

**OPINION 8**  
FOR THE SAKE  
OF DEMOCRACY

**WORLD 12**  
US OFFICIALS CONFIRM  
ISRAELI STRIKE IN IRAQ

**SPORT 15**  
LIVERPOOL HOST  
ARSENAL AT ANFIELD

Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

\*Late City Vol. 15 Issue 228  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

BHUBANESWAR, SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3



# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



VIVEK TO  
PRODUCE  
A FILM  
13 VIVACITY

## Booster shot for sagging economy

Super-rich surcharge on FPIs dropped; ₹70K cr infusion in banks to drop EMIs; ₹100L cr for infrastructure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian ruled out a major stimulus package for the economy triggering a massive sell-off in the equity market, the Government did just the opposite on Friday. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday announced a slew of measures to perk up the economy and address the concerns of foreign portfolio investors, who pulled out nearly \$3 billion from the India stock markets ever since the Budget imposed surcharge on their investment. Relentless selling by the foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) and concerns about the health of economy saw sensex losing more than 4,000 points in less than two months.

The stimulus package included rollback of super-rich surcharge on FPIs, domestic investors on gains from stock market, frontloading of already announced ₹70,000 crore of recapitalisation package for PSU banks, CSR violation not to be treated as criminal offence, reduction on EMIs for housing loans, vehicle and other retail loans and providing protection to honest decision-making by bankers for boosting lending. Also it included additional liquidity support to HFCs raised to ₹30,000 crore, pending GST refunds to MSMEs to be paid within 30 days, amendment to



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and MoS for Finance Anurag Thakur during a Press conference in New Delhi on Friday

MSME Act to move towards single definition to be considered, issue of IT orders, notices, etc through a centralised system to cut harassment, etc. Besides, the Government said it will set up an inter-Ministerial task force to short-list infrastructure projects for its ambitious target of spending ₹100 lakh crore in the sector.

With several major companies reporting sinking profit and announcing job cuts, the Government had a few options, but to come out with some relief for both the equity market and corporates as well as commoners. The Finance Minister did try to cover all the key stakeholders within the constraints of not too risky tax revenue scenario.

The reversal of FPI surcharge shows that the people

engaged in the Budget making completely failed to understand the mindset of foreign investors.

It is also baffling why someone like the CEA made such a comment about no stimulus, the news was one of the prime reason of sail-off in the market and estimated loss of nearly ₹2 lakh crore of investors' wealth in a single day.

"In order to encourage investment in the capital market, it has been decided to withdraw the enhanced surcharge levied by Finance (No.2) Act, 2019 on long/short term capital gains arising from the transfer of equity shares/units," Sitharaman told reporters here. The move will dent Government revenues by ₹1,400 crore.

Sitharaman had in her

maiden Budget hiked the surcharge on income tax paid by super-rich individuals. The surcharge, levied on top of the applicable income tax rate, was hiked from 15 per cent to 25 per cent for those with taxable income of ₹2-5 crore and to 37 per cent for those earning more than ₹5 crore. This increased the effective tax rate for these two groups by 3.12 per cent and 7 per cent to 39 per cent and 42.74 per cent, respectively.

Some 40 per cent FPIs automatically came under the higher tax rate as they have been investing as a non-corporate entity such as trust or association of persons (AOPs), which in the Income Tax law are classified as an individual for the purpose of taxation.

Sitharaman also announced exempting start-ups from the so-called angel tax. "To mitigate genuine difficulties of start-ups and their investors, it has been decided that section 56(2)(viib) of the Income Tax Act shall not be applicable to a start-up registered with DPIIT," she said.

The Government also announced several relief measures, including deferring one-time registration fee, lifting ban on purchase of petrol/diesel vehicles and allowing higher depreciation, but it remained non-committal on the demand for a reduction in GST rates.

In a bid to help clear rising

inventory of BS-IV emission compliant vehicles, it said such vehicles purchased till March 31, 2020 will be allowed to ply till the validity of their registration. This is because the country is to leapfrog to selling only BS-VI emission compliant vehicles from April 1, 2020.

Auto sales in the country have been declining for almost a year now with the passenger vehicles (PVs) segment being the worst hit. Industry estimates suggest that 2 lakh jobs have been cut in the last three months as auto companies and component makers grapple with slow demand.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said representatives from the automotive sector had held meetings - both as an industry and individually.

"BS-IV vehicles was a big issue. There was a confusion because the government wanted to make an announcement to encourage electric vehicles and electric batteries (production)... BS-IV vehicles, which are purchased up to March 2020 will all remain operational for their entire period of registration," she told reporters while announcing measures to boost the sagging economic growth.

The government also announced an additional Rs 20,000-crore liquidity support to the struggling housing finance companies (HFCs), a move aimed at enhancing their lending capacity.

## CM announces ₹500-crore package for Puri makeover



- ❑ SECURITY OF JAGANNATH TEMPLE PRIME CONCERN
- ❑ SHREE SETU TO CONNECT MALATIPATAPUR, JAGANNATH BALLABH MUTT
- ❑ LAKE TO COME UP ON 28 ACRES OF LAND
- ❑ MUSHA, MANGALA RIVERS TO BE LINKED
- ❑ MULTI-LEVEL PARKING, PRAYER HALL, AMENITIES PLANNED
- ❑ NAVEEN APPEALS TO PURI CITIZENS FOR COOPERATION

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As part of his Government's plan to make Puri a world heritage city, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday announced a package of ₹500 crore to undertake huge infrastructure and beautification programmes in the holy town.

Modernisation plans such as multi-lane roads, flyover bridges, multi-level parking systems, amenities for devotees of Lord Jagannath, revival of the Musa River, rehabilitation of affected families in security zone, renovation of existing lakes and creation of a new lake and renovation of mutts have been included in the package.

Notably, Patnaik had recently announced various projects worth ₹265 crore for Puri under the ABADHA scheme.

Chairing a meeting at the Lok Seva Bhawan here, the Chief Minister said infrastructure development is crucial to make Puri an attractive world heritage city. Considering the present security environment, it is highly essential to strengthen the security features of the Shree Jagannath Temple, he said.

Stating that security of the Shreemandir in the changing circumstances is crucial and

cannot be compromised at any cost, Patnaik appealed to the people of Puri city to consider temple security as a service to Lord Jagannath and cooperate in the initiatives of the Government.

As per the decisions, a new link road connectivity from Puri bypass at Malatipatpur to the Jagannath Ballabh Mutt would come at a cost of ₹190 crore. For this, a 1.5-km 'Shree Setu' would be constructed.

The Jagannath Ballabh Mutt will be developed as an attractive pilgrim centre with a multi-level car parking system, amenities, commercial spaces, a large meditation hall and a multi-modal hub. For these, ₹180 crore has been allocated.

The Musa river will be revived and connected to the Mangala river at a cost of ₹85 crore. Focus would be given on restoring natural ecology, recreational activities at river edge, green wage and network of lakes.

The sacred Atharnala would be developed as an iconic pedestrian heritage bridge with the support of ASI.

A lake would be developed on 28 acres of land at a cost of ₹35 crore.

As mutts have traditional

links with the rituals of the Jagannath Temple, the Government has decided to renovate and develop mutts coming under security zone. The CM stressed on the conservation of ancient artifacts of the mutts.

The shops and houses coming under security zone will be shifted. In addition to the rehabilitation package, the Government will provide house and shop to the affected.

Many heritage lakes of Puri such as Sweta Ganga, Markandeya Puskarini, Narendra Pushkarini and Indradyumna Pond will be renovated and heritage sites will be preserved.

The Chief Minister directed the concerned officials to complete all these projects in two years.

The Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC) will take the responsibility of these projects.

Among others, Law Minister Pratap Jena, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy, Development Commissioner Suresh Mahapatra, DGP BK Sharma, Secretaries of Finance, Law and Works Departments and SJTA Chief Administrator Krishan Kumar and Puri district Collector Balwant Singh were present.

### CAPSULE

#### GLOBAL WATCHDOG PUTS PAK IN TERROR BLACKLIST

**New Delhi:** The Asia Pacific Group of the FATF, a global watchdog for terror financing and money laundering, has put Pakistan in a terror 'blacklist' for its failure to curb funnelling of funds to groups responsible for scores of attacks in India, officials here said on Friday.

#### WEST BENGAL: 3 KILLED IN TEMPLE STAMPEDE

**Kolkata:** At least three persons were killed and over 20 injured in a stampede near a temple in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on Friday, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said.

#### ARMY JAWAN KILLED IN PAK FIRING ALONG LOC

**Jammu:** An Army personnel was killed in Pakistani Army firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir's Rajouri district on Friday, prompting strong retaliation from the Indian side, officials said.

## Resounding mandate to build new India: PM

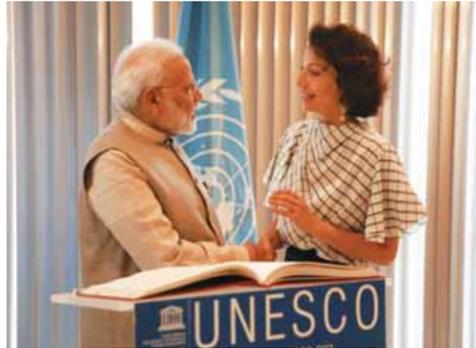
Corruption, nepotism reined in like never before, says Modi

PTI ■ PARIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the resounding mandate to the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls was for building a "new India", and asserted corruption, nepotism, loot of people's money, and terrorism have been reined in like never before.

Addressing the Indian community at the UNESCO headquarters here, Modi also talked about "major decisions" such as banning of practice of triple talaq, taken by his Government.

In a veiled reference to abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir, Modi said, "There is no scope for temporary in India. You would have seen that a country of 1.25 bil-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with UNESCO's Director-General Audrey Azoulay on Friday

lion people, the land of Mahatma Gandhi, Gautam Buddha, Ram, Krishna, took 70

years to remove what was temporary. To remove temporary it took 70 years, I dont know

whether I should laugh or cry...Reform, perform, and transform and with permanent systems, the country is moving forward to achieve its goal."

Modi, who was in France on the first leg of his three-nation tour, said there have been a number of constructive changes in the last five years.

"India is racing ahead not because of Modi...It is because of the stamp of approval that the people of India have given in the form of their votes," the Prime Minister said amid loud cheering of "Modi hai toh mumkin hai" (it is possible if Modi is there) from the crowd.

He also asserted "in 'new India', corruption, nepotism, dynasty, loot of people's money, and terrorism have been reined in like never before."

## IN BRAHMAPUR Doctor helps woman deliver baby on roadside



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A doctor turned messiah for a hapless pregnant woman by helping her deliver her baby on roadside near Courtpetta Chhak here on Friday. He also later rushed both the woman and her newborn to the MKCG Medical College Hospital here for treatment after the delivery.

One K Parvati of Patrapur block in Ganjam district was being rushed to the MKCG Medical College Hospital here by an auto-rickshaw after she complained of labour pain in the morning. However, the auto driver dropped her

halfway and left. Seeing the woman in pain, locals called up an ambulance.

While the ambulance did not reach the spot till late, Dr Smruti Ranjan Patnaik, who was passing through the road, saw the woman and stopped there to lend his helping hand.

"I saw a crowd while passing the road and stopped there for an inquiry. After seeing the woman suffering from severe labour pain, I rushed to a nearby diagnostic centre and brought the required tools to conduct the delivery with the help of a few medics present at the site," said Dr Patnaik.

## Waterlogging woes haunt BBSR denizens

Busy roads, houses in low-lying areas inundated

SAROJ MISHRA ■ BHUBANESWAR

Smart City Bhubaneswar's biggest problem, waterlogging, again haunted its denizens following after a few minutes of heavy rain on Friday. Many commuters had a tough time negotiating the inundated roads while some vehicles were found virtually floating in water in the low-lying areas.

Artificial pools were created in the by-lanes and roads at several places in the city. The situation near the Police Commissionerate building near Power House Square was such that movement of cars, auto-rickshaws and even two-wheelers created illusions of tidal waves.

The devotees who thronged the ISKCON temple in Nayapalli to celebrate the birthday of Lord Krishna had to wade through waist-deep water outside the shrine to have darshan of the Lord.

Not only this, the floods of rainwater halted transport on service and approach roads.



Some low-lying areas of Palasuni, GGP Colony, Nayapalli, Jayadev Vihar, Acharya Vihar and many other areas also got inundated with water entering into houses of residents.

People had a tough time to reach their houses due to stagnant water on the approach roads.

Though the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC)

claims to have a multiagency control room to respond to emergency situations, no BMC officials or workers were seen on the streets.

The residents were left to fend for themselves, exposing the shoddy monsoon preparedness of the agencies, BMC, BDA and the Drainage Division, which only pass the buck instead of finding a solution to the problem.

## MeT: Fresh low pressure to trigger heavy rain

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With a fresh low pressure area (LOPAR) forming over the Bay of Bengal, the Regional Office of the India Metrological Department (IMD) here on Friday predicted heavy downpours in several parts of the State over the next three days.

This would be the third instance of low pressure area triggering rainfall in the State in August.

Several districts of south and west Odisha had recently witnessed flash floods owing to torrential rainfall. In the past two days, too, the State has experienced rainfall of varied intensity.

Under the influence of the cyclonic circulation, over northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha and West Bengal coasts, a low pressure area is likely to form over Odisha and its neighbourhood in the next 36 hours.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall are likely to occur in Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur and Puri districts, the IMD forecast.

Heavy rainfall is also expected in Kendrapada, Mayurbhanj, Baleswar, Sundargarh, Angul, Khordha, Ganjam districts, among other areas during the period.

Torrential downpours may also lash Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Balangir and Nuapada districts on Sunday and Monday.

Squally wind with speed reaching 40-50 kmph is likely to prevail along the Odisha coast and adjoining northwest and west central Bay of Bengal, the weather office said.

As sea condition is likely to be rough to very rough, fishermen have been warned against venturing into the sea on Saturday and Sunday, it added.

## 'Dancing teacher' wins hearts



PNS ■ KORAPUT

A teacher of the Upper Primary School at Lamtaput in Koraput district has become famous for his out-of-the-box performance to make learning fun for students.

"If teaching is made interesting, students will take more interest in studies. The experiment is bearing fruits as the dropout rate has gone down," said Prafulla Kumar Pathi, Headmaster-in-Charge of the school.

Meanwhile, the classroom video has gone viral on social media platforms. The school kids are seen giggling intermittently to the moves of the 'dancing teacher'.

'Not allowing students' union polls autocratic'

BJYM, AIDS0, SFI threaten stir

The State Government's decision not to hold Students' Union polls in degree colleges and universities this year has triggered sharp reactions from various student and political organisations.

Ganesh Tripathy and secretary Subas Nayakl in a statement.

The Student Federation of India (SFI) too opposed the decision. "Students have got right to form unions after years of joint revolution of the student society. However, the State Government should take the students into confidence while taking decisions relating to them.

ABVP, police scuffle at Minister's house



BHUBANESWAR: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) members scuffled with police in front of the residence of Higher Education Minister Arun Sahoo here on Friday.

Naveen appoints new BJD dist observers

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik on Friday made a reshuffle in the party with immediate effect appointing party leaders as observers of all 30 districts ahead of civic body polls.

Sanjay Dasburma was appointed as the observer of Nabarangpur and Rayagada districts. Chandra Sarathi Behera was given charge of Koraput and Malkangiri districts and Nalini Kanta Pradhan was made the observer of Sambalpur and Deogarh districts.

Prakash Das, Ministers Pratap Jena and Ranendra Pratap Swain, Pramila Mallick, Prasanna Acharya, Usha Devi and Amar Prasad Satpathy will be in charge of the districts of Balangir, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Baleswar, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Khordha, Cuttack and Nayagarh, respectively.

The other observers are: Ministers Prafulla Kumar Mallick (Bargarh), Bikram Keshari Aarukh (Kandhamal), Padmanav Behera (Jharsuguda), Ashok Chandra Panda (Jajpur) and Niranjan Pujari (Angul), Purna Chandra Swain (Gajapati), Bijay Nayak (Dhenkanal), Krutibash Patra (Boudh), Priti Ranjan Ghadai (Sundargarh), Debashish Samantaray (Jagatsinghpur), Pradip Kumar Amat (Puri), Soubhagya Nayak (Nuapada) and Haji Md Ayub Khan (Subarnapur).

Cops turn robbers; loot ₹1.5L from bizman

PNS ■ CUTTACK

In a major embarrassment for the Odisha police, three officials were detained on Friday on the charge of looting a businessman of ₹1.5 lakh near the Nirgundi tollgate here on Thursday night.

The three cops are now being questioned at the Tangi police station. The trio was identified as Constable Jogendra Pani and Home Guards Braja Kishore Panda and Santosh Mallick of the Tangi police station.

Constable, Home Guards detained for questioning

frisking near Nirgundi Toll Gate. The car was heading to Bhubaneswar to Chandikhole. The three cops snatched the cash from the vehicle and fled from the spot. The incident came to light after the victim arrived at the Tangi police station and spotted one of the accused Brjakishore there. But the accused cops forced him to settle the matter mutually and sent back without registering an FIR.

BJD membership drive from Sept 2

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Launching its membership drive from September 2.

Party supremo Naveen Patnaik has formed a State-level committee to monitor and coordinate the membership drive. BJD leaders Prasanna Acharya, Debi Prasad Mishra, Pramila Mallick, Sanjay Kumar Dasburma, Pratap Keshari Deb, Pradeep Panigrahi and Pranab Prakash Das have been included in the committee, a party release said on Friday.

Youth held for blackmailing girl in city

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Friday arrested a youth in the city for allegedly blackmailing a college girl with her obscene video, which he had filmed while she was bathing.

The arrestee was identified as Ashok Das alias Dipu (27) of Bhaliali village in Nayagarh district. He was residing at a slum under the Mancheswar police station here. The accused had shot a video of the girl with a mobile phone while she was taking bath. Later, he started blackmailing the girl with the clip and forced her to have physical relationship with him.

BBSR-J'garh Express to be flagged off today

Pradhan also to inaugurate Odia script in unreserved train tickets

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will flag off the individual running of the Bhubaneswar-Junagarh Road-Bhubaneswar Express and inaugurate Odia script in unreserved train tickets on Saturday.

Pradhan will perform the inauguration through video-conferencing from the East

Coast Railway (ECoR) headquarters here in presence of Odisha Commerce and Transport Minister Padmanava Behera, Minister of State for Science and Technology Ashok Chandra Panda, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, MLAs Ananta Narayan Jena and Susant Kumar Rout.

Minister of Energy and Industries Dibya Shankar Mishra, and Leader of Opposition of State Assembly Pradipta Kumar Naik, Kalahandi MP Basanta Panda will be the guests for local function at the Junagarh Road station.

Earlier, the train was running jointly with the Bhubaneswar-Jagadalpur-Bhubaneswar Hirakhand Express between Bhubaneswar and Rayagada from both the directions and was being separated at Rayagada towards Jagadalpur and Junagarh Road, respectively.

Passengers can purchase train tickets of Odia script from all the Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) counters in Odisha towards different destinations. The longstanding demand of the people of Kalahandi district would be fulfilled after the flagging off the train.

Odisha at par with best-performing States: WB

'State's economy weakened by natural disasters'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The World Bank has said Odisha has witnessed a remarkable turnaround in the last 20 years and is at par with best-performing States in the country.

The bank in its Odisha Rapid State Diagnostic Report has pointed out that the pace of poverty reduction was fastest in the country after 2005.

While the State Administration has come a very long way in bringing its finances back on track, it has made substantial improve-

ments in Human Development Indicators (HDI).

World Bank Country Director for India, Junaid Kamal Ahmad in his report said that Odisha has been a leading reformer in urban and agriculture sectors.

The State has brought the transformational urban reforms and investment in inclusive and sustainable urban services and Odisha is the best performer so far as effective implementation of AMRUT scheme is concerned.

And in bringing in reforms, Odisha stands second position in the country, said the World Bank in its report.

The World Bank has said average monthly income of agricultural household is nearly doubled in the

State. Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of Odisha was 11.6 percent in 2016-17, and CAGR of India was 8.6 percent during the fiscal.

Pointing out the risks and challenges ahead for Odisha, the World Bank has said that the State's economy concentrated in primary sectors is vulnerable to external shocks.

Take for example, the State is continuously facing natural disasters and its economy is getting poorer each time a cyclone, storm or flood hits the State.

High exposure to disaster risk is posing a problem for the State, said the report.

Agriculture and allied sector,

which is the primary sector, is facing wrath of nature and growth in the sector is fluctuating due to external shocks. It has pointed out that more than half of the workforce of the State is still in the agriculture sector.

And there is a growing deficit of good jobs and jobs for women. It is seen that poverty remains high and concentrated amongst certain places and groups and HDI needs improvement.

Social protection and human capital investments are fragmented and have limited coverage, pointed out the international bank.

In this backdrop, the World Bank has advised to take Odisha to the next level for which expediting

economic transformation is needed along with strengthening State capabilities to eliminate poverty and has suggested more investment in human capital.

The State Government is needed to forge ahead a sustainable and resilient future with unfinished reforms agenda and further to strengthen resilience to natural disasters, advised the World Bank.

Investing in resilient housing and infrastructure as well as a smarter power infrastructure is needed.

Improvement in the power distribution sector and bringing in resilient infrastructure for transmission and distribution to withstand natural disasters is a must.

Nandankanan-airport stretch to be declared 'no tolerance' zone

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In view of frequent violation of traffic rules on the busiest route from Nandankanan to the airport in Bhubaneswar, the Commissionerate police have decided to declare the 19-km stretch of the road as a 'no tolerance' zone.

"Any kind of traffic rule violations on this particular route will not be tolerated," said Twin City Commissioner of Police Sudhanshu Sarangi. Stringent

action would be taken against the traffic violators. Not only roads, but also the major squares under flyovers in the State capital would be included under 'no tolerance' zones, he told a media house.

The Commissionerate police are also planning to appoint young traffic personnel in place of elderly ones. About 120 personnel are being trained to tackle the violators and they are likely to be appointed by the end of this month.

Workshop on BJP polls from tomorrow

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP would hold a State-level workshop for organisational elections at its State head office here on August 25 (Sunday).

Party's all State functionaries, national executive members from Odisha, district presidents, MLAs and MPs, Zilla Parishad Presidents and Vice-Presidents, newly-elected district election officers and their deputies would attend the meeting, informed assistant election officer spokesperson Sudipta Ray.

He said as many as 300 leaders have been engaged for smooth management of organisational elections to be held for different levels of the party. BJP central assistant election officer and MP Vinod Sonkar, Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Pratap Sarangi, State president and Basant Panda, national vice-president Baijayant Panda and State election officer Ranja Patel would attend and hold discussion on various topics, said Ray.

'Women empowerment was Meher's concept'

Swabhabkabi birthday celebrated



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The 158th birthday of Swabhabkabi Gangadhar Meher and the 128th birthday of poet Bhagaban Meher were celebrated at the Vani Vihar PG Council conference hall here on Friday.

The birthdays were celebrated jointly by the Gangadhar Meher Pratishthan, the Utkal Sammilani, the Bhulia Samaj, the International Theatre and the Odia Language and Literature Department of the Utkal University.

Senior administrator Sanjib Chandra Hota presided over the meeting. PG Council Chairman Prof Sabita Acharya gracing as chief guest felicitated Dr Bijay Kumar Patnaik with the Gangadhar Meher Samman.

Odia Language and Literature HoD Dr Manindra Kumar Meher and Rotary governor Debashish Mihsra spoke.

In his speech, chief speaker Dr Bijay Kumar Patnaik said Meher had given focus on women empowerment in his writings. Thus, the concept of

women empowerment was Meher's creation.

At the outset, while Pratishthan president Mihir Meher had delivered welcome address, Mahendra Kumar Meher spoke on the literary contributions of Bhagaban Meher.

The programme came to an end with a voted of thanks proposed by Ganjadhhar Meher Jayanti Committee joint secretary and Utkal Sammilani Mancheswar Industrial Estate Branch president Dillip Dashsharma.

Murder convict acquitted after 22 yrs in jail

PNS ■ CUTTACK

In correcting a 20-year-old murder judgment passed by a Ganjam district court, the Orissa High Court earlier this week acquitted an appellant-convict, who has already spent more than 21 years and nine months behind the bars.

The HC ordered for his immediate release from jail.

One Sadhu Pradhan of Kantapada village in Ganjam district had been arrested in November 1997 in connection with the murder of a village woman.

He was also booked for theft as some ornaments of the deceased were found

missing when her body was fished out from a village canal.

Holding trial, the Brahmapur Sessions Judge in August 1999 convicted Sadhu under Section 302 (murder) of IPC and sentenced him to undergo life imprisonment.

Sadhu was, however, absolved of theft charges as the trial court refused to believe the statements of two child witnesses on this account.

Unsuccessfully abjuring the allegations in defence ever since his arrest, Sadhu preferred a criminal revision appeal petition in the High Court in September 1999 in which he challenged his conviction and

sentence orders passed by the trial judge.

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justices SK Mishra and AK Mishra, which had completed hearing of the appeal in July this year, on Monday delivered the judgment holding the trial court of committing error in not appreciating the evidence in proper perspectives.

The HC observed that the prosecution had failed in ascertaining the motive behind the murder and child witnesses were found unreliable. "On such doubtful evidence, no conviction can be allowed to sustain as prosecution is required to prove the case to the hilt," the High Court said.

AG holds Pension Adalat in BBSR

Grievances settled

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As part of a nation-wide drive, a Pension Adalat was organised on Friday in the office of the Principal Accountant General (A and E) Odisha, Bhubaneswar, for the pensioners/family pensioners who are authorised pension/family pension through the Pay and Accounts Office to settle their grievances.

Principal Accountant General Madhumita Basu inaugurated the Adalat and advised the pensioners to put forth their grievances before the concerned officers of the office present there.



Pension Adalat was organised on Friday in the office of the Principal Accountant General (A and E) Odisha, Bhubaneswar, for the pensioners/family pensioners who are authorised pension/family pension through the Pay and Accounts Office to settle their grievances.

Principal Accountant General Madhumita Basu inaugurated the Adalat and advised the pensioners to put forth their grievances before the concerned officers of the office present there

She also expressed her pleasure that the office has always taken all-out efforts to ensure that pension cases are settled in time leaving a little room for grievance.

Besides the Nodal Officer Dinamani Mallick, Deputy Accountant General (Admn), Masroor Ahmad, Pay and Accounts Officer and other officials were present.

# MDM supply in B'swar by NGO hangs fire for 2 yrs

**UBACHAK MOHANTY ■**  
**BALESWAR**

A central kitchen to supply midday meal to schools of Baleswar district couldn't take off due to unknown reasons. Although an NGO was selected by the State Government following a steering committee, yet the kitchen couldn't start till date.

For supply of meals, the selected NGO for the district is 'Bagdanga Paschim Gheri Vishal Laxmi' of West Bengal. A member of the NGO Dillip Paul said the project is hanging fire for last two years even after signing an agreement with the district Collector in 2017.

"Since two years we have been running from pillar to

post to begin the kitchen but till now it couldn't be materialized as different hurdles were put before us by the district administration as well as the District Education Officer. Finally, we knocked the door of the Orissa High Court and obtained an order directing the district Collector to start the kitchen immediately," Paul said.

"We have already taken a building near Sergarh on rent for the kitchen paying monthly Rs 81,000. Other accessories required for the kitchen have been installed. But, unfortunately the kitchen couldn't start whereas in Jeypore (Koraput), we are running similar kitchen smoothly," he said.

Meals for students of schools under Soro, Jaleswar, Nilgiri NACs and

Baleswar municipality were too to be supplied initially from this central kitchen and subsequently, to other schools in rural pockets.

Earlier, the Pachika and Sahayika Sangha had protested against the induction of the NGO for midday meal supply fearing they might lose livelihood.

However, that was dispensed after assurance by the NGO members that no retrenchment would be made and the existing Pachika and Sahayika won't be disturbed.

"We are running similar kitchen in Koraput and supplying meals to students and no one was retrenched. Similarly, other NGOs and organizations are managing kitchens in other districts," Paul remarked.

# Janmashtami: Security beefed up in Kandhamal

**PNS ■ PHULBANI**

Security was beefed up across Kandhamal district on Friday as a precautionary measure to avoid any possible untoward incident during observance of the 11th death anniversary of Hindu monk Swami Laxmananda Saraswati and celebration of Janmashtami, birthday of Lord Krishna.

Two officers in the rank of DSP and two platoons of police were deployed at Chakapada and Jalespeta Ashrams to maintain law and order during observance of Saraswati's death anniversary, informed Kandhamal SP Prateek Singh.

Notably, Saraswati had been shot dead in the Jalespeta Ashram on the Janmashtami day in 2008.



Besides, police patrolling was done at all the sensitive locations in the district, said the SP. Combing operations were also intensified at different Maoist-infested areas in the district.

Notably, the tight security is put in place in the district every year since Saraswati and four of his aides were killed at Jalespeta Ashram on August 23, 2008. The killing had triggered a communal violence in the district in which at least 38 people were killed.

## INBRIEF

**NEWBORN BOY FOUND ABANDONED IN SUBARNAPUR**  
**Sonepur:** A newborn boy was found abandoned on a playground at Kukia village under Ulunda block in Subarnapur district on Friday. A local resident, Ranjan Bagarti, who had gone to the nearby field to attend nature's call early in the morning, heard the baby's cries and rescued him. He then called up ASHA workers, who rushed the infant to the Ulunda hospital by an ambulance. The baby's health condition was stated to be stable. The baby would be handed over to the Child Protection Unit, said an official.

