows that only after integration into India has the Kashmiris' fate improved immensely on the quality of life front. The Kashmiris' oppression and colonial exploitation had started long before the formation of modern India. Ever since its annexation by the Mughal Empire in 1589, Kashmir has never been ruled by ethnic Kashmiris. The region was ruled by Afghans between 1753 and 1819; Sikhs did so (1819-46) and, finally, Dogras (1846-1947) until India was partitioned.

During the Mughal rule, Kashmir was awfully poor both due to constant famines and misrule. Mughals only built

hundreds of gardens for luxury summer refuge of the rich. The Afghans came next only to send the innocent Kashmiris to work as slaves in Afghanistan. They imposed extortionate taxes on the region's famed shawl weavers, causing the shawl industry to die.

The Sikhs, according to British explorer William Moorcroft, treated the Kashmiris a 'little better than cattle'. In 1846 when the East India Company defeated the Sikhs in the first Anglo-Sikh war and sold Kashmir to Gulab Singh, a Dogra ruler of Jammu who had sided with the British in the war. The successive Dogra rulers imposed further extortionate taxes to make good the price of 7.5 million rupees they had paid the British company.

India's first Prime Minister Nehru sent troops to protect Kashmir from Pakistani invasion. So, in return, Hari Singh signed the accession instrument to merge with the Indian dominion. Popular mass leader Sheikh Abdullah ensured Article 370, which guaranteed Kashmir's autonomy in the

HITTING THE BULL'S EYE

Indian Union. Thus technically, the Article became non-negotiable till accession remained in force. All this was because of the prevailing circumstances. Now that Kashmir is enjoying the best-ever kind of rule, without one oppressive or despotic ruling class, except perhaps the descendants of the Sheikh and the Moofti clan.

Mahatma Gandhi too has his passive role in supporting the integration of the region. At a prayer meeting on 4th January 1948, Gandhi had said,

"Today, there is talk of war everywhere. Everyone fears a war breaking out between the two countries. If that happens, it will be a calamity both for India and for Pakistan. India has written to the UN because whenever there is a fear of conflict anywhere. It is a long memorandum already cabled. Pakistani leaders Zafrullah Khan and Liaquat Ali Khan have since issued long statements. I would take leave to say that their argument does not

appeal to me. You may ask if I approve of the Union Government approaching the UNO I may say that I both approve and do not approve of what they did. I approve of it because after all what else are they to do? They are convinced that what they are doing is right. If there are raids from outside the frontier of Kashmir, the obvious conclusion is that it must be with the connivance of Pakistan. Pakistan can deny it. But the denial does not settle the matter. Kashmir has acceded to India upon certain conditions. If Pakistan harasses Kashmir and if Sheikh Abdullah of Kashmir asks the Indian Union for help, the latter is bound to send help.

At the same time Pakistan is being requested to get out of Kashmir and to arrive at a settlement with India over the question through bilateral negotiations. If no settlement can be reached in this way then a war is inevitable. It is to avoid the possibility of war that the Union Government has taken

the step it did. Whether they are right in doing so or not, God alone knows. Whatever might have been the attitude of Pakistan, if I had my way I would have invited Pakistan's representatives to India to meet and discuss the matter for working out some settlement.

They keep saying they want an amicable settlement, but they do nothing to create the conditions for such a settlement. I shall therefore humbly say to the responsible leaders of Pakistan that though we are now two countries - which is a thing I never wanted - we should at least try to arrive at an agreement so that we could live as peaceful neighbours. Let us grant for the sake of argument that all Indians are bad, but Pakistan at least is a new-born nation which has more ever come into being in the name of religion and it should at least keep itself clean. But they themselves make no such claim.

It is not their argument that Muslims have committed no atrocities in Pakistan. Mistakes were made on both sides. But this does not mean that we

should persist in those mistakes, for then in the end we shall only destroy ourselves in a war and the whole of the sub-continent will pass into the hands of some third power. Therefore, the two Dominions should come together with God as witness and find a settlement.

The matter is now before the UNO. It cannot be withdrawn from there. But if India and Pakistan come to a settlement the big powers in the UNO will have to endorse that settlement. Let us pray to God to grant amity with each other, or if we must fight, then let us fight to the very end. That may be folly but sooner or later it will purify us."

The British during departure had left behind 565 princely states and a relatively small portion of India under direct rule which the crown organised only after the Sepoy mutiny of 1857. Most states chose to merge with India. The only Muslim-majority state of Jammu and Kashmir could have gone away to Pakistan if Sheikh Abdullah has not happened to the region when the

Dogra king had hardly any control over Kashmir. They had trust in the Sheikh as a saviour, who hated the non-secular Pakistan. The rest of history is just too well-known by now. Muslim majority, unpopular king, and a mass beloved mass leader - all put together created a peculiar situation. King Hari Singh knew without the Sheikh, he would be nowhere. So he signed the instrument by way of formality only when the Sheikh called the shots on conditions.

Nehru agreed because of Kashmiri ascendancy, against a backdrop of complete indifference by other big leaders including Sardar Patel. Dr Ambedkar too had put his foot down to the special status demand, probably because he too was not keen on keeping Kashmir which had to be placated, at least for the time being, given its sensitive status.

Now, the people in Kashmir are certain to witness days of great development. The Supreme Court has to gauge the merit of abrogation of Article 370 on the basis of ground realities.

'Kashmir is the citadel of Indian civilisation'

AYOS holds lecture on 'Cultural magnificence of Kashmir'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Academy of Yoga and Oriental Studies (AYOS) organised a lecture entitled "Cultural magnificence of Kashmir and Nilamata Purana" here on August 18. The meeting was presided over by AYOS president Sudarsan Nayak. AYOS director Dr Indulata Das was the speaker of the occasion and eminent Sanskrit scholar Arun Kumar Upadhyaya was guest of honour.

Dr Das in her lecture said, "Kashmir is the citadel of Indian civilisation. Pippalada branch of Atharva Veda, written in Sarada Lipi, was found in Kashmir. Kashmir might have been the home land of Patanjali, the great grammarian as he has, in his Mahabhasya, very fondly mentioned the name of Kashmir. Kalidasa, according to some, might have belonged to Kashmir as he has mentioned 'saffron' and the 'worship of Kamadeva' in his literature which is very famous in Kashmir. Saiva Darsana of Kashmir is a very famous school of Indian philosophy. 'Rajatarangini', the great historical work is the contribution



of Kashmir to the Indian literature. 'Nilamata Purana', similarly, is a book which has detailed descriptions of the formation of Kashmir and every small detail of all the rituals, traditions, festivals of the land of Kashmir. Kashmir, according to Nilamata Purana, was a lake earlier which was transformed to a piece of land by Ananta Naga. The present name of Anant Naga is a mark of respect to that great serpent which drained the water of the lake to make it a habitable place. Today's place Nilam Ghati is named after the great serpent Nilam which was the king of the lake Satisara. "Kashmir" is named after sage Kashyap who caused the formation of the place. The temples, rivers, mountains and various other places in Kashmir are pilgrimages of high importance." There was a question-answer session after the lecture in which many scholars participated. Arun Kumar Upadhyaya spoke about the similarity of the kings of Kashmir and those of Odisha. Sudarsan Nayak spoke about the present state of Kashmir and the political changes that have taken place in the recent past.

INBRIEF

MURDER CONVICT DIES IN KEONJHAR JAIL

Keonjhar: A prisoner serving jail term for murder died in the Keonjhar district jail on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Bipin Nayak, a native of Hisaburu under the Barbil police station. A court had in 2017 sentenced him to undergo 10 years imprisonment in a murder case. He was lodged in the district jail from then. Nayak complained of chest pain and vomiting in the morning, following which he was shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital. But doctors declared him dead.

WOMAN'S THROAT SLIT IN DHENKANAL

Dhenkanal: A young woman sustained grievous injuries after unidentified miscreant attacked her at Vadaliyasa under the Kankadhada police station in the district on Wednesday. The victim had gone out of her sister's house when a miscreant slit her throat with a sharp weapon. She was rescued and rushed to the Kamakhyanager hospital. Later, she was shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack as her condition deteriorated. Police reached the spot and registered a case regarding the incident. The motive of the attack was yet to be ascertained.

JUMBO TRAMPLES OLD WOMAN TO DEATH IN D'NAL

Dhenkanal: An elderly woman was trampled to death by an elephant at a forest under Kankadhada block in Dhenkanal district on Wednesday. Dulana Sahu (65) of Balabhadrapur village under the Telkoi police limits in Keonjhar had gone to the Nageswar forest in Dhenkanal with some other women for collecting mushrooms early in the morning when the elephant attacked her. Dhenkanal Forest Division officials recovered the body.

GVU OPENS FREE DIALYSIS CENTRE AT SALANDI HOSP



Bhadrak: Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal on Wednesday inaugurated a free dialysis centre, named Ramdas Agarwal Memorial Rotary Dialysis Centre at the Salandi Hospital at Motel Chhik here. Bhadrak MLA Sanjiv Malik said the centre would provide free service to the BPL category people. Among others, Culture Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, MP Manjula Mandal, Rotary Club president Atish Behera, Rotary ex-governor Ajay Agarwala. Dr Pravash Nayak and Sisir Mishra were present.

NESCO STAFF DEMAND REDRESSAL OF GRIEVANCES

Baripada: The Baripada Nesco employees belonging to the Nesco Power Employees' Union on Tuesday staged a demonstration and submitted a memorandum on their grievances to the higher authorities. They demanded immediate filling up of vacant posts and recruitment of more employees to provide satisfactory service to the consumers. They also urged the authorities for renovation of the office buildings, provision of water supply and toilet facilities in all 33/11 KV structures. The authorities assured them to look into the grievances.

MANIABANDHA COLLEGE CELEBRATES SANSKRIT DAY



Athagarh: The Maniabandha College celebrated the World Sanskrit Day here on Tuesday. Students chanted Sanskrit slokas and spoke on how the language getting obsolete day by day. Chief guest Pandit Suryanarayan Mishra said that the NASA has declared Sanskrit as the first language in the globe. Prof Duryodhan Baral and Pandit Sankarsan spoke on the need for the protection of the language. College Principal BK Parida presided over the meeting coordinated by Sanskrit Lecturer SN Dash.

BIJAYA PANDA TO REPRESENT INDIA AT GYPA MEET

Narasimhpur: Bijaya Kumar Panda has been selected to represent India at the Global Youth Peace Ambassadors (GYPA) programme 2019 to be held from August 28 to 31 in the Maldives National University. The programme is organised by the Regional Alliance for Fostering Youth (RAFTY) in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, Maldives and various other organisations working with youth for peacekeeping. The programme will be attended by about 200 young people from more than 30 countries.



BLOOD DONATION CAMP HELD IN NSPUR



Narasimhpur: The Ama Odisha and the Narasimhpur Yuva Parishad organised a blood donation camp at the DIET premises here on Wednesday. Narasimhpur block Chairman Kishore Chandra Mishra inaugurated the camp in the presence of DIET chairman Arvind Acharya and BDO Prasant Kumar Tarai. A total of 75 units of blood were collected. Members Prof Kulamani Barik, Prof Prafulla Kumar Sahu, ACF Purnachandra Sahu, Range Officer Bibhu Ranjan Ray, Suresh Mohanty and Subrat Kumar Mishra coordinated the camp.

GANJAM BSS HONOURS SA KHALLIL



Brahmapur: The Ganjam Biju Shramik Samukhya (BSS) unit felicitated New Biryani Centre owner SA Khallil at a programme here recently. Brahmapur MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu, Brahmapur MLA Bikram Panda, Polosara MLA Srikanta Sahu and former MLA Dr Ramesh Chandra Chiyau Patnaik attended as guests. Khallil was honoured for his exemplary works towards upliftment of poor, workers, Dalits, helpless elderly and others.

YOUTH BEATEN FOR STEALING GOATS IN B'SWAR

Balaswar: Villagers of Sasang under the Sadar police station on Wednesday roughed up a youth for allegedly stealing goats. Akshay Dalei was tied to an electric pole and thrashed by the mob black and blue before the police took him into custody. A group of six youths had entered the village intending to steal goats when they were spotted by locals. While five of them managed to escape from the village, Dalei was caught.

Abducted baby rescued in Paradip

Accused domestic help detained

PNS ■ PARADIP

Police on Wednesday rescued a child and detained a domestic help in connection with the kidnapping of the kid here. The two-and-a-half-year-old baby, son of Shatrughan Samal of Titira village, was allegedly abducted by the domestic help identified as Manini Sahoo last week. Samal along with his wife

and the little son had visited one of his relatives on August 17 in Paradip. On the same day, Manini, who was engaged as the domestic help at Samal's relative's house, reportedly abducted the baby and fled away. Next day, when the baby and domestic help were found missing, Samal lodged a complaint with the Paradeep Model police. Based on the complaint, the police launched a search operation to nab the domestic help. Finally, the police rescued the baby and detained the accused woman for interrogation.

Woman killed by in-laws for dowry in Nabarangpur

PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

A woman was killed allegedly by her in-laws over dowry issue at Kakudiamba village under the Maidalpur police station in the district on Tuesday night. One Dharmananda Nayak of Kakudiamba had married Rasmita Satnami of Chichia village in Kalahandi district on July 1. But her in-laws were pressuring her to bring more money. Besides, they were allegedly torturing her physically and mentally.

Reports said Rasmita's in-laws called up her parents on Tuesday and informed them that their daughter is ill. But when her family members arrived, Rasmita's body was kept in the morgue of the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH). While Rasmita's in-laws alleged that she committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of her room, Rashmita's parents approached police alleging that she was killed. Police are investigating into the incident.

5 dead, 2 hurt in lightning in K'pada

KENDRAPADA: In lightning mishaps, as many as five persons were charred to death at separate places in Kendrapada district on Wednesday. As per reports, two persons were killed and two others critically injured when lightning struck them at Karanja village under Mahakalapada block. The deceased duo was identified as Papuni Das (23) and Rangadhar Behera (50). Two more persons died in lightning strike while they were working in a farmland at Marilo village under Garadpur block. They were identified as Dillip Mallick of Marilo village and Ajay Nayak of Gotribila village. Besides, another person met with a similar fate at Naranpur village under Marsaghai block.

Angul panchayats held Gram Sabhas on I-Day

BIJAY MISHRA N ANGUL

In a show of solidarity against malnutrition, 12 gram panchayats in Angul district organised a Gram Sabha each on the Independence Day for freedom from malnutrition. The gram panchayats included Gadasila and Badatribed from Kaniha, Kothabhuin and Puranakote from Angul, Barasahi and Pratapada from Chhendipada, and Parachhat, Rohila, Iwaranagar, Dimiria, Chasagurjanga and Baliposhi from Pallahara. The Gram Sabhas had a very clear agenda: it was to improve nutrition in their villages and fight malnutrition on

a war footing. The Sarpanchs participated in the Gram Sabha believed that there is huge scope to improve the access of Anganwadi Centre (AWC) services. In this regard, some important issues were highlighted during the discussion to overcome some of the challenges. The participants of the Gram Sabha discussed about the importance of Jaanch and Matru Committees. Jaanch and Matru Committees are unique to Odisha as the Government has given importance to community monitoring of ICDS services. There is supposed to be a JC and MC for every Anganwadi Centre whose primary responsibility is to ensure

DRIVE AGAINST MALNUTRITION

that all feeding programmes maintain prescribed standards of quality and quantity. The MC is supposed to ensure proper management of ICDS services in Anganwadi Centres. The participants at the Gram Sabha discussed the importance to revive these monitoring committees so they played an important role in increasing access. The ICDS (Integrated Child Development Service) is one of the world's largest programmes for early childhood care and development and aims to break the vicious cycle of under-nutrition in India.

The other issue that was discussed by the Sarpanch was the importance of consumption of eggs by the beneficiaries to counter malnutrition. This was the second agenda taken up by the Gram Sabhas. Op Odisha provides 12 eggs per month to children from the age of 6 months to 3 years and 12 eggs to pregnant and lactating mothers as take home ration (THR) under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) of ICDS. The Government of Odisha spends Rs 60 per beneficiary per month on eggs in THR and Rs 100 per beneficiary per month on eggs in the Hot Cooked Meal (HCM). Manas Ranjan Naik,

Sarpanch of Kothabhuin in Angul said that eggs are a very crucial part of the meals in villages as they provide the right type of nutrition. "I have observed that the egg that is provided as part of the ICDS is consumed by the whole family rather than the mother and child," he said. He very strongly urged people that encourage consumption of eggs by the rights beneficiary. The Gram Sabhas discussed Village Health Nutrition Day (VHND), supposed to be organised once every month at an AWC in a village under ICDS. Frontline health workers including anganwadi workers (AWW), ASHAs and ANMs are supposed to inform and

educate people on issues related to health and nutrition on this day. The Sarpanch suggested to the community to demand VHNDs as it helps in providing important services to mother and child, especially critical for fulfilling the Mamata conditions. While most of the revenue villages in the country have an AWC but tagged hamlets still have access problems even after more than 70 years of independence. As part of these Gram Sabhas, community members from tagged hamlets demanded for mini AWCs. The Sarpanches resolved to take up this issue with the district administration.

Fake lady gynaecologist held After plaint lodged by locals

MALAY RAY ■ SUNDARGARH

Police arrested a fake woman doctor on Wednesday, who was running a clinic in Birmiritapur of Sundargarh district identifying herself as a gynaecologist. A team of officials of the Health Department and local administration conducted a raid at her clinic on Tuesday, following which an FIR was lodged in the Birmiritapur police station by the local tehsildar on Wednesday. The team also seized ultrasound machine, doppler machine, some other medical equipment and her prescription pad from her clinic. The accused was identified as Simran, a muslim woman, and a resident of Purunapani under the Hatibari police station. He was earlier operating a clinic near her home and after closing that clinic near her

home, she had been operating another clinic at Birmiritapur. Simaran had put a notice board in front of her 'Mother and Child' clinic claiming herself as a gynaecologist. She had been providing the service of a doctor and treating patients in her clinic. She also possessed ultrasound machine in her clinic and also was doing ultrasound of the patients. She had also kept one doppler machine in her clinic. During the raid, it was revealed Simaran did not have the requisite qualification to practice as a doctor. Besides, she had also not obtained clinical establishment and other procedures from appropriate authority, to run the clinic and operate ultrasound and doppler machine. During inquiry, it was also found that Simran had done a diploma course in homeopathy but was claiming herself as a gynaecologist. Sources said, she however had some experience of working in a clinic of a gynaecologist and operation of ultrasound machine there, which helped her to run a clinic.

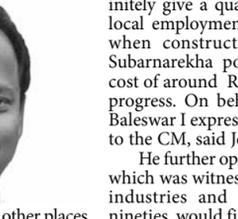
B'swar ex-MP thanks CM for HPL project

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Former Baleswar MP Rabindra Kumar Jena has expressed his deep gratitude to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for his announcement of a mega project of HPL (Haldia Petrochemicals Limited) for the district. The project proposed to be established at Baliapal near Subarnarekha port envisages an investment to the tune of Rs 78,225 crore, paving way for direct employment of about 10,000 persons. Following announcement of the mega project, Jena observed, "After a lot of persuasions, the State Government finally conceded to the proposal placed before the CM by me. In February this year, an MoU was signed with the oil company. For identification of the appropriate



venue for the unit, several other places in other districts were too considered and finally the project was inked in favour of Baleswar district. The unit after establishment would attract more downstream as well as ancillary industries which would generate more employment scope. About 2,500 acres of land would be required to establish the unit.



However, the project would definitely give a quantum boost to the local employment as well economy when construction works of the Subarnarekha port, with estimated cost of around Rs 5,000 crore, is in progress. On behalf of residents of Baleswar I express my sincere thanks to the CM, said Jena. He further opined that the district which was witnessing a stagnancy of industries and employment after nineties would find a sea change following establishment of these two projects, the Subarnarekha port and the HPL unit. Notably, during the tenure of Jena as MP, on February 13, 2019, the foundation stone for several projects including the Subarnarekha port at a cost of Rs 6,524 crore were laid by the Chief Minister during his visit to the district ahead of the general elections.

Why Govts downplay lawyers' stir for HC Bench

MONOHAR MOHANTY

There was a time in pre-independence India where advocacy was considered to be a royal profession among the Indians. At that time, law was considered more as a passion rather than as a profession. This can be proved by the fact that most of the eminent personalities of the pre-independent India held a law degree. Even "Father of the Nation" Mahatma Gandhi was an advocate by profession, after taking his name there left no need of counting the names of other famous freedom fighters including the father of Indian Constitution Dr BR Ambedkar. Even today, the President of our country and most of the leading Parliamentarians are having a lawyer background. A career in law is very relevant in today's time. No other profession touches human lives in such varied ways. The drive to stand up and speak for jus-

tics, a burning desire to help the client, willingness to go to any extent to fight against injustice and social evils are the ethic of this profession. A lawyer's role is not confined to the four boundaries of the court hall. Being an intellectual, besides his court works, he spares his time for the sake of the society. The legend Madhusudan Das who is the pride of our State acclimatized with various problems of the people; he channelised his legal profession towards upliftment of the socio-economic conditions of Odisha. In this process, he could firmly establish the glorious identity of the Odias through the establishment of the separate State. A lawyer is no doubt subordinate to the court in so far as he is subject to the disciplinary authority of the court but all the same he cannot be characterized as a subordinate officer of the court, in addition to being professionals, advocates

are also the officers of the courts and play a vital role in the administration of justice. In our Constitution, law is formed by the legislature and implemented by the executive and the judiciary is the custodian of law and the lawyers play a pivotal role in justice delivery system. The legal profession is a noble profession and the lawyer provides assistance to the needy persons so that the rule of law may be maintained in the country. A lawyer is not a salary holder like the bureaucrats, he maintains his livelihood by diffusing his legal skill. His life is full of struggle; everyday he has to do a lot of home work to face his opponent in court hall as like a shoulder in the battle field. Wining a case gives him eminent pleasure rather than getting fees from his client. All is not well with all advocates, the pettifoggers who strive to survive in this profession have a

miserable life. There is a proverb "appearances are deceptive" means things are not what they appear to be on the surface. We are often misled by the external appearance of some advocates. An advocate immaculately dressed does not prove that he is affluent. Governments have no compassion to the lawyers; in every financial year the Government implements welfare schemes for different sections of the society but seldom do they give any attention to the practicing lawyers. It is unfortunate that some financial institutions have an "unwritten code" that denies credit cards and loans to the lawyers. Governments show promptness if any Government employees go for agitation and buckle to their demands within a span of time. But in case of lawyers, the Governments hardly show any heed. It all happens as the Governments trust more on the bureaucrats

rather than its legislature. There always is a tussle between the bureaucrats and the lawyers over egotism. It is evident from a number of instances that some bureaucrats try to establish their supremacy over the lawyers on the strength of their official possession and post. They feel as if the lawyers are their sub-ordinate staff but they forget to know that they are public servant and duty bound to serve to the public for which they are paid salary. On the other hand the lawyers are independent and duty bound to argue with the bureaucrats for their client's right keeping in mind that officers will "come and go", but clients should not go from him. By the way he builds up a bitter relation with the officers, in turn he falls prey to the officers' fury and faces allot of huddles in his professional life. There are some senseless officers in police department

whose arrogant attitude leads to faceoff with lawyers. Lawyers are being misbehaved and manhandled on the public platform by the police. It is evident from a number of instances that despite the protest and cease-work by the lawyers demanding immediate arrest of policemen involved in the attack, the Government shows scant response to act against them. In the sum-up, the lawyer seems to be superfluous for the Government; as such their demands are being overlooked. Since a long time, the lawyers of western and southern Odisha have been holding stir demanding High Court bench in their respective places. But neither the Central nor the State Government has shown a keen interest to the demands, while court works and legal services in these districts have already been hit. (The writer is an Umrakote-based lawyer and journalist)

Coal supply to NTPC Talcher Kaniha hit

Villagers' strike might impact power generation

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The coal supply to NTPC Talcher Kaniha from the Kaniha Open Cast Project (KOCP) has been stopped since August 18 as villagers have resorted to a strike at the KOCP to press for various demands. Earlier, the NTPC Talcher Kaniha generation was severely hit due to crisis at the Bharatpur Mine from July 23, 2019 and stoppage of MCL, Talcher Coal Field for almost two weeks.

While four units stopped generation and the rest two units generated about 600 MW with using left out yard stock and railway coal receipts. After strike was called off from Talcher Coal Mines on August 7, the station started getting coal from the Lingaraj Mines and Kaniha OCP and the situation improved partially. Still the station is running in critical condition as there is no buildup of coal in the stockyard. But due to ongoing strike at Kaniha OCP, coal supply has been severely affected. It may lead to progressive shutdown of units, which will affect the power supply to various States, including Odisha, said sources.

SMIT holds orientation meet

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

The Sanjay Memorial Institute of Technology (SMIT) Degree Engineering College held its orientation programme here recently.



College president Dr Bhagaban Gantayat inaugurating the programme said the institution has made its name at a national-level as many students of the institution are at a good position in different multinational companies.

He requested the students and teachers to inform the authorities if any problems in found in teaching. The new students and their parents were present in the programme. Among others, College secretary Jamula Sankar Narayan, joint secretary Pramod Kumar Panda, Principal Jagannath Sahu, Dr Jitendra Kumar Sahu, Santosh Kumar Panda, Debasish Biswal, Sanjeev Kumar Mahapatra, Mamata Sahu, Subash Chandra Mishra, Narayan Panigrahi, Alekh Sahu, DP Singhdev, Harihar Gauda and Gouri Padhy were present.

