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 A HAUNTING
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WORLD 12
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 WINDIES IN 1ST TEST

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CBI arrests Chidambaram

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

PTI

identifying themselves as from ED arrived at the scene.

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

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

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

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

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

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

evading investigating agencies.

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

"I believe that the foundation of a democracy is liberty, most precious article of the Constitution is Article 21 that guarantees life and liberty. If I'm asked to choose between life and liberty, I shall unhesitatingly choose liberty," he said.

"To win freedom we must struggle. To preserve freedom too we must struggle," he said.

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

"This is a political witch-hunt. Outrageous media leaks are the preferred tactics of the @dir_ed. I have nothing to do with INX or the FIPB.

All my assets and liabilities are duly declared in statutory and regulatory filings. I have repeated this ad nauseam," he tweeted.

Cong stands up for PC, RaGa says Govt misusing agencies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

Priyanka said the party will continue to fight for the truth no matter what the consequences are. "An extremely qualified and respected member of the RS, P Chidambaram ji has served our nation with loyalty for decades including as Finance Minister and Home Minister," she said.

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

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

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said that he would discuss with Prime Minister Narendra Modi the situation in Kashmir and help ease the India-Pak tensions when they meet at the G7 Summit in France this weekend. But New Delhi has made it clear to the US that Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan and there was no role for a third party.

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Tuesday while welcoming visiting Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, Trump said he was happy to try and help calm the situation in Kashmir amidst fresh India-Pak tensions after India revoked the special status of



Jammu & Kashmir.

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

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

Behave yourself on road or pay through nose from Sept 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



"Subject to clearance from the Law Ministry, these clauses are likely to be implemented from September 1," Gadkari said at a Press conference.

The Road Transport Minister expressed hope that the MVA will help curb road accidents and bring down fatalities.

Regarding the other clauses for which rules have to be framed, Gadkari said steps for this have already been initiated by the Ministry, and rules will be notified as and when the due processes are completed.

Huge stir over razing of Ravidas temple chokes Delhi, many hurt

Thousands of Dalits turn up over shrine demolition

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A protest by Dalits against the demolition of the Ravidas temple on Wednesday turned violent in the national Capital, prompting police to resort to "mild lathicharge" and use tear gas to disperse the crowd, an official said. According to police, the protesters set two motorcycles on fire and vandalised a police vehicle, causing injuries to a few policemen.

Protesting against the demolition of the temple by the Delhi Development Authority on August 10 on the orders of the Supreme Court, thousands of Dalits from various parts of the country wearing blue caps, carrying flags and chanting "Jai Bhim" slogan, marched from Ambedkar Bhawan in Jhandewalan to the Ramliha Maidan in Central Delhi on Wednesday.

Dalit outfit Bhim Army



Members of Bhim Army during a rally to protest against the demolition of Ravidas Mandir in Tughlakabad in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

claimed their leader Chandrashekhar Azad was detained. Vinod, 53, who came from Faridabad, said thousands of religious structures have come up on Government and forest land. "Why only a temple of Sant Ravidas was razed?"

There should be a fixed policy of the Government and that should be implemented on all the structures whether it is temple, mosque or any other illegal building," he said.

"The Centre should immediately allot land to construct the temple. We came here to show solidarity with people of Dalit

community. We have been facing discrimination for long and this need to stop now," said Mahipal, who arrived in the city on Tuesday night from Haryana.

Senior AAP leaders, including Delhi's Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam, Leader of Opposition in Punjab Harpal Singh Cheema, Delhi Deputy Speaker Rakhi Birla, party MLAs Ajay Dutt, Manoj Kumar, MLAs from Punjab Jai Krishna Singh Rody, Manjit Singh Bilaspur, Kulwant Singh Pandori, Azad and spiritual leaders from the community participated in the protest.

CAPSULE

EX-MP CM BABUL GAUR NO MORE

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

ABHINANDAN STARTS FLYING MIG 21

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

RAJIV GAUBA APPOINTED CABINET SECRETARY

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

MARKETS	
SENSEX	37060.37 (-267.84)
NIFTY	10918.70 (-98.30)
GOLD	37,883.00 (-121.00)
SILVER	43,805.00 (-336.00)
WEATHER	
MAX 30.0°C	
MIN 23.0°C	
Mainly Cloudy Sky	
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3 die as flood relief chopper hits mountain in Uttarkashi

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Three persons aboard a helicopter that was returning after dropping relief supplies in flood affected Moldi area of Uttarkashi died after the chopper crashed into a mountain on Wednesday afternoon. The helicopter belonging to Heritage Aviation hit the mountain while trying to avoid overhead wires. There are trolley wires also installed by locals to ferry apples from orchards.

The mishap resulted in the death of pilot Ranjit Lal, copilot Shailesh — both residents of Delhi — and Rajpal Rana, a resident of Kharsali.

Detailed story on P3

Delhiites in low-lying areas sigh with relief as Yamuna retreats

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hundreds of people residing in low-lying areas, who were temporarily shifted to makeshift tents and vacated their houses after water entered their areas, can now breathe easy, as the water level of the Yamuna River started receding on Wednesday.

However, the river continues to flow above the danger mark (206.50 metres). Officials said it is expected to go below the danger mark of 205.33 metres by early Thursday morning.