**RD MINISTER OPENS DIALYSIS UNIT AT BARGARH DHH**



**Bargarh:** Rural Development Minister Sushant Singh on Friday inaugurated a dialysis unit at the Bargarh District Headquarters Hospital (DHH). The unit, which was demanded by locals since long, will provide free services to patients suffering from kidney ailments. Among others, MLA and Bargarh District Planning Board Chairman Debesh Acharya, Collector Indramani Tripathy, CDMO Sadhucharan Dash and DRDA PD Krutibash Rout were present.

**VAN 'TRAFFICKING' CATTLE SET ON FIRE IN S'GARH**



**Sundargarh:** Locals set a pickup van on fire alleging cattle trafficking at Rangadhapa Chhak under the Town police limits in Sundargarh district on Friday. They intercepted the vehicle, which was carrying 15 cattle, and torched it. Police reached the spot and started investigation. The driver and helper of the van absconded.

**CABLES SEIZED; 4 HELD IN BALESWAR**



**Baleswar:** Police on Friday arrested four persons on charges of selling low tension electric wires at Langaleswar of Baleswar district. Acting on reliable inputs, the Basta police conducted a raid at Langaleswar area in the morning. During the search, police found a huge stash of electric wires that was being sold in the area. On being asked, the accused persons failed to produce necessary documents. Following this, cops apprehended the accused persons. Though the identities of the arrestees were not revealed, a case regarding the illegal trade was registered, sources said.

**600 KG GANJA MEANT FOR SMUGGLING TO STATE SEIZED**  
**Bhubaneswar:** The Jaipur police in Rajasthan on Thursday seized 600 kg of ganja valued at about Rs 1 crore from a store on Thursday. Two persons were arrested in this connection. The contraband was to be smuggled to Odisha.

**RED FM BACK WITH 'COLLEGE KETASHANBAAZ'**  
**Bhubaneswar:** The Red FM, one of the largest and most awarded private radio networks, announced the launch of 'College ketashanbaaz', an endeavor to promote the best talent from colleges. The activity will take place in various colleges across 27 cities. It will provide a platform to enthusiastic youths in tier-2 cities who are willing to showcase their talent in front of the entire college and be recognised in the fields of dance, singing, dramatics etc. The participants can register through SMS and the selection will be based on talent, stage presence and X-Factor.

**ETSY, AHF JOIN HANDS TO DIGITALLY ENABLE ARTISANS**  
**Bhubaneswar:** The Etsy is working with artisan communities at the grassroots level in Bhubaneswar to create greater awareness of digital opportunities. The Etsy in association with the Asian Heritage Foundation (AHF) organised a two-day digital enablement and photography workshop here with an objective to digitally enable artists, making traditional Indian handicrafts. The workshop also focused on the basics of photography, which would help them in selling their products online. The photography workshop was conducted by a professional photographer Uday Rana.

# 3 forest officials hurt in jumbo attack in Kaniha



**PNS ■ ANGUL**  
**Panic** gripped the Kaniha area in Angul district when three officials of the Forest Department were injured in an attack by a herd of elephants on Friday.

The injured officials were identified as Padmalochan Swain, Sharat Biswal and Gagan Sahoo. They were admitted to the Community Health Center (CHC), Khamar, for treatment.

According to reports, the herd of 15 to 17 elephants was found in the Kaniha Forest Range during past few days creating panic among locals. Though no damage in the villages was reported so far, the forest officials became victims of the jumbo attack.

# 'Mo Panchayat' launched in K'pada to execute 5Ts

**PNS ■ KENDRAPADA**

In a bid to accelerate implementation of the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's 5T Mantra at the grassroots level, the Kendrapada district administration on Thursday launched the 'Mo Panchayat' initiative.

Speaking about the initiative, Kendrapada Collector Samarth Verma said that the district administration is committed to implementation of Chief Minister's 5Ts - Technology, Transparency, Teamwork, Time and Transformation - for the overall development of the panchayats through participation of people.

The bi-monthly programme will play a key role in transformation of panchayats through participatory approaches to development bridging the gap between the officials and common man.

'Mo Panchayat', which means My Panchayat, sets a perfect forum for the people to share their views on As part of the initiative, the administration will hold meetings in every panchayat twice a month - 7th and 22nd of every month at the GP office inviting people and their representatives, panchayat-level officers of all

Government departments and organizations to discuss and review various welfare schemes and programmes and develop an effective GPDP (Gram Panchayat Development Plan) for development schemes in 249 GPs.

As per plans, project proposals worth Rs 10 lakh will be committed for each GP for the development of basic facilities in schools.

Apart from this, two model schools will be developed in every panchayat with facilities like nutritional garden, wall paintings and learning equipment, an official said.

In every 'Mo Panchayat' meeting, elaborate discussions will be held on a particular theme. The theme of today's meeting was on water conservation and plantation.

The issues and proposals discussed at the meeting will be made written documentation by a block level official nominated by the BDO and will be addressed at the Panchayat level. If any proposal is outside the purview of the panchayat, then efforts will be made at the block and district levels for desirable results.

Besides, the initiative will also strengthen the public grievances redressal mechanism in the panchayats.

# Lightning kills two in Dhenkanal

## Two others seriously injured

**PNS ■ DHENKANAL**

Lightning strike claimed lives of two persons and left two others critically injured in Dhenkanal district on Friday.

Babaji Mallick (62) of Balipada village under the Kamakhyanagar

police limits was working at a farmland when lightning struck him. He was rescued by his family members in a critical condition and rushed to the Kamakhyanagar Sub-Divisional Hospital, where doctor declared him dead.

Duryodhan Nayak (77) of Godisahi under the Kankadahada police station was also killed in a lightning strike.

Babita Singh (22) of Bhadalia vil-

lage in the Kankadahada area sustained serious injuries in lightning strike when she was at a farmland. Phulrani Sahu (79) of Sundhikateni village under the Kamakhyanagar police limits was sitting at the verandah of her house when lightning struck, leaving her injured.

The injured victims were admitted to the Kamakhyanagar Sub-Divisional hospital.

# Ganjam DM launches 24x7 grievance helpline

**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**

Ganjam Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange on Thursday launched a helpline number to provide a 24X7 grievance redressal system.

Kulange said the district administration has provided mobile number 9437563800 to attend to various grievances of public and officials would be engaged to receive the same.

Citizens who are unable to avail any government facilities in the district or are being harassed by the gov-

ernment officials can directly contact on the given number through call or WhatsApp or SMS, he added.

Kulange also assured that the grievances of the citizens would be heard, immediate steps would be taken and they would be informed if there is any legal solution of the issue.

The service would work from August 26. Among others, ADM Laxmikant Sethi and DIPRO Biranchi Narayan Pradhan were present.

# After N'pada village, now leopards spotted in B'ngir

## Villagers alerted

**PNS ■ BALANGIR**

Close on the heels of two leopards sighted in villages of Nuapada district, now comes the report of sighting of two leopards between Chandini and Masina villages in the Chandli Reserve Forest under the Lathore Forest Range of Balangir district.

According to reports, a few days ago, while working in the field, vil-

lagers saw the two leopards and got panicked.

"While patrolling, we saw the leopards. We believe two leopards which were seen in the Nuapada district a few days have migrated to Lathore forest range area and are moving in the Chandli Reserve Forest area," said Lathore Forest Range Officer Debadutta Sutar.

"We have cautioned the villagers not to go to forest in view of movement of leopards in the forest," he added.

# UTP escapes from Bargarh DHH

**PNS ■ BARGARH**

An under-trial prisoner (UTP), Anakula Majhi, who had been admitted to the Bargarh District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) here, escaped from hospital premises on Thursday midnight.

Majhi is booked in the Jamurda murder case and threatening Mahada GP Sarpanch and was lodged in the Bargarh Sub-Jail.

According to sources, Majhi was critically injured after he harmed himself using a sharp weapon on Thursday evening.

Following this, the jail authorities had admitted him to the Bargarh



DHH. However, Majhi, who went into the toilet attached to the ward, managed to flee from the hospital. Spotting him missing for a long time, cops initiated a search but in vain.

A manhunt to trace the absconding UTP was on, said the Town police station IIC.

# History-sheeter, 7 aides held in Ganjam

## Pistol, bullets, bombs seized

**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**

Continuing its crackdown against criminals, police on Friday arrested a notorious criminal Sibrant Sathy and his seven associates in Ganjam district.

Sathy and his associates had terrorised the villagers of Narendrapur under the Gopalpur police station a few days ago.

Police have seized a pistol, two rounds of ammunitions, six country-made bombs and other sharp-edged weapons from the possession of the accused.

Police said that Sathy was involved in as many as eight criminal cases in various police stations in Brahmampur



city. "The gang had triggered terror in the village a few days ago by looting people. They also threatened villagers at gunpoint. We are also trying to nab the other gang members, who are on the run," said a police official.

# 8 dengue cases in a day in Ganjam

## Patients' number rises to 52

**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**

The number of dengue patients in Ganjam district rose to 52 with eight more persons found infected with the disease on Friday.

Health officials have confirmed that all patients suffering from dengue fever had got infected at their workplaces outside the State. Most of them had worked in

Hyderabad and Bengalur. Blood samples of 17 patients were received by the MKCG Medical College Hospital on Friday. Of them, eight samples showed positive for dengue. All these patients are now undergoing treatment at the special dengue ward in the MKCG Hospital.

A special drive has been undertaken to inform people about preventive measures against dengue in villages like Sheragada and Govindpur, said District Malaria Officer Dr R Jagadish Patnaik.

# Huge cache of sandalwood seized

## Two Gajapati smugglers held

**PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI**

Police on Friday seized about 200 kg of red sandalwood near Kosamala village in Andhra Pradesh and arrested three smugglers, including two from Odisha, in this connection.

The arrested persons were identified as Sheik Salim and Ketan Pani of Paralakhemundi and Srinivas Rao of Andhra Pradesh.

Getting a tipoff that the red sandalwood was being smuggled in a car from Labanyagada in Gajapati district,



the Pathapatnam police intercepted the vehicle.

"The vehicle was on its way to Visakhapatnam. The accused said the sandalwood was supposed to be sent to

Delhi," a police official said, adding that a case has been registered in this matter and an investigation is underway.

The police also seized the car from the possession of the accused.

# IN KENDRAPADA Man kills stepmother for insurance money

## Accused, two aides held

**PNS ■ KENDRAPADA**

Police on Friday arrested a youth, Santosh Biswal, for killing his stepmother in Chhakana village of the district. Though the murder took place on August 18, the incident came to light after police arrested the accused Santosh.

Reports said the body of Santosh's stepmother Sasmita

Biswal was recovered from the banks of Luna river under the Marsaghai police station in the district on August 18. Following the incident, police had begun an investigation into the incident.

During investigation, it was revealed that Santosh with the help of two other associates had strangled his stepmother to death to get her insurance money. On the day, the Sadar police arrested the three accused and are interrogating them.

# IN NABARANGPUR Samiti member grabs SHG women's loan money

Plaints lodged; probe directed

BASANT RATH ■ NABARANGPUR

A large number of women belonging to Self Help Groups (SHG) are victims of a fraud in Papadahandi block. The members of the SHGs could realise the fraudulent activities of their Samiti Member when representatives of various financial institutions came for collection of loan to their villages.

The Samiti Member misappropriated the sanctioned loan worth lakhs of rupees by taking thumb impression of the illiterate and gullible SHG members of Saraguda and Bariuda villages.

According to report, the Samiti Member collected ration cards and voter identity cards, for obtaining loan for the SHGs from two private financing banks from Nabarangpur. He also took their left thumb impressions (LTI) in some papers. However, the concerned representative gave each woman of the groups only Rs 2,000 each and siphoned off lakhs of rupees which was sanctioned to the SHGs, they complained.

In this connection, the SHG women of Saraguda and Bariguda lodged a complaint with the Superintendent of Police, Nabarangpur. Again three SHG women groups of Soraguda under Jatabal gram panchayats also complained at the Papadahandi police station.

According to the complaints, the SHG



women were unaware of the loans sanctioned in their favour. It came to light only when the financiers like Axis Bank, Grama Shakti Private Finance and Fusian Private Finance came to their villages for collecting the loan amount sanctioned against them.

It was revealed to them that each woman had been sanctioned Rs 20,000 from Axis Bank, Rs 25,100 from the Grama Shakti Finance and Rs 20,000 from Fusian Finance and the rate of interest stands between 20 to 22 per cent.

After scrutinising the documents, the loan has been released within May this year and the loan has to be cleared in 18 instalments in each finance.

Meanwhile, the concerned Samiti Member has already deposited three instalments of each groups in each bank. But when he stopped depositing instalments, the representatives of the financial organizations approached the SHGs women. The Fusion Finance showed the documents to them.

Meanwhile, Collector Ajit Kumar Mishra directed DPM Odisha Livelihood Mission, Uma Maheswar for a detail inquiry report.

The DPM along with Papadahandi block coordinator and project coordinator rushed to the villages and discussed with them and collected the documents available near the SHGs.

# K'mal MP reviews works of officials Tips them on service delivery



PNS ■ PHULBANI

Kandhamal MP Achyuta Samanta on Friday reviewed the works of officials of district and block levels and advised them to address the most pressing problems of the

district like education, health etc, in tandem with the people's representatives.

Samanta discussed with them various issues after having directly mixing with the people and sought timely service to the people so that the

people won't have to move round in any office or lodge grievances with higher authorities.

He also asked the officials to make a list of about 8,000 unemployed youths and organise a job fair by calling 20-25

companies in the district. He also stressed on keeping all offices clean.

Among others, Collector Dr Brunda D, Additional Collector Basanta Kumar Sahu, DRDA PD Buswanath Barik were present.

# Work plan to curb child marriage framed in R'gada

Issues discussed

PNS ■ RAYAGADA

A district-level work plan framed to prevent and prohibit the child marriage as well as empowerment of adolescents in Rayagada district was held under the chairmanship of the district Collector and District Nodal Officer Pramod Kumar Behera for prohibition of child marriage. The meeting was organised jointly by the district administration, the District Child Protection Unit, Rayagada, ActionAid Association and Unicef, Odisha.

Departments like Police, Education, Skill Development, Social Security, Health, Sports and Youth Services, SC and ST Development, Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti took the responsibilities to create awareness at community level so that every person can have the knowledge on bad impact and insecurity of child labour and child marriage.

It was also decided that the age bar should not be limited to



18 years in case of girl and 21 years in case of boy, if they are interested to involve themselves in skill development or

higher education. They should also decide their age of marriage so that an economic sound environment

can be established. For this, community and society should encourage the adolescents and youth masses.

# Mixing of THR Chhatua begins across State

To be done on 23rd of each month

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Teams of officials belonging to the Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti Department supervised mixing of Chhatua across Take Home Ration (THR) making units in the State on Friday.

Mixing is now being mandatorily done on the 23rd of each month in the presence of senior officers of the district administration and ICDS functionaries.

Mixing of Chhatua in 338 ICDS projects was completed. Collector, Keonjhar himself supervised the mixing of Chhatua in ICDS Project in Keonjhar district.

The State Government has been laying emphasis on quality provision of nutrition under the supplementary nutrition programme.

Currently, the State is providing Chhatua and dry ration to children between 6 months to 3 years and Chhatua to pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls.

"This fixed day approach of mixing of Chhatua on 23rd of every month will bring in transparency and accountability while ensuring quality Chhatua reaches the beneficiaries," said W and CD Secretary Anu Garg.

# Minor boy rapes 5-yr-old in K'pada

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

Deeply shocking as it is, a minor boy allegedly raped a five-year-old girl at Madhupur village under the Rajnagar police station in Kendrapada district on Thursday. As per a police complaint lodged by the mother of the victim, the accused, a 16-year-old boy, took the girl to a farmland by luring her with chocolate and raped her there.

The girl later narrated her ordeal to her mother, following which the complaint was lodged. The victim, who has suffered injuries on her genitals, is undergoing treatment at the Rajnagar hospital, police sources said. The police started an investigation into the incident and questioned the accused.

# INELIGIBLE KALIA BENEFICIARIES Collect ₹200 cr from BJD leaders, officials: BJP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A day after the State Government revealed that 2.66 lakh ineligible KALIA beneficiaries have been identified, the BJP on Friday demanded that the Government money of Rs 200 crore, spent for providing assistance to these beneficiaries, be collected from the BJD leaders, Ministers and officers.

BJP State vice president Samir Mohanty said that the State Government had included 20 lakh farmers in the scheme in the first phase.

But keeping in mind the elections, the BJD Government covered more

beneficiaries in the scheme and provided financial assistance to 51 lakh farmers. During verification of 36.88 lakh farmers, 2.66 lakh were found ineligible who have already received a total of Rs 133 crore.

After verification all beneficiaries, the number of ineligible would be more and the total assistance given to such beneficiaries would amount to Rs 200 crore, he said.

Mohanty demanded that funds of Rs 200 crore should be collected from the Government officials, who had misused their power to include ineligible beneficiaries, BJD leaders and Ministers in the KALIA scheme.

# VIRAL RAGGING VIDEOS 10 VSSUT students debarred from exams for a year | 52 OTHERS FINED

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The authorities of VSSUT Burla after end of the meeting of the Disciplinary Action Committee on Thursday night have debarred 10 students from appearing at their examinations for one year.

They will lose one valuable year as part of punishment for getting directly involved in ragging to the second year students.

The warden of the Kratu hostel of the university identified the 10 students involved in the midnight incident. And the disciplinary action committee

headed by the VC Dr Atal Choudhury decided to debar the students to appear at their examinations for one year.

At the same time, 52 other students involved in the incident have been fined Rs 2,000 each, the university authorities informed through a late night Press release.

It is learnt that so many videos became viral as to the ragging matter where seniors are seen almost torturing the second year students, making them half necked, forcing them to dance, tearing up their dress, beating them up mercilessly, assaulting them mentally and

physically etc. "We took it very seriously and decided for stern action without showing any mercy to anyone," said the VC Dr Atal Choudhury. "University authorities are more conscious now," he added.

Looking at the situation, police forces have been deployed in the campus to prevent any further untoward situation. But it is learnt that after the videos got viral in social media and TV channel, students are panicked and many don't dare to commit any such unruly activity again.

# 2 die, 12 hurt as van overturns in K'jhar

KEONJHAR: Two persons died and 12 others sustained injuries as the van in which they were travelling overturned near the Kiriburur Base Camp under the Balani police station in the district on Friday.

The victims were returning home after a cremation and the driver of the vehicle lost control over the wheels, following which it overturned.

The injured were admitted to the Kiriburur and Barbil hospitals. PNS

# HIMACHAL ASSEMBLY MONSOON SESSION Delhi temple demolition rocks House Punjab CM orders a series of flood relief measures

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The issue of demolition of a temple in the national capital figured in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly on Friday, with Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur saying "we will do whatever we can" in the matter.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had demolished the temple in Delhi's Tughlaqabad area on August 10 on orders of the Supreme Court.

Responding to the issue raised in state Assembly by the leader of Opposition Mukesh Agnihotri, Thakur said, "The issue is very sensitive as it concerns religious sentiments of a section of the society. We will do whatever we can in this



regard." Earlier Agnihotri said the state government should write to the Centre to provide land for reconstruction of the temple.

NO GOVT VEHICLE AVAILABLE TO CONTROL FOREST FIRE

Himachal Pradesh Forest Department has no government vehicle to control forest fire, Forest Minister Govind Singh Thakur told the state

assembly on Friday.

The minister gave this information in reply to a question by BJP MLA Jawahar Thakur and Congress MLA Ram Lal Thakur. "No government vehicle is available to control forest fires, tree felling or mining in any of the 198 forest ranges of the state," said the minister.

As per a remote sensing study conducted by the Forest Survey of India, Himachal's forest cover has increased by 2.67 percent (393 square kilometre) in two years from 2015 to 2017, he added.

The Forest Survey of India does forest mapping through remote sensing system in the country in every two years, he added.

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A torrent of measures on Friday gushed out of the Chief Minister's office for ensuring effective relief operations for the people in flood of tears after three-day incessant rains washed away the normal state of affair in Punjab. In full flow, the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh made his ministers responsible for pulling the people of the State out of deep waters.

Reviewing the progress of rescue and relief operations, the Chief Minister has assigned responsibilities to his five cabinet ministers to oversee work. "The state's Industries Minister Sunder Sham Arora and the state Technical Education Minister Charanjit

Singh Channy has been asked to oversee operations in Ropar district, while Revenue and Rehabilitation Minister Gurpreet Singh Kangar, and the Food and Civil Supplies Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu will oversee operations in Jalandhar and Kapurthala," said the spokesperson.

Spokesperson informed that the Chief Minister has expressed concern over the slow pace of resumption of electricity supply in certain flood-affected areas.

"The Chief Minister has asked the state Rural Development and Panchayats Minister Tripat Rajinder Singh Bajwa and the PSPCL (Punjab State Power Corporation Limited) chairman-cum-managing director Baldev Sran to

tour the areas and ensure early resumption," added the spokesperson.

Earlier, the Chief Minister had tweeted that he had directed all the officials to be "on their toes", while maintaining that the State Government, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Indian Army, and Indian Air Force are working collectively to carry out relief work.

"@PunjabGovtIndia along with @NDRFHQ, @adgpi & @IAF\_MCC are working with urgency to carry out relief work. I will again appeal to everyone to move to specially created camps because saving lives is of prime importance. I have directed all the officials to be on their toes," he had tweeted on Friday.

# 5 officers found guilty of Budgam chopper crash: IAF report

## 6 IAF men died in friendly fire

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A high-level probe by the IAF into the crash of a MI-17 helicopter on February 27 this year in Budgam in Jammu & Kashmir has held five officers guilty as it was found out that the helicopter went down after getting hit by an Indian missile, generally known as 'friendly fire'. The incident took place on the day when the

Pakistani jets intruded into India leading to a dog fight. All the six crew members and a civilian on the ground were killed in the crash.

These findings are part of the mandatory court of inquiry and its report is now with the Air Force headquarters for further action. The officers found guilty of negligence and not following procedures include one Group Captain, two Wing Commanders and two Flight Lieutenants, sources said here on Friday.

They also said the officers may face severe punishment as per provisions of the military law adding the IAF top brass

will decide on the quantum of punishment to those held responsible for the incident.

They also said the IAF will initiate action based on the report of the court of inquiry headed by an Air Commodore and the officers may face charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

The inquiry found that the 'Identification of Friend or Foe' (IFF) system on-board the helicopter was switched off and there was a 'vital gap' in communication and coordination between the ground staff and the crew of the ill-fated helicopter.

The IFF helps air defence

radars identify whether an aircraft or helicopter is friendly or hostile.

In early May, the IAF transferred the Air Officer Commanding (AOC) of Srinagar base to ensure a thorough probe into the incident.

The helicopter crashed in Budgam on February 27 when Indian and Pakistani fighter jets were engaged in aerial combat, a day after India's air strike on a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan. The Pakistani jets unsuccessfully attempted to target various Indian military installations in Rajouri and Poonch sectors.

Officials said the Court of Inquiry was also specifically focusing on examining the role of various people, including those controlling the air defence system when the helicopter was hit by a surface-to-air missile.

Incidentally, the helicopter was shot down around the same time when Indian and Pakistani fighter jets were engaged in the aerial battle. Moreover, the incident took place when the Indian forces on their highest alert following the Pakistani aerial raid. The helicopter crashed within ten minutes of take off after getting hit by own missile.



# Rain, flood hit kharif sowing, tea plantation

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The decline in the kharif crop sowing presents grim situation for economy. The sowing of rice and pulses has declined sharply due to floods and heavy rainfall in several parts of the country.

The Union Agriculture Ministry's latest data shows that planting of kharif crops sowing area has slipped below last year's cultivated area of July and August. There has been decline of 20 lakh hectare in rice cultivation and 5 lakh hectare in pulses in the country.

According to National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF), it is estimated that 6-7 lakh hectare under kharif crops have been affected due to flood and incessant rainfall. The final assessment is yet to be made by the inter-State ministerial group. Due to shortage of pulses, prices of arhar, moong and tur have been increased from Rs 50-60 per kg

to Rs 100 per kg. Flood has also affected the cultivation of tea this year as most of the tea plantation have been damaged in Karnataka, Kerala and West Bengal. This may impact the prices of tea in the retail market in the coming days.

India has seen large scale floods in several parts of the country this month. States like Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala have been grappling with devastating floods.

The Agriculture Ministry's data shows that kharif crop planting has covered 975.16 lakh hectare land as compared to 997.67 lakh hectare a year earlier from June up to August 23, a decline of 22.51 lakh hectare so far.

Rice was planted on 334.92 lakh hectares as compared to 355.42 lakh hectare a year earlier, a decline of 23.03 lakh hectare. Bihar, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and

Assam have reported less is covered under Rice due to flood and rainfalls. In some States, rice cultivation was badly impacted due to flood.

The area of pulse cultivation also dropped from 128.54 lakh hectare last year to 124.56 lakh hectare, a decline of 3.97 lakh hectare so far. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh have reported less cultivation this year. Due to shortage of pulses, the prices is expected to increase further in the coming days. Currently, the rate of Arhar, Moong and Urad have been touched Rs 100 per kg.

The area of coarse cereals cultivation is also less by 3.66 lakh hectare this year so far.

A good monsoon is crucial for the country's economy as farming sector accounts for more than 15% of the country's GDP but nearly half of the country's workforce is dependent on the agriculture sector. As many 1500 people died and over 60,000 villages are affected from flood in 14 states. It is estimated that 6 to 7 lakh hectare of agriculture land and 5 to 6 crore poultry destroyed in the flood.

With less than 37 days to go in the 2019 monsoon season, most regions across have record-

ed normal or above normal rainfall till August 23. India recorded surplus rainfall 658.5 mm as against the normal of 652.2 mm so far. Only east and northeast India, especially Jharkhand and Gangetic West Bengal, have recorded significant below-normal monsoon rain.

The countrywide average rainfall accumulation stood 10 percent more than usual in the third week of August. In the first and second week of August, India received 28% and 45 percent above normal monsoon rainfall. As many as 28 sub divisions have recorded normal monsoon while eight received deficient rainfall.



# SC asks lawyer to be crisp in arguments on 11th day of Ayodhya hearing

New Delhi: The Supreme Court, hearing the politically sensitive Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute matter, told a lawyer for a Hindu party on Friday to be "pin-pointed" and "precise" in his submissions.

"Mr (Sushil) Jain, we look forward to your pin-pointed, crisp and precise arguments," the five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said as soon as the senior counsel for the Nirmohi Akhara started advancing his submissions.

The Allahabad High Court, in its 2010 judgment on four civil suits, had partitioned the 2.77-acre disputed land in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya equally among the three parties -- the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.

The Supreme Court bench, also comprising justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S A Nazeer, had on Thursday asked Jain to explain as to how the Akhara could claim title over the disputed land in the capacity of a "shebait" of the deity.

Friday was the eleventh day of the hearing in the matter

before the apex court.

So far, the Akhara's arguments were contrary to the case it had built in the high court, the bench observed and asked Jain to "build" his case "on merits."

"While arguing, always keep in mind that we have already looked at large part of the documents," it told Jain.

On being told by the lawyer that a note was prepared and he would take around a week to conclude his arguments, the bench said, "You don't need a week, take a day and try your best to put forward the case."

The bench said it had perused many documents and asked Jain to supplement the arguments advanced by other Hindu parties.

"You say that you will do this, you will do that, but you do not start," the bench told the senior lawyer.

Jain said the Akhara was very poor, it had no money and its temple was taken away, adding that the Hindu body was entitled to put forward its case.

"Mr Jain, still you have not started the submissions," the bench said, leading to commencement of arguments. PTI

# Manmohan takes oath as RS member for 6th term

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday took oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha for his sixth term. Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu administered the oath in his chamber to 86-year-old Singh.

Leader of the House Thawar Chand Gehlot, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi were present during the oath-taking. Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad, deputy leader of Congress in Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma, and Ahmed Patel were also present in the chairman's chamber.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his deputy Sachin Pilot, besides some BJP leaders were also present. Singh returned to the Upper House unopposed after getting elected from Rajasthan.

"Administered oath to Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh as Rajya



Sabha MP in my Chamber in Rajya Sabha today," Naidu later tweeted along with pictures of the oath-taking in which Singh's wife Gursharan Kaur was also seen.

In the August 19 by-election, necessitated by the death of BJP MP Madan Lal Saini, the seat went to the Congress which is in power in Rajasthan after last year's state polls. Singh's

tenure in the Upper House had ended on June 14. He had earlier represented Assam in Rajya Sabha for around 28 years.

He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1991, 1995, 2001, 2007 and 2013. He was also the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha during 1998-2004 and Leader of the House as the Prime Minister during 2004-14.

## INX MEDIA CASE

# CBI mulls confronting Chidambaram with Indrani

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI is likely to confront all the six signatories on the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) file relating to alleged irregular clearance of FDI to the tune of Rs 300 crore by INX Media with former Finance Minister P Chidambaram who is currently undergoing custodial interrogation by CBI in the case.

The agency is also mulling whether to take Chidambaram to Mumbai to confront him with approver in the case Indrani Mukherjea or bring her here for confrontation with the former Finance Minister.