Nabarangpur Class V student dies of anaemia

PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

A Class-V student, Basanti Jani, a resident of Handiguda, under the Tentulikhunti police limits died on Wednesday. Source said that recently Jani had complaint of illness to the teachers while was in school and was rushed to the Papadahandi Community Health Centre (CHC), Dolaiguda. On August 17, she was shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital as her conditions worsened. On Monday, Dr Chanmaya Bala, who was treating her, said that she was suffering from anaemia and referred her to the Shaheed Laxman Nayak Medical College, Koraput. While undergoing treatment there, she died on Wednesday.

IN BOUDH Man severs leg of his son-in-law with axe

PNS ■ BOUDH

A man allegedly severed his son-in-law's leg with an axe in Kantamal of the district on Tuesday. Sources said the victim Saurabh Dandia had married Sahi Mahalik's daughter Jyotsna. But Sashi was against the marriage. While Saurabh was returning home after dropping Jyotsna near Durgiguda Anganwadi centre, Sashi attacked him with an axe leaving Saurabh critically injured. Saurabh was rushed to the Subarnapur hospital and later shifted to VIMSAR in Burla as his condition deteriorated. "We have registered a case on the basis of a complaint lodged by the father of the victim. Investigation is underway and efforts are on to apprehend the accused, who absconded after the incident," a police official said.

NO AMBULANCE AVAILABLE ON 102 SERVICE Woman delivers baby in auto-rickshaw

PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

In another shameful incident for the health administration here, a woman delivered a baby girl in a moving auto-rickshaw in Bhaluguda under Dabugam block in Nabarangpur district on Wednesday. According to reports, the woman, Rukumani Gouda, of Bhaluguda village suffered labour pain on Tuesday morning. Her family members called the 102 ambulance service to take her to the hospital. They telephoned Dabugam and Papadahandi ambulances, but both the ambulances were not in running condition. Later, they contacted Maidalpur ambulance, but due to poor road connectivity the ambulance failed to reach her village.



In the meanwhile, the family members found an auto rickshaw to take her to the Dabugam Community Health Centre (CHC). While going through the jerky roads in the auto rickshaw, the woman delivered a girl child in the auto-rickshaw after travelling 3 km on her way to the Dabugam (CHC). The family members said that after the delivery, both the woman and the new-born were admitted to the CHC and their conditions were said to be stable.

Odisha lawyers' association holds annual meet

KHORDHA: The All Odisha Lawyers' Association (AOLA) organised its State-level third executive meeting here on Tuesday under the chairmanship of its president Bichitra Kumar Badajena. Secretary Satyajit Sahoo presented the annual report. Various resolutions were passed in the meeting. While the annulment of the State Administration Tribunal was opposed, demands like issuance of health cards for free treatment of lawyers and their family members, free pass system for four-wheelers of lawyers at tollgates, provision of post-retirement pension for lawyers above 70 years of age, sanction of government building for office use by the association, a stipend provision of Rs 10,000 for each youth lawyer were discussed. Among others, vice-presidents Pradeep Kumar Panda, Ashay Kumar Pati, Sushant Kumar Baral, Hari Narayan Swain, Julius Caesar Mahakud, Gobardhan Sahoo and Jyotiprakash Rath and advisers Shishir Kumar Padhi, Niranjan Nayak, Pitabas Panda, Dhruva Charan Jena and Rabi Narayan Swain participated. Baripada Bar Association president Santanu Kumar Das and other functionaries attended.

Vyasanagar municipality EE held taking bribe

Nabarangpur block Chairman's ₹51L assets detected

PNS ■ JAJPUR/NABARANGPUR

The Vigilance police on Wednesday arrested Vyasanagar Municipality Assistant Executive Engineer Prahlad Mohapatra red-handed while he demanding and accepting a bribe. Mohapatra allegedly demanded Rs 38,000 from a contractor Santosh Kumar

Routray to pass a bill. Finding no other alternative, the contractor reported the matter to Vigilance officials, who subsequently laid a trap to nab the accused. The Chief Engineer was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe money. While a case regarding the incident was registered, the accused engineer was forwarded to court. In a separate incident, officials of the anti-graft agency conducted simultaneous raids on the residence of Chairman Tikam Singh Nayak of Chandahandi block of Nabarangpur district for allegedly amassing property disproportionate to his known sources of income. Officials of Koraput, Nabarangpur and Jeypore Vigilance divisions conducted the raids. Naik is accused of possessing disproportionate assets during his tenure as the Chairman of Large Area Multi-Purpose Societies (LAMPS), sources said. During the raid it was detected that Nayak was possession of assets worth Rs.50,72,252 including one RCC Roof Slab building, 14 plots at Chandahandi, one tractor, two two-wheelers, deposits in different banks and investment in insurance policies and costly household articles.

'Rajiv was epitome of peace, brotherhood'

- Ex-PM's birthday celebrated in city
- Rajiv Gandhi Pratibha Puraskar distributed

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The 75th birthday of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and distribution of Rajiv Gandhi Pratibha Puraskar were celebrated here on Tuesday. The programme organised jointly by the Odisha Rajiv Gandhi Chhatra Forum and the Rajiv Gandhi Study Circle was presided over by forum president Satyabrata Nayak. Congress Working Committee member and former MP Dr Rama Chandra Khuntia inaugurated the ceremonies. Gracing as chief guest, KIIS University Vice-Chancellor Prof Harekrushna Satpathy said Gandhi was the father of IT revolution in the country and epitome of peace, friendship and brotherhood. Khuntia said Gandhi's dream of bringing development in education and empowering



youth mass is being translated into reality gradually. He stressed on the proper employment of youth mass in the country. Among others, Jatni MLA Suresh Kumar Routray, noted freedom fighter Bhabani Charan Patnajak, 'Samaja' chief coordinator Suresh Kumar Mantri, AICC secretary Rudra Raju, Kantabanji MLA Santosh Kumar Saluja, 'Paryabekshak' editor Pabitra Mohan Samantray remembered Gandhi's contribution for unity and integrity of the country. On the occasion, 73 youths and students were awarded with the Rajiv Gandhi Pratibha Puraskar for their performance in the NCC, NSS, Scouts and Guides, Youth Red Corss, science, literature, songs, Odishi, painting, sports and acting sectors. Similarly, 10 teachers and lecturers were honoured with the Rajiv Gandhi Siksha Samman-2019 for their achievements as NSS Programme Officer, Scouts and Guides Team Leader and Youth Red Cross Councilors. Among others, Priyabrata Nayak, Kamalakanta, Bhagyashree, Sagar Parida and Anil Chhual Singh coordinated the event, which was concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by forum general secretary Padmakar Guru.

Odisha's Lilima achieves 150 int'l caps milestone



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Indian Women's Hockey Team midfielder Lilima Minz, who hails from Odisha, achieved the milestone of playing 150 international matches for the country on Wednesday. Lilima achieved the feat during India's final match of the Olympic Test Event against Japan held at the Oi Hockey Stadium in Tokyo, Japan. "It is an extremely proud moment

for me to be completing 150 international caps for my country. My career took off after joining the Panposh Sports Hostel in Rourkela, and I thank my coaches from Odisha who helped me in my formative years. I feel fortunate to be part of this talented Indian team where teammates and support staff are more like family members," said Lilima. "The experience of representing the nation 150 times has been amazing over the years, and I have been fortunate enough to have won some medals for the country. It is again an important phase leading up to next year's Olympic Games, and I am looking forward to achieving our team goals and keep making the country proud," added Lilima. The midfielder's most recent achievement was winning the silver medal with the team at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.

ITI BBSR introduces four Smart Trades | First of its kind



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Govt ITI Bhubaneswar has introduced four Smart Trades for the first time in Odisha to make students tap the latest career opportunities in job sector with IoT (Internet of Things) based curriculum. The IoT is a system of interrelated computing devices, mechanical and digital machines, objects, animals or people that are provided with unique identifiers (UIDs) and the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human or human-to-computer interactions. The Smart trades are: IoT Technician Smart Agriculture, IoT Technician Smart City, IoT Technician Smart Healthcare and Smart Phone Technician-cum-Application Tester. Each trade has got 24 seats each. The good thing is for girls, SC and ST and physically challenged students, the courses come free of cost. Principal ITI Bhubaneswar

Jitamitra Satapathy said, "Though to get any entry to any industry-ready course at any ITI the minimum educational qualification is a pass certificate in Class X Board examination, these Smart Trades can also help graduate student a lot in having rewarding careers and also towards building their own ventures successfully." Interestingly, leading electric manufacturing firm Schneider Electric has given a proposal to the Principal of Government ITI Bhubaneswar to sponsor a "Train the trainer programme" by giving training to some faculty members. While the IoT Technician Smart Agriculture trade at the ITI will enable students to understand emerging concept of Smart farming/agriculture by managing farms using technologies like IoT, robotics, drones and artificial intelligence to increase the quantity and quality of products while optimising the human labour required by production, IoT Technician Smart City trade will have applications related to Smart City functioning like Smart traffic management with data analysis from various sources and using IoT tools in monitoring and managing efficient water supply. Similarly, IoT Technician Smart Healthcare trade will include chronic disease management and preventive care through use of IoT-based devices that come handy for the people i.e. all wearable ones to monitor body parameters and tracking health conditions. IoT Technician Smart Healthcare trade will also help the student to know the preventive measures acquired through use of IoT devices and sharing data with medical professionals. Smart Phone Technician-cum-Application Tester trade will have analytic approach on the applicability of various application software (App) and monitoring of personal data through use of Smart phones.

MoUs inked to boost agri business, farmers' income

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State-owned Agricultural Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Ltd (APICOL) on Wednesday signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to promote agriculture entrepreneurship and enhance the income of farmers. One MoU was signed with the Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), a non-Government organisation, to promote entrepreneurial ventures at the grassroots level, whereas another MoU was signed between APICOL and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (CSC-SPV) for successful implementation of



the Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana (MKUY). As per the agreement with PRADAN, the scheme will operate in 40 tribal dominated blocks spread over 12 districts on a pilot basis to promote entrepreneurial ventures at the grassroots level. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO), farmer interest groups and small and marginal farmers will be assisted by the Agriculture

Entrepreneurs (AE) for increasing the income of farmers through enhanced production and productivity in agriculture and allied sectors, said an official. In the process, each AE will cater to more than 200 farmers in a cluster of four to five villages. It would benefit around two lakh small and marginal farmers to augment their income in the next three years, the official said. "The farmers of Odisha's tribal-dominated 40 blocks can now avail information. Our aim is to increase agri-entrepreneurship so that the income of our farmers will increase," said Agriculture Minister Arun Sahoo. In the second MoU, CSC-SPV, a Central Government undertaking, will help in implementation of the Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana launched in June last year with the objective to establish more commercial agri-enterprises in the State.

Waive SMS charges during Fani: NDMA to Telcom Min

BSNL has slapped a bill of ₹4.98 crore on Odisha Govt

TATHYA ■ BHUBANESWAR

Coming to the rescue of Fani-hit Odisha, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has urged the Ministry of Telecommunications to consider the waiver proposal of Odisha Government for SMS cost. NDMA Member Secretary G V V Sarma has written to Anshu Prakash, Union Secretary Telecommunications, in this regard.

Sarma has pointed out to the Union Secretary that during the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) headed by Cabinet Secretary held on May 2, Member Technology of the Department of Telecommunications had stated that all the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have been instructed to allow SMS free of cost for severe cyclone Fani. Sarma has rich experience in handling natural disasters and he belongs to Odisha cadre of IAS and the State is continuously facing disasters time and again. So he took up the issue with all seriousness with the

Government of India as Member Secretary NDMA, which has been actively extending all-out support for the State during natural disasters in general and Fani in particular. Super storm Fani hit the State on May 3 and during that period nearly 1.80 crore SMSes alert were sent to people in 14 affected districts, which not only informed them but helped them to save their lives. As per provisions of "SOP-2017" for Telecommunication Services for responding to disasters, issued by the Ministry of Telecommunications, Government of India, the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) are not supposed to

charge these SMSes. But, the BSNL has submitted a bill amounting to Rs 4.98 crore for the messages sent through them during month of April and May, 2019. After that the Odisha Government has requested the Union Government to ask BSNL and other telecom service providers not to charge any cost for SMS containing warning, alerts and advisories relating to different disasters. Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi has written to Union Telecommunications Secretary in this regard, asking her to direct BSNL and others in this regard. Padhi informed that the State Government has

set up Location based Alert System (LBAS) in the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) and it has been integrated with the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for sending bulk messages. This facility has been made operational from March 15, 2019 with a view to forewarning the people about upcoming disasters for enabling them to take necessary precautions. This facility was widely utilized during cyclone Fani. When Fani hit the State on May 3, alert SMSes were sent to the people in disaster zones and it played a major role in informing the people and saving their lives.

STEP TOWARDS MODERNISING ARMED FORCES

Def Min OK's first batch of reforms

ARMY COMMANDERS HAVE GIVEN THE NOD IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Defence Ministry has approved the first batch of reforms including relocation of 206 officers from the Army Headquarters (AHQ) to operational areas, setting up of a separate vigilance cell and having an umbrella organisation to focus on human rights issues. The decision comes following recommendation by the Army after having four in-house studies last year

With the objective to have a lean and mean Army capable of fighting a modern day war, the Defence Ministry has approved the first batch of reforms including relocation of 206 officers from the Army Headquarters (AHQ) to operational areas, setting up of a separate vigilance cell and having an umbrella organisation to focus on human rights issues. The decision comes following recommendation by the Army after having four in-house studies last year.

The restructuring was given the go-ahead during by the Army Commanders in October last year after Army chief General Bipin Rawat ordered review of the present structure and ways and means to make it more modern keeping pace with fast changing war fighting the world over.

The four groups also studied proposal to increase the retiring age of Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) to have trained men available for longer period and cut down expenditure on recruiting and training new recruits. The

other measures on the anvil include shifting the Rashtriya Rifles head office from the national capital to Northern Command in Jammu and Kashmir. The Rashtriya Rifles, a part of the Army, is counter-insurgency force normally functioning in the state.

Announcing Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's nod to the first batch of restructuring, officials said here on Wednesday, 206 officers will be shifted from the Army Headquarters to the field and operational areas. This move will address the need for filling the crucial gaps in the operational areas. The officers to be relocated include three major generals, eight brigadiers, nine colonels and 186 Lt Colonel/Major.

Another key approval

As regards the umbrella organisation for human rights, they said it will be under the Vice Chief of Army.

Officials said it is being set up to accord high priority to human rights convention and values. A Major General rank officer will head this organization.

The organisation will be nodal point to examine any reports of violation of human rights, officials said adding "to enhance transparency and ensure the best of investigative expertise is available to the section, a Police officer of SSP/SP rank will be taken on deputation," said the ministry.

Besides these measures, some more reforms are now in the final stages before the defence ministry approves them, sources said. The four studies pertained to restructuring of AHQ, force restructuring which includes creation of Integrated Battle Groups (IBG), cadre review of officers and review of terms and conditions of Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) and Other Ranks (OR).

An official statement issued after the Army Commanders meet in October last year said "the focus of the studies is holistic integration thereby enhancing the operational and functional efficiency, optimise budget expenditure, facilitate force modernization and address aspirations."

The vigilance cell will have three Colonel-level officers, one each from Army, Indian Air Force and Navy.

Elaborating upon the need for having officers from the Navy and IAF, officials said the vigilance branch will now be broad based and objective.

PROTESTING AGAINST CENTRE'S MOVE TO CORPORATISE OFB

Ordnance factory employees set aside Govt promise, begin strike

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Despite the Government assuring that the interests of workers will not be harmed, the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) employees began their one-month-long strike in response to the call given by three recognised Defence Federations. The workers are protesting against the move to corporatise the factories manufacturing weapons and ammunition for the armed forces and are the oldest manufacturing units in the country. There are nearly one lakh workers in OFB.

Workers employed in factories in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal began their protest on Tuesday followed by more workers joining the stir on Wednesday even as the government emphasised the proposed corporatisation is aimed at providing greater flexibility in day-to-day functioning, increased operational freedom and autonomy in decision making, leading to enhanced productivity. This will enable the Ordnance Factories to respond faster to the futuristic needs of the Armed Forces and provide an impetus to the export potential of its products.

Reports from Bhopal said

around 22,000 civilian workers from six ordnance factories in Madhya Pradesh have joined the month-long nationwide strike demanding immediate withdrawal of the government's plans to 'corporatise' the OFB, a union leader said on Wednesday. The ordnance factories in Madhya Pradesh are located in Jabalpur, Katni and Itarsi.

All India Defence Employees Federation (AIDEF) Additional General Secretary B. Guha Thakurta told PTI from Jabalpur that around 82,000 workers from 41 Ordnance Factories (OFs) across the country have struck work since Tuesday.

The Ministry of Defence had earlier clarified that it had no plan to privatise the ordnance factories. Three federations of workers which have called the strike had claimed that 'corporatisation' of the Kolkata-headquartered organisation will eventually lead to its privatisation.

Chairman of OFB Saurabh Kumar had said in Kolkata that the proposed 'corporatisation' move by the Centre was aimed at providing greater flexibility in day-to-day functioning and increasing autonomy in decision-making.

A committee of senior offi-

cial of the defence ministry, led by additional secretary of the Department of Defence Production, along with the OFB chairman, had met the office-bearers of the federations on August 14 and August 16 to discuss the matter.

A joint press statement issued by the three recognised employees' federations claimed that talks with the ministry to resolve the matter have failed to reach a solution. "The strike commenced at 6 am on Tuesday. It is set to continue for one month, till September 20, if a solution is not reached before that."

The federations urge the Centre to reconsider its decision to corporatise the ordnance factories and withdraw the same in the interest of the defence preparedness of our country and also the service life of 82,000 employees," the statement said.

Several committees, over the past two decades, have recommended the conversion of ordnance factories into a public sector company, it claimed. "But the ordnance factories being war reserve and solely dependent on the armed forces cannot function as a commercially viable PSU," the statement added.

CBI ARRESTS PC

BJP rejects 'vendetta' charge, says Govt not interfering probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rejecting the Congress' charge of vendetta levelled against the Centre over the action of probe agencies against P Chidambaram, the BJP on Wednesday said the Union Government did not interfere in the investigation and he must face consequences for his deeds.

"If he has done something fishy, he must face consequences. Probe agencies do not work at the government's behest. They have powers to act independently," BJP spokesperson Shahnawaz Hussain said.

The Congress has strongly backed Chidambaram. On Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's assertion that the party will continue to fight for truth no matter what the consequences, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya took a dig at saying, "Priyanka Vadra's support for P Chidambaram is quite natural. After all she has the experience of standing by Robert Vadra too, who is also facing several investigations for serious economic offences."

he tweeted, in a reference to cases of alleged corruption against her husband.

CBI books NDTV's Prannoy Roy, wife, Vikram Chandra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked NDTV, its promoters Prannoy Roy and wife Radhika Roy besides former CEO Vikramaditya Chandra and unknown public servants for allegedly violating Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rules between 2004 and 2010. The NDTV has denied the CBI allegations.

The accused entity and individuals have been booked on charges of criminal conspiracy, cheating and corruption, according to the FIR. The agency on Wednesday conducted searches at Chandra's residence, officials said.

Under the CBI scanner are investments made by NCBU, a General Electric company at the time, in Network PLC (NNPLC), an NDTV company incorporated in London on November 30, 2006.

According to the FIR,

NNPLC allegedly got approval from the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) board in violation of FDI rules in 2009.

NNPLC received total FDI worth USD 163.43 million and invested the amount in various NDTV subsidiaries through a web of complex transactions.

It is alleged that during May 2004 to May 2010, NDTV floated around 32 subsidiary firms all over the world, mostly in the tax havens of Holland, the United Kingdom, Dubai, Malaysia and Mauritius among others.

The CBI said most of these companies allegedly had no business transaction and were meant for financial transactions to bring funds from abroad.

Termining the transactions a "sham", the agency alleged that funds were invested by unidentified public servants through NDTV and laundered back to India through multiple layers of

complex transactions and shell companies.

"Proceeds of corruption of unknown public servants was invested through NDTV Ltd," it alleged.

It is alleged that these transactions are sham and funds are invested by unknown Public Servants through NDTV Ltd and later laundered back to India through multiple layers of complex transactions and shell companies.

"NDTV Ltd through its promoters viz Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy, KVL Narayan Rao (since expired), Vikramaditya Chandra had entered into criminal conspiracy with unknown public servants with the object of bringing tainted money of unknown public servants through a web of complex transactions through the FDI route," a CBI Deputy SP who is the com-

plainant in the case alleged.

The NDTV came out with a statement saying, "Despite a series of cases in which the investigation is deliberately stalled, agencies have found no evidence of any corruption by NDTV. Prannoy and Radhika Roy, the founders of NDTV, as also the company, have cooperated in all matters filed against them."

"As part of the continued persecution of free press, a new CBI case has been filed about a \$150 million investment in NDTV's non-news business by NBCU, then owned by General Electric, a massive American conglomerate. The case makes the ludicrous charge that the transaction, declared to all relevant authorities in the US and India, laundered money for unknown public servants," it said.

"NDTV and its founders have full faith in India's judi-

ciary at this crucial time and remain committed to the integrity of the company's journalism. Attempts to silence free and fair reportage through malicious and fabricated charges will not succeed. This is not about a company or individuals but about a larger battle to maintain the freedom of the press, something which India has always been renowned for, it added.

AMUL told to formulate plan to recycle plastic milk pouches

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to put end on single use of plastic, the Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying on Wednesday asked the AMUL and Mother Dairy Federations to formulate action plan/protocol to recycle milk pouches and share with it for circulation

to other milk federations for implementation. The Lok Sabha Secretariat has also banned the use of non-reusable plastic water bottles and other plastic items within the Parliament complex.

At a high level meeting, the ministry of animal husbandry and dairying asked Major Dairy Federations like Gujarat Milk Federation (Amul),

Karnataka Milk Federation (Nandini), Punjab Milk Federation (Verka), Maharashtra Milk Federation (Mahanand) to encourage reuse of plastic milk pouches, in a campaign mode, with 3R strategy - Reduce, Rebate and Reuse. The meeting also reviewed the availability, supply, prices and export/import issues with the milk processors.

Justice Patnaik completes probe into larger conspiracy against Gogoi, report likely by mid-Sept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court-appointed one-man panel, holding inquiry into allegations of "larger conspiracy" to frame Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, has completed its task and is likely to submit the report by mid-September.

Sources said Tuesday that Justice AK Patnaik, a retired Supreme Court judge who was appointed by the apex court, examined advocate Utsav Singh Bains.

Bains had made several allegations including fixing of benches in the Supreme Court. "The affidavit filed by Bains and other documents were examined by the panel. Now, the panel will complete the report and submit it to the Supreme Court in a sealed cover by second week of September," said a source.

Justice Patnaik examined the lawyer from 11 am to 1 pm and his statement was recorded.

"The lawyer (Bains) was examined Tuesday by the panel

for roughly two hours. He had come to the office of Justice Patnaik," the sources said.

The top court had on April 25 constituted the panel to hold inquiry into the allegations of Bains and had asked the Directors of CBI and Intelligence Bureau (IB) as also the Delhi Police Commissioner to cooperate with Justice Patnaik as and when required by him.

A special bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra had said that on the completion of inquiry, Justice Patnaik will file a report in a sealed cover before the court after which the matter will be heard again.

It, however, had said the inquiry will not deal with the allegations of sexual harassment against the CJI, levelled by an ex-employee of the top court.

On May 6, Gogoi had got the clean chit from the Supreme Court's In-House Inquiry Committee which "found no substance" in the allegations of sexual harassment levelled against him.

BJP to start awareness drive on abrogation of Article 370

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP has decided to carry out a mass awareness campaign besides a special drive to reach out to 2,000 prominent personalities from the fields of film, sport and academia among others on the Centre's decision to abrogate Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution.

The party has started working on organising a 'Jan Jagran Abhiyan' (public awareness campaign) on the matter and will hold indoor meetings at state and district levels across the country.

In view of the assembly elections in four states around the corner, the party is keen to keep the emotive issue alive among the masses as it seeks to draw maximum political mileage following the decision which, it believes, has popular endorsement.

At the same time, the party also wants to check the opposition's propaganda on the issue.

Small indoor meetings at 370 different locations across the country with 500-1000

opinion makers at the district level, and 35 big indoor meetings having gathering of 2,000 people will be held at capitals of all states and Union territories in the country, the party leader said.

BJP's top brass, including its president and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, may also address some of these indoor meetings at the state level.

Besides this, a special drive will be carried out to reach out to 2,000 prominent personalities of the country, they said.

A list of such personalities is being prepared which will include people from different walks of life such as film, sport, academia, media and legal fraternity.

The party had formed a committee to carry out this campaign. It includes Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Dharamendra Pradhan and Jitendra Singh.

Besides them, former Union Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, party's MP from Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal and another MP Tejaswi Surya are members of this committee.

HRD Min launches NISHTHA aimed at training over 42 lakh teachers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The HRD Ministry on Wednesday launched the National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA) aimed at training over 42 lakh teachers across the country. The basic objective of the massive training programme is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students, Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said at the launch.

"The teachers will get awareness and develop their skills on various aspects related to learning outcomes, competency based learning and testing, learner-centered pedagogy, school safety and security, personal-social qualities," he said.

"The teachers will get awareness and develop their skills on various aspects related to learning outcomes, competency based learning and testing, learner-centered pedagogy, school safety and security, personal-social qualities"

learning, including artificial intelligence, health and well-being, initiatives in school education, including library, eco club, youth club, kitchen garden, school leadership qualities, environmental concerns, pre-school, pre-vocational education and school-based assessment in a joyful learn-

ing manner, are among the areas that will be covered in the training," he added.

The training will be conducted directly by 33,120 key resource persons (KRPs) and state resource persons (SRPs) chosen by the state and UTs, who will in turn be trained by 120 national resource persons identified from the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and NGOs.

Some of the features of the integrated programme are activity-based modules, including educational games and quizzes, social-emotional learning, motivational interactions, team building, etc.