Northern Railway spokesperson said rail traffic over the old Yamuna bridge ('Lobe wala Pul'), which was temporarily suspended on Tuesday night, was restored at 4.25 pm on Wednesday with speed restriction of 20 kmph. The Yamuna had breached

the danger mark of 205.33 metres on Monday. Following which the Delhi Government set relief tents in several areas in Yamuna floodplains.

"The water level is likely to recede further as Haryana has so far not released water from the Hathni Kund barrage in large quantity," a Government official said. At 4 pm, only 10,000 cusec water was released from the barrage.

Officials said around 23,000 affected people were evacuated from the floodplains to safer places. Over 18,000 of them were accommodated in more than 2,700 relief tents set up by the Delhi Government agencies.

Some tents still remained vacant as many residents at the Yamuna Khadar didn't vacate their shanties, claimed residents. Earlier on Wednesday, Delhi

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met people affected by the flood and said the Government will ensure that there is no shortage of relief materials.

"Met the flood affected people at the Yamuna bank. Most people have left their belongings in their houses but its good thing that there is no loss of life. Arrangements of tents, food, water and medicine have been made. Let us know if there is any shortage, we will immediately do the needful," Kejriwal tweeted.

The river flows through six districts of Delhi whose low-lying areas are prone to flooding. The administration has deployed 30 boats to prevent accidental drowning.

In 1978, the water in the river rose to its highest-ever level of 207.49 metres, causing a devastating flood in the national Capital.



Authorities on boats patrol the Yamuna to prevent any eventualities, in Delhi on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Guest column

BY
TS Sreenivasa Raghavan



These days whenever someone insists that I become a member of his WhatsApp group I recoil in terror as if it's an offer to infect me with the dreaded smallpox virus! So, naturally, you'll expect me to decline the offer with a firm but polite 'no,' right? But, unfortunately it doesn't happen that way with me. Despite strong inhibitions and fully knowing the ramifications of my act, more often than not, I find myself walking into a waiting snare lest my rejection should offend my friends.

Those who're part of any WhatsApp group within India administered by an Indian for the benefit of millions of unenlightened Indians like me will better grasp the point I am trying to drive home and partner in my pain. All ugly things, I'm convinced, often have a beautiful start.

The flowers that glisten in the morning dew lose their sheen by evening. The sun that bathes the mountains and valleys with its gentle rays turns into a punishing monster by noon. The nectar-like waters of the rivers finally dissolve in the

saline seas. The child loses its innocent smile as it grows into an adult. If you want, I can cite any number of examples to justify my conviction. WhatsApp groups too, work on the same principle.

The groups come alive early in the morning with heavy doses of noble thoughts, mostly borrowed, that emphasise the need for universal brotherhood and oneness.

These posts often depict a placid lake, sun that rises over misty mountain peaks or the drooping branch of a tree upon which a pretty, colourful bird is delicately perched though it's an altogether different matter that these images have been copied with absolute glee infringing upon every conceivable copyright laws that exist internationally and within the country.

Any member, who's new to the WhatsApp group experience, upon seeing the early morning posts, for the first time, would even lament with genuine regret, "Oh! God, why didn't I think of joining such a noble platform earlier?" You can't blame the poor fellow.

SOCIAL MEDIA LIKES A BAD DREAM

DEALING WITH THE WHATSAPP COBRAS!

any food that doesn't bite back. Wiping his hands with a towel, he would settle down salivating at the thought of the delicacies his wife would've prepared for his lunch. It's during the interregnum of this extreme hunger and wild anticipation, his cell phone beeps, sounding him out about the arrival of a fresh notification.

He gets tempted and is greeted with a message that reads: 'See the video and you'll know how lucky you're to live in a developed country like India!' followed by the icon of a backhand with index finger pointing down. The unsuspecting individual opens the video.

The damn thing that in usual circumstances takes an eternity to buffer fully opens in an instant and there appears a beggar, old, weak and sick, eating his own feces, drawing yellow, sticky pieces out of his anus! When his wife returns from the kitchen with a smile that contains an unasked question, "Darling! Can you guess what special things I've made for you today?", the man much to her consternation clutches

his stomach and hurries himself to the nearest washbasin and bends before it retching and vomiting, producing some eerie sounds in the process.

He, of course, becomes normal soon, but then his appetite is gone missing like a needle that has fallen into the depths of a vast ocean never to be discovered again! He's now worried that the video of the old beggar would get replayed in his mind automatically whenever he decides to sit before a meal plate.

And, for the first time, he posts a message in the group: 'Is there any technique to forget the unforgettable?' The question being abstract in nature and since most members owe their existence in the group to forwarded messages, it elicits no reply. If you ask me, I would say, he committed a mistake. If he'd rather framed the question 'Is there any way to censor out wrong images?', some influential members of the group would've got in touch with the officials of Censor Board of India who're adept in the art of editing out things that they don't deem fit

for the health of the country or its immature population.

That apart, the period between noon and evening is generally dry for any WhatsApp group. If you think that the members have taken break because they're otherwise busy, you got it wrong. Instead, the fact is that they're only saving their energy and bracing up to face the impending storm which they know is bound to ravage the Group by night. The new member is the lone person who's not in the loop of things.