In view of the high profile nature and vast experience of Chidambaram as a lawyer, the investigators are grilling him under direct supervision of agency director RK Shukla, sources said.

Chidambaram has so far been denying the allegations during the questioning and has largely been evasive to the queries put forth by the agency sleuths, they said, adding, he is a tough nut to crack.

Meanwhile, the CBI is waiting responses to Letters Rogatory (judicial requests)

## Officials posted at particular branch for longer period concerns CBI joint director

CBI Joint Director Ajay Bhatnagar has flagged concerns over agency officials being posted at a particular branch for longer period which is "severely" affecting the conduct and work culture as also discipline of the agency.

"All HOZs (Heads of

Zones) are requested to review the posting particulars of each individual individual posted in their Zone and send a list of officers rank wise ... who are to be considered for rotation due to long tenure," Bhatnagar said in a letter on August 21 to his colleague Anurag.

sent to five countries---United Kingdom, Switzerland, Singapore, Mauritius and Bermuda.

Through the LRs, the agency has sought to establish the money trail of the alleged proceeds of crime through shell companies, banking transaction details and bank accounts.

The LRs are not only related to the INX Media case but to a number of other clearances by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) during Chidambaram's tenure as Finance Minister in the UPA regime.

Meanwhile, Karti along with his mother met Chidambaram at the agency

headquarters as permitted by the designated CBI court on Thursday sending him to four-day CBI custody.

After the meeting, Karti told reporters that his father is in very good spirits and enquired about his daughter who is vacationing in Down Under (Australia).

Karti further said, He (Chidambaram) is enjoying the hospitality of the Government of India.

On a question on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion in France that corrupt should not be spared, Karti asserted even he believes that corrupt should be punished, adding neither he nor his father is corrupt.

# WHO for research into microplastics, crackdown on plastic pollution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Levels of microplastics—tiny particles smaller than about one-fifth of an inch—in drinking water don't appear to be a health risk. However, more research is needed to assess how microplastics may impact human health and the environment, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned.

Following the release of an analysis of current research related to microplastics in drinking-water recently, the UN health agency has also called for a reduction in plastic pollution to benefit the environment and reduce human exposure.

"We urgently need to know more about the health impact of microplastics because they are everywhere - including in our drinking-water," said Dr Maria Neira, Director, Department of Public Health, Environment and Social Determinants of Health, at WHO.

"Based on the limited information we have, microplastics in drinking water don't appear to pose a health risk at current levels. But we need to find out more. We also need to stop the rise in plastic pollution worldwide."

"We are not alarmed," WHO technical officer Jennifer

de France said. "With the data that we have, we can say that we believe the risk to be low, but at the same time, we can't rule out conclusively that there might never be a risk in the future."

According to the analysis, which summarizes the latest knowledge on microplastics in drinking-water, microplastics larger than 150 micrometres are not likely to be absorbed in the human body and uptake of smaller particles is expected to be limited. Absorption and distribution of very small microplastic particles including in the nano size range may, however, be higher, although the data is extremely limited.

Further research is needed to obtain a more accurate assessment of exposure to microplastics and their potential impacts on human health. These include developing standard methods for measuring microplastic particles in water; more studies on the sources and occurrence of microplastics in fresh water; and the efficacy of different treatment processes.

The WHO has recommended drinking-water suppliers and regulators prioritize removing microbial pathogens and chemicals that are known risks to human health, such as those causing deadly diarrhoeal diseases.



# Tiger reserves face staff shortage

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The number of tigers in the country has increased but the manpower manning them has not. As per the latest tiger census, the number of the predators in the country has risen by 33 per cent in last four years to 2,967, however, on an average the tiger reserves are reeling under shortage of staff with 30 per cent posts lying vacant.

A senior Government official from the Union Environment Ministry said that vacancies pertain to forest guards, forest rangers, forest section officers who are essential for wildlife conservation, grassland management and rigorous protection from poaching and illegal tree-fellers lying vacant.

According to the recent data available from the



National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), number wise, there are just 11,500 staff protecting manning the 2,967 big cats in the 50 tiger reserves across the country.

The tiger reserves are just

not the home of big cats but also the habitat of rich biodiversity and a considerable wildlife population, including big predators like leopards and faunas such as swamp deer, neel gai, hispid hare and stag,

to name a few, which needs conservation and protection from wildlife smugglers, the official pointed out.

Tiger reserves such as Sundarbans in West Bengal, Anamalai in Tamil Nadu,

Pakke in East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh in north-eastern India, and Kawal tiger reserves in Telangana have reported acute shortage of staff with half of the total sanctioned posts lying vacant.

Valmiki tiger reserve in Bihar which has 31 tigers and ten cubs is grappling with acute shortage of vacancy with 86 per cent posts yet to be filled, speaking volumes of existing gaps in the management.

Sources said that most of the employees at VTR are daily wagers and not permanent employees. They also lack the required skill and interest. In fact, the contractual staff are being deployed at most of the tiger reserves.

Vivek Menon, CEO of Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) said: "Forest guards are the backbone of India's wildlife and habitat protection system.

They are the guardians of its natural heritage and at the frontline of the fight against poachers and timber smugglers who are sometimes far better armed and equipped.

It is thus important that this force remains trained and highly motivated to tackle diverse threats it is being faced with. From time to time we have been conducting workshops with the State Governments to strengthen staff morale and sharpen their skills."

Interestingly, between 2012 and 2018, 657 tiger deaths were reported in India, most of them (48% or 313) due to natural causes and 21% or 138 due to poaching, NTCA data says. Of the 138 poaching deaths, Madhya Pradesh reported the most (22% or 30), followed by Karnataka (24) and Maharashtra (18).

CEASEFIRE VIOLATION BY PAK

# Jawan martyred in J&K

## Pak targets civilian pockets along LoC

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After failing on the diplomatic front, Pakistan is bent upon escalating tensions along the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir.

On Friday, Pakistan Army initiated 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation in which one Indian Army jawan attained martyrdom in Nowshera sector of frontier Rajouri district.

Pakistan Army is regularly targeting civilian pockets along the Line of Control to disturb peace in the region. Traumatized local residents have been staying back inside their houses to ensure their safety but are worried a lot as on going work on completion of bunkers, sanctioned by the Union Government is going on at snails' pace.

Since August 17, three Indian jawans and one civilian have lost their lives in Pakistan firing along the Line of Control in frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

Defence PRO in Jammu, Lt-Col Devender Anand said, "Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation along the Line of Control in



Nowshera sector of Rajouri district on Friday morning".

He said, in the exchange of fire, Naik Rajib Thapa attained martyrdom".

Hitting back, Indian Army responded strongly and effectively.

Defence PRO claimed, "Heavy damage was caused to Pakistan Army posts and casualties to Pakistan soldiers have been inflicted by the Indian army".

Defence PRO said, Naik Rajib Thapa, aged 34 years belonged to Village Mechpara, District Jalpaiguri, West Bengal and is survived by his wife, Khusbu Mangar Thapa.

Meanwhile, to take stock of the prevailing security situation on ground zero, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh, Army Commander,

Northern Command, accompanied by the White Knight Corps Commander, Lt Gen Paramjit Singh Sangha visited forward bases in Poonch and Akhnoor Sector to review the operational preparedness.

Defence PRO said, "During the visit to the sectors, the Army Commander was briefed by the commanders on preparedness of their formations".

Army Commander expressed satisfaction on measures adopted to strengthen counter infiltration posture with increased alertness and use of high-end technology. He also appreciated the aggressive domination of Line of Control adopted to give befitting response to adversary's CFVs and tactical actions.

POST FRIDAY PRAYERS

# Violent protests, azadi chants grip Srinagar

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Peaceful protests after the Friday prayers in Soura area of Srinagar have once again turned violent after a large number of local residents attempted to block entry of security personnel via bylanes to quell their protests.

According to eyewitness reports, "after the Friday prayers, a large number of people started shouting pro-Azadi slogans while passing through the streets of Soura area of Srinagar". To contain them, when security forces attempted to move in the area, they offered strong resistance and started pelting stones. Security forces had to resort to the use of teargassing, pepper grenades and pellet guns to contain the protesters. It could not be ascertained how many protesters received injuries during the protest demonstrations which continued for about 2 hours in the area.

According to unconfirmed reports, "large number of residents in the area also joined the small group of protesters who were pelting stones. Those who could not step out of their houses registered their protest by beating empty utensils and



Kashmiris run for cover as a tear gas shell explodes near them during a protest in Srinagar on Friday

joining the chorus of anti-India slogans".

A twitter handle of Kashmir Zone police late evening posted a message claiming, "situation in the valley has been peaceful. No untoward incident was reported today".

Meanwhile, worshippers spread across different parts of Srinagar and other district headquarters of Kashmir could not offer prayers for third week in succession inside historic mosques in their respective areas. Only small gatherings of

worshippers was permitted in vulnerable pockets in down town areas of Srinagar.

Elaborate security arrangements were made to prevent mass assembly of people in and around local mosques. Posters had also surfaced in

several areas, urging the local residents to march towards the office of United Nations to register their protest peacefully. The security forces had raised barricades blocking all the roads leading to the office of United Nations.

# BSF assistant SI, wife declared foreigners in Assam

**Golaghat (Assam):** An assistant sub-inspector of the Border Security Force from Assam and his wife were declared foreigners by a tribunal without their knowledge, his family claimed on Friday.

Muzibur Rahman, the BSF man who is now posted in Punjab, and his wife were declared foreigners by the Jorhat Foreigners' Tribunal in December last year but the family was informed about this only last month, they claimed.

Talking to reporters at Merapani in Golaghat district, Rahman's father Bapdhan Ali said except the two, everyone in his family have been included in the National Register of Citizens (NRC), the final version of which will be published on August 31.

"I request the government to take steps so that he contin-

ues to be an Indian," Ali told a news channel.

He claimed that their family members have legacy data and land documents to establish their Indian citizenship.

Ali said, "We are Indians. The name of every member of my family is in the NRC but not of Muzibur who is working in the BSF in the service of the nation, and his wife."

One person identified as the lawyer of the family said Rahman was declared a 'D' (Doubtful) voter in July 2018 of which he was not aware and then the Foreigners' Tribunal declared him a 'foreigner' in December.

But he did not get any summons to appear for hearing to present his case, the lawyer claimed.

The family said their village headman informed them on July 29 that Rahman and his wife were summoned to pre-



sent themselves in the Jorhat Circuit House.

As he was away in Punjab, his father and brother-in-law went there and they were told by Government officials that the two were declared 'foreigners' in December 2018. "Probably those engaged in

the NRC updating exercise have not done their duty properly. We want an error-free NRC and will always cooperate with the process. I urge the government to ensure that genuine Indian citizens are not harassed," Rahman told the channel over the phone from

Punjab. Earlier, Kargil war veteran Mohammad Sanaulah and Central Industrial Security Force jawan Mamud Ali were also declared foreigners by the Foreigners Tribunal.

Soon after the Sanaulah incident, Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat had said no jawan will be allowed to face any difficulties if his name does not come in the NRC and that the force will extend all assistance in this regard.

Names of over 40 lakh people were not included in the complete draft of the NRC published last year.

Assam, which had faced an influx of people from Bangladesh since the early 20th century, is the only state having an NRC which was first prepared in 1951.

It is being updated now under the supervision of the Supreme Court. **PTI**

# 2 women fall prey to triple talaq in Kota on single day

**Kota:** Two women fell victim to the outlawed custom of triple talaq on the same day in this district with their husbands allegedly divorcing them with the oral diktat.

Kota's Waqf Nagar resident Anisa Khan on Thursday alleged her husband Usman, a resident of Nagar area in Bharatpur district, divorced her for not bringing more dowry and turned her out of her matrimonial home, said police.

In her complaint to Kota's City Superintendent of Police Deepak Bhargav, Khan said her husband divorced her after raising the demand and beating her up.

On the SP's direction, an FIR was lodged under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 against Usman at the Dadabari



police station and the investigation was started, said SHO Tarachand Bansiwala.

## DENTIST BOOKED FOR GIVING INSTANT TRIPLE TALAQ

**Muzaffarnagar (UP):** A case has been registered here against a dentist for allegedly giving instant triple talaq to his wife over dowry, police said on Friday. Saira Bano, a resident of Mustafabad village in Muzaffarnagar area, was given instant triple talaq by her husband in April 16 after the dowry demands were not met, according to a complaint. **PTI**

A case was registered against Tahir Hasan under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act at the New Mandi police station on Thursday, the police said. The couple, who got married in December 2015, are dentists and have a clinic in Deoband town of Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur district. **PTI**

# Section of advocates come out in support of Justice Vaidyanathan

**Chennai:** A group of advocates has come out in support of Madras high court judge Justice S Vaidyanathan who recently withdrew his observation that co-education in Christian institutes was "highly unsafe" for the future of girl children and directed the court registry to delete controversial paras in his order.

In a representation to the Chief Justice, the Advocates For Reform, Chennai, comprising about 82 advocates, said while it is open to the legal fraternity to criticise a judgment on its merits, lawyers cannot claim any right to criticise judges in their personal capacity for the pronouncements made by them in the judgment.

A delegation of 64 lawyers led by senior advocate R Vaigai had earlier submitted a repre-

sentation urging the chief justice not to post any cases on Christian missionaries as well as women before Justice Vaidyanathan. The delegation had also requested the chief justice to counsel the judge to recall the order and delete some more paras in it. The Advocates For Reform said "When it is always open to the aggrieved parties to file an appeal if they are aggrieved by the judgment, the advocates have no right to demand the judges to recall the orders passed by them."

Such "unwarranted criticism" of the judges for the views taken by them in the judgments would undermine the independence of the judiciary, the representation said.

It would clearly amount to gross interference in the admin-

istration of justice and "is an attempt to virtually browbeat the judges for the judgments pronounced by them."

Senior advocate Vaigai had on Wednesday made a mention before the judge in the court to hear the case again for removal of some controversial paras in the order. When the matter came up on Thursday, the judge said, "The High Court Registry is directed to issue a fresh order copy after removing the expunged paras."

The judge had made the observations recently when refusing to quash a show-cause notice issued to a Madras Christian College professor facing sexual harassment charge from at least 34 girl students pursuing third-year Zoology course at the college. **PTI**

# MNS notices ED on non-Marathi name board

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A day after its president Raj Thackeray was grilled by the Enforcement Directorate officials for more than eight hours for his alleged financial involvement in M/s Kohinoor CTNL, the MNS on Friday retaliated in an unusual manner by serving a "notice" on the ED for its failure to put up a name board in Marathi in front of its Ballard Pier Office in south Mumbai.

In a tweet put out through its official handle, the MNS stated: "The name boards of Government departments should be in Marathi. Perhaps, the ED office has forgotten it. We have made a complaint in this regard to the district collector's office. We have sent a copy of the notice to the ED office. Will the Marathi language department compel the ED office to put its name plate in Marathi?"

Raj was grilled for more than eight hours on Thursday for his financial involvement in M/s Kohinoor CTNL which is being investigated for alleged irregularities in the IL&FS's loans-cum-investments case. Raj, whose questioning by the ED officials began around 12 noon and continued till well past 8 pm, emerged out of the ED office at around 8.15 pm on Thursday.



Raj was responding to summons issued to him last week in connection with the investments that he had made in M/s

Kohinoor CTNL, a company funded by former Maharashtra CM Manohar Joshi's son Unmesh Joshi.

After his questioning by the ED in a loan default involving M/s Kohinoor CTNL, Raj had said that notwithstanding the inquiry launched against him by the central investigating agency, he would not shut his mouth but keep speaking against the Government.

"You may investigate me as much as you can, but I would not shut my mouth. But, I would continue to speak (against the Government)," Raj had said.

The ED is investigating the alleged irregularities in the IL&FS's loans and investments worth over ₹860 crore in M/s Kohinoor CTNL.

M/s Kohinoor CTNL has been under ED scanner for being a prominent defaulter of IL&FS, amounting to an estimated ₹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 ₹421 crore.

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

In 2017, M/s Kohinoor CTNL entered into an agreement to sell some commercial and residential properties in the upcoming Kohinoor Square Towers to IL&FS to settle outstanding of around ₹500 crore in loans. Following this, IL&FS extended another ₹100 crore to Kohinoor CTNL on which it defaulted. Jr Joshi's company is now under control of another company.

# Rakbar Khan lynching: 4th accused held

**Jaipur:** The fourth accused has been arrested in connection with the lynching of Rakbar Khan on the suspicion of cow smuggling in Rajasthan's Alwar district last year, police said.

Vijay Kumar was caught in Murtikala colony of Jaipur on Thursday and taken to Alwar. The fifth accused, Naval Kishore, is still absconding, police said. The police have already arrested Dharmendra Yadav, Paramjeet Singh and Naresh in connection with the case and filed a charge sheet against them.

Rakbar alias Akbar was beaten severely by a group of people on suspicion of cow smuggling in Alwar's Ramgarh area in July last year. On the night of July 20, Khan and his friend, Aslam, had allegedly purchased the cows from Ladpura village and were taking them to their village in Haryana through a forested area near Lalawandi in Alwar when the accused attacked them. An injured Akbar died at a hospital in Alwar. **PTI**

# Guj women's panel summons IAS officer over bigamy charges

**Ahmedabad:** The Gujarat State Commission for Women has asked IAS officer Gaurav Dahiya to appear before it after receiving a complaint from a Delhi-based woman who has accused him of bigamy and cheating.

Chairperson of the commission Leelaben Ankoliya said on Friday that the summons was issued two days ago.

"There is no response from him yet," she said.

She did not specify when he was supposed to appear.

Meanwhile, the complainant woman, who had met Ankoliya on August 20 to make a representation, on Friday met Gujarat Chief Secretary JN Singh in Gandhinagar.

Addressing a press conference later, she reiterated her demand of DNA test of her eight-month-old daughter to establish that Dahiya is her biological father.

Dahiya, a 2010-batch Gujarat-cadre officer, was suspended by the state government on August 14 after the woman accused him of marrying her in 2018 by concealing the fact that he was already married.

"I have all the evidence to prove that Dahiya married me and we have a daughter together. If he claims he is innocent, he should come forward for a DNA test," she said.

Dahiya has denied that he every married her, and accused her of blackmailing him. **PTI**

# Maya appeals to Centre, Delhi Govt to find a way to reconstruct Ravidas temple

**Lucknow:** BSP president Mayawati Friday appealed to the Centre and the Delhi Government to find a way to reconstruct the Ravidas temple which was demolished by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on the direction of the Supreme Court recently.

Mayawati's appeal came a day after a Delhi court sent Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad and 95 others, arrested on charges of rioting and unlawful assembly following violent protest in Tughlakabad area, to 14-day judicial custody.

They were detained on Wednesday night after the protest against the demolition of a Ravidas temple.

The BSP president, who had distanced herself from the violent Dalit protest in

Tughlakabad area, Friday also appealed to both the Centre and the Delhi Government to find a way to reconstruct the temple and asked followers of Saint Ravidas not to take law in their hands. "Making the demand yet again from the Central and Delhi governments to find a middle path to expedite the reconstruction of the temple with government expenditure so that proper justice can be done. It should be remembered that the BSP government in UP had done many historical works in honour of, Sanit Ravidas," she tweeted. On August 14, Mayawati had asked the two Governments to find a middle path to get the temple constructed with their own resources.

In another tweet, Mayawati

also appealed to the followers of Saint Ravidas not to take law in their hands. "It is an appeal to the followers of the great saint Ravidasji that they should not get angry and take law in their hands for reconstruction of the ancient temple which was demolished in Tughlakabad, Delhi. The followers of Saint Ravidasji should follow the legal way and path shown by Tathagat Gautam Budh to serve their interests," she said.

On Thursday, she had said, "The incidents of vandalism that have taken place in Delhi, especially in Tughlakabad, are unfair and the BSP has nothing to do with it. The BSP always respects the Constitution and the law. The struggles of the party are carried out well within the ambit of law." **PTI**

# Lioness gives birth to 4 cubs; two of them die

**Vadodara:** A lioness gave birth to four cubs, three females and one male, in a wildlife sanctuary in Gujarat, but two of them died later, a forest official said on Friday.

The lioness, Sarita - kept at the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in Porbandar district under a lion gene pool project - gave birth to the cubs in the wee hours of August 21, D T Vasavada, chief conservator of forest (Saurashtra), told PTI over the phone. However, the male cub and one of the female cubs died due to weakness on Thursday, he said. "Sarita was found to be weak and was not in a position to feed her newborn cubs for 12 hours," Vasavada said.

Veterinary doctors and officials from the Sakkarbaug Zoo at Junagadh checked their health

and gave them powdered milk, he said. However, two of them could not survive, the official said, adding their carcasses have been sent to the zoo's hospital for post-mortem.

The other two cubs are in good health, he said.

The chief conservator of forest said this was second time in less than five months that Sarita has given birth to cubs in the sanctuary. The lioness had given birth to two cubs on April 11, but both of them later died, Vasavada said. The sanctuary currently has two lions - Avon and Nagraj - and as many lionesses - Sarita and Parvati, he said. Sometime ago, Parvati had also given birth to a cub which was later shifted to the Sakkarbaug Zoo, Vasavada said. **PTI**

## SBI DONATES ₹1 CRORE TO CM'S RELIEF FUND IN BIHAR

**Patna:** Top officials of State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday called on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and donated ₹1 crore to the CMs relief fund. A cheque for ₹1 crore was presented to the chief minister by SBI Managing Director-Praveen Kumar Gupta in the presence of assembly Speaker-Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, an official release said. Prominent among those who were present on the occasion included SBI's Chief General Manager Mahesh Goyal, CM's Secretary Anupam Kumar Suman, SBI's Assistant General Manager (AGM) (PR) M K Singh and AGM (SLBC) R K Das, the release said. **PTI**

# 3 killed, 25 hurt in stampede in Bengal

**Kolkata:** At least three persons were killed and over 25 injured in a stampede near a temple in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on Friday, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said.

The mishap occurred at around 2.15 am near Loknath Dham (temple) at Kachua, around 50 km from the city.

A senior police officer told PTI that three persons have succumbed to injuries and another three are in a very critical condition and 10 critically injured have been brought to Kolkata for treatment.

The three dead have been identified as Aparna Sarkar, Tarun Mondal and Poornima Gorai, another senior officer of West Bengal Police said.

Lakhs of devotees gather at the temple every year on this day to celebrate the birth anniversary of Baba Lokenath Brahmachari, an 18th century Bengali saint who has followers in West Bengal and Bangladesh.

Banerjee, who rushed to National Medical College and Hospital in the city where some of the injured were admitted, told reporters that there was a large crowd at



Injured Kaushi Mondal being treated at Calcutta National Medical College & Hospital (CNMCH) after a wall collapse in Kachua triggered a stampede in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on Friday

Kachua Loknath temple this year and the devotees tried to take shelter in the makeshift bamboo stalls lining the narrow approach to it when it rained heavily in the early hours. These bamboo structures collapsed after the heavy rain.

"In the rush to escape from the place, a few people fell into the pond near the stalls. This created confusion leading to a stampede-like situation there," she said.

Senior ministers have been sent to Barasat Hospital, R G Kar Medical College and a hospital at Basirhat, where the

injured are being treated, she said.

"The mishap at Kachua is unfortunate and tragic. Occurred after heavy rain. I visited CNMCH and SSKM hospitals to meet families of the deceased and injured. Every death is a tragedy. But what we can do is stand by the families in their moment of grief," Banerjee tweeted.

She expressed her displeasure over the existence of the makeshift bamboo and poly-thene stalls in the narrow lane leading to the temple.

"They (shopowners) set up

stalls using bamboos and poly-thenes. You will not be able to drive them away because if you do, it will lead to problems," she said.

The senior police officer said that some pilgrims visiting the temple in Basirhat police district had slipped due to the slush caused by the heavy rains.

The police rescued them and took them to a health camp at Kachua and then to a primary health centre, he said.

"The situation was immediately brought under control," he said.

Banerjee announced compensation of Rs five lakh to the next of kin of those killed in the mishap, ₹1 lakh to the critically injured and ₹50,000 for those with minor injuries.

State Food and Supplies Minister Jyotipriya Mallick held a meeting with the temple authorities later in the day and a decision was taken to erect two entry and exit points to the shrine.

On the stalls, he said these were built by locals.

BJP state president Dilip Ghosh criticised the state government for not setting up proper infrastructure to deal with the rush of pilgrims and

demanding immediate probe into the mishap.

"There is no point in (the CM's) running from one hospital to another now ... Why should the CM be going to hospitals?... The state government should have put proper arrangements in place keeping in mind the huge turnout on this occasion. There must be an investigation into the mishap," Ghosh said.

The state government had provided adequate security cover for the Haj pilgrims but when it came to providing security and services for Hindu pilgrims it turns indifferent. "I think there was some laxity in the arrangements which led to the loss of lives," he told newsmen.

Alleging that the accident occurred due to indifference and casual approach of the state government, he said had the state government provided enough security cover the accident could have been averted.

"We have no problems in Haj pilgrims getting security cover. But it is absurd that only Haj pilgrims get it and other amenities and the Hindu pilgrims are deprived of it," he said.

# 'Namak-roti' served as mid-day meal, two teachers suspended

**Mirzapur (UP):** A video of children being served salt and rotis in their mid-day meal at a Government-run primary school here has gone viral on social media, prompting the Congress to attack the Uttar Pradesh Government.

The video is of Siyur Primary School under Jamalpur block and it shows a woman distributing rotis and another woman giving salt to children as the mid-day meal. Authorities suspended two teachers, apparently in an immediate damage control exercise.

It was shared widely on social media on Thursday. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra hit out at the State Government on the issue, terming the incident "condemnable" and said the facilities provided by it were becoming very poor.

Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Pravin Kumar Tiwari said on Friday, "Report about the incident was taken from the Block Shiksha Adhikari, Jamalpur, and two teachers found to be prima facie responsible were suspended."



Tiwari said instructions were to provide the mid-day meal as per the prescribed menu and efforts are on to ascertain whether seniors were informed that salt and rotis were being served.

Those who have been suspended are teacher incharge Murari and Arvind Kumar Tripathi, he said, adding that the incident could be an outcome of a local rivalry.

Priyanka Gandhi, the Congress general secretary, tagged the video on Twitter which showed the children, sitting having roti and salt.

"Students are being served salt and rotis in mid-day meals in a school in Mirzapur. This is the state of affairs of

BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh. The facilities provided by the Government are becoming poor and such treatment towards children is highly condemnable," she said.

As per norms under the Flagship Nutrition Scheme, pulses, rice, rotis, vegetables with fruits and milk on certain days are to be served to school-going children to ensure necessary nutrition to them.

The mid-day meal scheme is designed to provide a minimum of 450 calories per child per day, which should include at least 12 grams of protein as well. These meals should be served to each child at least 200 days a year.

## UK AMBEDKAR MEMORIAL

# Maharashtra Govt appoints experts to present its case

**Mumbai:** The Maharashtra Government said on Friday that it has appointed experts to present its case before a local council which has sought to close down a memorial of Dr BR Ambedkar in north London.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said the Government was taking all the steps to address the council's objections.

The Government has appointed a solicitor and two planning experts to present its case before the council, it said.

The matter will be heard by the council authorities in September, the CMO said in a statement.

Ambedkar House, a memorial of the Dalit icon, is part of a four-storey residential building at 10 King Henry's Road.



Dr Ambedkar had lived there in 1921-22 during his student days at the London School of Economics.

The local council recently rejected an application by the Indian authorities to convert the property into an official museum or memorial.

The property does not have the permission to be used as a museum and must be returned to residential use, the council officer's report with reference to the application said.

"Singhania & Co Solicitors have been appointed to present

Maharashtra government's case...Mr Steven Gasztowicz QC and planning expert Mr Charles Rose have been named in the committee formed to present the government's case," the CMO statement said.

"...Efforts will be made at all levels to complete the memorial work addressing the issues raised by the council," it added.

Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly Vijay Wadetiwar termed the London council's decision as "unfortunate". "This structure which was made holy by Ambedkar's stay is a matter of faith for all. The government should speak to the UK government to ensure that the (building's) memorial tag remains intact," the Congress leader said.

PTI

# Eye to poll, Fadnavis vows to make Maha drought-free

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Expressing his confidence that the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance would recapture power in Maharashtra in the October 2019 Assembly with a huge majority, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Friday that if voted back to power, his Government would make the State drought-free in the next five years.

Talking to media persons at Dhule in north Maharashtra, Fadnavis said: "During my Mahajansandesh Yatra, the people are expressed confidence and love in their our government. I am confident that the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance will get a huge majority in the forthcoming Assembly polls under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We will make Maharashtra drought-free in the next five years."

Fadnavis, who launched the second phase of "Mahajansandesh Yatra" from

Dhule on Thursday, said: "During the first phase of the yatra, we reached out people in 10 districts. During the yatra, we are experiencing overwhelming response from the people. We had to suspend the first phase of yatra owing the flood situation in western Maharashtra."

"The people believe that our government has worked for their welfare and hence they want us to come back to power. The popular mood is that only BJP led alliance should be in power at the Centre and in the state. Hence, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mahayuti will get a huge public mandate in the state again. We will do more work than we have done in the last five years and will make Maharashtra drought free," the chief minister said.