Onion prices likely to shoot up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Onion prices are on the rise and may leave the consumers in tears in the coming days. Due to incessant rains and floods in onion producing states, the prices of the bulb have increased from ₹20-25 to ₹35-40 per kg in the retail market. According to onion traders, the wholesale prices have increased over the past 15 days in major markets such as Lasalgaon and Bangaluru.

Onion was sold at ₹20-25 per kg till the first week of August, But it is now being sold at ₹35-40 per kg in the retail market in Delhi. The sudden price rise has made home-makers sit up and take control of the house budget, as onion is an important ingredient for cooking and serving salads.

In a move to keep onion prices under control, the Centre on Wednesday warned of strict action against hoarding of onion amid supply dis-



ruption fears due to floods in parts of major growing states of Maharashtra and Karnataka. The ministry has also decided to cap the retail price of onion at Safal (a Mother Dairy outlet) at ₹23.90 per kg (for Grade A variety). Safal will receive onions from the government buffer at the same rate.

Rajendra Sharma, who is the wholesale onion supplier of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Azadpur, said that the price is expected to increase further in

the coming days. Sharma says farmers mainly in Maharashtra, who are aware of the current situation of floods impacting crops in Karnataka, are holding back their produce anticipating better prices in the days ahead.

In Delhi, wholesale rate of onion is between ₹10 and 22 per kg while in Lasalgaon, the wholesale rate is ₹20 per kg.

In Lasalgaon, the largest market for onions, prices have moved up by over 40 per cent since early August. The increase is over 50 per cent over

the past one month. APMC, Lasalgaon chairman Jaidutt Holkar told The Pioneer that this jump in prices will not last long as in the next 60 days a new crop will start arriving from the fields.

Maharashtra is the largest producer of onion, accounting for a third of the country's produce, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. Karnataka has the second largest area under the bulb. Madhya Pradesh is the second largest producer of onions due to higher yields. Also the sowing was lower in Central Karnataka due to the delayed start of the monsoon and its slow progress.

All the concerned stakeholders, including representatives of Safal, NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd) and NCCF (National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India) were present in the meeting.

Packaged food in India least healthy: Survey

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Packaged food in India has been ranked lowest in terms of its healthiness in a major global survey of packaged foods and drinks, an observation that should come as a wake-up call for the government, which is battling with providing healthcare to increasing patients of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes.

The survey — of the packaged consumables of 12 countries and territories — conducted by The George Institute for Global Health showed that India has the unhealthiest ie high levels of sugar, saturated fat, salt and calories in many of the favorite packaged food items.

The UK tops the chart with healthiest packaged food followed by the USA and Australia, says the survey conducted by The George Institute for Global Health. The study is published in the latest issue of

'Obesity Reviews'.

Researchers had analyzed more than 400,000 food and drink products from 12 countries and territories around the world. Countries were ranked using Australia's Health Star Rating system — which measures the levels of the nutrients such as energy, salt, sugar, saturated fat as well as protein, calcium and fiber and assigns a star rating from ½ (least healthy) to 5 (the most healthy).

India's packaged foods and drinks were found to be the most energy-dense (kilojoule content 1515 kJ/100 g) and South African products were least energy-dense at an average of 1044kJ/100 g. The UK had the highest average Health Star Rating of 2.83, followed by the US at 2.82 and Australia at 2.81. India got the lowest rating of just 2.27 precluded by China at 2.43 with Chile coming third from bottom at 2.44.

Lead author Dr Elizabeth

Dunford said the results were concerning because packaged foods and drinks are driving a double burden of diet-related diseases in many low — and middle-income countries.

"Globally we're all eating more and more processed foods and that's a concern because our supermarkets' shelves are full of products that are high in bad fats, sugar, and salt and are potentially making us sick," she said.

Co-author Professor Bruce Neal, Acting Executive Director of The George Institute, Australia said: "Billions of people are now exposed to very unhealthy foods on a daily basis. The obesity crisis is just the first ripple of a tsunami dietary ill health that is coming for us. We have to find a way that the food industry can profit from selling rational quantities of quality food, rather than deluging us with unhealthy junk."

The report notes that many

of the world's major food and drink manufacturers have signed up to the International Food and Beverage Alliance and made pledges to reduce levels of salt, sugar and harmful fat and that these findings could provide an impetus for companies to improve the healthiness of their product ranges.

Reacting to the study findings, Prof Vivekanand Jha, Executive Director of the George Institute for Global Health, India, said: "Policymakers and the food industry needs to work together to reformulate products to reduce the ever increasing risk of obesity and its consequences."

More than 135 million individuals were affected by obesity in India while about 50.9 million people suffer from diabetes, and this figure is likely to go up to 80 million by 2025, making it the 'Diabetes Capital' of the world, according to various studies.

Valley gradually showing signs of improvement

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

While stray incidents of stone pelting are still being reported from parts of Srinagar, the overall situation in Kashmir Valley is gradually showing signs of improvement. The security grid lifted restrictions from Lal Chowk area on Wednesday permitting local residents to move around freely. Markets in the area, however, remained closed and scanty traffic was witnessed during the day.

In Baramulla, a joint team of security forces eliminated a Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) terrorist identified as Momin Gajri in an overnight operation. A Sub-Inspector of State Police and a Special Police officer (SPO) received serious injuries in the gunfight.

According to police spokesman, SPO identified as

Bilal Ahmad succumbed to his injuries while SI Amardeep Parihar is undergoing treatment in the Army hospital.

On the Line of Control, Pakistani Army initiated fresh ceasefire violation in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri around 3.45 pm.

In response, Indian Army gave befitting reply.

DIG Central Kashmir VK Birdi told reporters in Srinagar, "No major law and order incident was reported from anywhere in Kashmir Valley. He said, all those areas where relaxations were given behaved normally". He said, in few pockets stray incidents of stone pelting were reported and they were dealt with appropriately by the law and order machinery on ground.

Local reporters, while referring to incidents of continuous stone pelting in differ-



A Kashmiri family rides on a scooter past a closed market in Srinagar on Wednesday

ent parts of Srinagar had asked him whether more arrests were made to contain the situation, DIG VK Birdi maintained, "Law and order machinery is handling the situation and monitoring it very closely on

ground zero". Director General of Police Shri Dilbag Singh on Wednesday said effective initiatives have been taken to bring all round improvement in the law and order situation in



Kashmiri children walk towards a teacher's home for private coaching through a deserted street in Srinagar on Wednesday

the Valley to ensure security of the people. He said stringent action will be taken against those disrupting peace and creating panic among masses. Earlier, DGP attended the wreath laying ceremony of

martyr SPO Bilal Ahmad Magray who was martyred during the Ganai Hamam, Baramulla encounter. Meanwhile, addressing routine Press conference, Director Information & Public

Relations, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar told reporters, "With the opening of middle schools across Kashmir Valley, the teachers' attendance was recorded at 60-80 per cent and Government offices also witnessed 90 per cent attendance on Wednesday."

She said the attendance of students also improved over the past two days. On Wednesday, the school education department in Kashmir claimed around 774 middle schools were thrown open in areas where primary schools were functioning since Monday.

Director School Education Kashmir, Muhammad Younis Malik read out a detailed report claiming districts of Kulgam, Bandipora and Ganderbal are showing marked improvement in terms of attendance in schools. The presser was also

informed that hospitals, banks are functionally normally, besides ATMs, transport, and other services are adequately operating across the State. They said review meetings are being held at district and divisional level for harvesting and to transport of horticulture produce to other places. Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam himself reviewed the transport facilities and establishment of mandies across the Valley. There was no shortfall of transport facilities, the officials informed.

The Government urges people not to believe in rumours in this regard, the presser was told.

They also said there was no law and order incident reported from any area in Jammu and no major law and order incident from Kashmir was reported.

Incentives to filmmakers part of I&B Ministry's J&K package

New Delhi: The Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry is planning several incentives for film and television production companies to take their projects to Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.



As part of the massive development push for the region by the Government, the I&B Ministry has held closed door consultations with representatives of the entertainment industry to chalk out a plan to encourage them to look at the region as a viable centre.

Among the proposals on table is a corporate package for production houses keen to visit J&K and Ladakh with their units for shooting films and television serials.

The Government is also open to amend the radio guide-

lines for setting up new FM stations in the region. Currently, small number of private FM channels are operating in Valley. A capital investment for erecting new screens in the region is also on the cards along with developing other infrastructure required for film making.

Sources said after taking inputs from the stake holders, the government will roll out its incentive plan so that the

region, known for its beautiful locations, is used extensively for film production. The film crews had almost stopped shooting in the region since the early 1990s when militancy destroyed peace in the Valley.

After the abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of the state, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had appealed to film makers to see J&K and Ladakh as potential work areas.

The Prime Minister had appealed to the representatives of Hindi, Tamil and Telugu entertainment industry to look at Jammu and Kashmir as a destination for their projects. Walking the talk, the government now wants to meet all the infrastructure demands of the industry to smoothen bottlenecks.

J&K Govt grants MoS status to its Mayors

Srinagar: In a significant development, the J&K Government has decided to accord Minister of State status to its two mayors. Junaid Azim Mattu is currently mayor of Srinagar while Chander Mohan Gupta is mayor of Jammu.

With this status, both Mattu and Gupta will enjoy expanded power and will be able to take executive decisions. As mayors, their roles and responsibilities were restricted to their municipal jurisdiction.

Typically, a mayor is considered a ceremonial authority with limited power and state governments with all the resources continue to take most critical decisions.

Recently, after the abrogation of Article 370, the Centre bifurcated the valley state into

two union territories — Jammu & Kashmir with an Assembly and Ladakh without one.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill was passed on August 5 in the Rajya Sabha and then in the Lok Sabha.

The controversial Article 370 allowed special status to Jammu & Kashmir for over 70 years. Barring matters related to defence, foreign affairs, communications and other matters which were specified in the Instrument of Accession of Jammu & Kashmir, the Centre required the approval of the State Government for other laws.

Life in the Valley is gradually returning to normal. While offices and schools re-opened on Monday, landline phone connections have been largely restored.

Communication blockade fueling anger in Kashmir

Srinagar: It was an emotional reunion for Imran Ahmad with his family. The 32-year-old sells Kashmir handicrafts in Mumbai and returned home to Hawal here on Monday.

He had been unable to get in touch with his family in Kashmir since a fortnight, after security curbs and a communication blockade was imposed in the state following the scrapping of Article 370 that granted special status to Kashmir within the Indian union.

Ahmad broke down on seeing his ageing parents, and tightly hugged his two and three year old nephews. He is getting married next week. But the communication blackout has complicated his wedding arrangements. While most weddings in Kashmir

stand cancelled given the situation, Ahmad does not intend to do so. Instead, he plans to have low key celebrations.

"Life has become too difficult without communication. In a sad situation like this, how can one even think of celebration? It is going to be a very simple affair," said Ahmad.

Ahmad's neighbours are also angry. "This has never happened in Kashmir, we have been caged," lamented Ghulam Mohiuddin.

Others said the gag order was only fuelling anger. "It is triggering frustration in Kashmir and is a great provocation for the people," said Mohammad Hafeez.

The Government calls the communication blockade "temporary" and has promised

restoration of all landline connections. "Out of 96,000 landlines in the state, 73,000 have started functioning," said Government spokesperson Rohit Kansal.

But some like Abdul Majeed, a resident of Firdousabad in Batamloo area of Srinagar, complain that the landlines which were restored a couple of days ago, have stopped working altogether.

"It is a joke, the landlines were restored in our area but were snapped in a matter of few hours. The radio silence is becoming unbearable," he said.

The Government says it is abreast of the situation and the matter is being taken up with service provider BSNL for quick redressal.

Khadi comes out with novel way to bestow dignity on humble 'mochi'

New Delhi: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) which is in the forefront of popularising Khadi has come out with a novel way to bestow dignity on the humble 'mochi'. Acting on the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, KVIC has decided to give recognition to the people from the marginalised shoe-making community popularly known as Mochi.

In this first kind of such initiatives in the country, the KVIC decided to re-christen 'mochi' as 'Charm Chikitsak' at the training programme at the KVIC's e Gandhi Darshan premises in Delhi on Wednesday.

When KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena addressed the inaugural session of 100 leather artisan trainees of Delhi as 'Charm-Chikitsak', some of the shoe-makers broke into tears. For 60-year-old Ramsevak, it was simply unbelievable.

"We are getting a sense of recognition and security with this encouraging address of the KVIC Chairman, what we have not ever dreamt of in our lives," he said.

Saxena said that KVIC had always shown its commitment to uplift the social and economic status of the marginalized communities. "After the overwhelming success in Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Scheme, we planned to launch this Leather Artisans Development Scheme, in which small time shoe-makers, mostly sitting on footpaths - polishing and repairing shoes and chappals, from all corners of the country, would first be given proper training and then modern Shoe-tools Kit worth Rs 5,000. The kits will be equipped with all necessary articles needed to cure and beautify shoes and chappals," he said.

Saxena said earlier this month, 50 artisans of Sirohi district — one of the aspirational districts identified by the Neeti Aayog — in Rajasthan had been given training with the Shoe-tool Kits.

"We hope to distribute at least 10,000 such kits among our 'charm-chikitsak' by the end of this year," he added.

Uddhav throws weight behind cousin Raj ahead ED'S summons

Says nothing will come out against him in probe

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After the Opposition Congress and ANCP, the ruling Shiv Sena on Wednesday came out in support of MNS chief Raj Thackeray on Wednesday, a day ahead of his appearance before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in connection with a loan default probe case.

A day after the MNS chief said that he would "honour" the summons issued to him by the ED and exhorted his party workers to maintain calm and restraint on August 22, Sena president Uddhav Thackeray threw his weight behind his cousin Raj, by saying that he did not think anything would come in the case in which the latter was investigated.

At a news conference convened to welcome sitting Congress MLA Nirmala Gavit into his party, Uddhav reacted to the news reports about the summons issued by Raj in a loan default case and said: "I don't think anything will come out in tomorrow's questioning (of Raj Thackeray)".

Reacting to the Sena president's comment, MNS spokesperson Sandip Deshpande — who had earlier dubbed the ED's summons to his party president as an "act of vendetta" — said, "All the people in the state are aware that there is nothing to the case. I am confident that my president will unscathed from this case".

The Opposition Congress and NCP leaders had earlier slammed the BJP-led NDA Government for "misusing" the investigating agencies to "target" its critics. They had said that Raj was being "targeted" as he had campaigned against the Narendra Modi Government in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

Raj, it may be recalled, had also brought the Opposition parties together on one platform on the issue of Electronic

Voting Machines (EVMs) and demanded that instead of EVMs, ballot papers be used to hold the State Assembly polls in Maharashtra.

The ED is investigating the alleged irregularities in the IL&FS's loans and investments worth over Rs 860 crore in M/s Kohinoor CTNL, a company funded by former Maharashtra CM Manohar Joshi's son Umesh Joshi.

M/s Kohinoor CTNL has been under ED scanner for being a prominent defaulter of IL&FS, amounting to an estimated Rs 135 crore.

Unmesh along with son along with IL&FS and Raj Thackeray-owned Matoshree Construction had in 2005 jointly had made a bid and bought for the NTPC's Kohinoor Mill's 4.8-acre property for Rs 421 crore.

In 2008, the IL&FS reneged from the deal and surrendered its shares for only Rs 90 crore, as against an investment of Rs 225 crore made in M/s Kohinoor CTNL. Following the IL & FS's exit, Raj exited from the venture after selling his shares.

In a statement put out in Marathi and English through his official twitter handle, Raj had said on Tuesday that like he did several other cases registered against him in the past, he would "honour" the summons issued to him and asked his party workers not to come anywhere near the investigation agency's office on Thursday.

Miffed by the summons issued to their party president, the MNS workers had earlier threatened to storm the ED when Raj responds to its summons on Thursday.

It had also called for a bandh in a satellite city of Mumbai, on August 22, in protest against the summons issued by the ED.

Following Raj's appeal to his workers to maintain calm, the MNS has called off its plans to take out a morcha to ED on Thursday and also withdrew its bandh call in Thane.

Chidambaram, a paper tiger, charge Congressman, rivals

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

There is no one in the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee or in Shivaganga who are not happy with the Delhi High Court order refusing to entertain the anticipatory bail application filed by former Union Finance and Home Minister P Chidambaram who is always portrayed as the party's strong-

man in the State. "All good things have to come to an end and this is what has happened to Chidambaram and his family," a senior Congress leader in TNCC told *The Pioneer*. The former Finance Minister who was the country's Home Minister for fairly long time is one of the most unpopular politician in Tamil Nadu, said the Congress leader who did not want his name to be quoted for obvious reasons.

"You have been writing about the weakness of the Congress in Tamil Nadu for quite some time. Chidambaram is the root cause of the pathetic situation of the party in Tamil Nadu. He is always known as a weekend politician and has no acceptability among the people of the State," disclosed the leader.

S Rangaraj, author and proprietor of Rare Books, said Chidambaram could be described as a paper tiger. "It

is the media in Tamil Nadu which portrayed him as the State's strongman. For Chidambaram, what matters is his family and nothing more than that," said Rangaraj.

The electorate in Shivaganga, the home constituency of Chidambaram, said has alienated the voters because of his arrogance and intimidating nature. "He did not contest the 2014 Lok Sabha election fearing defeat. Please remember that he manipulated to get elected to the Upper House from Maharashtra because of his close association with Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi," said Rangaraj.

Narayanan Thirupathi, the BJP spokesman said the solidarity shown by some of the senior Congress leaders in New Delhi was just a façade. "In the heart of their hearts, all of them are happy because it is an open secret that Chidambaram's antecedents are not above the board. He camouflages his crimes with the help of that idiomatic English with which he hopes to hoodwink the public," said Narayanan.

Chidambaram's woes are far from over. He has to appear before the Madras High Court on August 30 to face the cross examination in an election petition filed against him by the AIADMK candidate immediately after 2009 LS election.

Stalin backs Chidambaram, accuses BJP Govt of pursuing vendetta politics

PTI ■ CHENNAI

DMK chief MK Stalin on Wednesday backed Congress leader P Chidambaram, facing action in a money laundering case related to INX Media, and accused the BJP-led central Government of pursuing political vendetta.

"As regards this issue, I have clearly learnt that these (actions) are happening due to political vendetta," Stalin, whose party has an alliance with Congress in Tamil Nadu, told reporters at the DMK headquarters 'Anna Arivalayam' here.

Responding to queries, the DMK leader said, "Chidambaram is a legal expert. He will for sure face the case legally." As many as 14 parties will take part in a protest in Delhi to be held by DMK on Thursday, seeking the release of leaders under detention in Kashmir, he said.

The Congress has defended Chidambaram, with Rahul Gandhi accusing the Government of using probe agencies and the media to "character assassinate" the former Finance Minister.

Further boost to Sena, sitting Cong MLA joins its fold

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In further boost to the ruling Shiv Sena ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls, sitting Congress MLA Nirmala Gavit on Wednesday joined the Sena in the presence of its president Uddhav Thackeray.

In a development that came four days after former MLA Dhanraj Haribahu Mahale — who had quit the Shiv Sena and joined the Shiv Sena on May 22, 2019, later on July 10, sitting MLA from Shahpur Pandurang Barora quit the NCP and entered the Sena. Later, NCP's Mumbai unit president Sachin Ahir quit the party and joined the ruling Shiv Sena on July 25.

Subsequently, former MLA Dhanraj Haribahu Mahale — who had quit the Shiv Sena and joined the Sharad Pawar-led party and contested the recent Lok Sabha polls from Dindori constituency — had returned to the Sena on Friday.

The Sena might field him as its candidate from Dindor in the State Assembly polls.

Similarly, the NCP's three sitting MLAs Shivrajendra Bhosale (Satara), Vaibhav Pichad (Akole in Ahmednagar district) and Sandeep Naik (Airoli in Navi Mumbai) and Congress' sitting MLA Kalidas Kolambar (Wadala in south-central Mumbai) joined the BJP on July 31, 2019.

The Shiv Sena and BJP have been poaching leaders from the Congress and NCP in recent months in the run-up to the State Assembly polls.

First, it was NCP's former minister and once Pawar's close-confidant Jaydutta Kshirsagar from Beed district in Marathwada who quit the NCP and joined the Shiv Sena on May 22, 2019, later on July 10, sitting MLA from Shahpur Pandurang Barora quit the NCP and entered the Sena. Later, NCP's Mumbai unit president Sachin Ahir quit the party and joined the ruling Shiv Sena on July 25.

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EXTENSION OF RUN OF SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of Passengers, Railways have decided to extend the run of the following Special Trains as under :-

Train No.	Station From	Dep. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency/ Days of run	At Present running up to	Period of Further Extension
09809	Kota	20:20	H. Nizamuddin	03:15	Daily	22.08.2019	up to 30.11.2019
09810	H. Nizamuddin	05:15	Kota	13:15	Daily	23.08.2019	up to 01.12.2019

Beware of Touts Always buy your tickets from Railway Counter or authorised rail travel agents only.

NOTE: For any kind of information passengers are requested to please contact Railway Enquiry No. 139, nearest railway station or may check from Indian Railway's website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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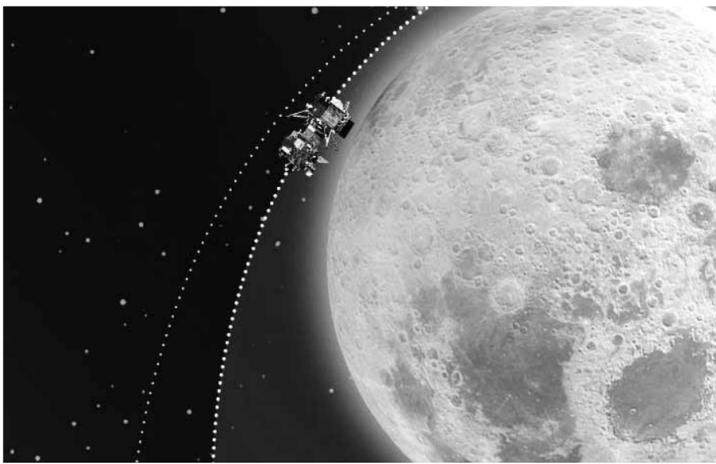
PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

The Deputy Director(Hort.), DUSIB, invites on behalf of DUSIB online Percentage rate bid on two bid system for following works :-
Last date and time of submission of bid 07.09.2019 (upto 15:00 hrs.) The bid form and other details can be obtained from the web site (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

NAME OF WORK /NIT No./Tender ID	ESTIMATED COST (Rs)	EARNEST MONEY	TENDER COST	TIME
Name of work- MLA LAD FUND Sub-Head- Development of Horticulture work in Open land to be developed as Shishu Vatika's/Park at Woodland , near CRPF Camp Tilak Vihar Along with One year Maintenance & watch and ward. NIT No.27/Dy.Dir(Hort)/DUSIB/2019-20 Tender ID:- 2019_DUSIB_178197_1	57,17,974/-	1,14,400/-	1000/-	545 days
Name of work- MLA LAD FUND Sub-Head- Construction of pump house, pathway and providing 02 Nos bore well along with providing and lowering of 02 Nos submersible pump set open land to be developed as Shishu Vatika's/Park at Woodland , near CRPF Camp Tilak Vihar NIT No.28/Dy.Dir(Hort)/DUSIB/2019-20 Tender ID:- 2019_DUSIB_178198_1	58,57,300/-	1,17,150/-	1000/-	150 days

Note :- (1) Any Amendments / Change / Clarifications (if any) will be uploaded only on <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> therefore intending tenderers may inspect the site regularly.
DIP/SHarth-0548/2019-20 Dy.Dir(Hort)DUSIB

Chandrayaan-2 enters second lunar orbit



PTI ■ BENGALURU

ISRO on Wednesday said it has performed the second lunar-bound orbit maneuver for Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft that is currently in the lunar orbit for its rendezvous with the Moon. All spacecraft parameters are normal, the Bengaluru headquartered space agency said after the maneuver. "Second Lunar bound orbit maneuver for Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft was performed successfully today (August 21, 2019) beginning at 1250 hrs IST as planned, using the onboard propulsion system. The duration of the maneuver was 1228 seconds. The orbit achieved is 118 km x 4412 km," ISRO said. The next Lunar bound orbit maneuver is scheduled on August 28, 2019 between 0530-0630 hrs IST. In a major milestone, the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft successfully entered the lunar orbit on Tuesday by performing Lunar Orbit Insertion (LOI) maneuver. There will be three more orbit manoeuvres to make the spacecraft enter into its final orbit passing over the lunar poles at a distance of about 100 km from the Moon's surface.

ISRO has said subsequently the lander will separate from the Orbiter (on September 2) and enter into a 100 km X30 km orbit around the Moon. Then it will perform a series of complex braking maneuvers to soft land in the South polar region of the Moon on September 7, 2019. ISRO Chairman K Sivan has said the proposed soft-landing on the Moon is going to be a "terrifying" moment as it is something ISRO has not done before, where as LOI maneuver was successfully carried out during the Chandrayaan-1 mission. The health of the spacecraft is being continuously monitored from the Mission Operations Complex (MOX) at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru with support from Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) antennas at Bylalu, near Bengaluru, the space agency has said. India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV MkIII-M1 had successfully launched the 3,840-kg Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into the earth's orbit on July 22. Following the landing, the rover 'Pragyan' will rollout from lander 'Vikram' and carry out experiments on the lunar surface for a period of one lunar day, which is equal to 14 earth days. The mission life of the lander is also one lunar day, while the orbiter will continue its mission for a year. The orbiter carries eight scientific payloads for mapping the lunar surface and study the exosphere (outer atmosphere) of the Moon while the lander carries three scientific payloads to conduct surface and subsurface science experiments. The rover carries two payloads to enhance the understanding of the lunar surface. India's second lunar expedition — would shed light on a completely unexplored section of the Moon, its South Polar region. According to ISRO, the mission objective of Chandrayaan-2 is to develop and demonstrate the key technologies for end-to-end lunar mission capability, including soft-landing and roving on the lunar surface. On the science front, this mission aims to further expand the knowledge about the moon through a detailed study of its topography, mineralogy, surface chemical composition, thermo-physical characteristics and atmosphere, leading to a better understanding of the origin and evolution of the moon, the space agency had said.