The first salvo is fired by a member, a little after the sunset, who posts a forwarded video in which one sees bespectacled, clean-shaven man with a bald pate, who doesn't know even the abc of the media industry, let alone its functions in a democracy, indulging in a spiel claiming that most media houses in the country are owned and controlled either by Christian missionaries, Left-leaning intellectuals or Muslims with questionable patriotism.

The post seizes the attention of another member who

says: "Donno how authentic it is. If yes, then it's a matter of concern." Another member gets irked by the video and the comment, you know what his ideology is, and retorts: "If you're so concerned why don't you buy a few of them?" That triggers a chain of messages and one member would make a cheeky comment: "Don't you, after all, belong to a party that has a minister who believes, cow is the only animal that inhales and exhales oxygen!" The remark leads to an all-out battle as the members within the group divide themselves into two splinter groups. Now, it's time for the admin to act and in pure beadledom, he would remove a member basically because he doesn't like him or his ideology. The parochial action by the admin leads to a chorus of protest and some members threaten to exit the group in support of their removed friend while their rivals insist that admin would do well in not trying to retain those who want to leave.

Now, the clock shows almost past ten and it's time for people to hit the beds. But, it's

at this point, a well-known tippler in the group comes alive with an unsolicited advice: "I'm shelling you...Dishcush sheepfully...May piss be upon you! Om Brandy! What he actually meant was Shanti but in the inebriated state, it was explicit that his mind was too much occupied with brandy! His comment, anyway, leads to hearty laughter among members cutting across party lines and the admin adds back the removed member and peace is finally restored, once again...till next morning.

As the day's drama comes to an end, the new member is left fidgeting. You find him staring at the exit button with the seriousness of a country's ruler who is valiantly trying to fend off the temptation to press the nuclear button. Trust me! I'm in a similar situation like that of the new member. I'm really afraid of all WhatsApp groups. Still, I end up becoming a member! Call me a fool, if you like.

(The writer is a senior journalist, political analyst and communication specialist)

Seminar held on strengthening economy

Following the instructions of the PM Narendra Modi, banks in the district are gearing up to strengthen the nation's economy. The Punjab National Bank, Haridwar, organised a two-day seminar to discuss ways to strengthen the economy of the country. Senior managers and officials of 86 branches of the bank participated in the seminar.

Many dream projects for strengthening the country's economy were suggested which included introduction of easy loan systems by the bank, enhancing agricultural loans and encouraging small and medium enterprises, digitalisation of the banks and improving ATM systems. Addressing the seminar head of PNB Haridwar division, Neerendra Kumar said, "Punjab National Bank is working towards strengthening the economy of the country as per directives given by PM Narendra Modi. Our senior managers from four districts and 86 branches participated in the seminar." He further added that the business of PNB in the region is estimated to be Rs 11,000 crore.

Training on qualitative research starts at HNB university

A week long training programme on the 'Dimensions of Qualitative Research' started at Academic Activity Centre, Chauras Campus, HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar on Wednesday. The programme is being organised by the Faculty Development Centre of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching Scheme of Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor (VC) of the Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University, Dehradun, N S Chaudhary said that the role of computer is important for the coordination between multiple dimensions of qualitative research. "In the current scenario, the conversion of researches in to the computer language and its continuous updating is an important aspect of higher education which needs to be carried out significantly from time to time," he said.

In his address in inaugural session, the VC of HNB Garhwal University Anapurna



Nautiyal said plagiarism should be avoided while writing and publishing research papers. "We must maintain the quality of research work. Multidisciplinary researches are the need of the hour and in such scenario, we cannot afford to take subject and area specific researches

without connecting it to social concerns," she said. Former Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences in the university, J P Pachauri stated that the knowledge ridden age requires the systematic research based on appropriate research methodology and efforts.

The Director, the Faculty Development Centre, Indoo Pandey Khanduri highlighted the contents of short term training programme.

She elaborated the fundamentals of qualitative research, ontology and epistemology, data acquisition and analysis, methods of interpretation, report writing and issues related to research ethics. She said that objective of the training program is to enhance capacity and capability of the faculty members.

He said that the state government has many schemes which promote entrepreneurship among youths. Sudhanshu also elaborated these schemes in detail. The director of MSME, Vijay Kumar said that the department helps youth in setting up small enterprises. He said that the department had made the process of registration for setting up a business online which is helping the budding businessmen.

Workshop on entrepreneurship development held

The secretary to Governor, R K Sudhanshu has said that universities provide a suitable environment for development of innovation and creativity. He was addressing a one day workshop on entrepreneurship development and awareness at Doon University here on Wednesday.

The workshop was organised under the aegis of Central for Public Policy of the university with the help of Micro, Small, Medium, Enterprises (MSME) government of India.

Sharing success stories of Apple, Oyo and PTM, the secretary said that they are the examples of how successful enterprises are created with minimum capital.

He said that the state government has many schemes which promote entrepreneurship among

youths. Sudhanshu also elaborated these schemes in detail. The director of MSME, Vijay Kumar said that the department helps youth in setting up small enterprises. He said that the department had made the process of registration for setting up a business online which is helping the budding businessmen.