Maintaining that Sulwade Jamfal irrigation scheme was very important for solving drinking water crisis and taking care of irrigation needs in Dhule

and Sindhkhed talukas, Fadnavis said that the Centre had allocated a fund of Rs 2400 crore for this scheme. "By completing various irrigation projects alongwith this project, we will make North Maharashtra drought free and prosperous in

the upcoming days," he said. According to the chief minister, 504 village water works under Jaluykt Shivar had been completed. "This year rains have replenished the water reserves sufficiently. In Dhule district, 84,000 farmers have

received a loan waiver collectively amounting to ₹471 crore. Nearly 2.12 lakh farmers have benefited from Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Yojna. One lakh women in the district have got cooking gas connection under Ujjwala Scheme."

# Savarkar bust blackening: Maha CM wants guilty to be punished

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Condemning the blackening and garlanding shoes to Veer Savarkar's bust, installed at the Delhi University's north campus, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said that the miscreants behind the incident would be prosecuted.

Talking to media persons at Dhule in north Maharashtra during the

course of his Mahajansandesh Yatra, Fadnavis said: "Swatantryaveer Savarkar was the Guru and inspiration of many revolutionaries. The sacrifices made by the Savarkar family for the independence of the country are unparalleled. They should be respected."

"Those involved in the incident at Delhi University's north campus should certainly be prosecuted. No one

should try to create the issue of law and order in this case and disturb the social harmony," the chief minister said.

It may be recalled that a pillar with busts of V D Savarkar, Bhagat Singh and Subhas Chandra Bose atop were installed by the ABVP-led Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) at the University's north campus on Tuesday.

# Bandra station completes 130 years, Sharukh releases postal cover



TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Chief Post Master General of Maharashtra Circle HC Agrawal on Friday released a special postal cover to mark the completion of 130 years of Bandra railway station, in the presence of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan.

Also present on the occasion were Maharashtra Minister for School Education Ashish Shelar, Western Railway's General Manager A K Gupta, senior Western

Railway, Postal department officials and local corporators.

Western Railway chief spokesperson Ravinder Bhakar said that Bandra Railway station was notified as a grade I heritage structure and "it is one of the finest suburban railway stations of Mumbai".

The century old railway station, an excellent architectural blend of Victorian Gothic and the Vernacular style, stands out as a prominent landmark on its site.

# Didi pens poem on democracy

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after entering a sub-middleclass household in the beach town of Digha where she personally prepared tea for the inmates as a part of her outreach exercise, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has scribbled a poem on what she calls a "depressing state" of Indian democracy.

In the poem titled "Thikana" or "Address" where the poet apparently labours hard to find out the lost address of democracy that India used to be, Banerjee writes how the address of democracy has become unrecognisable. Incidentally, the poem came a day after the arrest of former Union Home Minister P Chidambaram.

Though the poet herself has not translated the lines into English, the basic import of the verse is somber as she sadly writes how "cawing crows have gone dumb and how the sparrows have stopped pecking at the

grains of rice."

The Chief Minister goes on to rue how in a forlorn democracy "justice has been nimbly curdled like sour milk" wondering why the "storm that has risen is not stopping." Rights, the poem says has been "crammed into a sack" and those who protest are in jail.

Despondency creeps in the poet's mind even as she helplessly tries to find out her address (read the address of democracy). "...Can't find my address" though "everything around is so familiar" they seem much "unknown."

And she ends with an appeal saying, "heart, find my address."

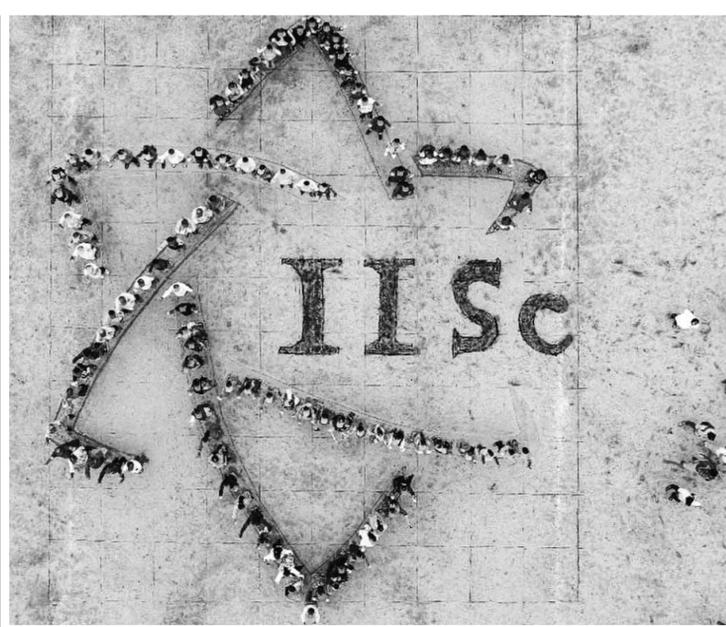
Incidentally, the Chief Minister had on Thursday reacted to the arrest of former Finance Minister P Chidambaram saying "I am depressed, I am sad" at how things have been done. Without delving much into the legality of the senior Congress leader's arrest she said "the process of his arrest is sad. It is

bad. It makes me depressed."

Hours after giving her reaction the Chief Minister whose own party colleagues including senior Trinamool leaders are facing graft charges and CBI probe wrote the poem.

Meanwhile, in an apparent bid to counter Trinamool Congress' reach-out measures like "Didi ke Bolo" through which the people are asked to dial a specific number to let the Chief Minister know about their woes for immediate redressal the State BJP has devised a series of programmes called "Cha Chakra".

State BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Friday said "we are going to launch Cha Chakra as a part of our mass outreach programme." He said that earlier only he used to involve people in Cha Chakra through which the people were engaged in brief tea sessions so that they could make their problems known. "But now the other leaders too will take part in Cha Chakra."



Student and faculty members of Indian Institute of Science make a formation of their newly unveiled logo in Bengaluru on Tuesday

# After breach, Mumbai airport tightens security

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The security agencies on Friday beefed up security both inside and outside the Mumbai Airport, following a security breach on Thursday when a "mentally ill" person jumped over a wall and took a stroll under a Spicejet aircraft.

As the Spicejet flight SG-634 Boeing 737 aircraft waited on the taxiway N1 to enter the runway for a take-off to Bengaluru, passengers and crew of the aircraft and others noticed an unauthorised person moving around on the ground below.

The man in question had on Thursday afternoon scaled the perimeter walls of the Mumbai Airport, jumped down, strolled nonchalantly around 50-metres to the taxi-

way, looked at the engine, touched the huge wheels and went around the undercarriage of the aircraft.

He waved at an airport jeep that reached the place to keep an eye on him. However, the security personnel did not step out of the vehicle to avoid getting too close to the aircraft engine.

Not satisfied, the man in question walked to the tail-end of the aircraft. He was later arrested by the security personnel present, minutes after he came on the scene. The incident was captured on CCTV cameras installed in the vicinity, while some passengers also shot the event through mobile phones.

Upon questioning, the apprehended intruder told the security personnel that he had

entered the restricted zone "only to see the airplane" at close quarters. He was later identified as a "mentally ill person aged 24 years from Sion in north-central Mumbai. He had been caught climbing atop a stationary BEST bus at Sion.

His family members told the police that he indulged in such questionable acts when he doesn't take his medicines on time. He is suspected to have entered the airport by climbing on the mobile toilets lining the airport wall.

The security breach involving the "mentally-ill" person came two weeks after the Centre's stringent directives on security matters in the wake of the scrapping of Article 370 of the Constitution which will remain in force till August 31.

# SBSP leader Rajbhar meets Akhilesh ahead of UP bypolls

**Lucknow:** Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party chief Om Prakash Rajbhar on Friday met Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav here, ahead of the impending bypolls to 12 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh.

Donning the trademark yellow scarf associated with his party, Rajbhar, a former UP cabinet minister, drove to the SP office and had a meeting with the Yadav for over half-an-hour, but neither of the sides divulged the nature of the talks.

The Assembly by-elections are due in 12 seats in Uttar Pradesh as sitting MLAs got elected to the Lok Sabha in the 2019 parliamentary polls.

The 2022 Assembly elections in the state might have cropped up during the discussion between the two leaders, an SP leader said.

Rajbhars constitute 20 per cent of the Purvanchal population and are regarded as the second-most politically dominant community after Yadavs in the

eastern UP.

A leader from the Rajbhar caste — Anil Rajbhar — was elevated as a cabinet minister from minister of stat (independent charge) during the Wednesday's reshuffle of the UP council of ministers.

He was allocated the Backward Class Welfare and Divyangjan Empowerment

ministry -- a portfolio held by Om Prakash Rajbhar earlier. The SBSP had won four seats in the 2017 UP assembly elections, though the party could not open its account in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Om Prakash Rajbhar was dumped from the UP ministry by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath just a day after the Lok Sabha polls ended for making embarrassing statements against the BJP.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE**  
**Invitation of tender through E-tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**  
 N.I.T. No.: NIT-22-19-20-W-2 Name of Work with its location: Construction of S&T Building on 5 L-XING No. 10,2,4 on DSA-SMQL-SRE Section 7 on GZB-SRE, 4 ON TPZ-KJGY under Sr. DEN-II. Approx. Cost of work: Rs.6051756.53 Earnest Money: Rs. 121000.00 (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on as per Railway Boards letter No 2015/CE-I/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016) Completion Period: 05 Months. Cost of tender on Cash/by post : Rs. 5900/- (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS Railway Boards letter No 2015/CE-I/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016) Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: 03.09.2019 to 17.09.2019 upto 15:00 hrs. Opening of tender 17.09.2019 at 15:00 hrs. on Similar Nature of Work: Construction of building/Quarters Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can purchased etc.: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in/NIT-22-19-20-W2 Dated: 23.08.2019 2734/19  
 Serving Customers With A Smile

**NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice**  
 Tender are invited on behalf of the President of India for collection, submitting back & online feeding of manual GST invoices data of commercial department over Delhi division on utility available at www.gst.indianrail.gov.in for the period of three years. Details are as under:- Tender opening date: 27/09/2019 Sr No.1 Scope of Work: collection, submitting back & online feeding of manual GST invoices data of commercial department over delhi division on utility available at www.gst.indianrail.gov.in for the period of three years. Estimated Qty. of GST manual invoices per day: Approx 300. Estimated Qty. of GST manual invoices for three years : 3,28,800 (300x1096) Estimated Rate of feeding of data of one valid entry manual GST invoice on utility available at www.gst.indianrail.gov.in: Rs.7.50+ GST @18% Estimated amount in figures(RS) for three years for valid Entries: 29,09,880.00 EMD in rupees : 58200/- Tender Cost: 2360/- Interested bidders may please visit official website for E-tendering i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for, further details and submitting tender. Important Note: Bidders who wish to participate in the e-tendering will have to procure class-3 valid Digital Security Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can procure this certificate from any of the certifying authority of Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) Government of India. Details of certifying authorities. No. ICMG/69/GST/2017-Part-I Date: 22.08.2019 2729/19  
 Serving Customers With A Smile

PAPER WITH PASSION

## The new Dalit identity

Protests over Sant Ravidas's shrine show that SC/STs are becoming equally aggressive about identity politics



The political import of the thousands of Dalits marching in Delhi to save the shrine of their saint Ravidas is not just about claiming rights and space in a Brahminical order or the appropriation of land as evidenced by the parks of their supreme leader Mayawati. It is about equality and comparative weighing of scales, another form of minority assertion in the face of brute majoritarianism, a question mark on different approaches to the similarity of contexts, and another manifestation of identity politics.

Besides, Sant Ravidas embodies a socio-cultural idea of India that undercuts the monolithic imposition of today. Born in the 15th century in Varanasi to leather makers, he denounced the Hindu Brahminical order, challenged deity worship and worked for an egalitarian society against a Hindu Rashtra, becoming the one voice of the marginalised. And such was the power of his messages that many of his disciples even found mention in the Guru Granth Sahib of the Sikhs. None can miss the impactful swathe of this man from Varanasi, unmistakably a prime political constituency today. Nor can the appropriation of the "mandir wahin banayenge" slogan be missed as an equal claimant as the Ram temple in Ayodhya. For starters, both have historicity of belief. Lord Rama was believed to be born in Ayodhya, Guru Ravidas was believed to have visited the Chamarwala Johar in Tughlaqabad 500 years ago. Like Ayodhya, this memorial site is disputed with facts of 1950 differing from facts of 1963, the latter being accepted by the court as encroachment and, therefore, a ground for demolition. Like Ayodhya, status quo has been continuing for years with no party, and even the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), carrying out any demolition on the ground. Like Ayodhya, protesters do not want the memorial shifted as a reconciliatory move and want it on hallowed ground, asking whether Ram temple activists would agree to a commensurate shift in venue? Besides, Dalit activists argue, the construction of Tughlaqabad Ravidas temple is not on the road or creating any obstruction to the general masses. In fact, it can even be part of the Centre's forest project and, without any other pressing logic, seems just another harassment play by the mainstream Right. The latest demolition follows two others by the DDA, one of Buddha Vihar at Devi Hill, and the other at Bhagwan Valmiki Mandir in Seemapuri. Which is why the Tughlaqabad incident has snowballed as a politico-cultural movement, linking both Ravidas and Babasaheb Ambedkar.

The latest round of protests also reflects the growing counter-muscularity in the Dalit leadership, being led from the front by Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad. His agitationist politics is finding resonance given the waning political influence of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati, who, while arguing for the restoration of the temple, disagreed with the violence associated with it as diluting the key plank. Of course, Behenji still believes Azad to be a foisted creation of the BJP's ideological parent, the RSS, and there are still a lot of theories as to whether Guru Ravidas followers are being coopted into the Hindutva sub-culture. But considering Azad's traction among the youth across north India and a combined Dalit iconisation of all leaders, it is a constituency strong enough to negotiate with anybody, not only, as alleged by Mayawati many times, the BJP. Azad may have been deployed as a vote-cutter initially but now has a solid consolidation of Dalit youth, who are countering majoritarian celebrations by scaling up celebrations of Guru Ravidas, Valmiki, Dr Ambedkar, a signal that they do not want to be subsumed or Sankritised in their thinking. Now that the Bhim Army has started working nationwide, Dalit youth are being motivated to assert and not deny their ancestry. This is important given that the young Dalit vote could be a change-maker in the forthcoming Assembly elections. Only this week, Azad launched the Bhim Army Students Federation (BASF) and said he wanted students of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC) and religious minorities to be aware of both their rights and duties. Clearly, he is creating a new swell in the existing discourse.

## Fire in the jungle

As a nation that will suffer the impact of global warming and climate change, India, too, must raise concerns



Smoke from the fires raging across the Amazon rainforest has blanketed several Brazilian cities, including Sao Paulo, in a choking haze — a sight familiar to residents of several north Indian cities. Thankfully, because Brazil is half a world away, the chances of the clouds of smoke, from what some are claiming to be the largest wildfire in recorded history, reaching Indian skies is remote. But that does not mean that India will not suffer the impact of these horrendous fires which have been allowed to continue for days, possibly due to acts of omission by the Brazilian Government, elements of whom want to open up the rainforest land to agriculture and pasture.

The Amazon Rainforest is called the "lung of the world" and while this is technically not true — biologists have learned that planktons, marine and freshwater organisms are the biggest oxygen generators — it does soak up large amounts of carbon. More importantly, it is home to the greatest diversity of plant, animal and fish life on the planet. Within those organisms might lie the cure for all sorts of diseases or amazing new materials unknown to mankind. These organisms will be wiped clean off the face of the planet without even being discovered. This should be a matter of global concern and Governments across the world should speak up about the tremendous destruction of nature. It is heartening to see that French President Emmanuel Macron has stood up and spoken about the wildfires and how they must be tackled. It would be good if Narendra Modi does the same. While political and economic decisions are the prerogative of national Governments, the state of the environment is a global issue since damage to it impacts all of mankind. At a time when Governments, from Brazil to India and the US, have all moved into a kind of hyper-nationalistic realm and bristle at any "intervention", the realisation has to come that the world must collaborate on these things — from the Amazon wildfires to the disappearing Himalayan glaciers and the tonnes of plastic in the sea — because when the catastrophe comes, it will be devastating for our species. And unless we figure out a way to reach interstellar space and propagate our species to other worlds, we run the risk of going extinct. The time for action is now because climate change is real.

# For the sake of democracy

Decades after the Indian republic was founded, citizens today are worried about the increasing erosion of credibility of elected representatives who continue enjoying legislative privileges



JS RAJPUT

In a democracy, citizens enjoy the privilege of casting their vote to elect representatives. In India, we elect leaders right from the panchayat level to the Parliament. The right to vote is prized and all of us are taught about it in our schools and universities. We are also reminded about this by politicians of all hues before every election. It is also a well-established fact that the Indian voter is far more mature now and knows about the "power" of his/her vote. This was proved beyond any doubt to one and all — nationally and internationally — in 1977 when the citizens unseated Indira Gandhi from her traditional family fiefdom in Uttar Pradesh and simultaneously threw her out of power at the national level by decimating her political party. A very interesting interlude followed her defeat. People had high hopes from the next Government as it was supposed to work under the astute guidance of Jayaprakash Narayan. Those, who inherited power, could not manage the Government. They were assessed unfit by the people and Indira Gandhi was brought back to power within three years. People not only pardoned her but also taught a lesson to those who could not rise above petty personal feuds as they had not "learned to live and work together." All this, experts say, is the essence of democracy.

Democracy shines when a humble person, setting aside all his/her woes, concerns and stress of providing the next meal, enters the polling booth and puts his/her finger on the EVM button. Who can read or visualise what clouds their minds in the shape of a better tomorrow for him/her, the family and for the little world that deserves outside support on many counts. The voter is still far from the promises made in the Constitution of India. One more election opportunity and expectations soar again. The Indian voter has also witnessed how elected representatives have often let them down on several counts. Most of them vanish for five years, take more interest in their own welfare than that of the electorate, show little concern and connectivity to their electors, give no dignity to them and after five years, return with folded hands, pleading for "one more chance." But if one weighs the performance of elected representatives on Gandhian expectations, one would mostly be disappointed.

Winston Churchill never expected that India could manage its independence. He was convinced that Indians were unfit to govern themselves and, hence, the British had to stay on to look after them. It was not easy for him or those of his ilk to see beyond the cobwebs of the much-publicised altruistic perception that the British essentially travelled to India to "salvage the souls of the savages." One could claim with a sense of pride and achievement that whether Churchill liked it or not, India has established its credentials in "how to make its democracy operational in its minutest nuances." We could do it as it was not new to democratic practices of governance.

The Ganrajyas of Licchavi and Vaishali are well-known historical instances. Even at that time, education for preparing young ones



with a focus on "lot learn to live together" began in joint families that accommodated four generations under one roof. It was also a ground to teaching them to respect different viewpoints and accommodate the likes and dislikes of everyone. Respect for diversity and the realisation how essential it was, were inherent in the Indian tradition. Indian culture prepares its children for a duty-bound society that respects relationships within the family and beyond.

It will be worthwhile to remember what Churchill said: "Democracy is the worst form of Government, except for all others", which invites learned and informed deliberations even now. He viewed democratic politics not only as an "insurance" for future, against external dangers, but also against threats "scarcely less grave and much more near and constant" that threaten us all. India, like every other functional and dynamic democracy, must remain conscious of the dangers to its democracy that are emerging within the system from the very functionaries that are entrusted with the task of sustaining and strengthening democratic values.

We are all aware how traditional democratic values have confronted difficult situations in the era of globalisation and commercialisation. They stand overshadowed by emerging materialist values. On several occasions, elected representa-

tives, including those holding positions of greater political power, find it difficult to maintain the right balance between Indian perception of democratic public life and the lure of power and pelf — glamour and glitz in a globalised free-market world.

The chinks emerging in the Indian democracy are not unexpected. Mahatma Gandhi could envision in April 24, 1922, that "As we become independent, all the defects of the system of elections, injustice, the tyranny of the richer classes as also the burden of running administration, are bound to come upon us. People would begin to feel that during those days, there was more justice, better administration and peace and there was honesty to a great extent among the administrators compared to the days after Independence."

When I came across this part of Gandhian writing some four decades ago, my simplistic query to eminent Gandhian personalities was: How could Gandhiji cultivate such serious apprehensions about elections when we had no such experience in India? They were kind enough to enlighten me that Gandhiji had studied the British election system in-depth and could visualise what impact the taste of power produces on the majority of elected representatives.

Having elected 17 Parliaments and innumerable State Assemblies, district and panchayat level bodies, the Indian

voter has seen it all. They are worried and are struggling with the increasing erosion of credibility of elected representatives, who unfortunately — exceptions apart — could not live up to expectations. They have seen how representatives coming from humble backgrounds become billionaires. They know for sure that their Minister, Chief Minister or Deputy Chief Minister could spend anywhere from ₹5 crore to ₹50 crore to refurbish their official bungalows. Former Chief Ministers are given huge bungalows for life with support staff. When the High Court ruled against this practice, the Madhya Pradesh Government found a new way to bypass the court's orders. Using discretionary quota, it reallocated the same houses. Such instances could be aplenty.

The youth of today may find it difficult to believe that the members of the Constituent Assembly did not get any salary, let alone pension. They got an allowance of ₹45 per day for the days of sitting. And they were the ones who got it reduced to ₹40 per day in consideration of the tough economic condition of the country. An eminent expert on the nuances of parliamentary democracy and an internationally acknowledged scholar and author of *Our Constitution*, Subhash Kashyap brilliantly analysed the "rise" of the Indian parliamentarian at the national level in his latest outstanding

treatise, *State of the Nation: Democracy Governance and Parliament*. Members of the Constituent Assembly were mostly freedom fighters and men and women known throughout the length and breadth of the country for the sacrifices they made. They worked tirelessly to give India its Constitution. They gave themselves a sitting allowance of ₹40 per day. Contrast this with their successors. The salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, fixed a salary of ₹400 per month for an MP and a daily allowance of ₹21.

After this, there have been 29 upward revisions to the Act. There were members, whose conscience was pricked but their viewpoint was overlooked by the majority. Nanaji Deshmukh was one such exception. He raised this issue in 2004 and pointed out that "salaries and allowances of members had gone up 90 times during the first 50 years". But his words made no impact. These upward revisions invariably got a full-throated fast-track approval from the MPs. Kashyap describes the position in its totality: "At a time when the salary of a member was only ₹12,000 per month, Nanaji had estimated that the direct monthly expenditure on an MP was at least ₹3 lakh per month. Himself an MP, he knew first hand. On that basis, the present monthly cost of an MP must work out close to ₹10 or ₹15 lakh per month or more, which could be few hundred times the per capita income of an Indian."

Whenever issues related to MPs or State legislatures come up during discussions, I am invariably reminded of the Gandhian vision that defects of elections would weigh heavily on our people. The resilience of electors in democracy may have its upper limits. It is public knowledge that each candidate is supposed to submit a detailed statement of the expenditure incurred during election campaigns. They also know that it should always be within the limits prescribed by the Election Commission of India.

Every Indian voter would be willing to say "every one spends much more than what they claim to have spent", exceptions apart. Is this situation acceptable? May be, someday, some young elected representative will launch a campaign against this routine practice and be hailed as a "hero" striving to restore democratic values. This could be done by some young person, who remains honest, humble and humane as the representative of people.

(The writer is the Indian Representative on the Executive Board of UNESCO)

## SOUNDBITE

Indicators suggesting economic slowdown are a cause for worry but rather than the mocking tweets wouldn't it be wiser to suggest ideas?

**Shiv Sena deputy leader**  
—Priyanka Chaturvedi



Artistes are usually emotional and we tend to react immediately. I have learnt not to react soon and that it is essential to listen and understand the other side.

**Actor-comedian**  
—Kapil Sharma



India and Pakistan should resolve the Kashmir issue bilaterally and no third party should interfere or incite violence in the region.

**French President**  
—Emmanuel Macron



In our country there are four pillars — democratic institutions, election commission, media and judiciary. We are very much missing democracy.

**West Bengal Chief Minister**  
—Mamata Banerjee



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Chidambaram's arrest

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Chidambaram in a spot" (August 22). Hitherto, hardened criminals were known only to play a cat-and-mouse game with the law enforcement agencies. Now, a leading politician, who not long ago was India's Home Minister, P Chidambaram, was allegedly running away from the law. But the spectacle surrounding him finally climaxed with his arrest by sleuths who hopped over his plush bungalow's walls to get to him.

Meanwhile, it is ironical that Chidambaram used to taunt the Government how the likes of Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi managed to evade the authorities and flee abroad. Now, it is the Government's turn to ask him how he could manage to send the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a wild goose chase.

While politicians are known to have gotten away with murder given their ability to "influence" witnesses, the case against Chidambaram appears to be relatively watertight. A key accused

### The rule of law must prevail

This refers to the editorial, "Chidambaram in a spot" (August 22). The sequence of events leading up to Congress leader P Chidambaram's arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and his incarceration in the investigative agency's headquarters had all the ingredients of a riveting drama. The sight of officials from the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) scaling the boundary wall to gain entry into Chidambaram's house, displaying alacrity and eagerness to please their political masters, was worthy of a movie scene.

It won't be an exaggeration to say that political vendetta is writ large on the exertions made to frame and fix Chidambaram, humiliate and hound him out of the political realm. What stands exposed is that the law does not take its own course but one that the Government of the day wishes. Fighting corruption selectively and episodically has become a weapon to pin down and 'punish' political opponents. The denial of pre-arrest bail by the Delhi High Court, diverging from the norm, and the Supreme Court's refusal to give



an urgent listing to Chidambaram's petition seeking protection from arrest have inevitably made the citizens feel that the Indian judiciary is not keen to ensure that they don't have to suffer a loss of liberty. Everyone should be entitled to the presumption of innocence until they are proven guilty.

**G David Milton**  
Maruthancode

### Let the court decide

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Chidambaram in a spot" (August 22). The spectacle, where officials from the CBI and ED arrested former Finance Minister P Chidambaram from his residence, has raised serious questions about the conduct of

the investigative agencies. Officials scaled the walls of his Jorbagh residence to arrest him. In a defiant mode, Chidambaram, who is accused of money laundering and receiving kickbacks in the INX Media case, put up a strong defence of himself and his family members, saying none of them have been accused of any offence by the

probe agencies.

Perhaps, it's best to leave the matter to the courts. No person, even if he/she has held or is holding a high office, is above the law. The investigative agencies as well as the courts must now follow due processes and ensure transparency in the case.

**TK Nandanam**  
Chennai

### Stop interfering

Sir — It is surprising that despite India having made it amply clear that no third party intervention is needed as far as resolving the Kashmir issue is concerned, US President Donald Trump has again offered assistance. He may have the requisite skills to convert a business deal but when it comes to resolving intractable issues between sovereign countries, it's a different matter altogether. His negotiations with Kim Jong-un is an example. They have yielding no results.

**Manisha**  
Via email

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

# RSS roots for reservation

More inclusive than most, the RSS has always been supportive of reservation and there has been no incoherence in its thinking on the issue



SANJAY PASWAN

The RSS has always been supportive of reservation and there has been no incoherence in its thinking on the issue. There's always an anxious attempt by a section of the media and the intelligentsia to manipulate the outlook of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on reservation. In my long-standing association with its political wing, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), I have witnessed no incoherence in the thinking of the RSS on reservation policies. On the contrary, time and again, there have been assertions in favor of policies that give preferential treatment to marginalised sections in state-sponsored education and government jobs, among other things. In one of his Independence Day speeches from the ramparts of the Red Fort, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the quota system is a form of historical compensation and shall continue until its purpose is served.

The RSS and its affiliated organisations have consistently worked for inclusion through representation of marginalised sections at meaningful places. Be it university policy-making or national politics, the RSS has established a semblance of social diversity at top positions through the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the BJP and a plethora of other organisations. It must be noted that both have the rare distinction of being the world's largest organisations.

While, the ABVP remains one of the oldest student-led organisations and largest in terms of membership and footprint, globally, the BJP with more than 11 crore members that are increasing daily, will remain the world's largest political party for the foreseeable future. It is impossible to achieve this feat right from universities to the Parliament with a myopic social vision. Hence, there is a robust modus operandi at an institutional level that ensures equitable representation of diverse social groups.

Varvasi Kalyan Ashram, another affiliate organisation of the RSS has made deep inroads in tribal areas and has successfully created sustainable educational opportunities for tribal children. This is a silent revolution being heralded not in Delhi's posh Khan Market area but right from the jungles of Gumla and Simdega in Jharkhand to Malkangiri in Odisha.

There's much brouhaha over the appointment of D Raja as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI). The commentariat is determined to present this as a watershed moment in the history of Dalit representation in national politics. It might be a remarkable event in the history of the leadership of the CPI as majority of the general secretaries of the party have been Brahmins, as was rightly observed by a senior journalist Kurban Ali in an opinion piece published in the *Prabhat Khabar*.

In contrast, the late Bangaru Lakshman holds the unique distinction of being the first Dalit to lead a national political party and the BJP is extremely proud of this significant fact as it took the party just 20 years to do what the so-called liberal and socially progressive CPI took more than nine decades to achieve. Much before the appointment of Meira Kumar, the late GMC Balayogi was the first Dalit to hold the esteemed Chair of the Lok Sabha Speaker in the BJP-led NDA government.