Yogi brings in 23 new Ministers, many 1st timers

SIANS ■ LUCKNOW

In what can be termed as a near-total revamp of the Yogi Adityanath Government, 23 new Ministers were sworn in on Wednesday at the Raj Bhawan by Governor Anandiben Patel. The newly inducted ministers include six Cabinet Ministers, six Ministers of State with Independent charge and 11 Ministers of State. The most significant aspect of Wednesday's reshuffle is that majority of the newly inducted ministers are first timers with almost no administrative experience. Yogi Adityanath will face an uphill task in making these ministers perform. Four Ministers of State, who held independent charge,



Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with newly inducted Ministers at Raj Bhawan in Lucknow on Wednesday

have been promoted as Cabinet Ministers. The Cabinet Ministers, who were sworn in are Mahendra Singh, Bhupendra Chaudhary, Anil Rajbhar, Suresh Rana, Kamal Rani and Ram Naresh Agnihotri. Except for Kamal Rani and Ram Naresh Agnihotri, the remain-

ing four have been elevated. Those sworn in as Ministers of State with Independent charge are Kapil Dev, Ashok Katehria, Neelkanth Tiwari, Ravindra Jaiswal, Shri Ram Chauhan and Satish Dwiwedi — the latter had defeated former Speaker Mata Prasad Pandey in 2017. Neelkanth Tiwari, who has been given Independent charge, and Ravindra Jaiswal both belong to Varanasi, which is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency. The 11 Ministers of State are Anil Sharma, Mahesh Gupta, Anand Swarup Shukla, Vijay Kashyap, Giriraj Singh Dharmesh, Lakhan Singh Rajput, Nilima Katiyar, Chaudhary Udaybhan Singh, Chandrika Prasad Upadhyaya, Rama Shankar Singh Patel and Ajit Singh Pal. Of the 23 new ministers inducted — six are Brahmins, four Thakurs, three Vaishyas and 10 Dalits. Western Uttar Pradesh has been given a sizeable representation in the council of ministers. A surprise development was that names of Pankaj Singh, son of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Vijay Bahadur Pathak, party General Secretary and Ashish Patel (Apna Dal) were dropped at the last minute. The dropping of Ministers including Chetan Chauhan, Swati Singh and Mukut Bihari Varma was also deferred, following a late night meeting between the Chief Minister, party State President Swatantra Dev Singh and Sangh leaders.

BSY reaches out to sulking MLAs as discontent continues to brew over Cabinet expansion

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A day after the expansion of the Karnataka Cabinet with the induction of 17 Ministers, discontent among those who failed to secure Ministerial berths refused to die down on Wednesday, even as Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa made attempts to douse the embers. As the expansion brought an end to the nearly month long wait for the Cabinet to take shape, it led to some heartburn in a section of the party as several MLAs continued to make no secret of their displeasure after missing the bus. Yediyurappa has sought to reach out to the sulking MLAs, specifically eight-time Hukkeri MLA Umesh Katti, whom several legislators who could not make it to the Ministry reportedly met. "For one hour yesterday I have spoken to him (Katti) in the presence of Basavaraj Bommai (Minister). Naturally he is pained at not getting an opportunity. I will try to find a remedy," Yediyurappa told reporters in



Tumakuru.

On discontent expressed by Honnalli MLA MP Renukacharya about a former legislator Lakshman Savadi, who is neither a member of the Assembly nor the Council, sidelining several sitting MLAs, he said "I will call Renukacharya and friends and talk to them." On his part Katti said he is not discontented and no other disgruntled legislators were with him. He told reporters that he met Yediyurappa and that he cannot reveal internal matters of the party to the media.

Arsalan story twist: Elder brother was driving, arrested

SIANS ■ KOLKATA

In a stunning u-turn, Kolkata Police on Wednesday arrested Raghbir Parwez, elder brother of the original prime accused Arsalan Parwez, for allegedly being at the wheel of the Jaguar that was involved in a gruesome accident here last week that killed two Bangladeshi citizens and left three others injured. Raghbir's maternal uncle has also been arrested for helping him abscond. In a hurriedly convened media meet, the city police claimed that 21-year-old Arsalan Parwez, scion of the family that owns the city's famous eponymous restaurant chain, wasn't driving the car, but it was his elder brother who was at the wheel at the time of the accident. Arsalan Parwez allegedly tried to mislead the police to save his brother by claiming that he was driving. Police recovered the event data recorder (EDR) of the Jaguar Land Rover car that was being driven at a speed between 100-120 km per hour. After thorough examination done by the Homicide Department, as well as the forensic and cyber teams, the sensational case took a sharp turn. "After checking the control panel of the high-end vehicle, the experts found that the infotainment data revealed that a person named Raghbir Parwez had interacted with the vehicle prior to the accident. "After thorough investigation, it was confirmed that Raghbir, Arsalan's elder brother, was driving the car. He has been arrested on Wednesday noon near Beniapur, Murliidhar Sharma, joint commissioner of police (crime) told reporters.

3 IAF personnel killed as truck falls into Barmer gorge



Mangled remains of an Air Force truck that fell into a gorge in Barmer district of Rajasthan on Wednesday

Three IAF personnel were killed and three severely injured on Wednesday when the truck carrying them fell into a gorge in Barmer district of Rajasthan, police said. "The Indian Air Force has a camp at the hill top (a height of 100 feet) as well as at the base in Chouhatan. This truck was coming down from the camp with six IAF personnel seated inside when it fell into the gorge. Three people have lost their lives, while three are severely injured and have been shifted to a hospital in Barmer," said Ajeet Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police. "We are investigating if it was due to brake failure or something else," Singh added.

The Executive Engineer, NH Division, Kumarghat, PWD (NH), Unakoti Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT No 1/EE/NH-DIV/PWD(NH)/KGT/2019-20 Dt. 05.08.2019.

For
1. Name of work:- Strengthening and improvement of riding quality of road from Ambassa to Kachucherra Bazar (Job No.CRF /TR /2018-19/031) (3rd Call).

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ICA/C-862/2019-20 Kumarghat, Unakoti Tripura

Mukul Roy aide held in bribery case

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Police on Wednesday arrested close aide of senior BJP leader Mukul Roy for taking bribe. Baban Ghosh, a former TMC Mazdoor Sangh president, was arrested from his south Kolkata residence for conniving lakhs of rupees from the complainant Santu Mandal in the name of getting him a place in the Railway Board, sources said. Police acting on an FIR lodged in 2015 by one Santu Mandal alleging Ghosh had extracted about Rs 70 lakh in tranches arrested Ghosh who enjoys considerable influence in the Tollygunge film city and had

recently played an important role in getting a galaxy of Bangla cine personalities to join the saffron outfit. The BJP promptly refuted charges saying it was all being done at the behest of the ruling TMC to malign the party and victimise people who were joining the party.

The complainant is known to have also named Roy and another person in the FIR lodged at Sarsuna Police Station in south-west Kolkata.

According to Mandal, the accused had lured him into giving lakhs of rupees with a promise of making him a Railway Board member. "I met Baban Ghosh at Nizam Palace in Kolkata where I was told I will be made Railway Board member. Accordingly I was taken to Delhi several times," Mandal said, adding he even visited Parliament and Railway Ministry where I was introduced to some people."

Among them was a "stated personal assistant of then Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu," he said. "I was told there that I will have to spend some money in order to become a Board member. To win my trust I was also given some papers. Believing in them I paid them several lakh of rupees some even through cheque."

Kerala women to drive Govt vehicles

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

One are the days when the post of a driver in Kerala State Government departments and State owned public sector undertakings could be filled only by a male. The State Cabinet, on Wednesday, decided to open this post for women also.

After the weekly cabinet meeting held here, the office of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan intimated that it's no longer a male domain.

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/O Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: 16 years, Height: 5'0", Complexion: Shallow, Gender : Male, Wearing: Black Pant & White Checkdhar Shirt was found Dead at footpath near MCD Office, Civil Line, Delhi, on 12.08.2019. In this regard, DD No. 09-A dated 12.08.2019 has been lodged at PS Civil Lines, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following.

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P.S., Civil Lines, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23815444,8750870127
DP/345/N/19

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List of Successful applicants of draw held on 19th August 2019 at Club Florence, Sector-56, E-Block, Sushant Lok-2, Gurugram-122002

CATEGORY: 1BHK (301 Sq. Ft.)				Category: 2BHK-C (498 Sq. Ft.)			
S. No.	Application No.	Unit No.	Name	S. No.	Application No.	Unit No.	Name
Preference -1				Preference -1			
1	10950	6041	Ranjana Bhatnagar	1	00836	17018	Shakir Husain
2	00841	6022	Ravi Mohan Tewari	2	00823	18118	Junnu Bhaskar
3	00870	5043	Manju Joshi	3	00835	17071	Girish Chandra
4	00844	5013	Durga Singh	4	00850	1021	Sunita Chhabra
5	00864	10042	Lalit Dawra	5	00810	3138	Avinash Choudhary
6	00842	6033	Preeti Mathpal	6	00839	17031	Bhupal Datt Kamatak
7	00857	10012	Vijayam R Nair	7	00846	2091	Deepak Singh Biroria
Preference -2/ Waiting				Preference -2/ Waiting			
1	10234	WL1	Saraswati Sahoo	1	10736	WL1	Sarver Kumar Chahal
2	00824	WL2	Neeraj Kumar	2	10252	WL2	Kamal Jeet Singh

Category: 2BHK-B (524 Sq. Ft.)

S. No.	Application No.	Unit No.	Name
Preference -1			
1	00827	18144	Santosh Kumar Arya
2	10964	1024	Vipin Kumar Sawariya
3	00833	3054	Satyajit Ashok Pandey
4	00831	18074	Arun Yadav
5	00847	17115	Shalish Kumar
Preference -2/Waiting			
1	9880	WL1	Kshitiz Srivastava
2	00853	WL2	Sunil Kumar

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Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway RATLAM (MP) invites offer through E-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in under One packet system for the following:- Tender No.: RTM/DY/CE(C)ROB/5(81). Name of work: Construction of 2 lane Road Over Bridge 1 x 36.00m + 2 x 18.00m effective span (composite girders) at km: 651/14-16 in lieu of L-xing no. 81, near Ratlam, between Ratlam Godhra section of Ratlam Division, Western Railway. NIT Cost: ₹8,99,12,349.58. EMD: ₹5,99,800/- Bid submission closing date: 16.09.2019 at 15.00 hrs. Bid open date: 16.09.2019 at 15.30 hrs. Instructions of tenders: 1. Only E-tenders submitted online through E-tender portal will be considered. Please note that printed offers will not be entertained. 2. The date of tender, terms & conditions and scope of work are uploaded and are available only in electronic format in our website www.ireps.gov.in. Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

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SPECIAL ATTENTION: ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS
Public e-auction for disposal of P. way scrap, rail scrap & other various scrap material will be held in SEPT,2019 as per program given below:-

SEPTEMBER 2019				Depot	Depot officer In charge	Contact No.
1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round				
04.09.2019	13.09.2019	23.09.2019	Mumbai Central	Sr.Divl. Material Manager-Mumbai Central	022-23094142/09004499003	
04.09.2019	13.09.2019	23.09.2019	Ahmedabad	Sr.Divl. Material Manager-Ahmedabad	07922205888/097524093750	
04.09.2019	13.09.2019	23.09.2019	Sabarmati	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Sabarmati	07927500080/09724093770	
06.09.2019	16.09.2019	25.09.2019	Mahalaxmi	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Mahalaxmi	022-24929571/09004495750	
09.09.2019	18.09.2019	27.09.2019	Pratapnagar	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Dahod	02673241295/09724090455	
06.09.2019	16.09.2019	25.09.2019	Varodara	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Mahalaxmi	022-24929571/09004495750	
09.09.2019	18.09.2019	27.09.2019	Ratlam	Sr.Divl. Material Manager-Ratlam	022-22230080/09752492750	
09.09.2019	18.09.2019	27.09.2019	Rajkot	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Dahod	02673241295/09724090455	
09.09.2019	18.09.2019	27.09.2019	Bhavnagar	Sr.Divl. Material Manager-Rajkot	022-22476943/09724097750	
10.09.2019	20.09.2019	30.09.2019	Dahod	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Dahod	02673241295/09724090455	

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Deputy Chief Material Manager (Sales)

PAPER WITH PASSION

Chidambaram in a spot

Politically motivated or not, the ex-FM must cooperate. Otherwise the Congress can go down a slippery slope



In the end, Palaniappan Chidambaram, the former Home and Finance Minister of India and one who artfully played power games to his benefit so long, should have surrendered with grace to the investigative agencies on the INX media case. For politics is never about right or wrong but smart positioning in a set context. He could have made a virtue of the rather incriminating accusations against him by willfully surrendering under the law, flagged his honour, howsoever fake, instead of hiding out for hours after a lookout notice was issued against him. Which is why his drive to the AICC headquarters, claiming he was being framed, that the investigative agencies had not filed a chargesheet and that he was the victim of a political witch-hunt, didn't wash with anybody. The drama was not quite stage-managed to suit the image he had carefully cultivated over the years. Earlier in the day, every senior advocate in Delhi was either trying to figure out the whereabouts of or appearing for or against him in the Supreme Court. For a man regularly used to being feted in the media, a source of salacious gossip, himself a senior advocate and one of the cogs of the Lutyens' Delhi machine, he simply winced at a moment of crisis. His role in several scams and scandals has long been suspected and many of them reported diligently in this newspaper for years. His intervention in deals, the extent of its propriety and the legality or illegality of his actions, however is something for the courts to decide. That said, his battery of lawyers — all of whom are his senior colleagues in the Congress — has always managed to ensure that Chidambaram remained on bail for years, free from prosecution. This frustrated the attempts of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to question him and his son, Karti Chidambaram, who, too, is accused in several cases alongside him. But this sudden rash of actions against Chidambaram now, as the carefully cultivated Congress ecosystem collapses in the capital after a successive election loss, seems to have caught him and his friends off guard, thus making the man nothing more than a common fugitive who feared arrest.

Chidambaram's refusal to surrender on very tenuous grounds actually strengthens the case against him. The man, who accused the Narendra Modi Government of letting economic offenders like Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi escape, has been doing the same thing. While the Congress has closed ranks and accused the Government of vindictiveness, this argument has been shot down by the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court as well. And herein lies the rub for the Congress — Chidambaram, while a colossus in his own constituency of Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu, now held by his son, has never been a popular leader. While he was feted by a pliant media, particularly the business Press while he was the Finance Minister, rumours of his escapades, some of which would make Mallya blush, have been damaging to him in the long-run. By not surrendering, Chidambaram looked no better than any other on the wanted list. And if the Congress encourages this, the entire party could be badly damaged at a time where it is extremely weak and ruin any argument against the horrendous handling of the current economic situation by the government. Cases against Chidambaram are not all watertight. He can still be acquitted. It is also true that political winds could one day blow in his favour again. However, for any potential recovery, he had to craft his response to look like a victim yesterday. In fact, if he wants to play up the "political vendetta" theory, he should posit himself as the recipient of a hitback. During Chidambaram's tenure as the Home Minister in 2010, the CBI had arrested Amit Shah in a fake encounter case. When he applied for bail, the CBI opposed the move in the Gujarat High Court arguing that Shah might use his political influence to tamper with the evidence or threaten witnesses. Today, Shah is the Home Minister. Clearly, there is a full circle of an eye-for-an-eye by either side. While we do not see Chidambaram jumping off a dam like Harrison Ford did trying to escape from the law in order to clear his name, the current prognosis is grim.

Delhi roads unsafe

A report reveals how one person dies in an accident every five hours because of rampant behaviour



As a signatory to the Brasilia declaration on road safety, India intends to reduce accidents and traffic fatalities by 50 per cent in the next three years. So when a most damning report on the state of Delhi roads was released by the traffic police, revealing that one person died in a road accident every five hours on an average in 2018, it raised a million eyebrows. Not only that, fatalities rose to a five-year high and remained the highest for any city in the country, the report added. Breaking down the bone-chilling statistics, the report concluded that nearly half of these crashes, 46 per cent to be precise, were hit and run cases where the vehicle could not be identified. Of the 1,690 deaths, one-third were caused by speeding and 7-10 per cent due to dangerous driving, usually reckless lane-changing and stunts. In other words, driving behaviour and the Delhiite's gross indiscipline were diagnosed as reasons for the nightmarish state of affairs and something which no existing policy or penalty has clearly been able to rein in. The report also highlighted the role played by defective road designs, pathetic street lighting (33 per cent) and callously unguarded civic works (40 per cent) in causing accidents. Shockingly, 20 per cent of road deaths were attributed to bumpy roads and potholes, a severe indictment of the city's planners and the Public Works Department.

While the Delhi government and civic bodies need to hang their heads in shame, the fact remains that the situation in the rest of the country is not much different. As per data given by the government in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha recently, almost 1.5 lakh people lost their lives in road accidents in 2017. This means every hour 17 people died on Indian roads due to an accident. The number of fatalities is one third the number of accidents, which amounts to 53 road accidents every hour. Uttar Pradesh is the worst affected state with 20,124 people losing their lives, followed by Tamil Nadu with 16,157 fatalities. Such alarming figures prompted the Union Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways to announce that 63 clauses of the Motor Vehicle Act, which include stiffer penalties for traffic violations, drunken driving and over speeding, will be implemented from September 1 after due vetting by the Law ministry. Pointing out that road engineering was primarily responsible for road accidents in the country, the ministry said that a ₹14,000 crore project had been prepared by the government to identify accident black spots and plug gaps in highways to reduce casualties. Assuming the Delhi Government and the Union government collectively provide safe, better designed and world-class roads in the national Capital, would the errant driver mend his ways or roadroll every civil corrective?



BHOPINDER SINGH

International diplomacy and issues are expressed in semantics and subtle wordsmithing that require to be carefully deconstructed and deciphered for its real intent. In any dispute, contrarian positions are publically posed by competing parties and a virtual race for endorsement of either of the competing narratives ensues. The cue to reading the reaction to conflicting arguments lies in the deployment of certain keywords, expressions and tonality that is expressed by the receiving audience at the end of the conflicting pitches.

In the tense and hyphenated domain of India-Pakistan realm, the 'K' (Kashmir) word dominates above all. Herein, the operative library of preferred words from New Delhi's perspective has been "bilateral", "cross-border terrorism" and "internal affairs" among others; whereas, from Islamabad's perspective, it has been "international mediation", "plebiscite" and "UN resolution." Even the language syntax, emotions and phraseology in the war-of-words between India and Pakistan is decidedly more escalatory, shriller and beseeching when it emanates from Islamabad.

Historically, irrespective of the merits in the topical India-Pakistan arguments, the audience would typically respond in favour or against either of the countries — on the basis of a certain predisposed equation and preference. It's only some unrelated country with negligible stakes which would occasionally partake an unbiased assessment of the arguments involved, as indeed, would some of the multilateral formations. Therefore, the inevitable play of certain "blocs" or realpolitik considerations resulted in a pre-decided tilt at least till now.

Post the recent revocation of the "special status" for Jammu and Kashmir as well as the planned bifurcation of the State into two "Union Territories", diplomats from both sides of the Line of Control have been expectedly scurrying across the global capitals to posit their respective sovereign positions. The lines and angularities of the arguments are standard with Pakistan aggressively goading other nations into either condemning the Indian action or seeking mediation. As usual, India has been posturing "bilateral" note, defending its actions as rote "internal matter", whilst cuttingly alluding to the recurring concerns of "cross-border terrorism." Barring this time, the Pakistanis are caught by surprise by the unfolding script not toeing the usual "divide" that accompanied Islamabad's earlier pitches on Kashmir. Global reaction has not only tilted heavily in India's favour or at best elicited bored disinterest and homilies but has hit a new low of "telling silence" or "zero reaction" from the supposed allies of Pakistan.

Undeniably, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had inherited a country with its economy in shambles and a discredited sovereign perception as the "terror nursery" of the globe. With traditional allies like the US openly castigating Islamabad for its dupli-



ous role in the terror industry and multilateral bodies like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) breathing down its neck to further "blacklist" it — Imran Khan had gone ahead with ostensible "course-correction", austerity-drive and personal charm-offensives to posture "Naya Pakistan" onto the global stage.

Khan made quick dashes to China and to the Gulf sheikhdoms and made sure that he personally drove the visiting Princes from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE when they visited his country. As money started trickling in and the noose of corruption tightened against his political opponents, Khan felt even more confident of his own position, success and that of his country. He postured reconciliatory accent (whilst still undertaking a Pulwama in parallel), yet his eye on the global map with a changed "Naya Pakistan" was clearly work-in-progress.

Serendipitously, Washington's U-turn in Afghanistan offered yet another opportunity to Islamabad to thaw its freeze with the US and leverage its imminent pivot in Kabul towards its strategic advantage. Suddenly, the move by the Indian Government to revoke Article 370 and 35A in Jammu and Kashmir put the worth of "Naya Pakistan" and its global efficacy to litmus test. Islamabad went into yet another round of

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EVEN THE UAE HAS INVOKED THE BILATERAL CHORUS. AMID PAKISTANI CALLS FOR BANS, SUSPENSION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND SOLIDARITY MOVES FOR OSTENSIBLE CONCERNS IN KASHMIR, SAUDI ARABIA ANNOUNCED MEGA DEALS WITH A MAJOR INDIAN CONGLOMERATE
”

competitive pitching *vis-à-vis* India, brandishing the "K" card.

Khan has been running from pillar-to-post and personally calling up the leaderships in the Gulf sheikhdoms, Iran, Indonesia and various other supposed "allies". He also sought an emergency meeting at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). But so far, it has come a cropper. The US, the UN and the EU have instead suggested "maximum restraint" and embarrassingly so from Pakistan's perspective, "bilateral resolution and engagement".

Reportage in Pakistan is full of actions taken by the Government to escalate the issue with various Governments but there is a virtual silence, which is attributable directly to the leaderships in pitched countries. Even nations like the UAE have invoked the "bilateral" chorus. Amid Pakistani calls for bans, suspension of diplomatic relations and "solidarity moves" for ostensible concerns in Kashmir, Saudi Arabia announced mega deals with a major Indian conglomerate.

Barring China, which has come out with its loaded statements in favour of its "all-weather friend" Pakistan, it continues grappling with its own imploding destiny in Hong Kong. Basically, Pakistan remains stunningly isolated and ignored.

Sabre-rattling by the Pakistani deep state (military)

and its local political classes notwithstanding, the reality of a persisting trust deficit and perceptions of sovereign incorrigibility still abound the Pakistani narrative. The transactional equation with China is also premised on the strategic investments of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which necessitates that Islamabad remains reciprocally mum on the fate of Uighur repression in China.

The recent round of tensions between India and Pakistan has driven home the importance of political morality, economic relevance and stability as opposed to regressive pandering to co-religiosity in forums like OIC or charm offensives. These are clearly not bankable levers in times like this.

While China will continue to indulge Pakistan for its own strategic rationale, the Pakistani "model" is an inherent anathema to Chinese sensibilities. Even the US may pander to some Pakistani whims as it will seek to extricate itself from Afghanistan. However, it has been the telling silence of all the countries in the immediate east of Pakistan that has given a resounding wake-up call to Islamabad to go beyond change in nomenclature and its insincere concerns in Kashmir.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry)

SOUNDBITE

Modi Government is using the ED, CBI and sections of a spineless media to character-assassinate Chidambaram. I strongly condemn this disgraceful misuse of power.



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

Making music is a creative process, which means you have to leave it to creative people to come up with a good tune. This power must not be stripped away from them.



Music producer —Nucleya

Kashmir is a very complicated place. You have Hindus and you have the Muslims and I wouldn't say they get along so great. I will do the best I can to mediate.



US President —Donald Trump

If you work actively to destroy social harmony and inject venom into society as the BJP has done, there is no chance of any jobs being available.



CPI(M) general secretary —Sitaram Yechury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A garb of concern

Sir — The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has rubbished a *Lancet* editorial ('Fear and uncertainty about Kashmir's future' published on August 17) where the journal expressed concerns about the mental health of Kashmiris, saying that it had no *locus standi* in the matter and that its interference was not welcome. It is unfortunate that the reputed medical journal *The Lancet* — founded by an English surgeon in 1823 — has committed breach of propriety in commenting on this political issue. This amounts to interference in an internal matter of the Union of India.

The vexed Kashmir issue is a legacy that the British Empire left behind. *The Lancet* has unnecessarily reacted to an internal administrative decision of the Government of India under the garb of concern of health of Kashmiris. Where was it when the Kashmiri Pandits were massacred and driven out of Kashmir? Or the Uighur Muslims, who are locked away in China's anonymous prisons? Did it study their mental health, too? At a time when there has been a fair

The evils of bad economics

This refers to the report, "Economic slowdown 'very worrisome', new set of reforms needed: Rajan" (August 19). On finding that the "adjusted" data on economic growth failed to camouflage the "worrisome" economic slowdown, the ruling dispensation shifted the narrative from outright denials to wholesome praise of the economy's resilience to meet the "cyclical" downswings. Did non-linear past events converge to construct the current crisis? Some years ago, when the story of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in the banks exploded, it was dismissed as an aberration. In reality, NPAs led to multi-headed problems for the banks.