Kumar said that there are many options before the youth to start business but they should choose the business in which one has interest. He held an elaborate discussion on finance and availability of easy loan for setting up industry.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor (VC) of the University C S Nautiyal said that the objective of the workshop is to make the students job providers from job seekers. Large number of faculty members and students participated in the workshop.

He said that the state government has many schemes which promote entrepreneurship among

UCO BANK (A Govt. of India Undertaking) DEHRADUN MAIN (0075) सम्मान आपके विश्वास का Honours Your Trust

POSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas The Authorized Officer of the UCO BANK under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated: 31-05-2019 calling upon the Legal Heirs of borrower Late Shri Dev Raj Bhatia. 1) Sanjay Bhatia S/o Late Sh. Dev Raj Bhatia R/o 60 Nanport St Brampton on L6S 4A3 Ontario Canada 2) Sonia Jones W/o Alex Jones R/o 86 Vicarage Lane Ash Green Coventry CV7 9AG Warwickshire U.K. 3) Meenu Bhatia W/o Rishabh Bhatia R/o Eastern Gate K-804 Sec 4 C Vasundra Distt. Ghaziabad UP (201012) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 17,98,000/- (Rupees Seventeen Lac Ninety Eight Thousand Only) inclusive of interest up to 31/12/2013 plus interest & other charges within 60 days from the receipt of said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this 8th day of August the year 2019.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the UCO BANK for an amount of being Rs. 17,98,000/- (Rupees Seventeen Lac Ninety Eight Thousand Only) plus interest & expenses thereon. (Less Recovery If Any)

Name of Borrower/Guarantor(s)	Description of Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Symbolic Possession Balance Outstanding
1) Sanjay Bhatia S/o Late Sh. Dev Raj Bhatia R/o 60 Nanport St Brampton on L6S 4A3 Ontario Canada 2) Sonia Jones W/o Alex Jones R/o 86 Vicarage Lane Ash Green Coventry CV7 9AG Warwickshire U.K. 3) Meenu Bhatia W/o Rishabh Bhatia R/o Eastern Gate K-804 Sec 4 C Vasundra Distt. Ghaziabad UP (201012)	All that part and partial of property land and building (Residential) bearing land No 167 Khasra No 123/2 Measuring 168.71 sq. mtrs. situated at Mauza Karanpur Khas, Distt. Dehradun standing in the name of Mr. Dev Raj Bhatia as per Sale Deed duly registered at book no 1 Volume 67 Pages No 105 to 114 S.L. No 541 Dated 30.12.2008 at the office of Sub-Registrar Dehradun Bounded as under:- East- Property of Smt Madhu S.M 32 ft West- 24 ft Wide Road S.M 39.4 ft North- Property of Shri Umesh Kumar S.M 52 ft 3 Inch South- Property of Other S.M 49 ft 4 Inch	31.05.2019	13/08/2019 Rs. 17,98,000/- (Rupees Seventeen Lac Ninety Eight Thousand Only) and interest & expenses thereon.

Date : 22.08.2019 Place : Dehradun Authorized Officer

SCPCR holds hearing session

The State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) chairperson Usha Negi addressed several issues during a hearing held on Wednesday. In the first complaint by the Dev Rishi Educational Society stating that Central Government in 2016 asked for proposals under its Support to Training and Empowerment Programme (STEP) Scheme to empower women and girls for employment, but till now state administration has not sent the proposals to the centre after physically verifying their authenticity.

In answer to that deputy director of Women Empowerment department SK Singh said that total 22 proposals were submitted by the institutions and a meeting was also held in November 2018. However, no further directions were received by the department from state administration on this matter. As the matter is pending since the last three years, Negi has sent a letter to women empowerment secretary.

In the second complaint Ajay Kumar had earlier alleged that videos and detailed information on social media regarding sex determination during pregnancy are having negative effects on the society. In response, the SCPCR had asked Health directorate to establish a committee and investigate the issue. The allegations were substantiated, after which SCPCR sent a letter to the Ministry concerned. In the third complaint, SCPCR chairperson took follow up on the suicide case of a student in a school at Clement Town.

Re-encroachment still issue for MCD, consistent checks required

Municipal Corporation Dehradun (MCD) continued the anti-encroachment drive on Wednesday with the help of local police. Officials concerned said that the major problem is that at most of the market areas street vendors start putting their products on display as soon as they see law enforcement authorities going back.

It is important for citizens also to stop buying from such vendors, only then can the drive can have effective results. On Wednesday, the drive was conducted from Inamullah building towards Prince Chowk, from where authorities seized several angular tables and other commercial products. Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Arun Mohan

Joshi said that in his knowledge re-encroachment has reduced considerably. He also said that police stations concerned especially when it comes to market areas will be responsible for keeping an eye on any such activity.

One of the MCD officials said that street vendors especially at Indra Market, Dhampur, Paltan Bazaar, Moti Bazaar and Dispensary Road run or collect their items as soon as they get the information about authorities coming and as soon as the drive for the day is complete they set up their products for sale on the footpaths and roads once again.

This is why the drive has to be a consistent process. A street vendor near Lansdowne Chowk said, "Without providing us with suitable place to go to and sell our products they are simply asking us to move.