The social justice movement is at the crossroads today. The BJP is motivated by genuine impulse not illusion of inclusion that was created by the previous dispensations. It was the Narendra Modi-led Government at the Centre that gave a constitutional sanction to the National Commission for Backward Classes through the Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill. Our purpose is firm in symbiosis and not symbolism. From Stand Up India to the Mudra Yojana, there is an everlasting commitment to make Dalits, OBC's and tribal communities partners and stakeholders in India's growth story.

Reservation, envisioned as a way to uplift people on the fringes has undoubtedly served its purpose. Dalits, socially marginalised groups and tribal communities now are satisfactorily represented and empowered to voice the concerns of their community. However, a lot remains to be done. There is still a glaring lack of social diversity in the judicial process, mass-media, civil society and industry.

I speak as a Dalit rights activist that no one family should be entitled to corner the benefits of reservation and accumulate wealth and political clout. At the provincial level, there have been policy experiments of bifurcating and trifurcating marginalised sections right from Andhra Pradesh to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh recently. The fruits of reservation must reach those at the bottom of the social pyramid. Conversations on reservation have already started within the community and no action on reservation will be initiated unilaterally by the Centre without consultations with stakeholders.

(The writer is a former Central Minister, Member of Legislative Council, Bihar and Professor at Patna University.)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE FIGHT WAS BETWEEN HIM (SIDDARAMAIAH) AND HD KUMARASWAMY. IT BECAME DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO SEE KUMARASWAMY AS THE CHIEF MINISTER.

— JD(S) SUPREMO HD DEVE GOWDA



MR DEVE GOWDA IS AN EXPERT IN PULLING DOWN GOVERNMENTS. HISTORY IS OPEN FOR ALL TO SEE. IT IS HIS BIRTH TRAIT.

— CONGRESS LEADER SIDDARAMAIAH

# Enforced altruism

CSR is more socially relevant when it is driven by welfare motives rather than being a mandated policy commanding philanthropy



MOIN QAZI

When we flip through the world's business history, we find that all large mercantile communities were great patrons of the art of philanthropy. They regarded it a divine tradition. The world today is witnessing a growing realisation in enterprises of the importance of altruism. Hence, a great deal of money has been flowing into the social sector. Like individual citizens who have moral and social responsibilities, businesses are being perceived as corporate citizens who need to commit time, talent and resources for welfare of society as they draw their sustenance from it. This idea has now been corporatised under the appellation, Corporate Social Responsibility, better known as CSR.

**A social responsibility:** CSR is a concept whereby firms integrate social and environmental concerns into their business operations and is generally understood to be a tool for achieving a balance between economic, environmental and social imperatives, while addressing expectations of shareholders and stakeholders.

In the global economy, stakeholders include customers, suppliers, employees, communities, and financiers — shareholders, bondholders plus banks and other sources of capital — and they are all intertwined.

CSR is a very broad concept that aims at managing a business in a way that it contributes towards sustainable development by delivering social, economic and environmental benefits to all stakeholders. It addresses issues like human rights, corporate governance, health and safety, environmental effects, working conditions and contribution to economic development. Whatever the definition is, the purpose of CSR is to drive change towards sustainability.

We are seeing the emergence of a new crop of mega donors who are upending long-established norms in philanthropy. Not only are they increasingly willing to take on hot-button social and political issues, they also have a problem-solving and impact-making mindset. CSR is now being recognised as a critical component to an organisation's values, its operating ethos, its business strategies and its purpose. Businesses are being measured on financial and social metrics.

CSR is often used interchangeably for Corporate Citizenship and is also linked to the concept of Triple Bottom Line Reporting (financial, social and environmental), which is used as a framework for measuring an organisation's performance against economic, social and environmental parameters. In essence, CSR is about building sustainable businesses, which need healthy economies, markets and communities.

Over the years there have been many voices within the business community who believe that companies must break out of conventional preoccupation with profit and do more to address the world's pressing social needs. The chorus has been joined by leaders from civil society, governments, policy think tanks and world bodies on education, health and rehabilitation. Business leadership has acknowledged the demand for enlarged corporate responsibility in ways which can reflect a profound attitudinal change individually and collectively.

It is now widely acknowledged that CSR



should be a critical component to an organisation's operating ethos, its values, and its purpose. CSR existed earlier also, however, well-meaning but inappropriate programmes were foisted on communities without any dialogue. That was replaced by the writing of blank cheques to favoured groups, often without an accompanying structure. Today, however, enlightened companies engage in extensive dialogue and planning and are forming partnerships with governments, NGOs and communities to push a wider and deeper agenda.

For a long time, the general sentiment was that for businesses, earning a profit should take precedence over ideals like acting responsibly and ethically. Even today, many companies are paying just lip service.

**A legal mandate:** India is the first country to mandate that firms expend at least 2 per cent of their net profits on special development projects. Its unique law, Corporate Social Responsibility Rules in the Companies Act, 2013, came into effect on April 1, 2014.

However, there is a crucial difference between the way CSR is implemented in the West and in India. A generally accepted gold standard for CSR in the Western world is that it must be closely integrated with a firm's business strategy so that the programmes create a shared value for the company's shareholders. In India, this linkage is explicitly prohibited for CSR; the focus is restricted solely to contribution towards societal welfare.

Experience the world over shows that CSR is more socially relevant when it is driven by altruistic motives rather than being a mandated policy commanding philanthropy. It is very difficult to legislate since moral obligations have to be inculcated, not legislated. Laws can set the minimum standards, but they cannot create an environment or ambience for a philanthropic mindset. This is why we see marked aberrations in the CSR agenda of most corporations. Many businesses harbour a variety of secondary aims

and often use CSR for boosting their social profile and business markets. Such lack of well-intentioned commitment has been detrimental to this noble philosophy.

Companies are trying to dress up CSR as a business discipline and expecting that every initiative deliver business results. That is asking too much of CSR and distracts from what must be its main goal: to align a company's social and environmental activities with its business purpose and values. If in doing so, CSR activities enhance reputation, mitigate risks and contribute to business results, it is acceptable. But for many CSR programmes, those outcomes are becoming a spillover, not their reason for being.

**Challenges for socially responsible companies:** It is true that since there are so many causes competing for attention, it may not be possible for organisations to have a universally inclusive mission. Studies suggest that charity leaders have a geographic bias with corporations homing in on projects closer to their headquarters. Consequently, more remote regions where development aid is acutely needed are being ignored. Politics can also skew priorities, with companies looking to gain political goodwill by funding government-led projects rather than initiating more socially relevant initiatives which are thirsty for funds.

Even as annual CSR expenditure is on the rise, the impact on the ground remains a matter of debate. CSR has usually been peripheral in most organisations and it is not woven into the texture of business. Further, it is not always necessarily transparent or mission-oriented. It may be used for enhancing the brand reputation or to provide a cover of moral counterbalance for brushing off a besmirched public image or for camouflaging dark acts. There is always a creative tension between social mission and business goals.

Moreover, a significant amount of any CSR expenditure comes with strings attached. There are terms that dictate exactly where and how

funds must be used. While this may be appropriate in some cases, it reflects a serious lack of trust in the non-profit entities and hinders their ability to operate effectively. When donors insist that their money should go exclusively to the people served, there is not enough money left for the non-profit entities to focus on building their own organisations. They are, therefore, unable to invest in talent, technology, systems, or reporting. Reporting requirements are often an onerous administrative burden on these small organisations which have to devote their scarce skills to educated, English-speaking personnel for writing reports for the donors rather than running the programmes.

These development agents are the right conduits for reaching the deeper backwaters which have tougher geographical terrains and are centres of social schisms and extremist ideologies. In such regions donors also need to go beyond the sacred *trimurti*—sustainability, replicability and scalability—which should be restricted to mainland organisations. Too much insistence on technicalities leaves genuine development work out of the CSR net. A worm's eye view is as critical as a bird's eye view to ensure that projects deliver visible and lasting outcomes and leave a larger and lasting imprint.

A more important aspect of CSR that needs greater attention is the need for embedding CSR values in employees. It is only when employees align their social philosophy with that of their employers that the real benefits of CSR can materialize. A sincerely and honestly practiced charity always delivers rich dividends in the long run. That is the lesson we learn from both philosophers and business leaders. It is wise to remind ourselves again of the advice of Henry Ford, "A business absolutely devoted to service will have only one worry about profits. They will be embarrassingly large."

(The writer is Member, NITI Aayog's National Committee on Financial Literacy and Inclusion for Women)

# AI will transform digital marketing

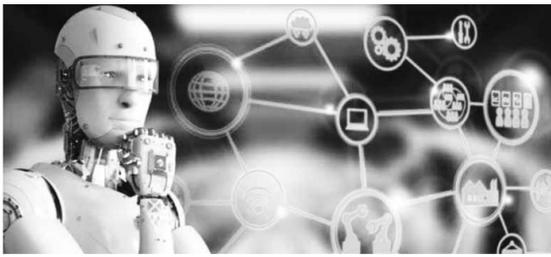
As digital marketing becomes increasingly important for businesses, we need to start thinking beyond conventional techniques. With the ability to collect, analyse and learn from data, AI has the potential to transform digital strategy

potential to transform your digital strategy.

So what exactly is AI? A simplistic explanation is that AI is a branch of computer science that deals with building intelligent machines that can think and respond like a human being. The trailblazing English mathematician, Alan Turing, proposed the Turing test in 1950 to determine the intelligence of computers and identify if a computer can achieve human-level performance in cognitive tasks that are sophisticated enough to fool an interrogator.

Although no AI programme has come close to passing the undiluted Turing test, cognitive and computer scientist John McCarthy observed that Turing's philosophy of AI is unlikely to have an effect on the practice of AI research, which has grown by leaps and bounds in the last two decades.

This brings us to the question of how an enterprise can use AI to market its business. The fact remains that a fifth of all the searches done using Google are voice based. It's a big number, and digital marketers should



understand its significance and start planning their marketing strategies to optimise websites to make the most use of voice search, along with traditional text search.

Some of the ways in which digital marketing can be pumped up using AI are predicting customer behavior, using Accelerated Mobile Pages (AMPs) to reduce load time and AI chatbots to enhance user experience.

Let's look at how AI helps in predicting customer behaviour. Advancements in predictive analytics allow marketers to extract more information from data, and use it to pre-

dict the behavior of customers. They can then apply cluster models to group them and predict purchase trends. Predictive analysis also helps the sales and marketing divisions with lead scoring, making it possible to score leads based on their readiness to purchase. Businesses can upsell and cross-sell based on existing data.

If your website's mobile browser pages are not loading quickly, it can spoil the user experience. That's where AMPs come in. The AMP plugin takes web pages and makes them load faster by stripping them down to the basics. RankBrain has enabled Google to

understand better what its users are looking for, and AMP content automatically shows up in the top stories carousel. If you are a business with an AMP page, then you have better chances of showing up in the top three search results in Google.

A lot of businesses already use chatbots, making it possible for the user to interact with the bot via instant messaging.

The time is ripe for companies to start using AI-based chatbots, which are significantly better. They can retain customer data, and customers do not have to repeat themselves every time. They can handle multiple customer requests at the same time, eliminating the wait time. They can also track the purchase patterns of customers, allowing businesses to revamp their marketing strategy and boost sales.

Last, but not the least, companies need to scale up content marketing. Content marketing refers to the practice of marketing a brand or a business by sharing educational, insightful, or entertaining articles that add value to the lives of readers. Research

has shown that the strategy is more effective in attracting and retaining customers as it isn't purely promotional. The Natural Language Generation (NLG) engine, Wordsmith, was able to create more than a billion human sounding articles in 2016. Although AI is still not advanced enough to write natural sounding articles on every topic, it is still useful for data driven content such as quarterly reports, market data, and sport matches. Once the content is ready, you can scale it up with an influencer marketing platform to ensure that it reaches the target audience.

Embracing AI technologies will benefit your digital marketing strategy in many ways. AI will not replace the jobs of advertisers and marketers, but help them unleash their creative and strategic potential. Business owners need to identify the roadblocks faced by their marketing campaign or company and use insights derived from AI-based marketing to solve the issues.

(The writer is founder, CEO and search scientist at a leading AI-powered digital marketing firm)



FOREIGN EYE



## AN ESSENTIAL ADDITION

It's true that collective action can have effects, but these are limited. A revulsion among the workers at Google has so far stopped the company from cooperating with the US immigration service. It has not stopped its YouTube algorithms from corrupting politics in Brazil. Any effective moral action must come from corporations as a whole, not just some of their workers. (The Guardian editorial)



TUHIN BANIK

Digital marketing becomes increasingly important for businesses, they need to start thinking about stepping up their strategies by going beyond conventional Search Engine Optimization (SEO) techniques.

Artificial Intelligence (AI), holds the key to the future of digital marketing. When Google unveiled RankBrain in 2015, users noticed that the results to their queries in the search engine became more useful and relevant. The algorithm, which uses AI to analyse and respond to user queries like a human being would, also returns identical questions asked by other users. With the ability to collect, analyse and learn from data, AI has the

# Withdrawal of enhanced surcharge on FPIs big move: Analysts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rollback of enhanced surcharge on foreign portfolio investors is a shot in the arm for the sagging equity market and a sentiment booster for the Indian economy, analysts said following announcement of a slew of measures by the government.

The decision to levy enhanced surcharge, announced in the Budget, had spooked the stock markets.

In a post-market conference, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced various measures to prop up the slowing economy.

Giving in to the demands of overseas investors, the government rolled back enhanced surcharge on foreign portfolio investors levied in the Budget.

"Withdrawal of enhanced surcharge on FPI, is a big positive for Indian markets as it could reverse the outflows seen since post budget. It should also help INR appreciation. Overall a good sentiment booster for the Indian economy," Ruskim Oza, Head of Fundamental Research, Kotak securities said.

Surcharge on long and short-term capital gains arising from transfer of equity shares has been withdrawn, the minister said.

"The measures are wide ranging and include short term as well as long term remedies. Instant removal of FPI tax is a very short term measure with

long term impact," BSE MD and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan said.

The measures will lead to a change in trend and the outflows from the equity market would be reversed, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said.

"Withdrawal of the surcharge on FPIs is a shot in the arm for the sagging market. One can now expect reversal of the FPI selling. The market is likely to look up from now on," Vijayakumar said.

Mustafa Nadeem, CEO, Epic Research said this is a very positive move for the market.

"The rollback of higher surcharge on FPI as well as domestic investors is a welcome move since it was one of the factors that put a lot of dent on investors sentiment, specifically FII and FPIs," Nadeem added.

The government's move is aimed at encouraging investment in the capital market, the finance minister said.

"These are just the kind of measures which were required to boost the economy. In the immediate term, we can expect the markets to bounce back on Monday with a gap up opening, and continue the rally for a few sessions to come," Amit Gupta, Co-Founder and CEO TradingBells said.

However, Amit Maheshwari, Partner Ashok Maheshwari & Associates LLP said that FPIs having business income would still be impact-

ed.

"Surcharge will no more be charged on short-term capital gain (Section 111A) and long-term capital gain (Section 112A) from the sale of listed equity shares and equity oriented mutual funds. However, surcharge chargeability will continue to impact the taxability on the income from derivatives and from unlisted shares," he said.

"Also it has to be noted that this surcharge goes only for capital gains generated on listed shares and not on unlisted shares," he added.

The government also unveiled various measures to address the slowdown in the auto sector.

The measures to support auto sector include lifting ban on purchase of vehicles by government departments, and allowing additional 15 per cent depreciation on vehicles acquired from now till March 2020.

The revision of one-time registration fees has been deferred till June 2020.

Garima Kapoor, Economist, Elara Capital said the main takeaway of today's announcements by the Finance Minister is that they are aimed at restoring confidence and tackle the challenges of weak demand.

"Withdrawal of surcharge on FPIs and domestic investors would help in alleviating the tax burden on investors in capital markets. Likewise, quicker transmission of rate

cuts, faster recapitalisation of banks and external benchmarking of rates are likely to aid credit off take," Kapoor added.

She further said that most importantly, recognition of issues in the economy and the measures to address them is itself a positive signal and will help ease concerns on growth slowdown.

"Finally the government has taken measures to boost the economy and also address concerns raised by the taxpayers and investors. Specifically to address the weakness in auto sector, there are number of steps taken to provide financing at lower interest rates and tax benefits. This should help the sagging auto sector," Gaurav Dua, Senior VP, Head - Capital Market Strategy, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas noted.

Though this will aid the sentiments, it is too early to take a call on the impact of the measures announced on consumer demand, corporate earnings and equity markets, he added.

"In an attempt to provide a stimulus to the economy and in turn to the automobile sector. Revision of one-time registration fees deferred till June 2020 — This according to us is a very important boost to the sector as this would have had a significant impact on demand in the short term," Ashwin Patil, Senior Research Analyst (Auto Sector), LKP Securities said.

# MSMEs to get pending GST refunds within 30 days: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to the MSME sector facing liquidity shortage, the government on Friday announced that all their pending GST refunds will be paid within 30 days.

Also, in future, all GST refunds of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will be paid within 60 days from the date of application, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said while announcing a slew of measures to boost growth.

Reacting to the announcement, MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari said clearing GST dues within 30 days will be highly beneficial for the MSME sector and will also be instrumental in increasing job opportunities. The amount of pending GST refunds owed to MSMEs is 'significant', he told reporters here.

A top government official said the average amount of GST refund related dues at any given point in time is around Rs 7,000 crore. However, he did not share the exact amount of pending GST refunds for MSMEs.

"I would like to thank Nirmala Sitharaman. The mea-

asures taken by her will be quite beneficial for the MSME sector," Gadkari said.

In a tweet, he welcomed the decisions taken by the Finance Minister and said "this will boost the MSME sector and will be instrumental in increasing job opportunities".

The government would also consider amending the MSME Act to move towards a single definition.

Gadkari said this was under "serious consideration" and a decision will be taken in the next 10-15 days.

Speaking earlier at a press conference to announce measures to boost growth, Sitharaman said the decision on recommendations of the U K Sinha Committee regarding ease of credit, marketing, technology and delayed payments to MSMEs will be taken within 30 days.

She further said that to take advantage of liquidity with the public sector banks (PSBs) and last mile customer connect of NBFCs, the state-run lenders will fast track collaboration for loans to MSMEs.

The MSME sector, which accounts for about 29 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), is one of the largest job creators in the country.

## Business Corner



Punjab National Bank has announced PNB Advantage, Retail Lending Schemes namely Housing, Car & Mortgage Loan linked with Repo Rate from August 27, 2019. In the new schemes rate of interest will be 25% less than the existing applicable rates based on MCLR



TP Singh, General Manager, Northern Railway held a meeting with the members of the Zonal Rail Users Consultative Committee (ZRUCC) in New Delhi on Friday. This is in accordance with the directives given by Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal, advising General Managers of Zonal Railways to increase public outreach to get feedbacks for providing better service to the nation.



Marking another significant milestone in the spread of the Pradhan Mantri Ujda Ganga in Jharkhand, Chief Minister Raghubar Das, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda and Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday launched supply of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), domestic Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and CNG-run vehicles in Ranchi.



Barely a week after the brave personnel of CRPF were decorated with as many as 75 Gallantry medals by the Union Government, including one Kirti Chakra and 2 Shaurya Chakras, FICCI — the premier trade body of the country — honoured CRPF, this time for its 'smart' initiatives. CRPF was awarded with as many as three prestigious distinctions by FICCI at a function on Homeland Security 2019 in New Delhi on Friday



The Dun & Bradstreet Infra Award-2019 has been conferred on NTPC Limited for 'Excellence in Power Generation'. Saptarshi Roy, Director (HR) NTPC received the award from Arvind G Sawant, Union Minister, Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises and SC Garg, Secretary (Power), GOI in New Delhi on 22nd August, 2019. PK Sinha, CGM, NTPC-PMI was also present

# Inter-ministerial panel to select infra projects for ₹100 lakh cr investment: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday said it will set up an inter-ministerial task force to short-list infrastructure projects for its ambitious target of spending Rs 100 lakh crore in the sector.

Announcing a raft of measures to boost the economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the issue of delayed payments from central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) to project developers will be monitored by the Department of Expenditure and the entire process will be

reviewed by the Cabinet Secretary.

Regarding contractual disputes by government/CPSEs, the government has decided to pay 75 per cent of the due upfront, provided arbitration is in favour of the claimant.

On the government's plans to invest ₹100 lakh crore for developing modern infrastructure over five years, Sitharaman said "an inter-ministerial task force is being formed by Department of Economic Affairs to finalise the pipeline of infrastructure projects."

# India Inc cheers steps to stem slowdown

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India Inc on Friday cheered the slew of measures announced by the Government encompassing a broad range of sectors and said the impactful interventions will shore up confidence and revive the animal spirits in the economy that had started showing signs of a 'deep slowdown'.

Addressing a press conference here, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said all pending GST refunds to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) till date shall be paid within 30 days, while future refund matters will be sorted out within 60 days.

She also said that all old tax notices will be decided by October 1 or will be uploaded again through the centralised system.

The finance minister also announced withdrawal of enhanced surcharge levied on FPIs, restoring the pre-Budget position.

"The most important announcement was the removal of the surcharge on FPI & DI profits. Because this was strong evidence of a listening capacity & the humility to course-correct. More than anything else, that should regen-

erate spirits," Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra tweeted.

He added that holding a press conference and announcing a slew of measures instead of a 'trickle of tweaks' was smart communication.

It garnered global attention and signalled government's recognition of the gravity of the situation and an intent to reignite sentiment and growth, he said.

CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said the "excellent package" would help the economy to leapfrog to the next level.

The Government also allowed an additional 15 per cent depreciation on vehicles acquired from now till March 2020 and said it will come out with a scrappage policy for old vehicles.

It also said CSR rule violations will only be treated as civil matter and not as criminal matter.

"While the increased depreciation from 15 per cent to 30 per cent and deferment of increased registration fees till June 2020 will have a positive impact, moderation of GST base rate from 28 per cent to 18 per cent for all categories as being requested by the auto

industry for sometime now would have been the real demand stimulant!," Jaguar Land Rover India Limited President and MD Rohit Suri said.

Assocham President B K Goenka said it is clear that the government is concerned with current economic situation and added that the industry will respond very enthusiastically to these praiseworthy moves.

Ficci President Sandip Somany said the measures will give a major boost to the economy that had started showing signs of a deep slowdown. As these measures take effect, we are sure that these will lift the confidence of businesses and investors alike, he added.

"We thank FM Smt. @nitharaman ji for announcing these measures which will give a boost to demand, industrial activity & overall growth of the Indian economy. Eagerly waiting for the Housing industry announcements," CREDAI Chairman Jaxay Shah tweeted.

PNB Housing Finance Managing Director Sanjaya Gupta said the measures will support growth and ease liquidity crunch in the housing finance sector. Economists and experts

too said the announcements made by the government will have a positive impact on the economy.

MS Mani, Partner at Deloitte India said expediting GST refunds would significantly benefit businesses having refunds in improving their working capital in the short term.

"Removal of angel tax will go a long way in building trust and confidence in the startups and the investors, and shows government's resolve towards ease of doing business in India and encourage entrepreneurship," Vikas Vasal, Partner & National Leader — Tax, Grant Thornton India LLP said.

"The slacking economy and the slump in various sectors including automobiles, housing and MSMEs was a grave concern not just for industry stakeholders but also for the government.

"In a major boost to the slowing economy that comes literally in the nick of time, the FM today has hit a sixer with a slew of announcements for the banking and financial sector including NBFCs, HFCs and even MSMEs," ANAROCK Property Consultants Chairman Anuj Puri said.

M/S BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LIMITED			
CIN - L67120DL1992PLC049038, Tel No: 011-49800900 Fax: 011-49800933			
Email: commofites@bharatbhushan.com, Website: www.bbinvestments.in			
Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001			
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019 (Rs. in Lakhs)			
Particulars	Quarter Ended		
	30.06.2019	30.06.2018	
	UNAUDITED	UNAUDITED	
1. Total Income from operations	6.37	8.98	
2. Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-0.39	2.26	
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-0.39	2.26	
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-3.55	-0.69	
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	-1.26	14.21	
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	
7. Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)			
-Basic	-0.11	-0.02	
-Diluted	-0.11	-0.02	

**Notes:**  
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/Three Months ended June 30th, 2019 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors and filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/Three Months ended June 30th, 2019 is available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.bbinvestments.in).  
2. The Company has adopted the Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS) with effect from April 01st, 2019 with comparative figures being restated to make them comparable. The above Unaudited Financial Results have been prepared in accordance with Ind AS notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rule made thereunder and other accounting principles to the extent applicable.  
3. The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 23-08-2019.  
4. The figures of the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever considered necessary.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Sd/-  
Nisha Ahuja  
Director  
DIN : 0001875

Place : New Delhi  
Date : 23.08.2019

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one lady namely **Sunita W/o Roshan Rana** R/o H.No. 98, J-I JI Colony, Wazirpur, Delhi, has been missing from the area of P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi since 27.07.2019. In this regard, a case **DD No. 31-A, dated 10.08.2019 has been registered at P.S. Bharat Nagar Delhi.** The description of the missing lady is as under.

**Age:** 30 Years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong **Wearing:** Yellow colour Suit and jutti in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing lady then please inform P.S. Bharat Nagar Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

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

Sd/- S.H.O.  
**P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi**  
**Ph. 011-27301200**

**DP/9294/NW/19**

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a Male namely **Sanjay S/o Mohan Lal R/o Arya Samaj Mandir, Babu Park, K.M. Pur, New Delhi Age: about 40 years, Height: 5'3" Built: Thin, Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Red coloured striped shirt and black coloured pant, was admitted in AIIMS Trauma Centre from Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, Red Light, Footpath, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi.** He expired during the treatment on 10.08.2019. Dead body has been preserved for 72 Hours in AIIMS Trauma Centre mortuary. In this regard a **DD No. 02A dated 05.08.2019** has been lodged at PS Lodhi Colony, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased Male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO  
**P.S. Lodhi Colony, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-24620283, 24611753**  
**Mob.: 8750870829**

**DP/5662/SD/19**

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age: 70 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'6", was wearing White colour Shirt and Black & White Lower, was found near Mayapuri Metro Station, New Delhi.** In this regard a **DD No. 27-A, dated 17.08.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Mayapuri, 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. Mayapuri, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-28117644, 28116097**

**DP/8380/WD/19**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a Male namely **Akash S/o Kishan, R/o A558, Gali No. 9, Mukundpur, Delhi, Age: 21 yrs., Height: 5 ft. Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Wearing: Grey Colour Shirt-Pant and Chappal in Feet,** has been missing / kidnapped since **04.08.2019** from the area of PS. Bhalswa Dairy. In this regard a case **DD. No. 62-A dated 05.08.2019** has been lodged at PS. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped Male but no clue has come to light so far.

If anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped Male please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in), Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO  
**PS. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-27811933, 27811934**

**DP/535/ON/19.**

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused two persons namely **Vishal & Shalu S/o Ashwani R/o H.No. F-28/B, Punjabi Camp, Mangol Puri, Delhi** have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in a **E-FIR No. 11881/16 u/s 379/411 IPC PS Mangol Puri, Delhi** and it have been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Vishal & Shalu** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Vishal & Shalu** have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused persons **Vishal & Shalu of E-FIR No. 11881/16 u/s 379/411 IPC, PS Mangol Puri, Delhi are required to appear in the court to answer the said complaint on 11.12.2019.**

By order  
**Sh. Rakesh Kumar-II,**  
**Metropolitan Magistrate (North-West Distt.),**  
**Room No. 105, 1st floor,**  
**Rohini Court, Delhi**

**DP/2584/OD/19**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Neetu, D/o Bhagwan Shah, R/o H.No. J-168, Gali No. 09, Sanjay Colony, Samaipur, Delhi** has been reported kidnapped/ missing from the area of P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi since 02.08.2019. In this regard D.D. No. 07-A, Dated 03.08.2019 has been lodged at Police Station — Samaipur Badli, Delhi. Her physical description is as under: **Age: 19 years, Complexion: Sallow, Height: 5'1", Face: Round, Build: Normal, Clothing: Wearing Unknown.**

Any person is having any information/Clue about this kidnapped/missing girl, may inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph.No.: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO  
**P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-27854757, 27854799**

**DP/526/ON/19**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one lady (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Laxmi, W/o: Vikram, R/o: H.No. 29, Pooth Kalan Village, Sultan Puri, Delhi, Aged: 25 years,** has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of P.S. Sultan Puri, Delhi since 30.07.2019 at **vide DD No. 50-A, Dated 01.08.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Sultan Puri, Delhi.** Her physical description is as under:

**Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Clothing: Green Suit-Salwar and Chappal in feet. ID Mark: Amole on nose at right side.**

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing lady, may inform SHO, Sultan Puri, Delhi at **E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 11-24368638 or 24368641**

S.H.O.  
**P.S. Sultan Puri, Delhi**  
**Ph. 011-25472410, 25472166**

**DP/2559/OD/19.**

# Moody's downgrades GDP growth to 6.2%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Friday revised downwards India's GDP growth forecast for the current year to 6.2 per cent, saying the economy remains sluggish due to a combination of factors such as weak hiring, distress among rural households and tighter financial conditions.

The GDP growth forecast for 2019 calendar year was revised downwards from its previous estimation of 6.8 per cent. The same for 2020 was also lowered by a similar 0.6 percentage points to 6.7 per cent, Moody's said in a statement.

Announcing revision in its growth forecast for 16 Asian economies, it said weaker trade and investment weigh on GDP growth, despite stable private and public consumption in the region.