On a cold night in November, demonetisation of high value currency was announced. Though it was laced skillfully with lofty goals, it strangled small businesses and petty shopkeepers besides blowing away whatever little cash the common man had. On another fateful night, the supposedly monumental Goods and Services Tax (GST) was hoisted on a weak platform, which in effect brought the goods and services to its knees instantly. The liquidity crisis in Non-Banking Financial Companies, now unfolding, sent the monetary situation into a tail-



spin. And the collapse of the IL&FS, Jet Airways, Amrapali Group and Jaiprakash Associates dealt body blows to the economy. While former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan and former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian read the Riot Act to the Government repeatedly, it indulged in efforts to cloak the disturbing discords with new hymns on national integration. A new set of reforms remains a far cry.

Haridasan Rajan Kozhikode

Controversial preacher

Sir — Utterances of Zakir Naik, the firebrand Islamic preacher who fled India in 2016, are not surprising. Reportedly, he made offensive remarks about the loyalty of Malaysian Hindus, a

minority group. He was rightly gagged for his exertions. As a matter of fact, Malaysia did not invite him but he sought asylum over there, which was granted to him along with citizenship.

He embarrassed the Government by calling the Chinese "old guests" and asked

them to return to their land. Naik is known for making inflammatory speeches and is also the most wanted man in India for several money laundering cases. While the Malaysian Government has currently banned him from making public speeches, it should take appropriate action against him. If charges against him are upheld, his permanent residency status could be revoked. This bodes well for India.

SC Panda Bhubaneswar

Music genius

Sir — The man behind some of Hindi cinema's most celebrated melodies is no more. Khayyam *sahib* was truly a musical magician. Unlike today's composers, who lack skill to fuse Hindustani classical music with Indian film music, Khayyam was an expert with a midas touch. Even today, the sweet melodies of Khayyam from films like *Kabhie Kabhie*, *Noorie* and *Bazaar* stir the soul of listeners.

M Pradyu Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Perils of supping with the devil

Even if the Doha talks result in a ceasefire and a pact leading to a Taliban takeover, it may not ensure a conflict-free Afghanistan



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Two important developments occurred last week which bode ill — if that is any longer possible — for Afghanistan and its people. The first was the conclusion of the eighth round of talks between the United States and the Taliban at Doha, capital of Qatar, on August 14. The second was the suicide bombing of a wedding in Kabul on August 17, which left 63 people dead and 182 wounded. There are indications that the talks are close to yielding a ceasefire and a peace agreement. According to a recent report by Shereena Qazi in *Al Jazeera*, a Taliban representative, who is a part of the organisation's negotiating team told the channel, "This round of talks has been very productive and we are near to an agreement that will be finalised and hopefully announced in the next coming weeks."

Further, Qazi's report quotes the United States Special Representative for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, as saying in a Twitter post, "They (the talks) were productive. I am on my way back to (Washington) DC to consult on next steps." All this may have been regarded as a welcome indication that peace would be coming soon to war-devastated Afghanistan, but for the strong possibility that the outcome of the talks would mean defeat for the United States and a victory for the Taliban who would, sooner than later, take over Afghanistan.

There are three reasons for believing that it would be so. First, the US President Donald Trump's determination to withdraw from Afghanistan at all cost suggests that he may agree to a peace settlement that is tantamount to selling the present democratically-elected government in Kabul down the river. That this is likely to happen is suggested by the fact that his administration has abandoned the resolutely-held US position that the talks would have to include representatives of that government. On the other hand, the Taliban, who have steadfastly refused to have talks with the Kabul government on the ground that it was a "puppet regime," have had their way. Third, the US continues the Doha talks notwithstanding the fact that the Taliban continue to launch vicious ground attacks and terror strikes.

The Trump administration's holding of talks with the Taliban without the Kabul government's participation has further eroded the latter's already diminished authority caused by the Taliban's sustained large-scale offensives from their bases in Pakistan, with the full support of the Islamabad government. According to a report by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), as of January 31, 2018, 229 districts were under the Afghan government's control, which is about 56.3 per cent of the total. Fifty-nine districts, approximately 14.5 per cent of all, were under the Taliban's control. The remaining 119 districts, about 29.2 per cent, remained contested — controlled by neither the Afghan government nor the rebels. Even if the Afghan government is still able to maintain its grip over 229 districts, it is to a large extent because of the security umbrella provided by the presence of 14,000 American and 17,000 troops from 39 countries which are the US' NATO allies.

Understandably, the Taliban want these troops out even though they are in a non-combative role. According to Qazi's report, the Taliban representative it had cited had further stated, "The main part of the discussion is the withdrawal timeline and the technicalities of it." The Taliban, according to another report, have made it known that they will make no commitments unless a timeline for troops withdrawal within months is announced. Of course, there still are hurdles in the way. The Taliban are not a monolith. Its military leaders may push for a delay to secure a more favorable situation on the ground. Its more fanatical factions, divided by leadership rivalries and professions of varying degrees of fanaticism, may not want any deal at all unless it is on terms that enable them to re-impose on Afghanistan the fundamentalist Islamist nightmare that had characterized their earlier incarnation in power, which had ended with their military defeat in 2001. Also, the Afghan government may not agree to the settlement on offer.

Besides, even a ceasefire and a peace agreement leading to a Taliban takeover may not ensure a conflict-free Afghanistan. Some of the more fanatical Taliban groups may continue fighting to restore the pre-2001 order which reduced women to domestic slavery and banished all forms of entertainment. Also, the Islamic State has established a growing presence and mounted a number of attacks including that on the Kabul wedding on August 17. Its bitter rivalry with the Taliban is well-known and it is unlikely to leave a government led by the latter in peace.

Far from becoming a land of peace, Afghanistan may, post a "peace settlement," turn into battleground of contesting Islamic fundamentalist groups each with its own sphere of influence. Given their intense hatred for the US, some of these areas may well turn into launching pads for strikes against it. While they may not be able to strike mainland America, they may target Americans and their interests worldwide. In that case, a peace agreement signed by the Trump administration in haste may turn out to be a cause for profound regret later.

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

CHIDAMBARAM IS A LEGAL EXPERT. HE WILL FOR SURE FACE THE CASE LEGALLY. THESE (ACTIONS) ARE HAPPENING DUE TO POLITICAL VENDETTA.

—DMK CHIEF MK STALIN



THE BJP HAS NO INVOLVEMENT IN THE MATTER. ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE WHO INDULGE IN CORRUPTION.

—UNION MINISTER KIREN RIJJU

Upping deterrence ante?

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's statement on revising India's No First Use nuclear policy in the future is open to interpretation



VIVEK MISHRA

The Indian Defence Minister's recent statement, anticipating a possible change in India's nuclear policy in the future, is open to interpretation, and what it means for its nuclear doctrine in coming times is contingent on how the contours of India's conventional escalation with its neighbour Pakistan shapes up.

The statement by Rajnath Singh signals a facile if not deep thought within the Narendra Modi Government for some time now on the need to revise India's No First Use (NFU) policy, especially when seen as a corollary to the former Defence Minister, the late Manohar Parrikar's statement in 2016 about being open to revision of India's NFU policy.

Rajnath Singh's recent statement on NFU seems only a step forward, as unlike previously, it does not come with "personal opinion" caveat.

India first adopted a NFU policy after its second nuclear tests at Pokhran in 1998. Soon after, in August 1999, the Indian government released a draft of the doctrine which asserts that nuclear weapons were solely for deterrence and that India would as a nation pursue a policy of "retaliation only."

The document also maintains that India "will not be the first to initiate a nuclear first strike, but will respond with punitive retaliation should deterrence fail" and that decisions to authorise the use of nuclear weapons would be made by the Prime Minister or his 'designated successor(s)'.
 That the Defence Minister's NFU comment came in Pokhran, the site of the 1998 nuclear tests, gives wings to speculation. It also comes days within the Modi Government's decision to change the status of Jammu and Kashmir, but most noticeably, amidst an ongoing diplomatic and cross-border escalation with Pakistan.

If this is any indication, it shows that the rungs of conventional escalation between India and Pakistan may be reaching the fag end, and the Indian government wants to come out of the retaliation-counter-retaliation cycle with a conventionally inferior power, which is on a quest to gain conventional parity with India. Pakistan's constant threat of battlefield nuclear weapons further complicates India's conventional superiority gap assessment vis-à-vis Pakistan, setting foundations of a strategically revisionist thought process within India.

Chances of nuclear policy revision seem more plausible in the light of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) historical assessments about making India a credible nuclear power through a directly proportional relationship between the country's political will to revise its nuclear policy and deterrence-based posturing.

The Vajpayee Government's decision to conduct the 1998 nuclear tests and project India as a credible nuclear power is a case in point. The Pokhran link to Rajnath Singh's comments further underpins this government's conviction about the aforementioned proportionality.

The Defence Minister's assertion has

“ IF BALAKOT LOWERED THE THRESHOLD FOR INDIA'S CONVENTIONAL RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN AND ALTERED THE NATURE OF RESPONSE, A DOCTRINAL SHIFT FROM NFU TO FU MIGHT GO A LONG WAY IN USHERING AN ALTERED DETERRENCE-INDUCED BEHAVIOUR IN PAKISTAN, HOPEFULLY LEADING TO A BETTER FUTURE FOR BILATERAL TIES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN ”



reignited the debate on the need for India's nuclear policy revision but whether it means that India is ready for a change in its NFU policy and will move to a First Use (FU) strategy is debatable.

Currently, there are various technological and financial constraints for New Delhi in erecting an effective first strike capability against Pakistan or China. A credible FU nuclear strike capability, before anything, would require significant investments in Command, Control, Communications, Computer, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) and Target Acquisition (TA) capabilities. The essence of FU strike capability is pre-emption and accuracy, and would require an unfailing intelligence and shorter time-gap in the readiness sequence: passing of intelligence, civil-military decision-making, mating weapons with warheads, leading to final pre-empting strike on the enemy.

India's first strike aspirations also face structural constraints, particularly apropos the decision-making paradigm that exists as of now. The civil-military gap in India's strategic forces decision-making is deliberately made to create a non-provocative yet punitively reassuring second strike stance towards the enemy and, most importantly, to avert any rash decision leading to catastrophe. Such a doctrinal posture makes a lot of sense when viewed in the light of India's non-alignment past, but is increasingly losing currency in the eyes of a revisionist government and a rallying nation.

India's current civil-military gap is

ideal for a country with a NFU policy. It's a purposeful decoupling to mandate civilian supremacy in strategic decision-making and create checks and balances. In direct contrast to this, the FU force structure would possibly require an ever-vigilant and ready strategic posture with quick and decisive calls for action when needed, which in turn would need a smaller gap between the civilian go-ahead and the military's final call, leading to the targeting and firing of the weapons with nuclear warheads.

New Delhi's lessening of the civil-military gap can be seen in the context of the government's recent decision to appoint a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), a five-star General with possibly a Cabinet rank whose role would supersede the three armed forces chiefs.

The centralization of power through the office of the CDS will not only consolidate general decision-making in one office, but is likely to reduce intra-forces rivalry on issues of budget and government favourability between the three wings of the armed forces.

In the strategic context and in relation to the country's nuclear force posture, the office of the CDS is likely to be more in tune with its FU strategy than it will be with its current NFU strategy. As such, the Defence Minister's statement hinting at a possible revision of India's nuclear strategy could also be seen in the context of India's decision to appoint a CDS.

While it is unlikely that India will go for a doctrinal alteration anytime soon, it could serve as an extremely potent plank to fight the next general elections in 2024. Given the kind of

investments needed for readying a FU force structure, a revision anytime soon will be difficult.

However, to the extent that deterrence behavior in nuclear states is as much psychologically induced as it is from concrete, stated and factored capabilities, the Defence Minister's statement has caused visible concerns in Pakistan.

Locating India's overall NFU strategy, its force posture towards hostile neighbours, the number of warheads and the escalatory potential in a comparative context, paints a picture of a benign nuclear giant.

Doing away with NFU will repaint this picture, besides possibly affecting stability in the region.

That is a price this government is considering to pay in the light of New Delhi's increasing fatigue with a rapidly lessening conventional gap with Pakistan, especially with Pakistan's increasing tendency to factor Tactical Nuclear Weapons (TNW) within conventional escalation spectrum, and with the solidifying China-Pakistan axis.

If Balakot lowered the threshold for India's conventional response to Pakistan and altered the nature of response, a doctrinal shift from NFU to FU might go a long way in ushering an altered deterrence-induced behaviour in Pakistan, hopefully leading to a better future for bilateral ties between India and Pakistan.

(The writer is Visiting Fellow at the Stimson Center in Washington D.C & Deputy Director Kalinga Institute for Indo-Pacific Studies)

An overlooked solution to climate crisis

Grasslands are, perhaps, the most neglected ecosystem in the world. However, their ability to meet the climate change challenge must galvanise nations into putting them high on the conservation agenda. The Government must take note



KOTA SRIRAJ

Grasslands across the globe, especially in India, have played a silent but stellar role in reining in the process of climate change. But according to a study by Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) journal, climate change, pollution and various environment alterations across the globe are changing their identity. One of the key contributions made by grasslands is their inconspicuous role in containing carbon levels in the atmosphere. It is this storage capacity for carbon that makes grasslands effective warriors against climate change.

which makes them crucial in combating climate change. But their ecology is shifting due to human activities, says a new study.

The PNAS team conducted 105 experiments in different grasslands around the world. Each experiment focussed on particular global change factors like rising carbon dioxide, hotter temperatures and drought. Grasslands showed resilience to these factors in the first ten years of exposure, after that their species began to alter, the study said.

Half of the PNAS experiments, lasting ten years or more, showed a change in the number of species in grasslands. The study also found that their identity can change rapidly without a reduction in the number of plant species but due to the change in individual plants. Even though the grasslands are resilient towards global change for around ten years, they are vulnerable due to the fast pace of global change.

Increasingly, the scientific community across the world is forming the opinion that the role of grasslands needs to be acknowledged. They



should be protected from human intervention so as to arrest their degradation. They occupy more than 40 per cent of all the ice-free land in the world. These assets of nature have sustained humans for the past 300 million years — right from the time when the first homo sapiens appeared in Africa. They also provide food and shelter to various other species, including zebras and giraffes.

Closer home, grasslands happen to be the least understood habitat of nature. There is also a paucity of effective studies on their efficacy. Still, the fact that they play a pivotal

role in keeping a check on climate change cannot be ignored.

Grasslands in India share their existence with some trees, shrubs and herbs. They are found at various altitudes and in various geographical regions under different climatic conditions.

Thus, grasslands are also found in altitudes higher than 2,100 metres where the temperature is cold. Some are found at an altitude between 150 to 300 metres where the temperature is warm. Apart from the climatic conditions where the grasslands exist, there are other variants, mainly five major types.

Each of these has its own characteristic. The most widespread grassland in India are the Imperata type. Our country has no dearth of diversity of greens but there is certainly a shortage of robust policies to protect them against human exploitation. This usually happens when grasslands are misrepresented as barren lands and usurped by land sharks and land mafia.

In a country where standing trees in a forest are being felled to encroach land, grasslands naturally don't stand a chance. But matters such as these are of public knowledge. This is why it is even more puzzling that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) or even the Central Government has not come out with a forceful protection policy.

The apathy can be judged from the fact that semi-arid open areas are now being classified as wastelands, leaving them vulnerable to human intervention and encroachments. These so-called wastelands are, in fact, grasslands but neither are they given due recognition nor proper classification. The Government must

not shift the burden of land requirement to cater to a burgeoning population onto the grasslands by labeling them as wastelands. Unless we course-correct, we will lose many hectares of grasslands forever.

Additionally, the wildlife that is found on these grasslands needs to be recognised and categorised so that it get chances for survival. Currently, there is little or no study or data available for the rich flora and fauna available in India. The Government must also increase awareness and recognise the support of indigenous local people so that India can benefit from their efforts to conserve grasslands. In order to do this, we must take a cue from other nations where vast savannahs have been respected and conserved over centuries. The methods and systems followed by these countries are in public domain and available to be implemented in the Indian context. Grasslands are the life breath in the fight against climate change. They must be protected and conserved.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



VENTING HATRED

The original fury of Gamergate was sparked by the emergence of games as a cultural form which could be used to convey more than the simple pleasures of blasting imaginary enemies — and was beginning to attract newly diverse audiences. This process continues. No one subculture — not even teenaged white boys — now owns games. This opening remains, a source of fury. But perhaps, five years on, it should also be viewed as a reason to hope. (The Guardian editorial)

₹ recovers 16 paise to close at 71.55 a dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian rupee on Wednesday clawed back some lost ground to close at 71.55, up 16 paise against the US dollar in line with stronger emerging market currencies.

Starting off on a bullish note, the rupee surged to a high of 71.36 per dollar during the day before settling at 71.55, clocking a gain of 16 paise.

On Tuesday, the Indian unit had closed at a six-month low of 71.71 a dollar. The recovery in the Indian unit was seen despite headwinds in form of economic uncertainties, FDI outflows and rise in global crude oil prices, according to forex traders. Besides, investors continued to fret over long-lasting US-China trade war.

Meanwhile, foreign investors pulled out Rs 770.81 crore from Indian equities on Wednesday, as per exchange data.

Continuing its rise, the global crude benchmark Brent Futures rose 1.6 per cent to trade at USD 60.99 per barrel on Wednesday.

Aiding in rupee recoup, the



dollar index — which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies — fell 0.01 per cent to 98.18.

The 10-year Indian government bond yield was down at 6.57 per cent on Wednesday.

"Despite Brent crude price rising for last four consecutive sessions and higher dollar index levels, the rupee managed to recoup some of the losses registered in the previous two sessions," V K Sharma, Head PCG & Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC Securities, said.

Emerging market currencies advanced as investors assessed the latest remarks from the US on trade talks with China, he said adding that

India Inc reports lower revenue, profit growth in Q1: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The ongoing economic slowdown has started hurting corporates as well, with companies reporting a sharp decline in both revenue and profit growth numbers in the June quarter, a report said on Wednesday.

India Inc's net sales growth for the June quarter slid to 4.6 per cent against 13.5 per cent for the same period last year, while the net profit growth moderated to 6.6 per cent as compared to last year's 24.6 per cent.

The findings are based on an analysis of 2,976 companies which have reported their quarterly numbers by domestic rating agency Care Ratings.

"The first quarter of the fiscal year 2019-20 has been marked by disappointing and weak corporate earnings indicative of the overall slowdown in various industries and the economy," it said.

In what can be termed as a silver lining, the broader economic woes do not seem to have had an impact on the organised sector jobs, as the employee expenses growth continued to be stable.

Employees compensation grew 10.6 per cent as compared to the year-ago period, the study showed.

It can be noted that GDP growth slid to a five-year low of 5.8 per cent for the March quarter and is widely expected to come lower for the June quarter. There have also been reports of jobless growth and a skewed nature of economic growth, where the "have-nots" are being left behind.

From the operating profit growth perspective, the Care Ratings study showed a slide down to 4.1 per cent in June quarter as against double digit growth last year.

However, the operating profit margin was stable at about 20 per cent level, it said.

Excluding banks and financial sector companies, a survey of 2,574 entities showed tax outgo declining by 19 per cent during June quarter, as against a robust 52.3 per cent growth in the year-ago period.

The profit after tax for these companies fell by 11.9 per cent during the same period, as against a growth of 52.9 per cent registered in the year-ago period.

It can be noted that a slew of business leaders, including doyens like L&T chairman A M Naik and Bajaj Auto's Rahul Bajaj have been flagging concerns on economic growth and its impact on the corporates as well.

BMW launches 7-generation 3-series

German carmakers new India chief, Rudratej Singh says the country is 'strategically important'

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

German carmaker BMW took the wraps off the seventh-generation of their popular 3-series sports sedan in India. The latest iteration of the global bestseller will be available in two diesel and one petrol option and will be priced between ₹41.4 lakhs to ₹47.9 lakhs. The vehicle will be assembled at the carmakers Chennai facilities and will be the third generation of the 3-series to be assembled in India.

Speaking to *The Pioneer* after the launch of the vehicle, Rudratej Singh, the newly-appointed Chief Executive Officer, BMW Group India said that the vehicle was a critical one for the carmaker, accounting for almost a third of annual sales, even for the outgoing model and just behind the X1 Sports-Utility Vehicle.

"India is a strategically important market for BMW. You can see that in the breadth of investments that we have made across the country from

the national sales company, the factory, the training centre and in financial services. We continue to believe in the India story, but it is important to understand that the India growth story will be uniquely Indian with dips and jumps, it will be an ambiguous growth curve and I feel 'Business

value, so when the tide turns we can get a lion's share of the market."

However, Singh reiterated that the core aspect of BMW's growth strategy was still building great products, "and this new 3-series is a prime example of that." Adding that dealer profitability will play a big



Unusual' will be 'Business as Usual' in India," Singh said during an interview. BMW which had seen sales fall sharply in 2016-17 has seen a smart turnaround in sales, but Singh added that he did not want to grow through the rampant discounting that is standard for the luxury car industry. "We want to change the concepts of luxury and of value, I do not feel the Indian consumer is as price conscious as he or she is value conscious and we want to be the brand that offers that

role going forward and how business models will have to change, "it should not be about trying to extract the maximum value from one service ticket but getting more service tickets. We have to grow from the 80,000 car base we have in India today and make it larger." However, he added that currently things for the Indian economy were volatile and uncertain and it might take a time for economic growth to pick up alongside a commensurate increase in sales.

NCLAT asks Jet lenders if they would cooperate with Dutch court administrator

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Wednesday asked lenders of Jet Airways whether they would cooperate with the Dutch court administrator who is also pursuing insolvency proceedings against the debt-ridden carrier. A three-member NCLAT bench headed by Chairman Justice S J Mukhopadhyay asked the Committee of Creditors (CoC) of Jet Airways to file an affidavit within a week in this regard.

The appellate tribunal has also asked the CoC to inform whether they are ready to pay fees and bear costs incurred by

the Dutch administrator.

Jet Airways is facing insolvency proceedings in the Netherlands as well, where it was declared bankrupt after failing to pay two European creditors. Subsequently, a bankruptcy administrator was appointed by the Dutch court.

The appellate tribunal's direction came while hearing a petition filed by the Dutch court administrator against the order of the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which had declared overseas bankruptcy proceedings null and void in the Jet Airways insolvency case.

Maruti launches new XL6 MPV

Country's largest carmaker expects sentiment to pick up in festive season

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the midst of the worst sales

slump for passenger cars in decades, Maruti Suzuki took the wraps off their new multi-person vehicle (MPV) the XL6. The XL6 which is a variant of the popular Ertiga MPV will however be sold through the carmakers premium sales channel Nexa, and features several premium touches such as a second-row of individual captain seats and full-LED headlights in the front. In keeping with Maruti's decision to stop production of small diesel engines, the Ertiga is available only in a petrol variant however has both manual and automatic transmission options. Prices

will range from ₹9.8 lakh to ₹11.46 lakh.

Addressing the media after the launch, Kenichi Ayukawa, Managing Director, Maruti Suzuki India Limited admitted that the current environment where car sales have been declining as much 20 per cent compared to figures from a

market to show signs of growth during the festive season as the monsoons have been fairly positive and because some of the uncertainty that surrounded the industry on issues such as the changeover to BS6 emission norms and other issues such as electrification should be cleared.



year ago, is worrying. Stock levels for Maruti dealers is also running 'slightly higher than usual' he admitted, despite plants running at lower than optimal capacity. However, he added that he expected the

That said Maruti executives privately admitted that they did not see sales reaching 2017 levels until 2021 at the earliest and said that the lack of credit is hurting dealers and customers alike.

Trump acknowledges China policies may mean US economic pain

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump acknowledged Tuesday his aggressive China trade policies may mean economic pain for Americans but insisted they're needed for more important long-term benefits. He contended he does not fear a recession but is nonetheless considering new tax cuts to promote growth.

Asked if his trade war with China could tip the country into recession, Trump brushed off the idea as "irrel-

evant" and said it was imperative to "take China on." "It's about time, whether it's good for our country or bad for our country short term," he said.

Paraphrasing a reporter's question, Trump said, "Your statement about, 'Oh, will we fall into a recession for two months?' OK? The fact is somebody had to take China on." The president indicated that he had no choice but to impose the tariffs that have been a drag on U.S. Manufacturers, financial markets and, by some measures, American consumers.

BEIJING APPEALS TO US TO 'MEET CHINA HALFWAY' ON TRADE

Beijing: Beijing appealed to Washington on Wednesday to "meet China halfway" and end a tariff war after President Donald Trump said Americans might need to endure economic pain to achieve longer-term benefits.

A foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, expressed hope Washington can "get along us" and restore "mutually beneficial" trade. AP

ZEDBLACK LAUNCHES MANTHAN ZAROORI HAI CAMPAIGN, ROPES IN SURESH OBEROI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mysore Deep Perfumery House (MDPH) and Zedblack, launched "Manthan Zaroori Hai" campaign for Manthan Dhooop with Veteran Bollywood actor Suresh Oberoi as its brand new ambassador. The brand campaign urges every soul to awaken his or her consciousness through spiritual conversations. Today each and everyone is chasing or running behind a goal, be it the millennials with hunger for more or a 40 something common man who is wanting to give a better life to his family.

Govt looks to cut down imports of chemicals, make India mfg hub

New Delhi: The Government is planning to boost domestic production of chemicals and petrochemicals to cut down imports and make India a manufacturing hub for the sector, a top ministry official said on Wednesday.