Sati Ghat parking to come under Haridwar Municipality

After protracted dithering, the Municipal Corporation of Haridwar (MCH) has finally woken up to resolve the disputed matter of Sati Ghat parking area. Sati Ghat is a prominent Ghat of the city where thousands of people come every day for doing last rites of their deceased ones and the parking generates lots of revenue which is being lost by the corporation on account of the site being encroached upon by an outfit. A day ago, municipal commissioner Udayveer Rana asked the corporation officials to remove the illegal parking

being run by one so called leader. Speaking to The Pioneer, Rana said, "My team is working on the same issue and by end of day we will get the report. They have been asked to remove encroachment and take over so that revenue from parking can once again start coming to MCH."

Three killed in chopper crash

Incident took place as the chopper dropping relief supplies crashed on a mountain

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Three persons have died after the helicopter they were flying in after dropping relief supplies in disaster affected Moldi area of Uttarkashi, crashed on a mountain on Wednesday afternoon. Expressing grief at the mishap, chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat announced Rs 15 lakh for the dependents of each of the three killed in the crash.

According to official sources, a helicopter of Heritage Aviation engaged in rescue and relief in the disaster affected Arakot area of Uttarkashi district was on its way back after dropping relief supplies at Moldi.

The chopper reportedly hit a mountain while trying to avoid overhead wires in the area. Apart from electricity supply lines these included trolley wires installed by locals to ferry apples to the road-head from surrounding orchards.

The mishap resulted in the death of the pilot Ranjit Lal, co-pilot Shailesh- both residents of Delhi and Rajpal Rana a resident of Kharsali. Soon after the incident the chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat held a meeting with officials at State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) to review the situation. Silence was observed for a minute as a tribute to those killed in the mishap. After expressing grief over the incident and taking stock of the sequence of events preceding the accident and actions following the same from the officials present, the chief minister announced relief of Rs 15 lakh to next of kin of the persons who died in the incident. Meanwhile, relief efforts continued in the disaster affected area where 15 villages with a total population of 8,107 have been affected. Fifteen persons have died, three are missing and 10 are injured in the area due to the disaster caused by heavy rains on Sunday. On Wednesday, five medical teams had provided treatment to 142 persons by 4 PM with 300 people having been treated so far. A team of veterinarians from Dehradun district had earlier reached the affected area on Tuesday. A total of 74 domesticated animals have died and



People view wreckage of the helicopter after it crashed in Uttarkashi

Pioneer photo

three are injured in the area. Of the 10 blocked roads in the affected area, the Public Works Department has reopened five roads for traffic. While the national highway to Arakot was been opened to traffic, 35

JCBs have been deployed to reopen the other blocked roads in the district. Out of the 52 villages where electricity supply was disrupted, the power supply to 37 villages has been restored. Meanwhile, in Dehradun, the chief minister visited the Government Doon Medical College Hospital to check on the condition of the injured people from disaster affected area undergoing treatment here.

Anti-Drug Abuse campaign to be conducted in 3 phases in Dehradun

ANANYA GAIROLA ■ DEHRADUN

In order to put a stop on the increasing drug abuse cases in the district, Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Arun Mohan Joshi said that a full fledged campaign will be conducted in three phases against drug abuse. Initially police will be targeting suppliers and retailers who are selling drugs to people especially students in Dehradun. Later on, the police will issue an advisory to educational institutions in the second phase and in the third stage a detailed awareness campaign will be conducted.

It is pertinent to mention here that in the past ten days district police have seized 1.41 kilogrammes of hashish, 1.245 kilogrammes of smack, 18,910 kilogrammes of Ganja and 95 injectable drugs under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

In the excise cases, 223 crates and 11 bottles of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), 224 crates and eight bottles of country liquor, 117 litre of locally brewed liquor and 22



crates of beer were seized. Regarding this SSP Joshi said, "We consistently seize such items but now we are focusing on retailers and dealers. The idea is to completely stop the import of such drugs in the district. The major focus will be on narcotics like hashish, smack and other hard drugs which not only affects a person psychologically but also biologically. Then in the second category we have placed ganja which can be given up by a user using will power."

He further said, "We are also working on a detailed advisory for educational institutions in which we will be focusing on three major factors that is traffic, drugs and crime. In all three categories we will be mentioning our expecta-

tions and their accountability. In the third phase we will be conducting a widespread awareness campaign."

According to official sources, Premnagar, Patelnagar, Clement Town and Rajpur areas are seeing rise in drug abuse as these areas have the maximum number of educational institutions. Station House Officer (SHO) of Premnagar police station NS Gehlawat said, "There are nearly 105 hostels in this area, it is next to impossible to keep track of the activities happening in about two thousand rooms. However, we are patrolling consistently in places which are secluded and have less population. Also, if we find students using drugs we counsel them and their parents."