"While not heavily exposed to external pressures, India's economy remains sluggish on account of a combination of factors, including weak hiring, financial distress among rural households, and tighter financing conditions due to stress among non-bank financial institutions," it said.

Stating that domestic factors have had a greater influence on growth in India,

Moody's said the moderation in business sentiment and slow flow of credit to corporates have contributed to weaker investment in the country.

"Cooler business sentiment and slow flow of credit to corporates contribute to weaker investment in India," it said.

Indian economy had expanded by 6.9 per cent in 2017 and 7.4 per cent in 2018, according to Moody's.

GDP growth rate had hit a five-year low of 5.8 per cent in the January-March quarter and the government is slated to announce the first quarter (April-June) growth number on August 30.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) too had earlier this month lowered GDP growth estimate for the current fiscal that began on April 1 to 6.9 per cent from previous estimate of 7 per cent citing demand and investment slowdown.

Moody's said inflation was expected to rise to 3.7 per cent this year and 4.5 per cent in the next from 2.9 per cent in 2018.

"Reserve Bank of India has been most active in cutting rates in support of growth, but lingering financial sector issues may blunt the effectiveness of the monetary

stimulus," it added.

Moody's said of the 16 Asian economies, Hong Kong and Singapore have shown particularly weak expansions this year, with very large deteriorations in real GDP growth when compared to the first half of 2018.

It explained that externally-oriented economies saw a sharper slowing during the first six months of 2019, while domestic factors have had a greater influence on growth in Japan, India and the Philippines.

"The weaker global economy has stunted Asian exports and the uncertain operating environment has weighed on investment," it said. "In particular, softer capital formation has mirrored the weakening in exports, especially for trade-reliant economies such as Korea and Hong Kong."

As for the Philippines, the delay in the passing of the government budget has disrupted its infrastructure build-out, while in Malaysia and Sri Lanka, fiscal tightening has posed drags.

Moody's also said that the slower overall GDP growth in the region has not yet weighed significantly on broader employment conditions, while generally benign inflation supports purchasing power across the Asia Pacific.

# ₹ rebounds 15 paise to 71.66 against US Dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee spurted 15 paise to close at 71.66 against the US dollar on Friday on hopes that the government will roll back the FPI surcharge and unveil measures to boost growth.

The rupee, which had earlier in the day breached the 72-mark for the first time this year, stabilised following an announcement that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will address a press conference in the evening.

Easing crude oil prices and a recovery in the domestic equity markets also propped up the local currency, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened weaker at 71.93 a dollar. It fell further to the day's low of 72.05, before recouping losses to touch a high of 71.58. The local unit finally settled at 71.66, up 15 paise against its previous close.

The rupee had plunged to an over eight-month low of 71.81 on Thursday amid tumbling equities and incessant foreign fund outflows. "Rupee has taken some

breather in the second half today after the report scheduling FM's conference today at 5 pm. There is an expectation that government should rollback FPI surcharge," said V K Sharma, Head PGC & Capital Markets Strategy, HDFC Securities.

The Indian currency has witnessed heavy selling in the recent past, and has been depreciating against the dollar for the last seven consecutive weeks. There could be a pullback in the rupee as it looks extremely oversold in the short term, Sharma added.

Meanwhile, the global crude benchmark Brent Futures fell 0.10 per cent to trade at \$59.86 per barrel on Friday.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.28 per cent to 98.44.

Meanwhile, the 10-year Indian government bond yield was up at 6.58 per cent.

FPIs, which have been net sellers for the past many weeks, offloaded shares worth Rs 902.99 crore on Thursday, provisional data with the exchanges showed.

# Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal withdraws plea to visit abroad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday allowed Naresh Goyal, the founder of the now-grounded Jet Airways, to withdraw his petition for permission to travel abroad.

Justice Navin Chawla said the plea is "dismissed as withdrawn".

In a fresh application to the court, Goyal said the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has started its probe into a case of alleged fraud of Rs 18,000 crore and he was extending full cooperation to the agency in the investigation and accordingly, was not pressing for the permission to go abroad at this stage.

The Central government's Standing Counsel Ajay Diggpaal, however, told the court that Goyal was not cooperating in the investigation.

Besides seeking permission to travel outside India, Goyal had also challenged a look out circular (LOC) issued against him on the ground that as on May 25, when he was off-loaded from a flight to Dubai, no ECIR/FIR was registered against him.

In his plea, Goyal said he came to know of the LOC on May 25 when he and his wife Anita were off-loaded from a flight to Dubai with an onward connection to London.

He said when he had filed the petition in July, he was in an urgent need to travel

abroad and thereafter, he received summons from SFIO for recording of statement regarding the investigation which has been initiated.

The petitioner (Goyal) is participating and fully cooperating in the investigation and has appeared before the authorities on three occasions.

"As the investigation has commenced and since the petitioner is extending full cooperation, he is not pressing the present writ petition at this stage for permission to travel outside India," it said, adding he be given liberty to avail appropriate remedies in future.

Earlier when Goyal had moved court seeking permission to go abroad, the judge had observed that if he wanted to go abroad, he should first deposit Rs 18,000 crore as a guarantee that his company owes to lenders.

Denying him permission to fly abroad, the court had sought the Centre's reply to his plea.

The Centre had informed the petition in July, he was in a serious fraud involving Rs 18,000 crore and the investigation



was being carried out by the SFIO.

Goyal has sought quashing of the LOC as well as several office memorandums which lay down the guidelines for issuing the travel ban.

According to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the LOC was issued after the ministry found in an inspection large-scale irregularities in Jet Airways, which shut its operations in April due to acute cash crunch.

The ministry subsequently ordered a probe by the SFIO into the affairs of Jet Airways.

Naresh and Anita Goyal had resigned from the board of Jet Airways, which the former founded 26 years ago, in March following a debt restructuring plan. He had also resigned as the airline's chairman. Jet Airways is facing insolvency proceedings.

# Govt to allow Aadhaar-based KYC for retail investors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will allow Aadhaar-based KYC for domestic retail investors, and necessary amendments to the rules under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act will be issued.

Announcing a slew of measures to boost the economy, the Government said the Depository Receipt Scheme 2014 is expected to be operationalised soon by Sebi. "This will give Indian companies increased access to foreign funds through American Depository Receipt (ADR)/ Global Depository Receipt (GDR)," she said.

In order to improve market access for the domestic retail investors, Aadhaar-based KYC will be permitted for opening of demat account and making investment in mutual funds. In this regard, necessary notification for amendments in PMLA rules would be issued.

"To bring offshore rupee market to domestic stock exchanges and permit trading of USD-INR derivatives in GIFT IFSC, Ministry of Finance is working with RBI to introduce this measure shortly," the government said.

# RCEP trade ministers to meet in Bangkok on Sep 8

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce ministers of 16 countries including India and Japan, which are negotiating mega free trade agreement RCEP, will hold a crucial meeting in Bangkok on September 8 to iron out differences and push the negotiations forward, an official has said.

The negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has reached at a fundamental phase as the member countries are targeting to conclude the talks, according to the official.

"This will be most likely the last meeting at ministers level," the official said.

This meet assumes significance as several sectors have raised serious concerns over the impact of the agreement on domestic industry.

So far 27 rounds of talks have been held, but the member countries are yet to arrive at the number of goods over which import duties will be eliminated or significantly reduced.

Similarly, talks on liberalising rules for trade of services, a key area of interest for India, too are moving slowly.

Indian industry has raised concerns over the presence of China in the grouping with which India has a trade deficit of over \$50 billion. Various sectors, including dairy, metals, electronics, chemicals, and textiles, have urged the government to not agree on duty cut in these segments.

Amul, which contributes about 4 per cent to India's total dairy production, has sought exclusion of all dairy and dairy products from any liberalisation. Australia and New Zealand are among the largest players in the dairy sector.

RCEP bloc includes the 10 ASEAN members (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand.

India has registered trade deficit in 2018-19 with as many as 11 RCEP member countries, including China, South Korea and Australia.

The trade agreement aims to cover issues related to goods, services, investments, economic and technical cooperation, competition and intellectual property rights.

# IIFL set to snap up L&T Fin's wealth mgmt arm for ₹250 cr, deal likely early next week

PTI ■ MUMBAI

As part of its strategy to exit non-core businesses, L&T Finance is selling its wealth management arm to IIFL Group for around ₹250 crore and the deal is set to be inked early next week, say three people aware of the development.

Once concluded, this will be the fourth acquisition by IIFL Wealth, in which General Atlantic holds 21.8 per cent, in the past three years after the Chennai-based Wealth Advisors in October 2018, Ashburton India Equity Opportunities Fund in December 2017 and Bengaluru-based Altior Advisors in 2016.

With over 10,000 clients, IIFL Wealth is the third largest player with an asset under management (AUM) of close to ₹1.7 trillion, or around \$24.5 billion, in the around \$170-billion-strong domestic wealth management business, that is dominated by Kotak Wealth with an AUM of around \$36 billion, followed by ICICI at \$27 billion, according to industry estimates.

IIFL Wealth reported a net income of ₹384 crore on a fee income of around ₹1,060 crore in the year to March 2019 when it closed the fiscal with an AUM of ₹1,69,312 crore.

L&T Wealth has an asset under management of ₹25,600 crore as of June and employs around 100 people. The company entered the wealth management segment in 2012 by roping in the Indian team of the Swiss private bank EFG.

"IIFL Wealth is set to snap up L&T Financials' wealth management business for close to ₹250 crore. The negotiations got delayed over valuation, as L&T was demanding higher valuation at over ₹300 crore," two people aware of the deal told PTI Friday.

Another person confirming the deal said, "a formal announcement is expected early as early as in the first half of next week."

Normally, the valuation in wealth management deals is around 1 per cent or thereabout of the AUM.

The sources, however, did not say whether IIFL will absorb the employees of Larsen Wealth who number around 100.

The deal will be inked between India Infoline Finance Wealth and Asset Management and the wealth management unit of L&T Financial Services.

Both the companies refused to confirm the deal.

In an email Larsen Finance said, "as a policy we don't comment on market specula-

tion", while an email sent to the IIFL spokesperson did not elicit a response.

The move by the Nirmal Jain-promoted group, which is majority owned by the Canadian NRI Prem Watsa's Farifax Holdings, will help it close the gap with the segment leader Kotak, say industry observers.

IIFL Wealth has been growing through organic route and had acquired Wealth Advisors India, a Chennai-based firm, for a ₹235 crore in October 2018.

In December 2017, it had acquired Ashburton India Equity Opportunities Fund for an undisclosed amount, and in the previous year it had also bought Altior Advisors based in Bengaluru, helping it grow the AUM.

One of the sources said for L&T Finance, the deal is good as it has been trying to pare non-core businesses to focus on its core areas of consumer and infra lending.

There are also rumours that Larsen Finance is looking to exit mutual fund business.

In the June quarter earnings, Larsen Finance had said it was looking to focus on core businesses likes rural lending, housing finance and infra finance, and may enter consumer loans.

# Jet: Irish lessor moves NCLT seeking to take back Boeing 777

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Irish aircraft leasing firm Fleet Ireland, which had leased the impounded Boeing B777 plane to the defunct Jet Airways, Friday moved the NCLT seeking a recall of the tribunal's July 5 order that directed DGCA not to deregister the aircraft on the ground that it is an affected party and thus needs to be heard.

The aircraft was seized by a European cargo operator at the Amsterdam airport end March for non-payment of dues. Following this, a Dutch court had ordered bankruptcy proceedings against the airline in May.

The tribunal adjourned the matter to September 3.

The bankruptcy tribunal had on July 5, prevented the Directorate General of Civil Aviation from deregistering the Boeing 777 plane, which has been under the possession of a Dutch cargo provider since April.

After the airline was taken



to NCLT on June 17, the Dutch company had moved an application to the DGCA seeking to de-register the aircraft.

When the NCLT resumed hearing the case on July 5, the RP sought a direction to DGCA against de-registration of the plane citing the moratorium under the bankruptcy process.

Meanwhile, the RP informed the tribunal that about 200 employees have consented to the terms of the agreement on salary payments. The RP also sought a direction to the lenders on interim financing so that a portion of the pending salaries could be paid.

The tribunal comprising VP Singh and Rajesh Sharma directed the RP to file a fresh application in this regard.

# AI asked to come clear on GDS rights issue by Sept

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major admonition to State-run Air India, Delhi High Court has directed national carrier to present its reasons behind its decision to shift domestic ticket-booking business "exclusively" on Travelpart, and abruptly discontinuing using the services of global ticket distribution firm Amadeus.

In its order dated July 25 the High Court ruled, "Time is sought to file counter affidavit. Let the counter affidavit be filed within four weeks. Rejoinder, if any be filed within four weeks thereafter". The HC is slated to hear the case on September 26.

The court has given Air India four weeks' time to respond to the judgement with relevant documents.

In October last year, Travelpart had announced that it had "won competitive tender process undertaken by Air India for the sole provision of distribution of its domestic flight content in the airline's home market".

The national carrier had decided to shift to Travelpart despite several senior officials raising objections against the move. Joining hands with Travelpart meant giving access to details of AI's flyers to Interglobe

Technologies Quotient, a strategic business unit of InterGlobe Enterprises which is the parent company of IndiGo, India's largest airline by market share and Air India's biggest competitor.

GDS is a globally connected computerised reservation network offering a one-point access to airline bookings, hotel reservations as well associated travel-related areas including car rentals.

A GDS also connects travel agents and other such service providers with large corporations. Such networks are usually operated in partnership with, either through joint ventures or as supporting business partners, major airlines, hotel chains or transnational travel service providers.

Taking strong stance against the allocation made to Travel Port, the Punjab and Haryana High Court in January noted that under Article 12, the national carrier was "duty bound" to invite bids before giving "exclusive rights to any agency for GDS".

"It is further contended that Air India was duty bound to call bids in the form of tenders and that Amadeus could not be arbitrarily excluded from sale of tickets for domestic flights," it had said.

# IBC can't resolve power sector crisis, but ARCs can: Secy

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Financially crippled power companies cannot be revived or resolved under the provisions of the existing bankruptcy laws, but asset reconstruction companies can better deal with them, a senior government official said Friday.

Crucial agreements on the power purchase and fuel supply come apart if an asset goes for bankruptcy by sending it to NCLT as required under the law now, leaving only the plant and machinery, Union power secretary SC Garg said.

The power sector is one of the worst performing from an asset quality perspective for banks and Garg pegged the overall stressed portfolio at around Rs 4 trillion or over 65,000 mw of generation capacity.

"Not every kind of industry or every kind of asset can be best reconstructed through the IBC," Garg told an event on ARCs organised by industry lobby Assocham.

If a power sector asset goes to NCLT, "practically nothing will survive, except the plant", he said, adding PPAs and FSAs will come off. Any new buyer will lose interest asset because of this, he said, recommending the ARC route to resolving the stress in the sector.

He said the dozen-odd ARCs, which have been around for over a decade now, can collaborate with an industry expert, to help in resolution.

However, absence of strong homegrown power companies which can team up with financial investors to resolve an asset, is delaying the resolution process.

# Slowdown in auto sector temporary: KIA Motors

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Korean automobile maker KIA Motors India on Friday said the current slowdown in the industry is a temporary phase, and customer sentiments will revive again.

"There is some industry slowdown. We believe that the slowdown in the automobile industry is temporary. Customer sentiments will revive again," said Yong S Kim, ED and CSO of KIA Motors India.

Kim was talking to reporters here at the launch of the SUV 'Seltos', manufactured at its plant in Andhra Pradesh.

He said the company entered the Indian market with an SUV, as it is the fastest growing segment in the automobile industry in the country.

"For a new entrant, there is no good time. We are confident of our product..," he said.

The company claimed to have received around 33,000 bookings in the last five weeks.

The Andhra Pradesh facility has a capacity of three lakh units per annum, Kim said.

# Production of illicit cigarettes poses high health risk in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is in the midst of a silent health crisis as illicit cigarettes, with dangerous implications for lungs and throats, are beginning to find their way in large swathes of India. Other than hundreds of illegal units manufacturing illicit cigarettes, there are 12134 units registered under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, which are engaged in tobacco products including cigarette manufacturing units.

These units are registered under a special 2015-notified scheme Udyog Aadhar Memorandum (UAM), according to an RTI reply by the ministry.

The RTI reply says that the "Ministry has notified the Udyog Aadhar Memorandum (UAM) on 18th September 2015, a one page online registration system for MSMEs based on self-certification and no additional document is required to be uploaded at the time of filing of UAM."

"Any entrepreneur either in manufacturing or service oriented enterprise can register as MSME online at www.udyogadhar.gov.in only

after establishing the unit, obtaining all regulatory approvals and starting commercial operations. Any activity defined in the certificate is valid provided the activity is under purview of the law, except the activities not covered under MSMED Act 2006, for registration of UAM," explained a senior government official.

The reply goes on to give the break-up of number of "tobacco products including cigarettes manufacturing units" registered under UAM - Micro 11611, Small 490, Medium 33. According to experts, this defeats the tobacco control policy of the Health Ministry according to which no fresh licenses have been issued to any cigarette manufacturing unit after 1999.

Licensing for manufacturing of cigarettes are issued by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) of Ministry of Commerce as per IDR Act 1951. However, even in this Act, there are clauses which have loopholes exploiting which companies are manufacturing illicit cigarettes.

According to another RTI Reply by Tobacco Board of

India, which supplies virginia tobacco used in cigarettes, "Four companies are registered with Tobacco Board as manufacturer of virginia tobacco and are manufacturing cigarettes based on the certificate issued by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, using the exemptions available under IDR Act 1951 for the units engaging less than 50/100 laborers without the aid of the power."

Such manufacturers not only evade taxes causing revenue losses to the government, but also pose severe health risks to smokers given that hazardous substances are mixed with tobacco. Other than manufacturing illicit and counterfeit products, such units are also exploiting their status to manufacture popular foreign brands.

Recently Police, District Tobacco Control Units and NGOs across Delhi-NCR have conducted several raids and found such units manufacturing illicit and counterfeit of popular foreign brands, packs of which do not contain the mandatory Health Warning, as mandated by law.

# US officials confirm Israeli strike in Iraq

Attack marks significant escalation in Israel's campaign against Iranian military entrenchment in Iraq

AP ■ JERUSALEM

US officials have confirmed that Israel was responsible for the bombing of an Iranian weapons depot in Iraq last month, an attack that would mark a significant escalation in Israel's years-long campaign against Iranian military entrenchment across the region.



The confirmation comes as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is strongly hinting that his country is behind recent airstrikes that have hit bases and munitions depot belonging to Iran-backed paramilitary forces operating in Iraq.

The mystery attacks have not been claimed by any side and have left Israeli officials scrambling for a response, amid strong speculation that Israel may have been behind them.

Drone attacks are potentially destabilizing for Iraq and its fragile Government, which has struggled to remain neutral amid growing tensions between the United States and Iran.

Drone attacks are potentially destabilizing for Iraq and its fragile Government, which has struggled to remain neutral amid growing tensions between the United States and Iran.

Earlier this week, the deputy head of the Iraqi Shiite militias, known collectively as the Popular Mobilisation Forces, openly accused Israeli

There have been at least three explosions at Iraqi Shiite militia bases in the past month. American officials now confirm Israel was responsible for at least one of them.

ence to the Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah group. He said the attack targeted the headquarters of the advisers and a weapons depot.

On August 12, a massive explosion at the al-Saqr military base near Baghdad shook the capital, killing one civilian and wounding 28 others. The base housed a weapons depot for the Iraqi federal police and the PMF.

Netanyahu said: "We act in many arenas against a country that desires to annihilate us. Of course I gave the security forces a free hand and the instruction to do what is needed to thwart these plans of Iran."

Early Friday, the New York Times, citing Israeli and U.S. Officials, reported that Israel bombed an Iranian weapons depot in Iraq last month.

The most recent of the explosions came Tuesday night, at a munitions depot north of Baghdad.

There have been weeks of speculation in Israel that the army is attacking targets in Iraq.

In an interview with a Russian-language TV station on Thursday, Netanyahu indicated the speculation is true.

"I don't give Iran immunity anywhere," he said, accusing the Iranians of trying to establish bases "against us everywhere," including Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq.

Asked whether that means Israel is operating in Iraq,

## Homemade bomb kills Israeli, wounds two others in West Bank

AFP ■ JERUSALEM

A blast from a homemade bomb killed one Israeli and seriously wounded two of her family members in an attack near a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank on Friday, officials said. Israeli security forces were deployed throughout the area of the attack near the settlement of Dolev, northwest of Ramallah, in a search for suspects.

# Sri Lanka ends state of emergency

Over 1,000 people were arrested for their links to the NTJ, including five people who were extradited from Saudi Arabia

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has ended the four-month-long state of emergency imposed in the country following the Easter Sunday attacks that claimed 258 lives.

Officials sources said a government gazette which should have been issued on Thursday to extend the state of emergency by a further month was not issued.

"The president did not issue the gazette to extend emergency," they said.

President Maithripala Sirisena has been extending the emergency through a gazette notification every month since the bombings on April 21.

Sri Lanka initially imposed the emergency on April 23 to crack down on the nine suicide bombers who attacked three churches and as many luxury hotels, killing 258 people and injuring 500 others.

The ISIS terror group claimed the attacks, but the government blamed the local Islamist extremist group

## GLOBE TROTTER

### 'PAK MIN PUNCHED, PELTED WITH EGGS'

London: Pakistan railway minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad was punched and pelted with eggs during a visit to London, according to Pakistani media reports. The Minister, the chief of Pakistan's Awami Muslim League (AML), was accosted when he stepped out to smoke his cigar at a London awards ceremony earlier this week.

### SUDAN FLOODS KILL 54 SINCE JULY: UN

Khartoum: Rain and flash floods have killed 54 people in Sudan since the start of July and affected nearly 200,000, the United Nations said on Friday. The worst affected area is White Nile state in the south but Khartoum and other regions have also been affected. "More than 37,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged," the UN said, quoting figures from the Government body it partners with in the crisis response.

### 22 MISSING AFTER INDONESIA FERRY FIRE

Jakarta: Nearly two dozen people are missing from the carcass of a ferry that went up in flames off Indonesia's Java island, a port official said on Friday. The boat was en route from Indonesia's second-biggest city Surabaya to Balikpapan on Borneo island with some 277 people aboard when it caught fire Thursday evening, according to the official.

### 17 DIE IN ROAD CRASH IN CENTRAL NIGERIA

Lagos: Seventeen people were killed when a passenger bus collided with an oncoming truck in central Nigeria, a road safety official said on Friday. The accident involving an 18-passenger Toyota bus and a truck transporting a container happened in Kwara state on Thursday.

# Amazon wildfires 'acute emergency', belongs on G7 agenda: Germany

AFP ■ BERLIN

The fires raging in the Amazon rainforest amount to an "acute emergency" and Chancellor Angela Merkel believes it should be discussed by world leaders when they meet for this weekend's G7 summit, her spokesman said on Friday.

that this acute emergency of the Amazon rainforest belongs on the agenda," added Seibert, saying that Merkel backs French President Emmanuel Macron's call on the G7 to address the issue at the summit in Biarritz.

"The extent of the fires in the Amazon area is shocking and threatening and not only for Brazil and the other affected countries, but also for the whole world," Steffen Seibert told journalists in Berlin.

Macron's bid at rallying world leaders on the issue had been immediately blasted by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who accused the G7 summit host of having a "colonialist mentality".

Bolsonaro is facing growing criticism over his anti-environment rhetoric, which activists blame for emboldening loggers, miners and farmers in the Amazon.

"When the G7 comes together this weekend, then the chancellor is convinced

# Putin vows 'symmetric response' to US missile test

AFP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday he has ordered the military to prepare a "symmetric response" after Washington tested a formerly banned missile.

Putin said he had ordered an analysis of "the level of threat for our country created by the actions of the US and to take comprehensive measures to prepare a symmetric response".

The US Department of Defense said Monday it had tested a type of ground-launched missile that was banned under the 1987 INF agreement, which limited the use of nuclear and conventional

Moscow and Washington ripped up the pact early this month after several months of accusing one another of breaching its conditions

medium-range weapons.

Moscow and Washington ripped up the pact early this month after several months of accusing one another of breaching its conditions.

Russia and China have both warned that Sunday's launch of the nuclear-capable Tomahawk cruise missile with a MK-41 launcher had heightened military tensions and risked sparking a new arms race.

# China, Pak targeted on persecution of religious minorities at UNSC meet

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

China and Pakistan were targeted for their persecution of religious minorities, with western powers such as the US and UK calling out both nations at a UN Security Council meeting for the oppression faced by Christians, Ahmadis, Uighurs and other ethnic minorities.

The Arria-Formula Meeting of the Security Council on 'Advancing the Safety and Security of Persons Belonging to Religious

# Malta to disembark 356 migrants en route to 6 EU countries

AP ■ MADRID

Malta says it will disembark 356 migrants aboard a humanitarian ship in the central Mediterranean Sea after six European countries agreed to accept all of them.

In a series of tweets Friday, Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said the migrants will be transferred from the Ocean Viking to vessels of the country's armed forces before taking them on shore.

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
CORRIGENDUM TO e-AUCTION SALE PROGRAM  
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT  
Please refer to this office e-Auction Sale Notification No. S438/e-Auction 2019-20 Dt. 20/08/2019. Kindly issue corrigendum to above mentioned E-auction programme as follows:-

Depot	From Existing Depot Officer In Charge	To Depot Officer In Charge	From Existing Contact No.	To Contact No.
Vadodara	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Mahalaxmi	Sr.Div. Material Manager-Vadodara	022-24929571 09004495750	022-22641592 09724091750
Rajkot	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Dahod	Sr.Div. Material Manager-Rajkot	02673241295 09724090455	022-22476943 09724094770
Bhavnagar	Sr.Div. Material Manager-Rajkot	Sr.Div. Material Manager-Bhavnagar	022-22476943 09724097750	022-22444360 09724097750

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

**EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED**  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Open Domestic Tender)**  
E-Tender Notice for Online Bidding only  
'E-Tender with E price Bid' is invited by the General Manager (MM)/HOD, ECL. Brief detail is as under:  
**Tender No. & Date:** ECL/Hq/Pur/O/51913042/NUT/044 Date: 19.08.2019  
**Name of Work:** "Domestic open e-tender for procurement of Hexagonal Bright Nut M20 Long Series for use in 20mm Roof Bolt & Long Series Hexagonal Bright Nut BSW 3/4".  
Note: The tendered item is reserved for procurement exclusively from Micro and Small Enterprises as per Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) Order, 2012 under MSMED Act, 2006. Hence, only Micro and Small Enterprises are allowed to participate in this tender.  
**Document download start date:** 28.08.2019 11.00 hrs IST.  
**Document download end date:** 19.09.2019 at 11.00 hrs IST.  
**Tender Opening Date & Time:** 21.09.2019 11.00 hrs IST.  
Estimated Tender value: **Rs 1,29,84,720.00**  
In order to view the detail of the Notice Inviting Tender/Tender Documents, Download the same and Participate in the tender online, please visit NIC portal website <https://coalindiatenders.gov.in>  
For queries if any, bidders may contact:-  
Mr. P.E. Arun Kumar, Chief Manager (MM), Ph-9434795194  
Mr. S. Raut, Assistant Manager (MM), Ph-9434795367  
**General Manager (MM)/HOD**  
VISIT US AT [www.easterncoal.nic.in](http://www.easterncoal.nic.in)

**UNITED LEASING & INDUSTRIES LTD.**  
Regd. Office : Plot No.66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurugram, Haryana.  
CIN : L17100HR1983PLC033460, Phone:011-26258237, 26253522  
email. Id: [investorrelations@uililtd.com](mailto:investorrelations@uililtd.com), website : [uililtd.com](http://uililtd.com).

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to SEBI Circular SEBI/HO/MIRSD/DOS3/CIR/P/2018/139 dated 6th November 2018, the Company has received requests from the following transferee(s) to transfer the below mentioned securities held in the name(s) of the security holder(s) mentioned there against as detailed below, to his/her/their name(s). These securities were claimed to have been purchased by him / her / them and could not be transferred in his/her/their favour.

Folio No.	Name(s) of the Holder(s)/Transferor	Security Type and Face Value	Number of Securities	Distinctive Nos. From - To	Name(s) of the Transferee(s)
0014003	REETU GUPTA MAHENDRA KUMAR GUPTA	Equity 10/-	20	1596021- 1596040	MANISH SHAH
0014006	CHAMANLAL PAWAR MAHENDRA KUMAR PAWAR	Equity 10/-	20	1851906-1851925	MANISH SHAH
0014004	SURESH GUPTA MAHENDRA KUMAR GUPTA	Equity 10/-	20	2245461- 2245480	MANISH SHAH

Any person who has a claim in respect of the above mentioned securities, should lodge such claim with the Company at its Registered Office within 30 days from this date along with appropriate documentary evidence thereof in support of such claim, else the Company will proceed to transfer the securities in favour of the above proposed Transferee(s), without any further intimation.  
For United Leasing & Industries Ltd.  
SD/  
Place: New Delhi Chandni Arora  
Date: 22/08/2019 Company Secretary

# Japan leader says S Korea ending intel deal damages trust

Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said South Korea's decision to cancel a deal to share military intelligence, mainly on North Korea, is damaging mutual trust and vowed Friday to work closely with the US for regional peace.

Abe also accused South Korea of not keeping past promises. The intelligence agreement started in 2016.