Net imports of chemicals and petrochemicals touched a whopping Rs 1.21 lakh crore annually in 2018-19, the official added. Addressing an event organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), chemicals and petrochemicals secretary P Raghavendra Rao said. PTI

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER INVITING NOTICE NO 150-Elect-CR-400

1. NAME OF THE WORK WITH ITS LOCATION	Replacement of old 4x120 KVA UPS by Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning & handling over at main PRS centre in IRCA Building New Delhi of Northern Railway.
2. Approx. Cost of the work	Rs. 6249998/-
3. Cost of the tender form	Rs. 5000/- + GST extra, Tender cost to be paid on line
5. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 1250000/- One lakh twenty five thousand only.
6. Completion period of the works	3 Months
7. Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Up to 15:00 hours till 19.09.2019 at www.ireps.gov.in The tender will be opened at Dy. CEE/CR office/IRCA Bldg, New Delhi soon after 15:00 hours on ireps site on 19.09.2019.
8. Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

Tender No.150-Elect-CR-400 Date: 20.08.2019 2686/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
e-OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest money: Pre and Post attention Survey of Track (longitudinal & Lateral) in ADENKUN section on NDLS-UMB section of DLI Division. Approx. Cost: Rs. 49,98,085.95, Earnest Money: Rs. 1,00,000, Completion Period: 08 Months. Earnest Money should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note:- FDR or Demand Draft will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016. Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15:00 hrs. on 13.09.2019 opening of e-tender at 15:00 hrs. on 13.09.2019. Website particulars, published-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. Tender document Cost: Rs. 3,540/- Tender cost should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note:- FDR or Demand Draft will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016. Similar nature of work: For work at SN-1: Definition of Similar work: Nil. NOTE:- i) All attachments must be self attested by the tenderers and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XXIII is compulsory. No.: 128-W/280/Tender Notice/19-20/W/1 (NIT-8-1-19-20) Dated: 20.08.2019. 2681/2019

Serving Customers with a Smile

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male, Age: 65 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, was wearing two shirt green & black colour and black colour Pant and Barefeet, was found dead at Yamuna Ghat, Near Shahdara Flyover, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 39-A, dated 11.08.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23968730, 8750870123

DP/341/N/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unknown Accidental person was found on Dated 04.08.2019 from Traffic Signal of Gurudwara Majnu Ka Tilla, Delhi and he was admitted in Trauma Centre, Civil Lines. During the treatment doctors declared him dead.

In this regard a FIR No. 136/19 Dated 04.08.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi.

The Description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Sex: Male, Age: 50 years, Height: 5'9", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Hospital Clothes.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local Police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this dead person, please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi
Ph: 011-23815444, 08750870127

DP/336/N/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one person namely Umesh Ray S/o Rudhi Ray R/o B-6/289, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi has been missing/kidnaped from the area of P.S. North Rohini, Delhi since 24.07.2019. In this regard, a case DD No. 21-A dated 30.07.2019 has been registered at P.S. North Rohini, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnaped person is as under.

Age: 36 Years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Wearing: Light Brown Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour Jeans, Floater type Chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing person then please inform P.S. North Rohini, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. North Rohini, Delhi
Ph. 011-27048210, 27048211

DP/3175/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Meenu, D/o: Sh. Jai Prakash, R/o: H. No. 265, Gali No. 5, Padam Nagar, Bagh Kare Khan, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi, Age: 26 Years, Height: 5'4", Face: Round, Built: Thin, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Orange colour Suit Salwar & Dupatta, Sandal in her feet has been missing since 25.03.2019. In this regard DD No. 65-A dated 25.03.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about this missing girl please inform the undersigned.

Ph.: 011-23014046 (Direct), 011-23015229 & 23015218 Extn. 210
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
P.S., Sarai Rohilla, Delhi,
Ph.: 011-23693611

DP/9881/N/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one man namely Subeg Singh S/o Manjeet Singh R/o G-88, 2nd Floor, Pushkar Enclave, Delhi has been missing /kidnaped since 31.07.2019 from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar (E) Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 32-A dated 31.07.2019 has been registered at P.S. Paschim Vihar (E) Delhi. The description of missing /kidnaped man is as under:

Name : Subeg Singh, Father's Name : Manjeet Singh, Age : 35 years, Height : 5'6", Face : Round, Complexion : Wheatish, Wearing : White & Gray T-Shirt-Blue Pant and sports shoes in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S., Paschim Vihar East, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25263471
7065036131

DP/2566/OD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Rakesh @ Petal S/o Chander Bhan R/o H. No. H-1/49, Street No. 8, Kunwar Singh Nagar, Nihal Vihar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 318/19 u/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Rakesh @ Petal cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Rakesh @ Petal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Rakesh @ Petal of FIR No. 318/19 u/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 03.10.2019.

By Order,
Sh. Pankaj Arora
Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 292, 2nd Floor,
DP/2565/OD/19 - (Court Matter) Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

It is publically informed that, one male dead body namely Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age 50 years, Height 5'7", Complexion Fair, Wearing blue & grey T-Shirt, grey colour Pant and bare footed, he was found dead at Near Kacha Bagh, Near Park, Chandni Chowk, Kotwali, Delhi. In this regard a D.D. No. 25-A, Dated 13.08.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the dead body but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this male dead body please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Kotwali, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23977100

DP/347/N/18

Sensex tumbles 268 pts; Tata Motors tanks 9 pc

AGENCIES ■ MUMBAI/HONG KONG

Benchmark equity index Sensex slumped 268 points on Wednesday, dragged by losses in ITC, HDFC, L&T and ICICI Bank as investors remained wary of an economic slowdown.

171.49 against the US dollar intra-day. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, spurted 1.28 per cent to USD 60.80 per barrel.

Stephen Innes at Valour Markets. Hong Kong added 0.2 per cent, Shanghai was barely moved and Tokyo ended down 0.3 per cent.

Gold hits new high of ₹38,820; silver jumps ₹1,140

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices on Wednesday appreciated ₹50 to hit a new high of ₹38,820 per gram at the bullion market here on account of consistent buying support from jewellers, according to the All-India Sarafa Association.

India's GDP growth set to slow further in Apr-Jun qtr to 5.7 pc: Nomura

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economic growth is set to slow further in the April-June quarter of this year to 5.7 per cent amid contraction in consumption, weak investments and an under-performing service sector, says a Nomura report.

The report added that some indicators are showing early signs of bottoming out. Data so far for July show that 53 per cent of indicators have improved compared with 31 per cent in June, the report noted.

slowed to 6.8 per cent in 2018-19 — the slowest pace since 2014-15. There are ominous signs showing that slowdown may be deep.

for any substantive stimulus. "We currently expect GDP growth in Q2 to slow to 5.7 per cent YoY from 5.8 per cent in Q1, before improving to 6.4 per cent YoY in Q3 and 6.7 per cent in Q4," it said, adding that it was closely watching for signs of sustainability of the growth turnaround.

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

BSE 500

Table with columns: Script, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

BULLION | Last 7 Days

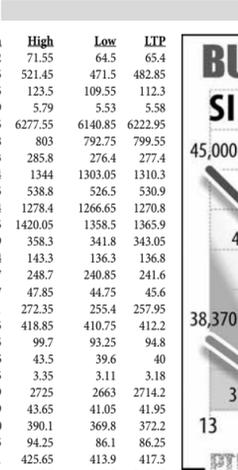


Table with columns: PHILIPCARB, IDFCFIRSTB, HINDALCO, etc. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

CANFINHOME

Table with columns: ADANIGAS, NIITTECH, RCF, etc. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

VGUARD

Table with columns: THERMAX, CENTRUM, IFCI, etc. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

BSE Sensex



Table with columns: HERO MOTOR, INFOSYS, MARUTI SUZUKI, etc. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

NSE Nifty



Table with columns: HERO MOTOR, INFOSYS, MARUTI SUZUKI, etc. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

BIRLACORPN

Table with columns: SCHNEIDER, SANOFI, APLAPOLLO, etc. Lists various stocks and their price movements.

B'desh backs Modi Govt on Article 370

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh said on Tuesday that revoking the special status to Jammu and Kashmir is India's internal matter and maintaining regional peace and stability should be a priority for all countries.

Bangladesh' reaction on the issue came a day after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited the country and held talks with the top leadership, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"Bangladesh maintains that the abrogation of Article 370 by the Indian Government is an internal issue of India," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said here in a statement.

"Bangladesh has always advocated, as a matter of principle, that maintaining regional peace and stability, as well as development should be a priority for all countries," it said.

Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked this month after New Delhi abrogated pro-



'Bangladesh maintains that the abrogation of Article 370 by the Indian Government is an internal issue of India'

visions of Article 370 of the Constitution to withdraw Jammu & Kashmir's special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories.

New Delhi has made it clear to the US that Kashmir was a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and there was no role for a third party.

No complete withdrawal from Afghanistan: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has indicated that the US forces will not completely withdraw from war-torn Afghanistan and America will have "somebody there" to make sure that Taliban does not regain control.

During the presidential election campaign in 2016, Trump had pledged to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan and end America's longest war.

The Trump administration has intensified its efforts to seek a negotiated settlement of America's longest war in Afghanistan where the US has lost over 2,400 soldiers since late 2001, when it invaded the country after the 9/11 terror attacks.

"We will always have intelligence, and we'll always have somebody there," Trump told reporters at his Oval Office on

Tuesday.

He was responding to questions on the ongoing peace talks with the Taliban in Afghanistan. Trump said he would like to look at various alternatives.

"One of the alternatives is going on right now. We're talking about a plan -- I don't know whether or not the plan is going to be acceptable to me. Maybe it's not going to be acceptable to them. But we are talking, and we'll see what happens. This is more than other Presidents have done," he said.

"We have brought it down. We are bringing some of our troops back. But we have to have a presence," Trump said, ruling out a complete withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

He was asked, "Could we be back to where we were pre-9/11 with the Taliban in com-

plete and total control of Afghanistan?"

"Well, that's what we have to watch," Trump responded.

And if the Taliban were "really right" in what they're saying, they would stop that from happening, because they could stop that from happening very easily.

Trump said, right now, the US is negotiating with the Afghan government and with the Taliban.

"We will see what happens from it, what's coming from it," he said.

"The Taliban would like to stop fighting us... They've lost a lot. But we'll see what happens," he said.

Afghanistan, he said is a tough place.

"The Soviet Union became Russia because of Afghanistan. That's what happened. Very simple. They became Russia because of Afghanistan."

Minister confirms Canada will not repatriate 'Jihadi Jack'

AFP ■ MONTREAL

Canada does not intend to repatriate the Muslim convert dubbed "Jihadi Jack," who is being held in northern Syria after joining the Islamic State group, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale has confirmed.

Jack Letts, 24, who was a dual UK-Canadian national, was captured by Kurdish forces in Syria in 2017 and is languishing in jail there.

Goodale's statement comes a day after Britain stripped Letts of his citizenship, placing his fate in Canada's hands.

"We have no obligation to facilitate his travel from his present circumstances, and we have no intention of facilitating that travel," Goodale said in an interview with the CBC on Tuesday.

Goodale had tweeted the same sentiment Monday before

officially confirming it in the televised interview.

"This individual and others have made the calculated decision to leave the comfortable confines of Canadian democracy, to travel halfway around the world to associate themselves with the most evil and violent terrorism in several generations," Goodale said.

"They need to assume the consequences for their responsibility."

In a recent interview with ITV News, Letts said he had thought that Canada would help him.

"I never grew up being accepted as a British person," he said, adding that losing his British citizenship was "not something I recognise." "But, in the same way Britain hasn't helped me for two and a half years, Canada has done nothing."

Pak submits compliance report to FATF

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has submitted compliance report on its 27-point action plan to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), as three separate evaluations currently in progress will determine the country's possible exit from the grey list of the anti-money laundering watchdog by October, according to a media report.

The Asia-Pacific Group — the regional affiliate of the FATF — is currently conducting in Canberra (Australia) five-year mutual evaluation of Pakistan's progress on upgrading its systems in all areas of financial and insurance services and sectors, a senior government official told Dawn.

This round is not directly linked to Pakistan's performance on its commitments with the FATF on money laundering and terror-financing, but its assessment report can indirectly impact the country's position to move out of the grey list.

The assessments, repre-

US 'prepared to engage' with N Korea in nuclear talks: envoy

AFP ■ SEOUL

The United States is ready to sit down with North Korea to resume long-awaited working-level nuclear talks, a US envoy said Wednesday. Nuclear discussions between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled since a second summit in Hanoi in February ended without an agreement over differences on the extent of denuclearisation and sanctions relief in return.

But anticipation for renewed dialogue has been on the rise after the US and its security ally South Korea wrapped up their two-week joint military drill on Tuesday. "We are prepared to engage as soon as we hear from our counterparts in North Korea," said Stephen Biegun, the US special representative for North Korea, after his meeting with South Korean counterpart Lee Do-hoon in Seoul.

The comments come amid speculation that Americans could meet with North Koreans at the demilitarised zone dividing the North and South to kick start working-level talks during Biegun's three-day stay in Seoul, which began Tuesday. The US envoy denied media reports he would soon take a diplomatic posting in Russia, saying he remained "focused on making progress" with North Koreans and "fully committed" to the goal of the denuclearisation in the North.

Pyeongyang considers the joint military exercise by the allies a rehearsal for invasion and has routinely expressed anger at the war games. The drills are a "grave military provocation" and a "challenge to and mockery of our efforts for peace," the North's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper said Wednesday in a commentary.

'Howdy, Modi' event in Houston sold out, over 50K people register

PTI ■ HOUSTON

"Howdy, Modi!" the community event to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here next month has been sold out with over 50,000 people registering for the programme, the organisers said.

"Howdy", short for 'How do you do?', is a friendly greeting commonly used in southwestern United States.

Over 50,000 supporters have already registered for the mega community summit in September at the NRG Stadium, the host Texas India Forum (TIF), a Houston-based non-profit body, said. The live audience will be the largest ever for an Indian Prime Minister in North America and also the largest for a foreign leader in the US other than Pope Francis.

Potential attendees can still register for the free event. However, new registrants will be on a waiting list. Registration for the university students is open until August 29th as part of a special allotment, they said.

Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to visit the US next month to attend the United Nations General Assembly on September 27, prior to which he will travel to Houston to meet the leading businesses, political and community leaders here in Houston, the fourth largest city with a population of over 130,000 Indian-Americans.

The summit, with the tagline of 'Shared Dreams, Bright Futures' will highlight the contributions of Indian-Americans to enrich the American life as well as the key role it has played in strengthening relations between the two nations.

"On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Indian-Americans in Texas, and as co-chair of the Senate India Caucus, I welcome Prime Minister Modi to Houston," said US Senator John Cornyn.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location: 30-Elect-47-T-R3-18-19-E3. Provision of lift in 15 new patients' cabin and separate food lift in Central Hospital, Northern Railway, New Delhi. Approx cost of the works: Rs. 56.59 Lacs. Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. Earnest Money: Rs. 1,13,200.00. Date & time of submission of tender: 16.09.2019, 15:00 Hrs. Opening of tender: 16.09.2019, 15:15 Hrs. Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. 2690/2019
Serving Customers with a Smile

WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM-1
Tender Notice No. M137/67(ST-Watering-2019) dt. 08.08.19. In the subject tender the following details of NIT is revised and may be read as under:
Description Earlier To be read as
Date & Time of Submission 04.09.2019 at 15:00 Hrs. 11.09.2019 at 15:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of Opening 04.09.2019 at 15:30 Hrs. 11.09.2019 at 15:30 Hrs.
All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged. Please visit our website http://www.ireps.gov.in via Tender Notice to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details, if any.
Like us on: Facebook.com/WesternRly Follow us on: Twitter.com/WesternRly

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Anoop S/o Sh. Chandra Singh R/o H. No. E-679, E-Block, Mangolpuri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 14321/18 u/s 379/411 IPC, P.S. South Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Anoop cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Anoop has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Anoop of FIR No. 14321/18 u/s 379/411 IPC, P.S. South Rohini, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 31.10.2019.

By Order, Sh. Virender Singh, Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 208, 2nd Floor, DP/3166/RD/19 - (Court Matter), Rohini Courts, Delhi

CAPRI GLOBAL CAPITAL LIMITED
Registered & Corporate Office :- 502, Tower-A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013
Circle Office :- Capri Global Capital Limited 2nd Floor, 38 Pusa Road Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110005

APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. 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 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 CGCL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

S. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1.	Loan Account No. LNC6GKDTL0000003278 M/s Al Nafees Frozen Food Exports Pvt Ltd (Borrower) M/S BALKAUSAR PROPERTIES PVT LTD, MOHD MUSTAQEEM QURESH, MOHD SALEEM QURESHI (Co-Borrower)	All that is piece and parcel of bearing Property No. 1, third floor with roof right, Block D, The Diplomatic Enclave Extension Co-Operative House Building Society LTD, Colony Known As Westend, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110 021.	23-May-2018 Rs. 4,41,50,862/-	18-Oct-2018

Place : New Delhi Date : 22/08/2019 Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL)

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Registered Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice(Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Kuldeep Singh Khalsa/ LBDEL00003911217	Flat No. 18 B, 1st Floor, Pocket 1, Sector 10 (Along With Scooter Garage), Dwarka, Delhi/ 19-Aug- 2019	December 04, 2018 / Rs. 6353616/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : 22-08-2019 Place: Delhi/ NCR Sd/- Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

बिहार सरकार
अधीक्षक का कार्यालय
दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अस्पताल, लहेरियासराय
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अस्पताल, लहेरियासराय, दरभंगा एवं इसके अधिनस्थ विभागों हेतु वित्तीय वर्ष 2019-20 में 5,00,000.00 (पाँच लाख) से कम मूल्य के मशीन उपकरण के कय हेतु इच्छुक सरकारी/ गैर सरकारी/ निबंधित फर्म/ आपूर्तिकर्ता/ निमाता/ प्राधिकृत विक्रेता से मूहरबंद निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि प्रकाशन की तिथि से तीस (30) दिनों का होगा। निविदा की शर्त एवं सूची इस अधि में अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में प्राप्त होगी। निविदा प्राप्ति के अंतिम तिथि को अवकाश रहने पर दूसरे दिन कार्य दिवस माना जायेगा। डाक विभाग में हुई देरी के लिए अंतिम तिथि में कोई छूट नहीं दी जायेगी। निविदा के प्रथम प्रकाशन की तिथि ही मान्य होगा। निविदा सिर्फ डाक/ स्पीड पोस्ट द्वारा भेजा जाना ही मान्य होगा। हाथो-हाथ निविदा स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा केवल कम्प्यूटराईज अंकित होना चाहिए। मैनुअल टाइप/ हाथ से लिखा गया निविदा स्वीकार नहीं होगा। निविदादाता को निबंधित जी०एस०टी० नंबर होना अनिवार्य है। निविदा प्राप्ति के अंतिम तिथि के उपरांत निविदा को खोलने एवं स्वीकृत करने हेतु अलग से तिथि निर्धारित की जाएगी। निविदा खोलने के समय निविदादाता या उनके प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि उपस्थित रह सकते हैं। निविदादाता को बिना कारण बताये किसी भी निविदा को रद्द करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी/ कय समिति को सुरक्षित होगा। निविदा दो (2) प्रकार की होगी। तकनिकी निविदा एवं वित्तीय निविदा उपरोक्त दोनों तरह की निविदा तथा तकनिकी निविदा एवं वित्तीय निविदा को अलग-अलग लिफाफे में मुहरबंद कर दोनो लिफाफे पर यथा तकनिकी निविदा एवं वित्तीय निविदा स्पष्ट अक्षरो में लिखा होना चाहिए। दोनो लिफाफे को एक बड़े लिफाफे में मुहरबंद कर दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अस्पताल, लहेरियासराय को भेजना है। निविदा शर्त एवं सूची अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय से किसी भी कार्य दिवस को प्रकाशन की तिथि से अंतिम तिथि के एक दिन पूर्व तक कार्य अवधि में अपने फर्म/ कम्पनी के लेटरपैड पर आवेदन के साथ प्राप्त की जा सकती है। माँग पत्र के साथ अधीक्षक के पदनाम से रूपये 500.00 (पाँच सौ) का नगद जो कि अधीक्षक, दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अस्पताल, लहेरियासराय को देय होगा। (जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा।)

विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु www.prdbihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

अधीक्षक,
दरभंगा मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल,
लहेरियासराय

PR.06531 (Health) 2019-20 बाल विवाह एवं दहेज से संबंधित सूचना टॉल फ्री नं. 181 पर दर।

बिहार सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, शिवहर।
द्वितीय शुद्धि-पत्र 2019-20

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 410(अनु०) दिनांक 02.07. 2019 के द्वारा निर्गत राष्ट्रीय स्पर्धा ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं०-01 / 2019-20 एवं पी० आर० सं० 003862(BCD) 2019-20 हेतु को निम्न विवरणी अनुसार निविदा को निम्नवत संशोधित किया जाता है। कार्य का नाम:- अभियंत्रण महाविद्यालय, शिवहर का निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष-2019-20

क्र० सं०	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	पूर्व निर्धारित	संशोधित
1.	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	24 माह	18 माह
3.	प्रिबीड मिटिंग की तिथि समय एवं स्थान :-	दिनांक-25.07.2019 को 3:00 बजे मुख्य अभियंता, उत्तर बिहार उपभाग, भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना का कार्यालय।	दिनांक-29.08.2019 को 3:00 बजे मुख्य अभियंता, उत्तर बिहार उपभाग, भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना का कार्यालय।
19.	कंडिका 19 में निविदा कागजात का मूल्य जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि	23.08.2019	30.09.2019
4.	परिमाण विपत्र (डाउनलोड करने) अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	22.08.2019 को 3:00 बजे अप० तक।	26.09.2019 को 3:00 बजे अप० तक।
5.	निविदा प्राप्ति (अपलोड करने) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	24.08.2019 को 3:00 बजे अप० तक।	28.09.2019 को 3:00 बजे अप० तक।
6.	निविदा खोलने (तकनीकी बीड) की तिथि एवं समय	26.08.2019 को 3:00 बजे अप०।	30.09.2019 को 3:00 बजे अप०।

अन्य सभी शर्त एवं कंडिकाएँ पूर्ववत् रहेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
भवन प्रमंडल, शिवहर

PR.006528 (BCD) 2019-20
आओ मिलकर बढ़ाएँ कदम, दहेज न लेंगे, टान लें हम।

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai Electrical Division,
P.W.D., Sawali Building GanpatJadhavMargWorli Mumbai-18.
e-mail : elcentralmumbai.ee@mahapwd.com
Tel. No. 022-24924349

E-Tender Notice No.07/2019-20

Online item rates tenders form are invited by the Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai Electrical Division, Worli Mumbai for the following work from Electrical Licence Holder Contractor. B-I e-Tender document can be downloaded from the e-Tendering portal of P.W.D., Government of Maharashtra <http://mahatenders.gov.in> The Executive Engineer, CMED, Worli, Mumbai reserves right to accept or reject any tender. The conditional tender will not be accepted.

Sr. No.	Name Of Work	Amount
1.	Est No. 5016/2019-20 : Providing Special Repairs to 11 TR & 22 TR Packaged Air Conditioning Units Installed and earring out robot type cleaning to existing ducts at Sales Tax Building, at Mazgaon, Mumbai.	Rs. 9240617/-
2.	Est No. 6047/2019-20 : Providing Semi Comprehensive Type Maintenance and Servicing of Lift at Trupti 8 A Building, Ladies Hostel Building, Physiology Building, Library Building & P.G. at Sir J.J. Hospital Group of Hospital, byculla. mumbai.	Rs. 1188600/-
3.	Est No. 6045/2019-20 : Providing Semi Comprehensive Type Maintenance of Lift at Apana Boys Hostel (Lift No. 1) V.D. Skin Building, Metron Building and 300 Dr. Qrts Building at Sir J.J. Hospital Group of Hospital, Byculla, Mumbai.	Rs. 1188600/-
4.	Est No. 4316/2019-20 : Providing renovation to Electrical Installation at Kalachauki Police Station at Kalachauki, mumbai.	Rs. 450695/-
5.	Est No. 6045/2019-20 : Providing Fully Comprehensive Type Maintenance of Lift At Main OPD Building, (20 Passenger cum Stretcher, G+2 Fir, Collapsible Type) at Sir J.J. Hospital Group of Hospital, byculla. mumbai.	Rs. 405072/-

2. Download/ Sale Period: Date: 19.08.2019 to 02.09.2019 up to 05.30 pm
3. Bid Opening Date: 05.09.2019 after 10 Am. As Possible Time.
4. All information about E-Tender is available on following website, <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
5. (If there will be change in E-Tender Notice, it will be informed on above website)
6. Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai Electrical Division, Worli Mumbai for office Notice Board.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Central Mumbai Electrical Division
P.W.D. Worli Mumbai

EE/CMED/TC/2107/2019
Date: 13.10.2019
DGIPR/2019/2020/2065

Trend Blazer

'Every child should have the right start'

Actress SONAM KAPOOR has joined the Bollywood bandwagon spreading awareness on children's rights, as part of #WhyTheGap campaign promoted by Save The Children India.

The actress shared a photo of her school days and tweeted, "My school days were the happiest. I believe that education is the path to independence and freedom. We should all be asking #WhyTheGap and working towards #TheRightStart for every child."

She believes that every child should have the right start because true independence can be achieved through education.



'I know that all my films have not made wonders at the box office,

but that has not stopped me from experimenting. Even if they don't work, I am glad about the roles I am offered. They are strong and well edged-out. As an actor, I am always looking for something different which is a new challenge and a great learning.'

—Shraddha Kapoor

Ordering food online or getting heavy discounts on meals during a dinner at some outlet has changed the definition of how we look at eating out today. And certainly, Zomato and the likes of it have a huge role to play here. However, even though this might have made ordering and deliveries easier and even increased the popularity of the outlets associated with such platforms, it never gave a clear picture of who actually raked in the profits and who stood at the other end.