A weaver bird approaches its nest hanging from a tree in a suburban area of Dehradun

Prashant Badoni | Pioneer

Dhasmana's trust to help disaster victims

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The 'Devbhoomi Manav Sansadhan trust' has come forward for providing food to the relatives attending the victims of the Uttarkashi disaster undergoing treatment at the Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital. On Wednesday the Chairman of the trust and Vice President of the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC),

Surya Kant Dhasmana met the victims of the disaster in the hospital and assured every possible help. He said that his trust would take over the responsibility of providing food three times a day to the attendants of the disaster victims. "Our trust has made advance payment to the Indira Amma Canteen situated in the hospital premises and asked it to serve food to the attendants of the disaster victims till they are in the

hospital," he said. The Principal of the GDMC Dr Ashutosh Sayana and the Medical Superintendent (MS) of the hospital Dr K K Tamta accompanied Dhasmana during his visit.

Eleven persons who were injured in the disaster triggered by cloud burst in the Arakot area of Uttarkashi district are currently admitted in the GDMC hospital. The deputy Medical Superintendent of the

GDMC hospital, Dr N S Khatri said that all the injured are out of danger now and are responding to the treatment. He said that three female and eight males including a 12 year old boy are undergoing treatment in the hospital. On Tuesday some of the attendants of the injured admitted in the GDMC hospital had complained that they are finding it difficult to find food in the hospital.

Kaushik meets Union Ministers for Kumbh Mela requirements



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State's Urban Development Minister Madan Kaushik met the Union Transport and Highways minister Nitin Gadkari and Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan and Union minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in the national Capital on Wednesday. Kaushik discussed various issues related to the State's requirements for the Kumbh Mela to be held at Haridwar in 2021.

Meeting Gadkari, Kaushik said that CM Trivendra Singh Rawat has accorded top priority to swift completion of Muzaffarnagar-Haridwar national highway. To expedite this work, an agreement was arrived upon in the meeting to decrease the tender process period from 18 months to one year. Work on the Haridwar ring road is to be undertaken in three phases. To expedite work in view of the Kumbh

Mela, it was decided that the second phase work will be started first and that a Ganga bridge will be constructed on this route. Gadkari directed that the state's additional chief secretary Om Prakash should hold a meeting with NHAI officials in Dehradun on August 27 regarding this. Kaushik informed that the Kumbh Mela will be held from January to April 2021 in Haridwar. During the 2010 Kumbh Mela about eight crore people from across India and abroad had visited Haridwar. More than 16 crore are expected to arrive during the 2021 Kumbh Mela, he said. Most of the people arriving use NH 58, NH 73 and NH 74. Currently, four-laning, widening, construction of flyovers and other works are being undertaken on these national highways.

Kaushik requested that the tender process be started immediately for construction of 14 bridges on the 80 kilometre stretch of NH 58

between Muzaffarnagar and Haridwar being widened. The various works on NH 58 and NH 74 should be executed on priority basis before the Kumbh Mela 2021, he said. Kaushik also requested that the Puhana-Imlikheda-Bahadrad road be made a national highway to enable its widening as it is an important route to those travelling to Haridwar. Those coming from Haryana, Punjab and Saharanpur can be made to directly enter Haridwar through this route which will also decrease the crowd on NH 58. He also requested that the Roshanabad-Biharigarh road be made a national highway so that it can be widened and in case of heavy crowding in Haridwar, traffic can be diverted to this road towards Saharanpur and Dehradun. Gadkari assured that action would be taken soon after considering these issues. Union minister of State, general (ret'd) VK Singh, State additional chief secretary Om Prakash

and other officials were also present in this meeting.

Meeting Pradhan, Kaushik discussed aspects of a clean and green Kumbh. The Union minister directed officials to tour Haridwar and hold a meeting towards facilitating a pollution-free, fire-free and waste-free Kumbh Mela. Kaushik table proposal related to waste disposal and gas supply in Haridwar. He also discussed the laying of PNG and CNG lines from Roorkee to Mussoorie. He suggested proposal for a PPP mode project to ensure solid waste management and power supply in the Kumbh Mela area. During the Kumbh Mela, biogas and biodiesel and ethanol for biogas energy which will also aid fire safety.

Kaushik also met the Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. He requested completion of Ghat construction under Namami Gange and modernisation of the crematorium in Haridwar before the Kumbh Mela.

Edu min to raise BTC teachers issue with MHRD

IN RETROSPECTION GRANT OF RECOGNITION OF MORE THAN 17000 TEACHERS STILL PENDING

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Anxiety prevails among thousands of Bachelor of Education (B Ed), Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) qualified special Basic Teachers Certificate (BTC) primary teachers of the state as the all

important file about recognition of special BTC course is stuck in union Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry. The jobs of these teachers were at peril earlier but they were relieved after the passage of the National Council for Teacher Education Bill (Amended) - 2019 in parliament in December last year. The bill provides in retrospect grant of recognition for the special BTC course for these teachers.

In January this year, the union government had notified the new act. After issue of notification the education department had applied for in retrospect permission of recogni-

tion for special BTC courses offered by it from the year 2000 to 2016. However the file in retrospect approval is pending in New Delhi for last seven months. Understanding the problem of teachers, the education minister of Uttarakhand Arvind Pandey said on Tuesday that he would take up the issue with the Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.

In Uttarakhand there more than 17000 serving teachers who were appointed on the basis of special BTC course.

These Bachelor of Education (BEd) qualified teachers were imparted an in service training of special BTC in different District Institutes of

Education and Training (DIET) from the year 2001 to 2016 to make them eligible to teach in primary classes.