"We will continue to closely coordinate with the US to ensure regional peace and prosperity, as well as Japan's security," he said ahead of his departure for the Group of Seven summit.

South Korea announced Thursday it would terminate the intelligence deal because Tokyo's decision to downgrade South Korea's preferential trade status had caused a "grave" change in the security cooperation between the countries. AP

# Yemeni Govt forces rout separatists from southern city

AP ■ SANAA (YEMEN)

Forces loyal to Yemen's internationally recognised Government have taken full control of a key southern city after overnight clashes with separatists there, Yemeni security officials said on Friday.

Clashes over Ataq, the capital of oil-rich Shabwa province erupted late Thursday night and lasted until Friday morning, said the security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because there were not authorised to talk to the media.

The city of Ataq was previously divided between the government forces of Saudi-backed President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and a separatist militia, trained and armed by the United Arab Emirates.

**Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board**  
Office Of The Executive Engineer C-3  
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI  
2nd Floor, Circle Office Bldg., Road No. -28, Shivaji Place, Raja Garden, New Delhi 110027.  
E-Mail I.D : [eec3.dusib@gmail.com](mailto:eec3.dusib@gmail.com)  
Tel. No. : +91-11-25417491

No:- WG/4840/25/EE-C-3/Acctt.Br./2019-20/D- 574 Date: 19-08-19

The Executive Engineer -C-3 (DUSIB) Govt. of N.C.T. Delhi invites on behalf of DUSIB online Percentage rate bid on two bid system for following work.

NIT No. 37 /EE C-3/DUSIB/2019-20 (PID No. 11254) Tender I.D 2019\_DUSIB\_178301\_1, NAME OF WORK:- Built Up Facilities.SH:- ARMO and special Repair works and development works with rain water harvesting works for the community hall at L Block Mangolpuri. Estimated cost: Rs. 30,01,595/- Earnest Money (In Rs.) 60,100, Tender Cost (In Rs.) 500.00. Time allowed 60days. Date & time for down load/ upload of entire Tender document w.e.f 23.08.2019 by 17:00 to 03.09.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs. through E-Procurement System.

NIT No. 38 /EE C-3/DUSIB/2019-20 (PID No.9713) Tender I.D 2019\_DUSIB\_178341\_1, Name of Work:- Improvement of SC/ST Basties SH:- Improvement of the lanes in Balmiki Basti at village Peeragarhi. Estimated cost: Rs. 36,10,565/- Earnest Money (In Rs.) 72,300/-, Tender Cost (In Rs.) 500.00, Time allowed 90days. Date & time for down load/ upload of entire Tender document w.e.f 23.08.2019 by 17:00 to 03.09.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs. through E-Procurement System.

NIT No. 39/EE C-3/DUSIB/2019-20 (PID No.9753) Tender I.D 2019\_DUSIB\_178342\_1, NAME OF WORK:- Improvement of SC/ST,GOVT. (SP) OF NCT DELHI; SUB HEAD :- Construction of Community Hall Single storey (SF) at block C-4, Sultanpuri. Estimated cost: Rs. 76,14,626/- Earnest Money (In Rs.) 1,52,500/-, Tender Cost(In Rs.) 1000.00, Time allowed 300days. Date & time for down load/ upload of entire Tender document w.e.f 23.08.2019 by 17:00 to 03.09.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs. through E- Procurement System.

SD/  
DIP/Shabdarth/0562/19-20 Executive Engineer C-3 (DUSIB)

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
BULK ADVERTISING RIGHTS AT VARIOUS STATIONS

1. Executive : Sr. DCM, e-Tender Notice No. CA11-NFROOH-NIG-BSR-VR-15 dated 19.08.2019. Work and location: Bulk advertising rights at circulating area of or at Naigaon, Vasai Road and Virar stations for display of advertisements by dismantling and replacing the existing hoarding structures with new structure or by modifying, repairing, strengthening & painting of existing structures as well as erection & display of new hoarding structures, for a period of five years. First Year Reserve Price: ₹46,31,636/- (excluding taxes etc). Approx. cost of work: ₹2,46,22,031/- (excluding taxes etc). EMD: ₹4,92,500/-  
Date & Time of closing of online submission: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 11.09.2019. Date & Time of opening of e-tender: At 15.30 hrs. on 11.09.2019.

2. Executive : Sr. DCM, e-Tender Notice No. CA11-NFROOH-BAROB-I-19-16 dated 21.08.2019. Work and location: Bulk advertising rights at Bandra ROB-North Location (Group-I) for display of advertisements by dismantling existing hoarding structures & replacing with erection of new hoarding structure of size 120' x 40' (3) i.e. Triple Decker facing west, for a period of five years. First Year Reserve Price: ₹8,94,18,240/- (excluding taxes etc). Approx. cost of work: ₹47,53,52,264/- (excluding taxes etc). EMD: ₹95,07,100/-  
Date & Time of closing of online submission: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 16.09.2019. Date & time of opening of e-tender: At 15.30 hrs. on 16.09.2019. Note: Please visit our website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. Cost of tender and EMD shall be accepted only through online net banking or E-payment gateway. Bidder should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

## PRESS E-TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. VII, Irrigation & Flood Control Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector- 15, Rohini, Delhi invites online item rate E- tenders on behalf of the President of India from approved and eligible contractors of I&FC Deptt. The contractors who are registered with other Departments but granted provisional permission by the Chief Engineer (I&FC) are also eligible for participation of e-tendering for the following works:-

Sr. No	NIT No.	Name of Work	Head of Account	Estimate Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed
1.	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/42	Repair of Badshahi Road from Khera Kalan Industrial Plot to Play Ground at village Khera Kalan in Distt. North.	4515 Capital DVDB	23,01,682/-	46,034/-	02 Months
2.	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/43	Improvement of street and side drain of Gali No. 7 (Badd Wala Chowk) at village Samaypur in Badli A.C.	4515 Capital DVDB	19,30,964/-	38,619/-	03 Months
3.	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/44	Construction of road and side drain for approach of Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Siraspur to Main road at village Siraspur in Badli A.C.	4515 Capital DVDB	20,59,933/-	41,199/-	03 Months
4.	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/45	Strengthening of inspection road including construction of inner side wheel guard on Left Bank of Bawana Escape drain between RD 4165 M to RD 4730 M.	4711 Capital	1,10,05,407/-	2,20,108/-	12 Months

- The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case, the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
  - Earnest money in physical form and self attested copy of Registration of enlistment & other documents (eg. ESI & EPF registration, copy of PAN card, Copy of GST documents ) should be submitted in the Office of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-VII, I&FC Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110085 upto 3.00 PM on the last date of submission of technical bids for obtaining the deposition slip for uploading.
  - The details of above mentioned work(s) can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
  - The agencies who do not fulfill eligibility criteria/ do not submit required documents upto the stipulated time, their tenders shall be rejected summarily at technical bid stage.
  - Tenders submitted through e-procurement portal shall only be considered and no manual tender shall be accepted.
  - Intending tenders participating in tendering process in EE CD-VII, I&FC shall furnish ESI & EPF registration along with other required documents and the same shall be uploaded while bidding. Moreover the ESI & EPF registration documents of all contractors shall be kept on records and ESI & EPF registration documents of lowest tenderer to whom the work awarded shall form the part of the agreement.(I&FC department office order No.1417-48 dated 29.01.2016).
- DIP/Shabdarth/0565/19-20 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CD-VII)

SHORT CIRCUITS

VIVEK OBEROI

As a proud Indian, a patriot, and a member of the film fraternity, it's my duty to highlight what our Armed Forces are truly capable of. In the form of a trilingual, the film which is based on balakot air strike is a powerful tool to underline the achievements of brave officers like Wing Commander Abhinandan and make the country proud.



SUNIEL SHETTY

I am playing mentor to Sudeep's (actor) character in the film *Pehlwaan*, a father figure to the protagonist. It was exciting as I always wanted to play a character which is calm and composed. I think it's always best to play your age and it has come out beautifully. Sudeep and Krishna (director) have managed my character well.



ANGAD BEDI

I am looking forward to spend some good time with Neha (Dhupia) and Mehr (kid). This trip is special as we went to Maldives for our honeymoon and now this is the first time we are going with Mehr. On a personal front, the past two years have been a golden period for me. Professionally too, work has been constant and I have never been this busier.



VIJAY VARMA

In my film *Hurdang*, we arrived at the final look after many trials. We wanted to get the milieu right and took references from many real life personal pictures of late 80s, which the team had gathered. Sheetal Sharma is the designer in this film and we worked closely over many trials to get the vibe of my role, Loha Singh, right.

TAYLOR SWIFT

The leading man in my music video *Lover* is someone I have performed on stage for years. He is the 'king of my heart' in all my performances every night on the reputation tour. In the performances, I could see how expressive and heroic he is. Along with that, he is an amazing actor to work with as well.



ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

TOSS AND LOVE

For actor RAJEEV KHANDELWAL, it's either a 'yes' in the first narration of a script or simply a 'no'. However, he tells CHAHAK MITTAL, that he gave time to decide whether he should work on his forthcoming web series, *Coldd Lassi aur Chicken Masala*. But it intrigued him and love stories are something he hadn't done in a long time. And this one was 'gourmet-licious'

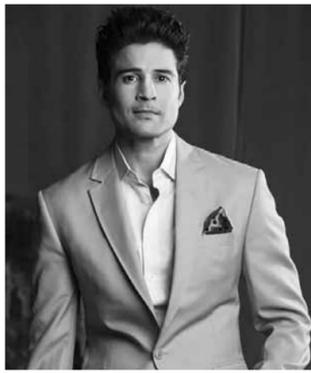
Do you remember the last time you saw actor Rajeev Khandelwal being the protagonist in a love story? *Kahin Toh Hoga* was the only show you could recall, isn't it? Well, a role like Sujal Garewal's certainly was not one to be forgotten. Even after donning a number of versatile hats as an actor, his image of a boy next door has been the most favourite one. And when one watches the trailer of his forthcoming ALTBalaji web series, *Coldd Lassi aur Chicken Masala*, one can surely recall his similar avatar in his previous such roles.

He tells us that it's the very reason why he chose this role too. "I am doing a love story after a very long time. I really liked and appreciated how the story was written so powerfully. So when love stories are written well, it's great fun to work and perform on them. It's premise was also very different. I really liked how the love story proceeded in the backdrop of food as well as the back and forth of the characters within a span of eight years. Also, because it is a web series, it would come to an end after a certain amount of episodes rather than going on for months on TV," says the actor, who

had initially refused to be part of the show as he found the script to be very "superficial" in its first narration. However, after reading the first four chapters later, he agreed with the "beautifully-written script."

The show features Rajeev as Vikram, a two-star Michelin chef, who is chef Nitya's (played by Divyanka Tripathi) senior and ex-lover. The story revolves around the couple as they move back and forth between love and conflict in a 'gourmet-licious' world. The two lovers had separated after a tiff eight years ago. And in the present day, as they face each other in the same kitchen again, their past makes a comeback. Nitya's focus on detailing and perfection makes her look like a stubborn and short-tempered person among her colleagues, whereas, Vikram believes in experimentation and is not very approving of Nitya's idea of traditionality.

A title like that is, for a fact, intriguing. It certainly generates some level of curiosity among the audience if one hasn't watched the trailer to know what it actually tries to showcase. Why would a love story be named on a food item and an ingredient after all? Rajeev laughs and



says that even he had questioned the same. "When I was told that the title of the series would be *Coldd Lassi aur Chicken Masala*, I was perplexed. I never expected a love story to be named like that. I thought it would be a very romantic title and something new and different. But then, Ekta (Kapoor) usually has a knack for coming up with very interesting titles. She would always think beyond the clouds and come up with something unique. And then, after going on with it for a few days, I also came to terms with it, especially after knowing the complete script. It's not just the dishes that we are talking about but also has something to do with the characters. If one person matches with the nature of a cold lassi, the other matches with the

chicken masala. Somewhere, you'll notice it even in the characters too. So I find it apt now."

There have been a plenty love stories, especially when it comes to shows and a dramatic universe created by Ekta Kapoor, but this one appears like a first of its kind to have been airing under her production. With an interesting and new pairing, the trailer makes it evident that the show would promise an added culinary experience with the right flavours and spices in a love story. One can see Divyanka and Rajeev dealing with everyday issues in a hotel kitchen and the challenges chefs face. However, not even once would one point out that they are not professional cooks. We can see them preparing dishes with the

same body language and style sous chefs have. So was there any specific kind of training that went into making the cast look like professional kitchen experts? Absolutely. And Rajeev tells us how. "Not just me and Divyanka, but even the other people in the kitchen were trained under head chefs everyday for some time. We were taught the basics of cooking. We were taught how to hold the butcher's knife and cut, chop and toss. There was a chef always present on the sets who would point out if we were making mistakes in performing a particular act related to cooking. They would tell us, 'No, you're holding it wrong. You should pour the sprinkles like this.' But of course, the dishes which are shown are not prepared by us," he says and adds that even though the story has cooking elements in it, it's a love story, so a kitchen is just a place.

Rajeev believes that the essence of a love story always remains the same. It's actually the storytelling that changes the game. He says, "Stories can always be similar or can have similar elements but storytelling is different in every plot. Which is the reason why even two same stories would look different when told through different perspectives."

Be it *Table No. 21*, *Reporters*, *Sach Ka Saamna*, *Aamir*, *Shaitan* or even *Soundtrack*, Rajeev is known for his roles that have might not be commercially acclaimed, but definitely critically. Talking about how he selects a role and how the approach has changed with time, the actor says that he doesn't think a lot while making a selection. It just comes to him spontaneously. He tells us, "Nothing has really changed. My approach is still the same. I am very instinctive as a person. If something excites me, I want to do it. I say yes, instantly. I have never had a particular way of picking up my projects. I don't give them too much of a thought." All these listed above, he adds, were instinctive decisions. "I have sealed all of my projects with the first meeting itself. If I like it, it's a yes, and if I don't, it's a no. Simple!" However, *Shaitan* was out of the list here and even *Cold Lassi...* scripts of which, he says, hadn't convinced him in the first meetings.

Though he always convinces, no matter what. Laughs. (The show releases on September 3 on ALTBalaji and ZEE5.)

CONVERSATION 25 MINUTES

A melange of traditions

For sustainability to take the lead in the fashion industry, textile conservationist SAILESH SINGHANIA tells AYUSHI SHARMA how people need to understand the difference between what's perishable and plastic



plethora of cultures and traditions together and culminating them into one final creation.

"That's why I wanted to do something with Khadi with the finer accounts. *Jamdani* technique was started 1,000 years ago. It is very time-consuming but yes, there is no limitation to the designs. A four to five metre saree can be of a single design and that's its beauty," says Singhania.

Though *Jamdani* has enjoyed immense popularity right from the beginning, the art form bloomed during the Mughal period. However, colonisation by the British saw a decline in the production of it. Export of cheaper yarn from European countries in the 19th century was one of the primary reasons for the decline. Also, with the decline



of Mughal rule in India, producers of *Jamdani* were deprived of their most influential patrons. Villages like Madhurapur and Jangalbadi in Bihar, once famous for the intricate *Jamdani*

industry, faded into oblivion. Post the Partition, many weavers had migrated to present-day West Bengal, which marked the beginning of the art form in India. He shares about its tedious process. The making of it involves the supplementary weft technique along with the standard weft technique. With the latter, the base sheer material is made on which thicker threads are used to create designs. Each of the supplementary weft motif is then added manually by interlacing the weft threads with fine bamboo sticks using individual spools. This process results in the vibrant patterns that appear to float on a shimmering surface, which is a feature unique to *Jamdani* sarees.

So why can't we use the age-old techniques as they are — raw and rich

— rather than blending it with newer approach? He says, "We are using the old techniques only. The new technique is like power looms, which gives you the price-effective production cost, which is the difference between handloom and power loom. Handloom has its limitation of production and the cost, which is meant to be high. Power loom reduces the cost and enhances the efficiency of the production."

The fabric Khadi, now 100-years-old, has taken decades to become a global fashion statement. Does Singhania think that age-old things just like Khadi should be given equal exposure? And that there is a need to revive them as well to make them recognise globally? He says, "Khadi is something you need to experience first. Once people start wearing and experimenting, they understand the difference between Khadi and other products. Brands have started promoting it very well. It was earlier majorly done by our government only, which never had a proper channel to manage it. Khadi has been brought into highlight through better branding. Indian government is not great at branding and marketing the products, it is always done better by private companies. Of course, other things should be given an equal exposure. And I think, the topic must be inculcated in the syllabus of school children."

Comprising opulent whites and enigmatic gold threads, each saree in his collection has been woven painstakingly over a labourious period of over eight months to match the unparalleled beauty of his muses. "We have used different types of silk like Assam silk, Mulberry silk from Bangalore, *Muga* silk and *Ahinsa* silk, its so much in fashion today," he says.

There exists in nature, a certain type of harmony, beyond the confines of human belief and within those of the spirit. Singhania's royal *Banarasi* silk, is assiduously woven with motifs inspired by the sun and the moon, the natural forces upon which life sustains and the society thrives. The motifs embody nature and its interaction with the human race, like an orchestrated symphony of life in the weave. The Kanjeevaram silk sarees that have

remained a constant in every closet since the Chola and Pallava dynasty, are also revisited through his collection, celebrating the identity of the fabric with a modern outlook, tapping into its potential without tampering with its ethnicity.

Singhania has worked with 700 handloom weavers belonging to 22 different clusters from areas like Pochampally, Gadwal, Uppada, Kota, Pranpur and others to curate his collection. "We need to fulfill their requirements. We need to teach them how to mend the looms and how to get perfection in their designs with the graphs. I agree, ultimately weaving is done by the weavers. But it's not like all the 700 weavers would come to the industry daily. It is done at homes. So in the local villages we have master craftsmen and weavers. We coordinate with them and they support the local people there because every local cluster has their local language and culture. So the master craftsmen bridge that gap. It's a

chain. It's like an organised industry working in a semi-organised pattern," he says as he chuckles a bit.

Regional weavers are actually keeping the traditional style craft alive from different states. Being a textile conservationist, what does Singhania think of how can these weavers from small towns and cities could be given a platform to be recognised in the global forum? "Our efforts lie in creating a sustainable world, wherein our artisans can thrive and are celebrated. This collection is a testament of our efforts and we strive to bring to the fore the sheer talent that our weavers possess. However, small weavers generally know the technique quite well but designers need to help them for latest designs and innovation so that it stays relevant in today's contemporary world. Without that, it is really difficult as they need help in various things. And things have also got very expensive. Just a weaver to run a handloom, they need an investment of more than ₹2-3 lakh for one loom. They also need help from master weavers or designers to educate them about innovation, latest colours, designs, patterns and price," he says.

The designer is determined to promote sustainable fashion, craftsmanship with a commitment to 'Make in India' initiative. So what drives his passion for this? "I really love sustainable fashion because the old things goes and the new things comes, it has to move on and it's not like a polyester but a process. Sustainability was practised from many years and it defines luxury. If it's not perishable, then it's plastic," he says and adds that there are only pre-forms of natural yarns — cotton, silk and woolen. These things are quite skin-friendly and also suit the Indian weather since we sweat a lot, and skin feels more comfortable in cotton or Khadi.

"I really wanted to do something for the textile industry. To revive the textile and give it a global recognition and showcase the Indian heritage globally. You simply cannot find the Indian crafts in other places," says Singhania.



BACKSTAGE 30 MINUTES

# From the streets of Mathura

Artist SHOBHA DEEPAK SINGH shares the journey of Krishna woven with an array of tales, beliefs, and myths. She presents his teachings through traditional dance forms like *Mayurbhanj*, *Chhau* and *Kalaripayattu*. By SAKSHI SHARMA



Whether it is Krishna's joyous years of childhood or the antics he played while growing up, his romance with nature and his compassion for everything that had life or eventually attaining the stage of human adoration, classical dancer Shobha Deepak Singh brings his journey on stage through scenes which will take you back to his various folk lores. And what better an occasion than Janmashtami for this? The performance begins with the celebration that takes place at midnight with devotional songs, dances, *aartis* and rocking the cradle of baby Kanha. In the show, which is the 43rd edition of the story of Krishna, Shobha tries to couple Indian traditions with newness and dynamism so that the audience can relate to it as per the current scenario. It is woven with an array of tales, beliefs and myths. The essence of the show remains the same, she says, but it has been blended with various things in order to make it appealing and different from its previous versions. Shobha says, "The audience wants to see something new every year while keeping

the traditionality intact. So, we play in terms of the choreography, costumes and characters." She has tried to make the choreography more vibrant and technologically advanced. She shares that this year LED screens have been used for projection and a new audio and video-visual screen, which enhances the video quality of the show. This will give a more realistic element to the show and the audience will connect closely. Shobha breaks the story into individual passages and then tries to set the sequence. She then checks how each sequence is different from the previous one. She is a keen believer of learning from each phase of the show and tries to improvise consistently. "As soon as the show is over, we see and analyse our performances, we check what could have been done better and then work on that," she says. This helps them to refine their performance and become "better versions" of themselves. There are specifically some editions of the show that are loved more by the audience. She says, "I am someone who won't stick to an idea even if it works. I start thinking about newer concepts that can enhance my

**'INITIALLY, I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT KRISHNA. BUT THEN I READ A LOT AND SPENT TIME AT THE SAHITYA AKADEMI AND CAME ACROSS NEW INTERPRETATIONS OF HIS STORY. THIS HAS HELPED ME ADD MORE ELEMENTS TO THE STORY AND ENRICH MY PERFORMANCES'**



show instantly after one performance is done. Initially, she used to do simple shows and performances as there were not much facilities or technology but the stage has travelled too far from then and evolved with each show. Shobha recalls, "When I look back, I could only remember few famous episodes of Krishna but now we have a series depicting all his

stages." She further shares that the research on Krishna shows him in two different avatars. One, where his *nakhat* activities are highlighted and the other, in the battle of Kurukshetra. Shobha has tried to show the same. She says, "The first half is completely devoted to his mischiefs and shows the popular episodes like *makkhan chori*, his fight with *Kaliya*, *Govardhan parvat* whereas the second half is based on the *Mahabharata* and the message of Krishna on the battlefield in the form of traditional dance forms like *Mayurbhanj*, *Chhau* and *Kalaripayattu*." Shobha agrees that along with the evolution of the story, there has been a growth in her journey too. "Initially, I didn't know a lot of things about Krishna. But I read a lot and spent time at the Sahitya Akademi and came across new interpretations of his story. This has helped add more elements to the story and enrich my performances," she says. The artist is all set for the 63rd edition of *Ramayana* starting on September 27 and 28. (The show will be staged today at 6.30 at Kamani Auditorium.)



## Mars is 'rolling stones'

There is now a "Rolling Stones Rock" on Mars, and it's giving Mick, Keith and the boys some serious satisfaction. NASA named a little stone for the legendary rockers after its InSight robotic lander captured it rolling across the surface of Mars last year, and the new moniker was made public at the night's rolling stones' concert at the Rose Bowl. "NASA has given us something we have always dreamt of, our very own rock on Mars. I can't believe it," Mick Jagger told the crowd, "I want to bring it back and put it on our mantelpiece." Robert Downey Jr announced the name, taking the stage just before the band's set at the Southern California stadium that is only a stone's throw from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which manages InSight. "Cross-pollinating science and a legendary rock band is always a good thing," the actor said. He told the crowd that JPL scientists had come up with the name "in a fit of fandom and clever association." "Charlie, Ronnie, Keith and Mick were in no way opposed to the notion," Downey said, "but in typical egalitarian fashion, they suggested I assist in procuring 60,000 votes to make it official, so that's my mission." He led the audience in a shout before declaring the deed done. Jagger said, "I want to say thank our favourite action man Robert Downey Jr, that was a very nice intro he gave." The rock, just a little bigger than a golf ball, was moved by InSight's own thrusters as the robotic lander touched down on Mars on November 26. It only moved about three feet (0.9 meters), but that's the farthest NASA has seen a rock roll while landing a craft on another planet. "I've seen a lot of Mars rocks over my career," Matt Golombek, a JPL geologist who has helped NASA land all its Mars missions since 1997, said in a statement. "This one probably won't be in a lot of scientific papers, but it's definitely one of the coolest," he added. The rolling stones and NASA logos were shown side by side in the run-up to the show as the sun set over the Rose Bowl, leaving many fans perplexed as to what the connection was before it was announced. The concert had originally been scheduled for spring, before the stones postponed their No Filter North American tour because Jagger had a heart surgery. The 76-year-old showed no signs of poor health or even his age as he danced, pranced and boogied up and down a long catwalk that extended to the middle of the stadium's field. He did poke fun at his advanced years. "It's great to be back at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena," Jagger said. "At least I think we've been here before." (They have, in 1994.) He added, "We walked up and down Hollywood Boulevard looking for the rolling stones star but couldn't find it." (The band doesn't have one.) And he took a dig at President Donald Trump's recent talk of acquiring Greenland when introducing his bandmates. "On the drums," Jagger shouted, "Greenland's new economic adviser, Charlie Watts" —AP



## Sonam's character inspired by Mandira Bedi?

Actress Sonam Kapoor and actor Dulquer Salmaan-starrer *The Zoya Factor* has been in the news recently owing to a story where luck proves to be the greatest factor. It is based on the eponymous book by Anuja Chauhan. On the film front, the latest rumour circulating is whether the film is inspired from the life of actress and presenter Mandira Bedi. As per a source, the book is inspired by the life of a woman who gained massive traction after the 2003 World Cup. Mandira, who was originally an actor, started her stint as a presenter for the Indian Cricket team in 2003 and it was her compering and the luck that followed for the team, which is still remembered. The source said, "Mandira Bedi's associa-

tion with the cricket team as their compere somehow had proven to be lucky for the cricket team. Whenever the team's day started with a greeting from Mandira, they won. And therefore, it was believed that she is indeed the lucky mascot for our cricket team. In the earlier days of reading sessions between the author (Anuja), director and the actors, they often discussed how the book is hugely inspired from her life and Sonam hence drew references from the same." *Zoya Factor* is about a Rajput girl named Zoya Singh Solanki (played by Sonam Kapoor) who meets the Indian Cricket team through her job as an executive in an advertising agency and ends up becoming a lucky charm for the team in the 2010 Cricket World Cup.

**What did you think of the *Riviera*'s script when you first read it?** I thought it was ambitious. We only got the first two episodes to read and a gentle overview of where things would go after that so you base your appreciation on those two things. But it was a very intriguing series and a world full of art that I haven't seen before on television so I was glad to jump in and be a part of it.

**How do you go about preparing for a role and do you build up a backstory to your character?** When you're doing a TV project of this nature, you can replace your backstory with front one because you don't know where the character's going to end up. Also, the information about their backstory contained in the first couple of scripts you receive is very minimal, so you invent it to make sure you have a real working connection with the other actors to move forward. But what might happen then is you read episode three, which you didn't get before and suddenly find out that you were orphaned. So you might say "I'm going to do loads of back preparation" when actually you have to just jump in and play. Then when you reach to episodes five and six, those scripts will have been written by writers, who have watched your performances in episodes one and two, so they will be working from what you've already brought to the character. So you have to change the backstory for front story and they start to create the character in line with what you're playing already.

**Is it becomes a collaborative process?** It feels collaborative because you get the script and might say "well this wouldn't happen and that wouldn't happen," and then they can shift and change the whole script.

**Tell us about your character, Robert?** He's an art dealer, who trained in the same class as Georgina. They both know a lot about art, although they work on different sides of it. Georgina is a curator and she falls in love with him. Robert, on the other hand, has used his knowledge to start tracking where paintings are being sold, where they are being kept and who has them. It's quite common for people, who buy a piece of art, to actually have a really good reproduction on their wall while the original

# It's all about classics

Actor ADRIAN LESTER says he personally believed in art and has collected some original artistic pieces, carvings and triptych from different countries while doing *Riviera*. By TEAM VIVA



is locked away in a vault somewhere.

**The explosion sets off a huge chain of events for many people. How does Constantine's death specifically change Robert's life?** It changes Georgina's life and that changes Robert's life. It brings someone who was very close to him back into his life.

**Are you an art lover yourself? What kind of art do you prefer?** I have some original pieces. Some carvings, but not conventional art and there are triptych that I got from different countries. There's nothing major that falls in line with the classics that people pay millions for.



to the character, you need to have an expert eye watching you as you climb towards it. Or if the character is close to you, is very emotional and is quote private, then you want freedom and the security that it brings. Every actor works in different ways. Some actors might be brilliant and amazing on their first two takes. Other actors really need to warm up.

They get into the skin slowly. So you have to see who's bringing what in rehearsal and work from that.

**You directed episodes seven and eight of this series. How did this understanding of your fellow actors feed into your work as a director?** It's something you have to read. As an actor who is also directing, I know exactly how the other actor could feel. So when you shout 'action', what goes down the lens is brutally real and convincing and they can do that in a very safe environment.

**How did you find the experience of directing *Riviera* given it has such a distinctive cinematic look?** You've got set design by 18th-century France and lighting by God, so you just have to point the camera on it at the right time of day, having been given these things for nothing. But having said that, you do require the time, energy, budget and a good

crew so that you can capture all these moments and make them as expressive as they could be. The characters are very rich, so we had to put all of that on screen and make people feel like they were watching a very lush, almost voluptuous world of art. And you can't do a drama set in that world and present it in a picture box frame without treating that frame like it's a piece of art.