Well, picture this. A person called X has started his own venture, conceptualising a tiny, cloud kitchen tucked in the corner of the city, which serves the food only through deliveries via various food apps online. He listed his outlet on Zomato and Swiggy. However, a few months later, the advent of a set of new rules by Zomato, which restricted the food preparation time for restaurants to 15 minutes, disappointed X. He and his team prepare the dishes from the scratch and cannot finish working on them in such a short span. Zomato, to keep up the delivery game, also instructed the restaurants that fines would be levied on them if they delay the acceptance of orders or miss the deadlines. This might have benefited the food delivery service app in increasing its popularity but X certainly believes that such apps cannot dictate what and how he should sell to his customers. Another factor that hurts him and many like him in the industry is the concept of deep-discounting by food aggregators that has made many restaurants realise that they are losing more than they're gaining. And it has started to hurt the margins.

Launching a logging out campaign against the dine-in schemes, around 1,200 restaurants in major cities have delisted themselves from food aggregator apps like Zomato Gold, Dineout, Magicipin, NearBuy, etc. The campaign is led by the National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI). President Rahul Singh recently said, "It's decided that all aggregators will rejig their features, which will allow the restaurant-customer ecosystem to detox from the addiction of deep discounts that has crippled the industry." As per the data, Zomato has said that it would consider redesigning its Gold membership, which allows users to avail one or two dishes or drinks free at the associated restaurants. It will also put on hold its Zomato Infinity offer, which enables the 'Eat As Much As You Can' offer. Over the past six days, Zomato has lost one per cent of its restaurant partner base of its membership-based dining-out scheme service, Gold. Zomato founder and chief-executive Deepinder Goyal had tweeted against the campaign, urging restaurant owners to stop it and rather plan out sustainable options together. The tweet also added that the aggregator will make modifications to Zomato Gold, "which will result in a win-win situation for restaurants and consumers."

The online food delivery and dine-in aggregators, including Zomato, have now agreed to tone down and rationalise their offers and heavy discounts. Ankit

DISCOUNTS NOT A PRIVILEGE

As the #Logout campaign is making waves in the food industry, here is a take of restaurateurs, who believe that units are not in the best of shape and as a result, food aggregators are scavenging from them. The latter, too, are now meeting them half way. By CHAHAK MITTAL



Mehrotra, co-founder and CEO, Dineout, tells us that the follow-up decision had been taken after they had an "insightful" meeting with the NRAI and restaurant-owners regarding the campaign. He says that NRAI has acknowledged their "restaurant-first approach," and points out that over the past eight years, "we have always believed in sustainable discounting. Each of our 18,000 restaurant partners across 17 cities are free to decide their own promotions depending upon the day of the week and the time of the day and we do not believe in enforcing a common discounting strategy."

He draws comparisons and says that Gourmet Passport acts as a discovery programme for their curated list of 1,700 restaurants, "which restricts the unlimited 1+1 offer to three free dishes every restaurant per year, whereas, other platforms offer 1+1 every day of the year." He says that however, they are currently in constant discussion with restaurant-owners to create a "win-win" situation for all.

Zoravar Kalra, founder and managing director at Massive Restaurants, says, "In an industry with already razor-thin margins, the deep discounting being offered by some of the aggregators creates huge pressure on the industry." He points out how the adoption rates were initially high to get on to this agree-

gate of platforms due to competitive pressures. "The picture that was initially shown was that of an increasing size of the industry. However, what started out as something that would increase foot-falls to the restaurants and in general, increase revenues, enhance the guest experience, has turned into massive discounts that render unprofitable sales. In many cases, it ends up costing the restaurant to service these offers. The restaurant lives and breathes due to its patrons and will go to the ends of the earth for them. We believe in a sustainable ecosystem whereby aggregators help increase the size of the industry in a sustainable manner by focussing on quality rather than discounting," he says and suggests that only then can restaurants and aggregator platforms jointly thrive. Savar Malhotra, managing partner of The Embassy Restaurant, Connaught Place, believes that it is a great initiative taken by NRAI and they are supporting the campaign because "we feel aggregators are misusing their powers and dictating business terms to us."

Certainly, aggregators have built their products without taking into account any inputs from the restaurants. "They need to understand that the restaurant is the star. They are using our products to sell discounting addiction to the customer which is dangerous. Addiction of

any kind is poor and especially, if you give discounts, it only has a negative effect on the industry in the long run," says Kalra and goes on to add that a typical margin of the restaurant is 15 to 18 per cent and some of these discounts amount to more than 25 to 30 per cent. Says he, "And sometimes it is even 50 per cent, which means the restaurant is losing money every time they serve a customer, which comes through one of these platforms."

Pointing towards the GST reforms, where the input tax credit was removed from the restaurant industry, he says, it had even bigger "delusionary and deflationary pressure" on the industry and as a result, restaurants are finding it difficult to stay afloat. "One also needs to understand that the industry is the second largest employee of human capital in the country and contributes to almost two per cent of country's GDP. A few years ago before these aggregator platforms came on, their growth graph was good. The industry was growing at 21 per cent annually, which means every four years, it was doubling and margins were good," he says. It was the time when customers used to be happy when they were given a "complementary dessert or a cocktail." However, today, the difference has come. Even if the customers liked the place but didn't get a sop, they would

walk out. "And restaurants simply cannot afford this. If the margin is 15 per cent, how can I pay a 25 per cent discount? It would mean I am losing out 10 per cent on every dish that I serve," adds Kalra.

Talking about how they can redesign their schemes, Malhotra says, "Restaurants don't have heavy margins to afford the 'buy one get one free' concept. Also, we are here to make money and not to work for aggregators. Hence, any scheme that will be introduced should take the cost of products in account." Kalra suggests that the restaurants can serve better only if these platforms "do not come in the way" because Indians love eating out and it's always been a source of entertainment for them. He says, "We spend the highest amount of disposable income in eating out than any other form of entertainment. The restaurant industry is 40 times larger than Bollywood. The removal of discounts might create certain interim problems of some short-lived issues, where people who were addicted to discounts might start eating out less. But this will definitely change because people inherently love going out. Moreover, since the restaurant will be more profitable, it will be able to focus more on high quality rather than dilute quality to serve the discounted customers."

However, there are two questions which arise here. First, if these platforms are completely put away, many people and delivery partners would be left unemployed. What would happen to them? Second, there are many food outlets which had never associated themselves with these food apps. They have run on their original prices. Why did the registered restaurants then accept them in the first place, knowing that this might land them in losses?

Let's express art in motion

Kuchipudi dancer ARUNIMA KUMAR tells SAKSHI SHARMA that she wants to break the traditional notion associated with the dance form and use it as therapy to lift others

As newer dance forms make their way into the art industry, it is important to revive these traditional dance forms and teach the younger generation about their richness too. Ustad Bismillah Khan awardee and Kuchipudi dancer Arunima Kumar feels the urge to fill this void and takes dance to places it has never been before.

She practises dance therapy with cancer patients in hospitals as she is a keen believer of inclusive art. "We tell them stories through dance, do chants, slokas and a lot of rhythm and footwork next to their beds. This brightens them up and helps them validate their existence," says she.

Arunima recalls one of the incidents when a girl, who could sing well, sang with them and the entire ward joined her. It was a treat to their eyes. Such positive activities help them regain their confidence in life. And in a similar way, she makes the cancer survivors dance as they start getting better. Everyone has a state of distress in life at some stage or the other but Arunima feels that when you are involved in art, it has the capacity to lift you up and teleport you to a very different world altogether, where you forget the worries of life.

She believes that art deserves to travel places rather than sticking to the stage. "There shouldn't be any restrictions in dance. It should encompass a diverse range of human activities and their ways of expression," she says and adds, "Folk dance culture began from farmers who danced and celebrated the harvest season. And people enjoyed that together irrespective of the age gap or the differences in financial status between them." But things are different today. She points towards the rigid structure that we are slowly getting accustomed to and it needs to break down. Her first step towards this, she says, was "visiting villages and slums and teach the natives about dance and its diverse applications across the world. When I interact with them and answer their questions, the kind of happiness I see in their eyes is unparalleled."

She is trying to change the dynamics of Kuchipudi and Indian classical dance across the globe by organising festivals that would showcase its richness.



She will be organising the third edition of the Kuchipudi International Festival in November in London, which would provide a platform to 80 to 100 artists to show their talent. It will include her students ranging from the age of four to 60,

Natayanjali group from Cambridge, Bharatanatyam group and various others. She says, "It is a festival where we promote different dance forms and music but the focus remains on Kuchipudi. We also invite guest artists and facilitate inno-



vative collaborations." Through this she wants to inspire children as they see amazing artists perform so beautifully. This generates curiosity in them to know the dance form and its roots. "Otherwise they just perform with each other and get bored after a few years. Through this, they are not just looking among themselves but their seniors as well," she adds. It also helps to inspire their parents and tell them how important it is to teach the child about our traditions and dance forms at an early age. The audience consists of a lot of foreigners also, this in turn is taking Indian classical beyond the borders. The festival also includes dances on mythological tales, the tales of Vishnu and *Kalangan Rathna*.

Talking about one of the most innovative collaborations with a step chain studio, she says, "They have dancers who perform Latin American style on wheelchair. This year I have integrated Kuchipudi with it." She explains the idea behind this that such a dance form challenges the perception of body. When it comes to a disabled person, we look at them with sympathy as they can't dance. But, sometimes we cannot fathom their potential. "The way they dance with their challenge surprises me because they do

it so beautifully," Arunima adds.

She has collaborated with Baluji foundation, the world's only blind orchestra and created a piece called *antardrishti* (inner vision) with them. It is a blind cast of musicians and four dancers who could see. She did that show in darkness as she wanted the audience to feel it and understand how it feels when your world is dark. Citing the experience as an amazing one, she says, "While I was working with them they could sense when I am well and when I am not. They could figure out my mood."

She developed her love affair with Kuchipudi while she was learning it from Jayarama Rao and Vanashree Rao. Arunima says she found a home in terms of her dance school because she learnt a lot of tradition and history from them. Along with this she used to have make-up and *abhinay* session too. Talking about her journey, Arunima says, "It was a beautiful journey initially but was difficult to manage with my studies but I clinged onto it. I would skip a film with my friends but never skip the dance class." She feels it is this commitment which helped her step the ladder of success.

Talking about the strong identity India is gaining at an international level, Arunima says, "I am very proud of that. I proudly wear my Indian outfits and *bindi* but I am extremely contemporary in my outlook. I understand the aesthetics of my society so that I stay relevant." But there is a huge gap to promote classical Indian art in the UK and Arunima wanted to fill this gap. She is trying to embed her art in the DNA of the British society. Indian art can surpass barriers, even if people don't understand our language they know what we do. She wants to make this art accessible to the global audience. Arunima feels that just like yoga, an entire ecosystem needs to be created to revive dance forms as well. She says, "Indian dance has music and techniques and is an extension of yoga. Our poses, postures and rhythm coupled with mythology offers so much altogether."

She works on social issues like mental illness and domestic violence as it affects her deeply and is close to her heart. Arunima shares further that she loves to integrate with anything that affects her and her performances are making a difference. Arunima says, "I am glad that at least I am provoking debate, I am breaking barriers. It's always difficult for me to do it, when I start I don't know how it will go, but at the end of the day when the artist and the audience have something to say about the performance, I think I have done my bit."

Marvel breaks up with Spiderman



The Marvel Cinematic Universe will no longer produce *Spider-Man* films, after negotiations fell through between Disney and Sony Pictures.

The two studios have been sharing the brand *Spider-Man* across a plethora of films since 2015. As part of the previous agreement, Marvel had also been acting as producer of the 2017 and 2019 standalone Sony *Spider-Man* films starring Tom Holland. Both films were blockbusters.

However, Disney and Sony recently broke the deal as they are unable to reach new terms for funding of future films. Marvel president Kevin Feige, who served as creative lead in the two latest films of the franchise — *Spider-Man: Far From Home* and *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, will not have the same role in the two movies reportedly in the works, unless an agreement is reached.

A statement has been issued on behalf of Sony Pictures on their official Twitter handle. "Much of today's news about Spider-Man has mischaracterised recent discussions about Kevin Feige's involvement in the franchise. We are disappointed, but respect Disney's decision not to have him continue as a lead producer of our next live action *Spider-Man* film. We hope this might change in the future, but understand that the many new responsibilities that Disney has given him - including all their newly added Marvel properties - do not allow time for him to work on IP they do not own. Kevin is terrific and we are grateful for his help and guidance and appreciate the path he has helped put us on, which we will continue," the statement read.

The news left many Spider-Man fans in shock. *Deadpool* actor Ryan Reynolds also expressed grief. One fan tagged Tom Holland and Reynolds in a tweet, asking them for a crossover film featuring Spider-Man and Deadpool.

"Can we get a Spider-Man and Deadpool movie now," the person wrote. Responding to the tweet, Reynolds said, "You can. But you can only see it in my heart."

Not only this, actor Jeremy Renner, who played Hawkeye in the Marvel films so far, tweeted, "Hey Sony Pictures, we want Spider-Man back please."

WORTH A VISIT

Uttarakhand Tourism Minister SATPAL MAHARAJ talks about his efforts in upgrading the state's infrastructure and tourism



It will collide but it will not. They don't have an understanding of the employment that it will generate," he adds. Talking about the void in the system he shares that he interacted with the

film council and requested them to come for shoots in the state. But when they came, they were questioned by forest authorities. "We need to erode this loophole at various levels. When

people from other states come, we should try to give them a personal touch. It will add charm to the beauty of the state. Local tourism is a good way to open local avenues for employ-

ment but infrastructure and water issues still need to be worked upon," says he.

The state is looking for alternate Char Dham routes so that it becomes accessible to everyone and will increase tourists also. He has contacted the ropeway firms to provide their facilities at more places and also made a point that Ramnagar and Vikasnagar can become the routes for the yatra. The arrangements are being tightened up and work on infrastructure is being carried out heavily so that pilgrims do not face any difficulties.

Uttarakhand is gradually becoming a high end tourist state. It is planning to introduce mobile caravans which will offer various facilities and give a new sense of tourism coupled with luxury homestays. And as trekking routes are becoming more advanced, it will help in attracting domestic and international tourists as well. The efforts are clearly evident through Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board's (UTDB) campaign, #DoTheNew, which suggests to do something that would connect with the nature. This has helped the state to grab eyeballs from all across. The state is also geared up to hold the car rally and white water rafting in the forthcoming months.



India to compete in WorldSkills

The 48-member Indian team representing the country at the WorldSkills was given a grand send-off at a ceremony. It was organised by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to motivate the participants as they gear up to pit their skills against the best in the world. India is the sixth largest team that will take part in the competition.

Nearly 1,500 competitors from 60 countries will compete in 56 skill competitions at this mega event in Kazan, Russia, which is on till August 27. Our team will participate in 44 skills, including mobile robotics, prototype modelling, hair-dressing, baking, confectionary and patisserie, welding, brick laying, car painting, floristry and so much more.

Addressing the candidates,

Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, said, "My heartfelt congratulations to the 48 of you. You all will now represent the country at the world's biggest skill competition. My advice to you is to compete in the true spirit of participation and make India proud on the global platform and at the same time learn from your international peers competing with you. Participating at events of such scale adds to the larger cause of skill development, which is integral to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a skilled India."

Around 75 per cent of participants come from tier II and tier III cities, with 25 per cent from rural areas. Candidates have been exposed to international training with industry support from over 100 companies.

The Government of India has taken major initiatives to bring development in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The Institute of Company Secretaries of India aligning with the initiatives of the Government of India has launched a special fee waiver scheme for the students there.

Launching the scheme, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Member of Parliament (LS), Ladakh, appreciated the efforts of the Institute and said, "This ini-

ICSI launches fee waiver scheme

tiative will immensely contribute towards bringing the students of Ladakh to the main stream."

Informing about the scheme, CS Ranjeet Pandey, president of ICSI said, "The Institute of Company Secretaries of India has always considered itself a proud partner in the varied initiatives of the Government of India. Though



inclusive growth has been an agenda for the Government for long, we at ICSI firmly believe that the achievement of such a goal finds foundation in making available quality education to one and all. We are hopeful that this initiative shall open doors of education and opportunity for the youth of the nation."

Students belonging to J & K and Ladakh, who have cleared their 12th or bachelor's degree shall be eligible for fee waiver while registering for CS Foundation Programme and CS Executive Programme respectively.

It is expected that the above initiatives will not only play significant role in promoting excellence but will also empower the youth of J & K and Ladakh and bring them to the mainstream by nurturing their brilliance.



Modi inaugurates BHEL project in Bhutan

BHEL has installed 4x180 MW Bmangdechhu hydroelectric project at Thimpu, Bhutan. It was inaugurated by Narendra Modi in the presence of Bhutan's Prime Minister, Dr Lotay Tshering.

With this, it has demonstrated its engineering and project management skills and a commitment to undertake challenging jobs as part of its responsibility towards relation building with neighbouring countries. The Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority (MHPA) officials have appreciated this effort.

BHEL has executed the electro-mechanical package for the project which includes design, manufacture, supply, transportation, storage, erection, testing and commissioning of generating units and associated auxiliaries including pelton turbines, generators, governors, MIV, etc along with balance of plant items — bus duct, DC system, EOT cranes etc. The equipment have been supplied from BHEL's manufacturing units at Bhopal, Bengaluru, Rudrapur, Hyderabad, Jhansi and Mumbai, while erection and commissioning on site was carried out by the company's power sector in eastern region, Kolkata.

The run-of-the-river hydroelectric plant constructed on Mangdechhu river in Bhutan has a gross head of 692 metre, with four numbers pelton turbines generating 720 MW from the project. The project has been executed under difficult terrain conditions with limited road connectivity as well as frequent disruptions during monsoons. This pelton turbine is the highest rating vertical turbine, designed, manufactured and supplied by BHEL outside India. The state-of-the-art valmet DNA-based plant controls have also been deployed by BHEL for the first time for a hydro power project outside India.

Sanrakshika celebrates its sixth foundation day

CISF Wives Welfare Association, Sanrakshika, has been playing a significant role in helping the families and wards of CISF personnel to attain their full potential and thereby empowering them to contribute in growth of their family and society at large.

The association celebrated its sixth foundation day at Siri Fort Auditorium. Sonal Shah, wife of Union Home Minister, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Ranjeeta Ranjan, president of the association, said



that it has been our endeavour that every member of the CISF family should become independent and capable so that a strong society can be created. "Since its inception, the association has carried out many activities such as, DG's merit award in academics, DG's scholarship exclusively for wards of martyrs, financial assistance to specially-abled wards of CISF, opening of computer centers and skill development centers at various locations," she added.

SRM TO SET UP A COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

With agriculture emerging as a competitive domain to traditional industry driven companies, SRM Institute of Science and Technology plans to set up a college of agriculture in Acharapakkam in Chengalpattu district. The chancellor Dr TR Paarivendhar announced on Monday. The chancellor Dr TR Paarivendhar, who is also the MP of Perambalur, said that 200



acres has been reserved for the college, where students can cultivate their own land in a rural ambience to emerge as agri-entrepreneurs instead of pursuing a career in an MNC. "You have to apply

your mind on how to do agriculture and horticulture with modern technology and earn five times more than what you would earn in an MNC or by pursuing a career in other fields," he said.

Strike at Ordnance Factories

The month long strike in response to the call given by the three recognised Defence Federations commenced on Tuesday. The strike has been undertaken to oppose the proposed corporatisation of the Ordnance Factories.

It is, however, emphasised that the proposed policy of corporatisation of Ordnance Factories by the Government of India is aimed at providing greater flexibility in day-to-day functioning, increased operational freedom and autonomy in decision making, leading to enhanced productivity. This will enable the Ordnance Factories to respond faster to the futuristic needs of the Armed Forces and provide an impetus to the export potential of its products.



As per DFS Government of India directives, a two-day seminar-cum-workshop was organised by AK Mishra, field general manager, Central Bank of India, for initiating bottom-up consultative and ideation process for bringing about required changes in the public sector banking activities to make India a five-trillion dollar economy.



Syndicate bank started the consultative workshops for idea generation at grass root level on Saturday. The objective of the workshop was to provide bottom-up approach to stimulate the ideation process at the bank. The ideas aimed at optimising banking by increasing the use of technology and aligning banking with the national priorities.



A campaign organised by UCO bank talked about generation of ideas and consultation till branch level as per the directions issued by Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance. Its primary objective was to align banking with national priorities, stimulate ideas and inculcate a sense of involvement among bankers at the branch level.

RIL joins hands with Neva BNP COUNCILLORS GET A BIG BLOW

R|E|an, the next-gen fabrics from RIL (Reliance Industries Limited), has joined hands with fashion retailer Neva Garments, based out of Ludhiana.

The arrangement will enable R|E|an and Neva to offer the best quality solutions to consumers across the country and meet their ever growing demand for comfortable apparel in activewear, athleisure, sportswear, sleepwear and innerwear.

Speaking about the partnership, Nirmal Kumar Jain, managing director, Neva Garments Limited said, "Neva has been a cotton dominated brand in all its segments. For the last three to four years, we have diversified into active wear category, which is growing at a rapid rate." Further Niti Jain, director of Neva, added, "Our quilted thermals are well appreciated and have a strong presence across the country with a loyal customer base."



R|E|an has made a strong impression by bringing in new generation of micro-polyesters with various functional properties like moisture management, wicking, odour-free antimicrobial and more. The products like kooltex, feelfresh, airtherm have a great potential to combine with cotton and also on a stand-alone basis to form great garments with aesthetics and at affordable prices. Thus there is a great synergy between both the brands.

Injured by the negative and malicious behaviour of some councillors, additional municipal commissioner Shiv Pujan Yadav has transferred himself to the Lucknow directorate. The transfer is considered a major setback for some BJP councillors and the mayor. This is the first time in the history of Ghaziabad municipal corporation that an officer had written to the UP

government and expressed his desire to transfer.

Ghaziabad is considered as kamdhenu district for officers of Uttar Pradesh. Officers use political access to get the goods there. A few days ago, some BJP councillors accused Yadav of taking ₹78 lakh as scam, including financial irregularities in appointments of goods. The committee was made in which the



allegations were found malicious. Despite getting a clean chit from the inquiry committee, some BJP councillors tried to keep the matter intact. Therefore, Yadav wrote to the Uttar Pradesh directorate about his transfer, and the government transferred him. This shows that some councillors keep making ungrateful complaints against the officers to take them under pressure.



Chittaranjan Locomotive Works celebrated the Sadbhavana Diwas on Tuesday. Praveen Kumar Mishra, GM of the CLW, read out the pledge before a gathering of HODs, senior officers and employees.



Projects and Development India Ltd (PDIL) celebrated 73rd Independence day with patriotic fervour. The event began with hoisting of the national flag by the director, DS Sudhakar Ramaiah. The CMD, Partha Sarthi Sen Sharma paid tribute to the martyrs and congratulated the employees on PDIL achieving a turnover of ₹131.50 crore from operations of ₹16.50 crore and Profit after Tax (PAT) of ₹30.36 crore and dividend of ₹11.80 crore.



The renowned prosthodontist professor Mahesh Verma took over as the new Vice Chancellor of the IP University. Before joining, he was the director of the Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences. He is a recipient of many coveted awards like Padma Shree and BC Roy Award for his contributions in the field of medicine.



Maa Aba Girl's Degree College, Gwalikheda, organised an environmental protection campaign. The students made the conservation campaign successful by planting trees. The school principal, Dr Rajeev Gupta, said that plantation is an important part of our life, we are creating difficulties for our next generations by not paying attention to environmental protection.



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Double Delight

Indian men's hockey team hammers NZ 5-0, Eves beat Japan 2-1 to win Olympic Test Event



Indian players celebrate after scoring against New Zealand during Olympics Test event final match on Wednesday. HI/Twitter

PTI ■ TOKYO

The Indian men's hockey team won the Olympic Test event here on Wednesday, beating New Zealand 5-0 to avenge the loss it endured in their round robin clash.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh (7th minute) set the ball rolling before Shamsher Singh (18th minute), Nilakanta Sharma (22nd minute), Gursahibjit Singh (26th minute) and Mandeep Singh (27th minute) scored for India at the Oi Hockey Stadium here.

India had lost 1-2 to New Zealand earlier in round robin league-stage.

"We played very well. We managed to score our opportunities at the start of the game," Harmanpreet said after the triumph.

"I think the final was always going to be tough, we

lost to New Zealand earlier. But we had been having practice sessions after that and worked on our mistakes to win today," he added.

Both teams began the match on a cautious note by turning over the ball in the mid-field. India won a penalty corner in the seventh minute, but couldn't capitalise on the opportunity.

However, skipper Harmanpreet didn't miss out on a re-awarded penalty corner. He executed a perfect dragflick to put India in the lead.

The Indian team continued to hold possession and put tremendous pressure on the New Zealand defense as they ended the first quarter at 1-0.

Shamsher scored India's second goal through a penalty corner in the 18th minute.

New Zealand managed to make only two circle entries

in the second quarter as the Indian team scored three more goals.

Nilakanta found the back of the net in the 22nd minute before Gursahibjit and Mandeep scored in quick succession.

Vivek Prasad intercepted the ball brilliantly to assist a goal for Gursahibjit and Mandeep converted a penalty corner just before the half-time whistle.

After an action-packed first half, the intensity dropped from both sides. New Zealand tried to make a few inroads in the third quarter as they took a shot in the 37th minute which went wide of the post.

Jarmanpreet Singh saved a penalty corner in the next minute as India and New Zealand played out a goalless quarter but the former held the lead at 5-0.

In the last quarter, India

ensured they stayed in the lead and didn't allow New Zealand to break through their defense throughout the match.

India's attacking approach in the match paid off as they walked off the pitch as winners of the competition.

EVES EDGE PAST JAPAN

The Indian women hockey team also won the Olympic Test event with Navjot Kaur and Lalremsiami leading the side to a 2-1 win over Japan in the final.