However in 2016 it was realised that the all important recognition from NCTE was not taken by the education department of Uttarakhand for special BTC course. The plea of the department to grant recognition in retrospect was turned down by NCTE as it violates the very act by which it was governed.

As per guidelines of the union Human Resource Development (HRD) ministry enforced from 2016, only the Diploma in Elementary Education (DELED) qualified

candidates are eligible to teach the primary students. The HRD ministry had made it clear that after March 2019, all primary teachers who don't have a DEED degree or BTC certificate would be removed from post of primary teachers.

This order created a situation where thousands of trained serving teachers were to lose their jobs after March 2019. The problem of these teachers was sorted out by passage of NCTE amendment bill in parliament and subsequent notification by Government but it appears that a bureaucratic hurdle has come into way of interests of these teachers.

Trial run of GMDA's mobile App to solve city's civic issues begins

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Gurugram Mahanagar Development Authority (GMDA) has developed a mobile App and its trial has already started. Through this, the residents of Gurugram will get many facilities related to basic amenities. App will be launched by September.

Through this App, people can avail several facilities like complaints about water, sewer, drainage, waterlogging, city bus location and road information. Apart from this, there will be an

option of Smart Solution. It is also being worked on. Information about the city will also be found on the app. What's new in the city will be on the app. Information about future plans will also be available on the App. This app will be different for the public and officials. The deficiency found during the trial will be rectified and started with the updated version.

This app will have the facility of filing taxes and bills of GMDA. A separate icon will be on the app for this. The users will be able to take advantage of

this facility. Initially, this facility will be available for GMDA, later on adding the Municipal Corporation, Haryana Urban Development Authority etc., the bill or tax can be filled here," said, PK Aggarwal head of GMDA Smart City Project.

Apart from this, information and location of ATMs kiosk, Metro station, Toilet, Cinema hall, Railway station, Bus stand can be seen on the app itself. Also, it will also have an SOS number for an emergency, on which any kind of information can also, be shared on the number.

SAD: State Govt health insurance scheme is biggest fraud

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal on Wednesday blamed the Congress-led Punjab Government of deceiving 46 lakh families by capping the treatment of 124 diseases only at Government health centers under its Sarbat Health Insurance Scheme launched a day before.

Termed the State Government's health insurance scheme as "the biggest fraud played on 46 lakh families of the state", SAD senior vice president Daljit Singh Cheema said that the beneficiaries were deceived by the

Government with its "ill-conceived" order of providing the treatment of 124 major diseases only at the Government health centers.

"The people of the State as well as the State Government are well aware of the fact that except a few medical colleges and hospitals situated in big cities, the standard of medical care facilities being provided at the Government hospitals across the state is not considered satisfactory as these health centers are battling with acute shortage of faculty, para-medical staff as well as basic infrastructure," he said. Cheema said that the

Government has completely left the patients of 124 major ailments at the mercy of these ill-equipped health care centers, besides making this insurance scheme useless for the poor patients who were eagerly waiting to get free quality health care services.

Despite the fact that the people avoid going to government hospitals even for the minor surgeries, the government wants to see people treating themselves in the government healthcare centers for every ailment including high-risk delivery, cesarean section and removal of uterus, he said.

Pritam, other Congress leaders head for Delhi

To participate in 75th anniversary event of Rajiv Gandhi at Indira Gandhi Indoor stadium today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Pritam Singh and other Congress leaders left for Delhi on Wednesday to participate in the programme organised to commemorate the 75th birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The programme would be held at Indira Gandhi Indoor stadium on Thursday. Ahead of the important programme in Delhi the morale of the Congress party workers and leaders is high after success of

state level programme held in Haridwar on August 19. The party organised a 'Sadbhavana rally' in Haridwar. The state unit of the party had organised a series of programmes at blocks and districts from August 14 to mark the 75th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The spokesperson of the PCC Garima Mahra Dasauni said that apart from PCC President, the leader of opposition in Uttarakhand assembly Indira Hridayesh, MP Pradeep Tamta, all the MLAs, members of the All India Congress Committee, former MPs, former MLAs, office bearers and members of PCC, presidents of district congress committees, chairmen of all ancillary organisations of party and senior congress leaders and members would participate in the programme. Interestingly

the visit of PCC president Pritam Singh is his first after the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairman Sonia Gandhi was nominated as interim President of the Congress party. It is expected that during his meeting with the Congress President, the issue of reconstitution of the PCC is likely to figure.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pritam Singh was appointed as PCC chief in May 2017 after the severe drubbing the party faced at the hands of BJP in the assembly elections in the State.

However in last 27 months Pritam Singh was not able to select his new team in the PCC. He has so far worked with the old PCC team that was chosen during the time when Kishore Upadhyaya was PCC President.

Punjab Govt signs MoA with UNDP for sustainable Development goals

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Government on Wednesday inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As per the agreement, signed in the presence of Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal, by UNDP Resident Representative Shoko Noda and Punjab Government Principal Secretary (Planning) Jaspal Singh, a Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC) would be set up in the Planning Department with UNDP's support. "The MoA would result in integration of administrative departments to ensure sustainable and holistic development of the state. I hope these goals

would go a long way in achieving the desired results of various citizen centric schemes and development oriented programmes in a time-bound manner," said the Chief Minister.