**Did you have fun while making the show with such a great ensemble cast?** There were people there from all over the world — Germans, French, Russians, Americans, Britishers. We were all there, speaking all of those languages. Everyone has a slightly different method of working. As a director you step in line with the ways everyone chooses to work and on this series they all brought their cultural influences with them, which was really great.

**What did you make of the *Riviera* itself?** There's a lot of money there and you can see the part of that world, when you go to Monaco Harbour and see the massive yachts there. They just stay there empty for most of the year. If you have that kind of money, why not just rock up and hire one for five days?

**What's your most extravagant purchase?** Me and my family go so practically through life. We never buy things we can't see or feel the value of. People telling me something is worth 'x' doesn't sway it for me. I have to see the practical value of something I buy. Therefore, we haven't really splashed out on anything ridiculously expensive. If there is anything that I truly wanted to keep precious, it is my kids and the best way of looking after them is making sure I don't spend loads of money on train kits. (Riviera seasons 1 and 2 are streaming on SonyLIV.)

STUDIO CHAT 20 MINUTES

# SINDHU BREAKS TAI CODE

PV inches closer to elusive Gold; Praneeth breaks 36-year drought

Momota vs Sai Praneeth  
Live from 1:30pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK



B Sai Praneeth reacts after beating Jonatan Christie



PV Sindhu celebrates after winning quarterfinal match against Tai Tzu Ying

PTI ■ BASEL

PV Sindhu secured her fifth World Championships medal following a stunning comeback while B Sai Praneeth became the first Indian male shuttler in 36 years to grab a podium in the prestigious event here on Friday.

On a day of double delight for India, Olympic Silver medallist Sindhu staged a come-from-behind victory over Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying, before Praneeth ended an agonising wait with a straight-game win over Indonesia's Jonatan Christie.

Sindhu, who won back-to-back Silver medals in the last two editions of the tournament to go with her two Bronze, edged past world number 2 and Asian Games Gold medallist Tzu Ying 12-21, 23-21, 21-19 in a pulsating contest that lasted 71 minutes, inching closer to an elusive gold medal at the worlds.

World No 19 Praneeth, who got the Arjuna Award this year, notched up a 24-22, 21-14 win over Asian Games Gold medallist Jonatan in a 51-minute battle, joining Prakash Padukone in the medal list at the tournament.

Padukone was the first Indian to win a men's singles World Championships medal — a Bronze — in the 1983 edition.

In the women's singles, Sindhu showed tremendous grit after being blown away in the opening game, edging past her fancied rival, who enjoys an upper hand (10-4) after 14 career meetings.

"I think in the first game, I had given a huge lead and I couldn't cover. I was prepared for her deception but my shots were going to mid court. But the second game was anybody's game and I kept fighting and won the second. The

third game went same way, she was leading but I had hope. At 18-18, I had to be patient and keep the shuttle inside, there were long rallies and I am happy to win this," Sindhu said after the win.

"We keep playing each other, so we know each other's game. I needed to be positive. It was a really good match and taking out such close matches gives a big boost to the confidence and I hope I can prepare well and come back stronger tomorrow."

The 24-year-old Indian will take on the winner of the match between China's Chen Yu Fei and Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt on Saturday.

"I don't know whom I will play. Chen Yufei is doing well in recent times and Mia has beaten Saina yesterday. I will be playing them after a long time. Anything can happen, I just have to be there and focus on tomorrow's match," Sindhu said.



In the men's singles quarterfinals, Praneeth, who had won the Singapore Open in 2017 and finished runners-up at Swiss Open earlier this year, came into the tournament with a 1-2 head-to-head count against the Indonesian.

But the past record didn't matter as the Indian came out attacking to stave off a stiff challenge from Jonatan in the opening game and then blew him away in the second to find his place in history.

"It feels awesome. It feels great and I am happy to win today. I still have matches, so I have to focus on that and be fitter for tomorrow. We can talk about what medal later on," laughed Praneeth after the match.

Talking about the match, Praneeth said: "In the first game,

the rallies were going on really long and I was attacking a lot and there was a lot of pressure and it made me tired. It was crucial because if he would have won then it could have been different.

"Later Gopi sir told me not to attack and that changed the rhythm and I think those inputs helped me

a lot." Praneeth will take on World No 1 Kento Momota of Japan in the semifinals on Saturday.

"I think everybody is trying to find a way to beat him. It is not easy being the world No 1. You have to put him under pressure, so lets see how it goes. I will give my best"

Saina Nehwal @NSaina  
still can't believe 2 match points which the umpire overruled in the second game. And the umpire tells me in the mid of second game "let the line umpires do their job" and I dnt understand suddenly how the umpire overruled the match points..very sick @bwfmedia @HSBCBWF

## Kashyap, Saina slam 'bad umpiring'

PTI ■ BASEL

Indian badminton ace Saina Nehwal on Friday slammed the standard of umpiring in her BWF World Championships pre-quarterfinal loss to Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt, terming it "very sick".

Her husband Parupalli Kashyap, who often sits by the court side during her matches, also lashed out at the umpire following the narrow defeat.

"Still can't believe 2 match points which the umpire overruled in the second game. And the umpire tells me in the mid of second game 'let the line umpires do their job' and I don't understand suddenly how the umpire overruled the match points..Very sick," the London Olympic Bronze medallist tweeted.

Saina, who had won a Silver at the 2015 World

Championships and a Bronze in 2017, put up a gritty performance before losing 21-15, 25-27, 12-21 to Blichfeldt, seeded 12th, in the women's singles match that lasted an hour and 12 minutes on Thursday.

There was no video referral in place for Saina's match as it was not held in one of the two courts with live streaming facility.

"2 match-points snatched away by bad umpiring. And numerous wrong decisions," Kashyap, a 2014 Commonwealth Games champion, wrote on his Twitter handle.

"Unbelievable that there are no reviews on other courts at the WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS. When will our sport get better? SICK @bwfmedia @HSBCBWF @NSaina #feelingcheated #totalbwfworldchampionships2019"

## Table toppers clash

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool vs Arsenal  
Live from 10:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Early Premier League leaders Liverpool and Arsenal face-off, while Frank Lampard is under pressure to deliver his first win as Chelsea boss at Norwich today.

One of the only two remaining 100 percent records in the Premier League will go at Anfield where the European champions will hope to continue a fine recent record against the north Londoners.

Jürgen Klopp has never lost in seven previous Premier League meetings against Arsenal and his side have beaten the Gunners 4-0 and 5-1 at home in the past two seasons.

However, Unai Emery's outfit are hoping a busy summer in the transfer window, while Liverpool did not strengthen, will have significantly narrowed the 27-point gap between the sides last season.

Emery could hand a first start to £72 million (\$87 million) club record signing Nicolas Pepe, while on-loan Real Madrid midfielder Dani Ceballos earned rave reviews by creating both goals on his full debut against Burnley last weekend.

However, it is at the back Arsenal need a drastic improvement and there is an early opportunity for veteran centre-back David Luiz to make his mark by halting the free-scoring trio of Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah, who combined for all five Liverpool goals when the sides last met.

Arsenal have some outstanding finishers of their own. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who shared the Premier League Golden Boot with Mane and Salah last season, has scored his side's winner in the first two games of the campaign.

And on the evidence of Liverpool's first four games of the season across all competitions, a defence

that registered 20 Premier League clean sheets last season looks far less solid.

Alisson Becker remains sidelined with a calf injury, meaning Adrian — whose calamitous attempted clearance gifted Southampton a goal last weekend — will keep his place in goal.

Whist Liverpool and Arsenal have taken advantage of a couple of kind fixtures to get their campaigns off to a bright start, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham all dropped points on matchday two.

The roles are reversed this weekend as United host Crystal Palace, who have yet to score this season at Old Trafford, City travel to Bournemouth and Spurs seek to dismiss Newcastle with the ease newly-promoted Norwich did last weekend.

**PUKKI TO PILE PRESSURE**

Lampard was not handed an easy start to life as Chelsea boss with a trip to

Old Trafford followed by Liverpool in the UEFA Super Cup and the visit of an ambitious Leicester side to Stamford Bridge last weekend.

However, Lampard, who had just one year's managerial experience at Derby prior to taking over his old club, needs a win at Norwich to ease the questioning of his tactics.

The former England international has been accused of being too gung-ho in his approach as both United and Leicester cut Chelsea open relentlessly on the counter-attack and if he cannot tailor his approach, Norwich have a striker in form ready to take advantage. Teemu Pukki has scored four times in his first two Premier League appearances, including a hat-trick against Newcastle last weekend.

AFP ■ TURIN

Juventus begin their Serie A campaign at Parma today looking to push their record Scudetto run to nine but with a different style of football under new coach Maurizio Sarri, who will miss the opening fixtures with pneumonia.

Behind, Napoli and Inter Milan are waiting in the wings hopeful that Sarri's arrival can lead to turmoil in Turin and a changing of the guard in Italy.

Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli have not won the title since 1990 and open at Fiorentina Saturday with Antonio Conte's Inter at home to promoted Lecce on Monday.

Like Sarri, Conte last coached at Chelsea, and along with three-times Champions League winner Ancelotti, Serie A have a world class coaching setup this season.

Juventus start the season without Sarri however who will miss the Parma game and his former club Napoli in Turin on August 31 with pneumonia. The 60-year-old is still overseeing training.

Juventus are targeting a 36th

## Juve begin title defence



Juventus players pose for group photo after the end of training session in Turin Juventus/Twitter

Scudetto but their main objective remains the Champions League which they have not won since 1996.

After splashing out on Cristiano Ronaldo last season Juventus have again reinforced with midfielders Aaron Ramsey and Adrien Rabiot and Dutch defender

Matthijs De Ligt.

**'RAISED THE BAR'**  
In Milan, Conte, who led Juventus to the first three in their series of eight titles, has also been given money to spend to give Inter a first Serie A title since 2010.

## Zizou challenges Bale to prove his worth

AFP ■ MADRID

R Madrid vs R Valladolid  
Live from 10:30pm IST  
LIVE ON FACEBOOK

Zinedine Zidane has chal-

lenged Gareth Bale to show why he is still one of the world's best players as he continues his reintegration at Real Madrid.

Bale was a surprise inclusion in the starting line-up against Celta Vigo last weekend, when Madrid opened with an impressive 3-1 win in La Liga and Bale was arguably man of the match.

Zidane said in July it would be "best for everyone" if Bale left Madrid this summer but the Welshman has been eager to stay and appears to be regaining the confidence of his coach.

"What has changed is that the player is going to stay, nothing more," Zidane said in a press conference on Friday, ahead of today's game at home to Real Valladolid.

"The important thing is the player wants to stay. It's true that a lot was said about him, by me as well, but he is going to stay."

"He is a great player, he has shown that before and he has to show it again. He has to be the player we know that he is."



## Harmanpreet proud to lead India to success

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh is a proud man after having led India to success in his maiden stint as captain of the national team in the just-concluded Olympic Test event in Tokyo.

World No 5 India rested some senior players and fielded a relatively young team for the Olympic Test event but still managed to lift the crown, defeating New Zealand 5-0 in the final on Wednesday.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone involved in the team to showcase what they can do. With some experienced players rested for the tournament, we had a fairly younger squad, but it was a great chance for the youngsters to do well and I am really pleased with the way everyone stepped up."

"The team performed well against teams like Japan, Malaysia and New Zealand, and it was an immensely proud moment for me to have led the Indian men's hockey team for the very first time," said the 23-year-old Harmanpreet, who captained India in the absence of Manpreet Singh.

Harmanpreet scored two goals in the tournament and both his strikes came against New Zealand — the first in the 1-2 loss in round-robin match, while the other was in the final.

"Scoring is something that I have really worked on since the junior days. To be able to help the team in scoring some important goals at crucial junctures in a match is something that motivates me even further," Harmanpreet said.



Harmanpreet Singh poses for photo during Indian team training session Harmanpreet/Twitter

"I have worked on my drag-flicking with the coaches, and finally it is showing on the field as well and I am really pleased, but I will continue to keep working."



Niko Kovac & Philippe Coutinho walk during Bayern Munich training session AP

## Bayern loanees ready to shine

AFP ■ BERLIN

Schalke vs Bayern  
Live from 10:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

New loan signings Ivan Perisic and Philippe Coutinho both hope to make their Bundesliga debuts as champions Bayern Munich attempt to reboot a rocky start to the season at Schalke today.

Perisic and Coutinho, both of whom arrived in Munich on loan this month, will be in the squad for the first time as Bayern look to pick up their first win of the new season against David Wagner's Schalke.

Coutinho, 27, has been the talk of Germany since Bayern announced his arrival on a one-year loan deal from Barcelona last week.

Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic said the Brazilian would provide "a touch of the spectacular", and hopes the former Liverpool player can sprinkle some much-needed stardust on the German top-flight.

Bayern announced record engagement figures on their social media accounts following Coutinho's arrival, but fans may have to wait to see him in action.

Coach Niko Kovac confirmed on Thursday Coutinho was not yet fit enough to play the full 90 minutes, and would start on the bench against Schalke.

The Croatian coach said his compatriot Perisic had better chances of making a first start for Bayern.

Perisic, 30, joined Bayern on a one-year loan from Inter Milan earlier this month, but was forced to sit out the season opener against Hertha Berlin due to a suspension carried over from Serie A.

That game confirmed a bumpy start to the new season for Bayern, as they were held to a 2-2 draw and immediately slipped two points behind title rivals Dortmund, who had beaten them in the German Supercup two weeks previously.

# Jadeja, Ishant lift India to 297



Ravindra Jadeja is greeted by Jasprit Bumrah after scoring half a century against West Indies AP

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Ravindra Jadeja and Ishant Sharma frustrated West Indies with a timely 60-run stand for the eighth wicket, helping India to 297 all out at lunch on day two of the first Test here on Friday.

Jadeja (58 off 112) and Ishant (19 off 62) were able to negotiate the threat posed by the potent pace duo of

Shannon Gabriel and Kemar Roach after losing Rishabh Pant (24) in the second over of the day.

Jadeja's innings comprised six fours and a maximum before he became the last man to be dismissed in the Indian innings, leading to lunch.

India resumed the day at 203 for six with Pant (20) and Jadeja being the overnight batsmen.



**JADEJA (58 OFF 112) AND ISHANT (19 OFF 62) WERE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE THE THREAT POSED BY THE POTENT PACE DUO OF GABRIEL AND ROACH AFTER LOSING RISHABH PANT (24) IN THE SECOND OVER OF THE DAY**

While Jadeja justified his inclusion in the playing XI ahead of Ravichandran Ashwin with a gritty effort, Pant could not deliver for the team.

Roach got his fourth wicket of the innings when he dismissed Pant with a beauty from around the wicket that moved away enough to get the edge of the young wicketkeeper-batsman.

Pant was guilty of playing the ball with hard hands as skipper Jason Holder took a regulation catch at sec-

ond slip, leaving India at 207 for seven.

It seemed India's brittle tail will not put up much of a fight yet again, but Jadeja and Ishant batted sensibly in their 116-ball stand, defying the West Indian pacers.

While maturity was expected from Jadeja, Ishant impressed with the way he dealt with the express pace of Roach and Gabriel. He was not afraid to come on to the front foot and was equally comfortable at tackling the rising ball.

The lanky India pacer, whose highest score is 31, was finally dismissed in the 90th over, playing on to a full slower ball off Gabriel.

Mohammad Shami joined Jadeja in the middle but his stay lasted only one ball as he offered a return catch to off-spinner Roston Chase.

Running out of partners, Jadeja showed urgency to collect some vital runs and brought up his 11th half-century with a slap to cover for four. The following ball, he swept Chase for a six over deep midwicket, giving the Indian innings a welcome flourish towards the end.

Vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane had made a crucial 81 on the opening day to help India recover from a poor start.

## I was thinking about team rather than hundred: Rahane

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

It's been two years since he last got a Test hundred but Ajinkya Rahane didn't want to be "selfish" thinking about his own milestone when the priority was to get his team out of the woods.

Coming in at a precarious 25 for 3 on the opening day of the first Test against West Indies, Rahane scored 81, an innings he values more than a hundred.

In fact, he knew a question would pop about missing out on a hundred, having last scored one against Sri Lanka back in 2017.

"I knew this question was coming and I was ready," he smiled when asked at the day end media conference.

"As long as I am at the crease, I am thinking about my team, I am not a selfish guy. So yes, I am not too concerned about the hundred as I thought 81 on that wicket was really crucial as we are now in a decent position," said Rahane.

A century would have been nice but what mattered more was playing according to the demands of the situation.

"See, as long as I am contributing for my team is what matters. Yes, I was thinking about my hundred but the situation we are in — 25 for 3 was tricky. As I have said, I just thought if I could contribute for my team. I am not too concerned about my hundred as that will come automatically," the 31-year-old said.



Virat Kohli chats with Ravi Shastri and R Sridhar during ICC World Cup AP/File Photo

## Ganguly hopes India get past big games and win ICC trophy

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Ganguly on Friday hoped the reappointment of the familiar Ravi Shastri as head coach will help India prevail in the "big games" and break the jinx of not winning a major ICC tournament in recent years.

"Ravi has been around for a while, five years he's completed so he's got an extension for two more years. Hopefully now India can go all the way in the two upcoming tournaments that are coming up, which is the T20 World Cup and the Champions Trophy which has now become a T20 format," Ganguly said.

"So I hope they do well, they're doing well, they get to the semi-finals.

"In 2015 in Australia they struggled, in 2017 (2016) in Mumbai, West Indies got the better of them and even in this World Cup. So, hopefully, they will get to the next step and create a winning combination."

India's last ICC tournament triumph was the win in the 2013 Champions Trophy.

"Hopefully they can get past the big games and win trophies in the next two years," said the former captain who is not the best of friends with Shastri.

Ganguly urged captain Virat Kohli to continue giving the new players a longer run to prove their mettle.

"This is one area where Virat (Kohli) needs to just be a

bit more consistent — pick players and give them a bit more opportunities consistently — for them to get that confidence, rhythm.

"I have said that before. You saw how Shreyas Iyer played in that ODI series (against West Indies), you pick him and you give him the freedom to play those matches and I think that needs to happen with a lot of players and I am sure Virat will do that," added Ganguly.

Ganguly was surprised to see chinaman Kuldeep Yadav and off-spinner Ravinchandran Ashwin being left out of the ongoing first Test against West Indies.

"Yes, I was also surprised to see Kuldeep Yadav left out because the last Test he played against Australia, he got five wickets, if you remember in Sydney on a good flat pitch, he picked up five wickets against Australia.

"But (Ravindra) Jadeja also has been in good form, the surface on Thursday at Antigua needed three fast bowlers because we saw the seam movement the fast bowlers got and it was a question of the spin.

"Ashwin's record is phenomenal to leave him out in the West Indies, so it's a decision which Kohli has made and we will find out in next couple of days whether how far Jadeja goes on to pick wickets on this surface."

## SINGLES

WAQAR APPLIES FOR BOWLING JOB

**LAHORE:** Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis on Thursday submitted a request to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to consider his candidature for the post of the team's bowling coach. According to *Geo News*, Waqar is the most high profile applicant for the post. The PCB had announced that it is accepting applications for the coaching staff of the senior men's team after deciding against renewing the contract of incumbent staff including that of head coach Mickey Arthur and bowling coach Azhar Mahmood. The deadline to submit those applications is August 26. Waqar has previously been the team's head coach twice.

NAGAL ENTERS FINAL ROUND

**NEW YORK:** India's Sumit Nagal moved one step closer to his first ever Grand Slam appearance with a hard fought win over Peter Polansky in the second round of the US Open qualifiers. Nagal, placed at a career-best 190, knocked out the 192nd ranked Canadian 7-5, 7-6 (0) in two hours eight minutes on Thursday night in the men's singles qualifiers. The 22-year-old from Haryana will now take on Brazil's Joao Menezes, who is ranked 210, in the final qualifying round later in the day. Last year, he had competed in the qualifiers of the Australian Open, the French Open and the Wimbledon Championships but could not register a single win.

NAIR'S 92\* TAKES INDIA RED TO 163/2

**BENGALURU:** Out-of-favour batsman Karun Nair struck 92 not out to help India Red score 163 for 2 on the rain-curtailed opening day of the Duleep Trophy match against India Blue on Friday. Sent in to bat, India 'Red' suffered an early jolt as Bengal opener Abhimanyu Easwaran (0) was sent packing by Rajasthan left-arm paceman Aniket Choudhary. Skipper Priyank Panchal (15) and Nair added 40 runs in a little over 15 overs, before the captain nicked one from Services medium-pacer Diwesh Gurdev Pathania to 'keeper' Snell Patel. After the fall of Panchal, the Karnataka batsman forged a 120-run partnership with Himachal left-hander Ankit Kalsi (48 not out, 171 balls, 4 x4) for the unbroken third wicket stand before rain and bad light ended play early.

INDIA BAGS BRONZE IN YOUTH C'SHIP

**MADRAS:** Indian junior compound men's team won a Bronze while Sukhbeer Singh assured himself of a second medal in the World Archery Youth Championships here on Friday. Playing in his first international event, Sukhbeer helped India open their medal account when he teamed up with Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Tuskar Phadtare to shoot a flawless final round and beat Colombia 234-231 for the Bronze. Sukhbeer also assured himself of at least a Silver when he partnered Raginee Markoo to defeat Iranian duo of Geesa Bybordi and Danial Heidarzadehdehkhordi 154-151 in the semifinal of compound junior mixed pair event. The Indian team will face Switzerland for a Gold on Saturday.

PAK TO HOST SL FOR LTD OVER SERIES

**KARACHI:** Pakistan will host Sri Lanka for six limited over internationals starting next month, the two cricket boards said on Friday, another step towards reviving international cricket in Pakistan after years of isolation. In a joint statement, the cricket boards said the One Day International series will begin on September 27 in Karachi where they will play the other two ODI matches on September 29 and October 2. The Sri Lankans will then move to Lahore for three T20 matches starting on October 5 and the final match will be on October 9, with the second match scheduled for October 7. This will be Sri Lanka's second tour of Pakistan since their team bus was attacked by militants during a Test match in Lahore in March 2009.

AGENCIES

AFP ■ LEEDS

Australia's Josh Hazlewood took five wickets as England collapsed to just 67 all out on the second day of the third Ashes Test at Headingley on Friday.

Australia, who will retain the Ashes with victory in this Test, then strengthened their grip by reaching tea in their second innings on 82-3 — a lead of 194.

Marnus Labuschagne, whose first-innings 74 was seven more than England managed between them, was 13 not out and Travis Head 17 not out.

England, 1-0 down in the five-Test series, had dismissed Australia for a seemingly modest 179, with fast bowler Jofra Archer taking 6-45 on Thursday.

But thanks mainly to Australia's quick Hazlewood's figures of 5-30, England were bowled out inside 28 overs.

Joe Denly, with 12, was the only England batsman to reach double figures.

But whereas Labuschagne, in for concussion star batsman Steve Smith, and David Warner (61) fought hard during their first-innings partnership of 111, few England batsmen were as prepared to sell their wickets as dearly.

Indeed, several played key roles in their own dismissals, for all that Australia bowled well.

By staging both the World

# 67 ALL OUT

Hazlewood takes five as England derail in 3rd Ashes Test



Josh Hazlewood celebrates with Australian teammates after taking wicket of Jonny Bairstow

ICC/Twitter

Cup and the Ashes with a short turnaround between the two showpiece events, England had denied several batsmen proper first-class preparation for the very

different demands of Test cricket. By contrast, a number of Australians had played for English county sides — Labuschagne, the only batsman to so far score

1,000 first-class runs this season was with Glamorgan — or featured on the Australia A tour of England that preceded the Ashes. But England's batting woes

predate this season.

Friday's slump was the latest in a line of recent Test collapses that have seen England dismissed for 58 by New Zealand (Auckland 2018), 77 by the West Indies (Bridgetown 2019) and 85 by Ireland at Lord's last month.

But what made this woeful display all the more troubling was that the blue and sunny skies above Headingley on Friday ought to have made conditions for batting easier than the gloom of Thursday, when England captain Joe Root won the toss.

Opener Jason Roy took guard having made just 40 runs in four innings this series.

He fell for nine in familiar fashion when he edged a drive off a wide Hazlewood ball to Warner, holding the first of four catches at first slip.

Root walked out to applause from his Yorkshire home crowd but was out for a second ball nought — his second straight zero after a golden duck in the second innings of the drawn second Test at Lord's — when nicking a straighter Hazlewood delivery that seamed away to Warner.

Hazlewood had taken two wickets for no runs in three balls, with England 10-2.

All-rounder Ben Stokes came into this match following an unbeaten 115 in the second innings at Lord's.

But he all but gave his wick-

et away when he carved at a wide half-volley from fast bowler James Pattinson he could barely reach, with Warner holding a fast edge high above his shoulder.

Denly fought hard only for his 49-ball stay to end when caught behind following an inexplicably extravagant drive off Pattinson.

And 45-5 became 45-6 when Jonny Bairstow disappointed his home crowd by edging a good-length Hazlewood ball, with Warner holding another fine catch.

England were 54-6 at lunch and 54-7 off the very first ball afterwards when Chris Woakes was caught behind off Cummins (3-23).

Archer hooked a four off Cummins before his 'up periscope' attempt to duck a Cummins bouncer also saw him caught behind.

Hazlewood ended the innings when he clean bowled No 11 Jack Leach.

England did then reduce Australia to 36-2.

Stuart Broad had Warner lbw for nought and left-arm spinner Leach struck with his first ball of the match when a sharply turning delivery out of the rough bowled Marcus Harris.

The struggling Usman Khawaja was caught in the slips following a loose drive off Woakes but Labuschagne kept Australia in command.

## Boult, Southee rattle SL

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Trent Boult and Tim Southee led New Zealand's charge against Sri Lanka on day two of the rain-hit second Test in Colombo.

The pacemen claimed two wickets each as Sri Lanka reached 144 for six at lunch when rain came down and no further play was possible.

Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne moved from his overnight 49 to score 65 and provided the only bit of resistance in the morning session, which saw 29.3 overs bowled.

Boult took two early wickets in one over after Sri Lanka resumed the day at 85 for two.

Dhanajaya de Silva on 32 and Dilruwan Perera on five were at the crease.

Southee, like Boult, also delivered a double-wicket maiden as the duo put on a superb display of seam bowling under overcast conditions.

Boult got overnight batsman Angelo Mathews caught behind for two to reach a landmark of 250 Test wickets — only the third Kiwi bowler to achieve the feat.

He trapped Kusal Perera lbw for nought after just three balls as Sri



Lanka slipped to 93-4.

Karunaratne also got a lifeline on 61 when Kane Williamson could not grab a tough chance at short midwicket off Ajaz Patel.

But the left-hander, who completed his 23rd Test fifty after resuming the day on 49, soon fell, caught behind off Southee for 65.

Southee struck again in the same over to send Niroshan Dickwella trudging back to the pavilion for nought.

Perera then played out the rest of the session with de Silva.

## SA name Klusener as batting coach

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Former South Africa all-rounder Lance Klusener was on Friday appointed as the assistant batting coach of the national team for the three-match Twenty20 series against India in September.

Cricketer South Africa (CSA) also announced that former pacer Vincent Barnes will serve as the assistant bowling coach. While Justin Ontong will retain his position as the assistant fielding coach in Enoch Nkwe's Proteas management.

"In terms of the new team structure the Team Director appoints his three assistant coaches who have specific skills focus in the three key disciplines of batting, bowling and fielding," CSA Acting Director, Corrie van Zyl, said in a statement.

"Former Proteas all-rounder Lance Klusener will fill the role of assistant coach (batting) for the T20



Lance Klusener in a file photo

Series only as he is currently not available for all formats."

Klusener, considered one of the best all-rounders of his generation, has collected 1906 runs and 80 wickets in Tests, as well as 3576 runs and 192 wickets in ODIs.

He took up coaching with domestic side Hollywoodbets Dolphins from 2012-2016 before being appointed as batting coach for the Zimbabwe

national team.

In July this year, he was appointed as the head coach of the Glasgow Giants for the cancelled inaugural edition of the Euro T20 Slam cricket tournament.

"His record as one of the best all-rounders in the world, particularly in white ball cricket, during his playing career speaks for itself and he also has extensive coaching experience both at franchise and international level," van Zyl said.

Barnes has a long history with the Proteas, having served as the bowling and then assistant coach from 2003 until 2011.

Ontong, who has represented the national side in all three formats, also served as South Africa's fielding coach under Ottis Gibson before the restructuring.

South Africa will travel to India for a three-match T20 series starting September 15. The two sides will then compete in a three-match Test series.



## Fortunegiants edge past Patna

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gujarat Fortunegiants snapped a six-match losing streak in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 7, with a narrow 29-26 win over Patna Pirates at the Nehru indoor stadium in Chennai on Friday.

In the second match of the night, U Mumba defeated Tamil Thalaivas 29-24, ensuring that the latter finished the home leg without a win (with only a tie game to show). U Mumba jumped to fourth in the points table with the win while Thalaivas slipped to eighth.

Jaipur Pink Panthers sit on top of the table with 7 wins from nine matches for 36 points followed by Bengal Warriors and Delhi Dabang KC. In the Fortunegiants-Pirates encounter, Rohit Gulias Super 10 turned out to be the gamechanger as Pardeep Narwal's early heroics went in vain.