Navjot Kaur (11th minute) opened the scoring to put India ahead but the

CAPTAIN HARMANPREET SINGH (7TH MINUTE) SET THE BALL ROLLING BEFORE SHAMSHER SINGH (18TH MINUTE), NILAKANTA SHARMA (22ND MINUTE), GURSAHIBJIT SINGH (26TH MINUTE) AND MANDEEP SINGH (27TH MINUTE) SCORED FOR INDIA

lead was neutralised within a minute as Minami Shimizu (12') scored for the hosts.

Lalremsiami (33') struck the winning goal for India.

India dominated the first 10 minutes, and finally managed to find the breakthrough when Forward Navjot kept her nerves under pressure and produced a fine finish in front of the goal.

However, the next minute saw Japan strike back immediately with a well-crafted field goal which was put into the back of the net by Shimizu to make it 1-1.

The second quarter saw both the teams focus on their defensive structure and

tread carefully in the attacking third.

It was an aggressive start from the Indian team after the half-time break as they won themselves a penalty corner in the 33rd minute.

India's prolific dragflicker Gurjit Kaur stepped up to take the execution, but her shot was saved by the Japanese Goalkeeper Megumi Kageyama.

However, the rebound fell to India's young Forward Lalremsiami, who did not make a mistake in putting the ball into the back of the net to make it 2-1 for India.

It was a huge blow to the hosts who were finding it difficult to cope up with

India's rhythm, but after some tough battles in the midfield, the Japanese team earned themselves back-to-back penalty corners in the 42nd minute.

However, India's defense was up to the task, and made sure that they protected their lead. India also had a penalty corner in the 45th minute, but could not extend their lead.

The first chance of the last quarter came India's way but Kageyama made a diving save. Japan too got back-to-back penalty corners but Indian Goalkeeper Savita made a great save on the second attempt to make sure that India saw out a 2-1 win.

Sanches, Boateng could leave Bayern



Renato Sanches trains during Bayern Munich practice session. Sanches/Twitter

AFP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has suggested that Renato Sanches and Jerome Boateng may be heading for the exit door at Bayern Munich, telling Sky Germany that both players will find it difficult to break into the first team this season.

Portuguese midfielder Sanches and German defender Boateng have both pushed for a move away from Bayern in recent months. Both have dropped down the pecking order in their positions.

Sanches, 22, was fined 10,000 Euros (\$11,100) by the club after he publicly complained of a lack of game time and stated his desire to leave following a cameo appearance in Bayern's 2-2 draw with Hertha Berlin last Friday.

"Renato is a player who wants to play, and I can understand that. We need to find a solution that also suits the coach and the club," Rummenigge told Sky.

The Bayern CEO expressed sympathy for Sanches, who has made just 17 starts for Bayern since arriving three years ago with a winner's medal and Young Player of the Tournament award from Euro 2016.

"He came to us as a golden boy and newly crowned European Champion three years ago. Now he has lost his

BOATENG, 30, APPEARED CERTAIN TO LEAVE BAYERN AT THE END OF LAST SEASON AFTER CLUB PRESIDENT ULI HOENESS ADVISED HIM TO "FIND A NEW CLUB"

place in the national team, and he needs to play if he wants to get it back," said Rummenigge.

Yet the CEO admitted that it would be "not be easy" for Sanches to compete with new signing Philippe Coutinho.

He added that the same was true of veteran defender Jerome Boateng, following the arrival of Lucas Hernandez and Benjamin Pavard.

"(Boateng) will not find it easy to get regular game time," said Rummenigge.

"If he wants to leave the club, he needs to tell us."

Boateng, 30, appeared certain to leave Bayern at the end of last season after club president Uli Hoeness advised him to "find a new club".

Yet his departure was thrown into doubt after Mats Hummels returned to Borussia Dortmund. Coach Niko Kovac insisted last week that the 2014 World Cup winner remained part of his plans.



Paine backs Warner to hit form

AFP ■ LEEDS

Australia captain Tim Paine says the tourists will not be intimidated by England fast bowler Jofra Archer and has backed misfiring batsman David Warner to hit form in the third Ashes Test at Headingley.

Paine was full of praise for Archer, whose raw pace electrified the drawn second Test as he took five wickets and peppered the Australians with bouncers, leaving Steve Smith with concussion that has ruled him out of the match in Leeds.

But Paine said Australia's batsmen were used to facing pace and had a few useful speedsters of their own.

"It's fantastic to see a young cricketer with so much talent come onto the scene and it was a bit of a buzz to face him at Lord's," Paine wrote in a column for the Australian newspaper.

"He's fast for sure, but in Australia we've been brought up facing guys of his pace."

"Every time we have a net (session) we have Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and James Pattinson coming at us like we are the opposition."

Paine said Smith's replacement Marnus Labuschagne, who scored 59 when he came on as Test cricket's inaugural concussion substitute, showed the depth of Australia's squad.

He was unconcerned about Warner's lack of form, which has seen the left-hander score only 18 runs in four

innings. "David Warner hasn't hit his straps yet and I notice people getting a bit trigger happy on that subject, but I am not worried," he wrote.

"We are 1-0 up in the series and he hasn't got out of the blocks. He is a match winner... he is also the most mentally tough cricketer I know. He is due a score and that is a dividend I am looking forward to."

Meanwhile, former Australia paceman Andy Bichel has labelled England captain Joe Root a "blatant cheat" over a disputed catch on the final day of the second Test.

Root took a low catch to end Labuschagne's innings, with replays suggesting the ball may have bounced first, although the England skipper later insisted it had carried.

"It didn't carry. We can see that," Bichel told *Macquarie Sports Radio*.

"It's ricocheted off the player as well so it's bobbled a little bit to him, so therefore he'd know if he's picked it up on the half volley — it's blatant cheating."

'SAME OLD SMITH'

Australia captain Tim Paine is expecting the "same old Steve Smith" when the star batsman eventually returns to Ashes action.

"Steve Smith's the best player in the world, he will come back in the next Test, if it's the next Test, or the tour game and we're expecting him to be the same old Steve Smith," said Paine.

"He's a high-quality player and he'll adapt as he always has."

Smith, whose Test average of 63.24 is exceeded only by all-time great Donald Bradman, marked his return to Test duty after a 12-month ball-tampering ban with innings of 144 and 142 in Australia's 251-run win in the first Test at Edgbaston before making 92 at Lord's.

"Steve loves batting, I don't think that's going to change," Paine told reporters at Headingley on Wednesday.

"Marnus is strange, he seems to enjoy getting hit on the head, so he's a different kettle of fish altogether. Marnus has handled himself exceptionally, his innings was unbelievable after that happened."

Smith could return to action in the three-day tour game against Derbyshire from August 29-31, with the fourth Test in a five-match series at Old Trafford beginning on September 4.

The wicketkeeper added: "Clearly they are huge shoes to fill and we don't put that pressure on Marnus."

Meanwhile, England captain Joe Root said he would have no qualms about a player withdrawing from a match because of concussion.

"I think you have to give the responsibility to the doctors and if they say he's not fit, regardless of the situation in the game, then that has to stand," said Root during his pre-match conference.

Prajnesh goes down to Paire

PTI ■ NORTH CAROLINA

A profligate Prajnesh Gunneswaran went down to world No 30 Benoit Paire in the second round to crash out of the Winston Salem Open ATP 250 tournament here.

The left-handed Indian, ranked 89, could convert just one of his five break chances to suffer a 3-6, 5-7 loss to his French opponent in a match that lasted one hour and 10 minutes on Tuesday night.

Prajnesh struggled from the beginning as Paire broke his serve to take an early 2-0 lead. The Indian could not recover from that, conceding the first set tamely.

In the second set, Prajnesh held his serve but faltered in the 11th game giving Paire the match-winning lead.

Serving for the match, the Frenchman made no mistakes and avenged his Indian Wells loss from earlier this year.

Although Paire committed more double faults than Prajnesh, he hit 14 aces compared to the Indian's three.

In the doubles event, wild card entrants Leander Paes and his Israeli partner Jonathan Erlich, crashed out in the first round.

The Paes-Erlich pair lost to the duo of Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury 2-6, 3-6.

NAGAL IN 2ND ROUND

NEW YORK: Young Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal earned his first win at a Grand Slam qualifying event, knocking out seasoned Japanese Tatsumi Ito in straight sets at the US Open qualifiers here.

Nagal, placed at a career-best 190 right now, knocked out the 133rd ranked and 26th seed 7-6 (6), 6-2 in one hour and 52 minutes on Tuesday.

Last year, he had competed in the qualifiers of the Australian Open, the French Open and the Wimbledon Championships but could not win a round.

This is Nagal's first attempt at making the Grand Slam singles main draw this season in which he enjoyed considerable success and broke into the top-200.

Sindhu makes positive start



PV Sindhu prepares to return a shot. PTI/File Picture

PTI ■ BASEL

Two-time Silver medallist P V Sindhu produced a commanding performance in her opening match at the BWF World Championships here on Wednesday.

Sindhu, who had reached the finals of Indonesia Open last month, looked in good touch as she controlled the rallies and outsmarted Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po 21-14, 21-14 in a 43-minute contest.

The fifth seeded Indian, who received a bye in the opening round, is likely to face USA's Beiwen Zhang, seeded ninth, in the pre-quarterfinals.

Sindhu, an Olympic Silver medallist, had lost to Zhang at the India Open finals last year.

In the first game, Sindhu moved ahead from 5-5 to slowly create a gap and entered the interval with a 11-7 lead.

After the break, Sindhu continued to surge and grabbed six game points when Pai made an error in judgement at the back-

line. The Indian sealed it with a cross court return.

Sindhu zoomed to a 6-1 lead in the second game before Pai started constructing the rallies and narrowed the deficit to 5-7.

Sindhu's unforced errors also made life easy for the Taiwanese girl, who showed some great skills and managed to enter the interval with a 11-10 lead after Sindhu

found the net.

The Indian, however, changed gears after the break, dishing out some good-looking strokes to eventually enter match point at 20-14 when her rival missed a shuttle at the backline.

She sealed the match next with a precise on-the-line return.

Among others, the Indian pairing of Jakkapudi Meghana and Poorvisha S Ram went down 8-21, 18-21 to eighth seeds Shiho Tanaka and Koharu Yonemoto of Japan in the women's doubles competition.

Roy set to play in third Test

AFP ■ LONDON

England batsman Jason Roy has passed a concussion test after being hit in the nets ahead of the third Ashes Test against Australia at Headingley.

The 29-year-old opener was struck by a throw-down from England international Marcus Trescothick, working with the team in a temporary coaching capacity, during practice on Tuesday.

Roy was assessed after taking the blow and was able to continue batting. But he also required a follow-up check on the eve of the match on Wednesday to determine any delayed symptoms.

Roy, 29, will be assessed again before the third Test starts on Thursday.

Meanwhile Ollie Pope, a Surrey team-mate of Roy's, has been placed on standby.

The 21-year-old Pope, who has played two Tests, is now on his way to Leeds.

But England captain Joe Root said he expected Roy to play, telling reporters at Headingley on Wednesday: "Jason's been monitored quite closely as you'd expect."

"He's undergone a couple of concussion tests so far and scored really well. So as it stands, I fully expect him to be fit and ready to go tomorrow."

Roy averages just 10 in four innings this series, having only made



his Test debut earlier this season after starring at the top of the order in England's victorious World Cup winning campaign.

England coach Trevor Bayliss

said Roy may be more suited to the middle-order in Test cricket but Root insisted he could be a success as an opening batsman.

"I obviously think he should

open, otherwise he'll be batting at four," said Root.

"I think there's a lot of talk about the batting order because of the variety of options we have."

"At no stage are we trying to reinvent the wheel."

STRUGGLING

"But we've got to play to our strengths and be quite flexible over the course of the series. But I feel Jason can have a real big impact at the start of an innings."

"It might not have happened just yet but we fully expect him to go out and do that."

Meanwhile Australia captain Tim Paine, whose Ashes-holders are 1-0 up in the five-match series, said his side were not taking Roy lightly.

"Opening the batting in Test cricket in England is difficult," he said.

"I know our guys are struggling a little bit as well to get the runs they would like. It's international cricket, it's tough," the wicketkeeper added.

"We've seen Jason Roy play amazing innings in one-day cricket, we've seen David Warner do the same thing in the early days of his career, and sometimes it takes a little bit of time to get used to Test cricket and the differences in that."

"We've seen that Jason is a highly-skilled batsman and on his day he can take a game away from you so at no point do we think or treat him like we've got the wood over him."

Red ball challenge

Australia rule out bouncer battle

India gear up for Test Championship opener against Windies on tricky track

England vs Australia
Live from 3:30pm IST
SONY SIX NETWORK

West Indies vs India
Live from 7:00pm IST
SONY TEN 1 & 3 NETWORK

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

A perfect combination and a winning start will be foremost on skipper Virat Kohli's mind when India take on West Indies in their inaugural World Test Championship opener here on Thursday.

A win in the opening Test will be the 27th for Kohli as skipper and will put him on even keel with his predecessor Mahendra Singh Dhoni. A century in the game (19th as captain) will place him on par with Ricky Ponting.

On paper, a batting line-up that has Kohli, Cheteshwar Pujara, KL Rahul, Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant in the ranks should be termed clear favourites but this West Indies team, led by Jason Holder, is no pushover.

England found that out the hard way at the start of the year when they lost a Test series 1-2 in some of the most lively pitches on the Caribbean islands in recent times.

One such pacer-friendly wicket was at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua where Kohli and his men will be facing the Windies first up.

The last Test played here saw England scoring 187 and 132 but that was a different time of the year.

Nevertheless, Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri, who recently got a fresh contract, will be wary of the challenge that can be posed by the new ball pair of Kemar Roach and Shannon Gabriel along with Jason Holder bowling his steady seam-up spells.

If there is pace and bounce, Kohli is likely to go with four specialist bowlers in which Ravichandran Ashwin and Kuldeep Yadav will be fighting for the lone spinner's slot.

The three pacers, in all likelihood, will be Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami.

However, it is the batting combination that will be the skipper's primary worry and if he can get it right, that will be considered as a tactical victory.

In an ideal situation, if Hardik Pandya was available, Kohli would have been tempt-



Rohit Sharma defends during India's warm-up game against West Indies A at Antigua

BCCI/Twitter

Head to Head				
Venue	Played	WI	Ind	Draw
In India	47	14	13	20
In West Indies	49	16	7	26
Total	96	30	20	46
At North Sound	1	-	1	-

FAISEL FEATURES

attack.

The West Indies team in the Test format has been an understated one with players who have more talent than what the numbers currently show.

In Shai Hope, John Campbell and Shimron Hetmyer, they have the three talented youngsters.

Roston Chase, during the 2016 series against India, had thwarted Ashwin for a whole fifth day in Kingston after West Indies were staring at an innings defeat. In addition to that, he is a steady off-spinner with 50 Test wickets.

Darren Bravo is their most experienced batsman with 52 Tests and nearly 3500 runs under his belt.

However, the kind of talent he is, an average of 38 plus with only eight hundreds doesn't justify that.

All eyes will also be on whether, the new "giant" of world cricket, Rahkeem Cornwall is given an opportunity.

His imposing physical structure may have grabbed attention but Cornwall has also been a performer with his effective off-breaks and handy lower-middle-order batting.

SQUADS

India: Virat Kohli (captain), Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant (wk), Kuldeep Yadav, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Wriddhiman Saha (wk)

West Indies: Jason Holder (c), Kraigg Brathwaite, Darren Bravo, Shamir Brooks, John Campbell, Roston Chase, Rakheem Cornwall, Shane Dowrich, Shannon Gabriel, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Keemo Paul, Kemar Roach.

AFP ■ LEEDS

Australia coach Justin Langer has told his side to avoid being drawn into a bouncer battle after Steve Smith was ruled out of the third Ashes Test against England.

Star batsman Smith suffered delayed concussion symptoms after being hit on his neck by a 92 mph bouncer from England fast bowler Jofra Archer during the drawn second Test at Lord's.

His absence from the third Test at Headingley starting today leaves Australia with a huge hole to fill.

Smith marked his return to Test cricket after a 12-month ball-tampering ban with innings of 144 and 142 during Australia's 251-run win in the first Test at Edgbaston.

He also made 92, having retired hurt after being hit when on 80, at Lord's where Marnus Labuschagne, Test cricket's first concussion substitute, made a brave fifty in the second innings after being hit flush on the grille of his helmet by Archer.

World Cup-winning fast bowler Archer struck several telling blows on a Test debut that yielded five wickets.

Australia also have plenty of fast-bowling firepower at their disposal in Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc. But Langer insisted his side would not be sidetracked from their goal of becoming the first Australia side in 18 years to win an Ashes series in England.

"We know what our plans are to beat England," Langer told reporters at Headingley, where the third Test starts on today.

"It's not an ego game," the former Australia opening batsman insisted.

"We're here to win the Test match, not to see how many bruises we can give."

"I'm sure the bouncer will still be part of every bowler's armoury, if it helps us get batsmen out then we'll use it, otherwise we'll keep sticking to the plan."

England are still without James Anderson after their all-time leading wicket-taker broke down with a calf injury after bowling just four overs at Edgbaston.

Smith and England opener Rory



Burns apart, both top-orders have struggled in the face of some quality fast bowling.

But England have stuck by Jason Roy, even though the World Cup-winning opener averages just 10 in four innings this series.

Roy, however, has mainly been a middle-order batsman in first-class cricket with Surrey. England coach Trevor Bayliss hinted at a reshuffle in the batting line-up, if not in personnel.

"We think we've got the best seven batters available to us at the moment in England... Whether we can change it round and make that (order) any better, I'm not sure, but we'll certainly have a discussion about it," he said.

"There's one or two batting spots in the wrong positions but we're trying to do the right thing by the team," England's Australian coach added.

Now the question is can England, who had Australia 122-8 in their first innings at Edgbaston only for Smith to steer his side to 284, take advantage of his absence?

England will look for more heroics from Archer and hope that, with Ben Stokes fresh from an unbeaten century at Lord's, someone can give their attack enough runs to play with.



Kane Williamson, facing camera, chats with teammate Ross Taylor & coach Gary Stead as they inspect the pitch during practice session AP

NZ look to exploit Lanka's weakness

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka vs New Zealand
Live from 10:00am IST
SONY ESPN NETWORK

New Zealand will be hoping to add to Sri Lanka's poor record at their own Oval ground and level the series in the second and final Test starting today.

Unlike the spinner's paradise at Galle and the batting heaven that is the SSC, the Oval — the only ground in Asia where Don Bradman played — favours seam bowlers.

Sri Lanka have been often exposed here by quality seam bowlers and one up in the two-match series, they will have New Zealand's Trent Boult and Tim Southee — and possibly Neil Wagner — to contend with.

In the last 10 years, Sri Lanka have played seven games at The Oval and lost five, including once to New Zealand. In that game seven years ago, Southee claimed eight wickets while Boult finished with seven.

"We have some fond memories from last time, and we managed to win that," New Zealand wicketkeeper BJ Watling said at a pre-match media briefing on Wednesday.

Left-arm quick Wagner claimed nine wickets in New Zealand's last Test match and was unlucky to miss out in Galle as conditions heavily favoured spin. He is expected to make a return possibly at the expense of Mitchell Santner.

The opening Test was a lot closer than the six-wicket margin suggests and the New Zealanders know that fielding lapses cost them dearly after setting Sri Lanka a daunting task of 268 runs.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, will leave out off-spinner Akila Dananjaya, whose action was reported to be suspect for a second time by match officials after the Galle Test.

Dananjaya, who claimed a five-wicket haul in the opening game, was forced to remodel his action after it was first reported in November last year.

Technically he is allowed to play the second Test, but he is likely to travel to India instead to test his action. Dilruwan Perera has been drafted into the squad and is expected to play.

Sri Lanka will move up to the number five of the official ICC rankings if they win the second Test and the series.

More importantly, it will give them a strong start in the World Test Championship.

Kumble can be selector in future: Sehwaag

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Test captain Anil Kumble's ability to boost confidence of the players makes him an ideal candidate for the role of chairman of selectors, said Virender Sehwaag, who also advocated a hike in remuneration for the job.

Never to mince his words, former opener Sehwaag said BCCI needs to pay more for heading the selectors' committee.

The current selection panel, led by MSK Prasad, has faced a lot of flak for it being a lightweight with a cumulative experience of 13 Tests.

"I think Anil Kumble could be the right candidate for the chairman of selectors post. He is someone who has interacted with Sachin (Tendulkar), Sourav (Ganguly) and Rahul (Dravid) as a player and with youngsters as a coach," Sehwaag told reporters during launch of a new app 'The Selector'.

"When I made a comeback (Australia series 2007-08), he (Kumble) came to my room and said you will not be dropped for the next two series. That's the kind of confidence a player needs," said Sehwaag.

However, Sehwaag also said that he doesn't think that Kumble will agree to do the job right now since the chairman gets ₹1 crore per annum. "BCCI needs to raise bar as far as pay is concerned. Then a lot of players will be interested," said Sehwaag.

Asked if he would also be interested in this post, Sehwaag said that he doesn't like too many restrictions. "I write columns, appear on TV and being selector will mean a lot of restrictions. I don't know whether I would like so many

restrictions," the former Indian opener said.

Sehwaag, who had lost the race to be India's coach in 2017 to Ravi Shastri, said that he did not apply this time.

"In 2017, the BCCI secretary and (late) Dr MV Sridhar (GM Cricket Operations) asked me to apply so I applied. This time no one asked me, so I didn't apply," said Sehwaag when asked if he was amused in the manner Shastri was re-appointed the coach.

As the talk veered towards playing XI for the first Test against West Indies, Sehwaag's vote went to Ajinkya Rahane if India played five bowlers.

"Ajinkya Rahane has been batting at No 4 (No 5) so if it is a case of five bowlers then he should play. Rohit Sharma comes in only if you go with four bowlers," Sehwaag reasoned.

He also felt that "Mahendra Singh Dhoni should have batted at number five" in the World Cup semi-final against New Zealand.

"...Players like Hardik Pandya, who can play big shots should have come in at number seven towards the end," said the former India captain.

He also expressed his happiness at S Sreesanth's life ban being reduced to seven years.

"I am very happy for him. He now needs to play domestic cricket," he said.

Sehwaag was amused when he was asked about suggestions on wearing neck guards in the wake of Steve Smith recent injury.

"Why do you need to show your neck to the bowler? You have a bat and you are wearing a helmet. In my entire career, I never used chest pads," Sehwaag said.



BFI should do away with selection trials: Mary Kom

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Celebrated Indian boxer M C Mary Kom on Wednesday said proven performers should not be made to undergo selection trials and asserted that she did no wrong by seeking an exemption from the ones for the world championships.

A controversy broke out over Mary's selection for the women's World Boxing Championships in Russia after her competitor in the 51kg category, Nikhat Zareen, was refused a trial bout. Zareen, in a letter to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), alleged that she was stopped from competing despite having a scheduled trial bout.

Mary Kom, a six-time world champion and an Olympic Bronze-medallist, was chosen by the BFI selection panel based on her Gold medal-winning performances at the India Open and a subsequent tournament in Indonesia.

"Maybe, the BFI can change the programme altogether, no trial for boxers who are performing well, they can directly get the quota for any championship or tournament," Mary said on the sidelines of an event arranged by the All India Gaming Federation.

The world championship is sched-



uled to be held in Russia in September-October.

"You look at other games like badminton, who gives trials? Did Saina Nehwal and P V Sindhu give any trial?" she added.

Mary defeated Zareen in the semi-final of the India Open in Guwahati ear-

lier this year. When quizzed on her decision to approach the BFI with a request for exemption, Mary Kom said she merely left it on the federation and did not pressurise it to rule in her favour.

"I felt weird about my decision but I had told BFI clearly you decide who is doing better. If I have to give a trial or not is not in my hands. The BFI decides all these things, it's up to them," she said.

Soon after this furore, Mary Kom was caught in the eye of the storm on being picked in the selection panel for this year's national sports awards. The point of contention was her personal coach Chhote Lal Yadav's application for the Dronacharya award.

Mary Kom recused herself from the selection committee's proceedings after a media storm on conflict of interest. Yadav was eventually not among the nominees finalised this year.

"This was my second time in the committee. I have recommended many coaches and at that time there was no controversy. This time I don't know what happened, the media created a controversy, so I recused myself," she said.

Mary Kom was part of the awards selection committee for Dronacharya in 2016 as well but her coach was not in fray at that time.

Puneri beat Bengaluru Bulls 31-23

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Puneri Paltan registered a 31-23 win against defending champions Bengaluru Bulls in a Pro-Kabaddi League match at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Wednesday.

A heavily bandaged Surjeet Singh at the centre was the leader (6 tackle points) in the defensive unit for Puneri Paltan, never allowing the leagues best raider, Pawan Sehrawat, to weave his magic.

Sagar Krishna came in for a struggling Girish Ernak as coach Anup Kumar made the changes to a faltering Pune side while the Bengaluru Bulls went in with an extra defender in the line-up buoyed by the performances of their two raiders in Pawan Sehrawat and Rohit Kumar.

It was the Pune team which started off well, consistently tackling Bengaluru Bulls raiders, with Sagar Krishna justifying his inclusion with an incredible body block on Rohit Kumar six minutes into the match.



The defensive units matched each other tackle for tackle, as the raiders, including Punes Nitin Tomar struggled to impress.

A low-scoring, heavy tackling first half, which also saw Sehrawat reach 100 points for the season, ended with scores even at 10-10.

Bengaluru's decision to play just two raiders backfired

as Paltans improved defence thwarted any raider who ventured into their territory.

Pune inflicted the game's only All-Out on Bengaluru Bulls in the sixth minute of the second half to open up an 8-point gap.

Manjeets clever raids in do-or-die situations were also vital for Pune as they raced to a two-digit lead.

The defence held firm, as Surjeet Singh completed a personal milestone of 250 points in Pro Kabaddi League, and secured a very important victory that pushed his team up to 10th in the league standings.

Bengaluru loss meant they lost out on an opportunity to go to the top of the points table.