Responding to a brief presentation on Skill Development, Employability and Livelihoods made by the UNDP senior advisor, Capt Amarinder asked the Employment Generation Department to tie up with the UN agency to explore new possibilities for the skill development as well as self-employment and better employability of the youth in the private sector. Citing the success of his

Government's flagship programme 'Ghar Ghar Rozgar', he assured the visiting delegation of all possible assistance in giving impetus to Skill Development and Employability plans. Earlier, the Finance Minister thanked UNDP for partnering with Punjab for implementing the SDGs, whose framework has already been adopted by the Punjab Government, which has started working on the preparation of a four-year Strategic Action Plan, 2019-23 (4SAP).

Besides laying down clear goals and targets, 4SAP involves determination of the key performance parameters (KPPs) for key functionaries of the departments. Notably, the State Government has already approved 4SAPs of eight departments after extensive consultations at the level of the Steering Committee headed by the Chief Secretary.

The SDGs are a set of 17 goals which universally call for an action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre being set up in partnership with the UNDP would help State Government deliver on the SDGs by working on the five components — Integrated Strategic Planning and Implementation, Awareness and Capacity Building, SDG localization, Resource Mobilization and Partnerships and Monitoring and Evaluation.

ONLINE E-AUCTION SALE OF ASSETS
PHOENIX ARC PRIVATE LIMITED
 CIN: U67190MH2007PTC168303
 Regd. Office : Dani Corporate Park, 5th Floor, 158, C.S.T Road, Kalina, Santacruz (E), Mumbai - 400 098, Tel : 022- 6741 2314, Fax : 022- 6741 2313
 Email: info@phoenixarc.co.in Website: www.phoenixarc.co.in http://phoenixarc.co.in/saleauction.php?id=NDY5

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR ONLINE E-AUCTION
 (In terms of the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) read with Rules 6, 7, 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower and guarantors in particular, that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Phoenix ARC Private Limited acting in capacity as Trustee of Phoenix Trust FY17-18 (Phoenix) (pursuant to assignment of debt by Bank of India in favour of Phoenix vide Assignment Agreement dated 24.03.2015) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis and "AS IS WHAT IS" condition, by way of "online e-auction" for recovery of dues and further interest, charges and costs etc. as detailed below in terms of the provisions of SARFAESI Act read with Rules 6, 7, 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 through website <https://www.bankauctions.com>.

Name of the Borrower	Shakti Bhog Foods Limited (In Liquidation)
Name of the Guarantors	(1) Mr. Kewal Krishan Kumar (2) Mrs. Sunanda Kumar (3) Mr. Siddharth Kumar (4) Dash Exports Private Limited
Outstanding amount	1. A sum of Rs. 49,67,87,245/- (Rupees Forty Nine Crores Sixty Seven Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Five Only) as on 28th June 2018 along with interest at Base Rate + 1.50% per annum with monthly rests and penal interest @2% p.a. from 28th June 2018 for the Term Loan; and, ii. a sum of Rs. 39,45,27,630/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Crores Forty Five Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty Only) as on 25th June 2018 along with interest at Base Rate + 2% per annum with monthly rests and penal interest @2% p.a. from 26th June 2018 for the Short Term Loan along with further interest at contractual rates, penal interest and other cost, charges and expenses etc.
Date of Inspection	17.09.2019 (Seventeenth September Two Thousand and Nineteen) (Tuesday) between 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Earnest Money Deposit	Item I: Rs. 4,35,25,520/- (Rupees Four Crores Thirty Five Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Only). Item II: Rs. 5,30,500/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Thirty Thousand Five Hundred Only). The Earnest Money has to be deposited by way of RTGS favouring "Phoenix Trust FY 17-18", Current Account: 0112602543, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, Branch: Kalina, Mumbai, IFSC Code: KKBK0000631
Date of submission of Bid (E-Auction)	3.10.2019 (Third October Two Thousand and Nineteen) (Thursday) before 8:00 PM
Reserve Price	Item No. I: Rs. 43,52,55,196/- (Rupees Forty Three Crores Fifty Two Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand One Hundred and Ninety Six Only). Item No. II: Rs. 53,05,000/- (Rupees Fifty Three Lakhs and Five Thousand Only)
Bid Increment	For Item No. I: Rs. 2,00,000/- & in such multiples For Item No. II: Rs. 10,000/- & in such multiples
Date & Time of E-Auction	4.10.2019 (Fourth October Two Thousand and Nineteen) (Friday) between 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Mode of Auction	Online E-Auction
Description of the Secured Asset being auctioned.	Item No. I:- Property owned by Shakti Bhog Foods Limited (In Liquidation) All the piece and parcel of land measuring 37027 sq. meters forming part of Khasra no. 1810 (old khasra no. 1475/1 min, 1475/2 and 1475/3), khasra no. 1808 (old khasra no. 1475/3 min and 1476), khasra no. 1807 (old khasra no. 1476, 1482/1 min, 1482/2), khasra no. 1806 (old khasra no. 1482/1 and 1482/2) and building pertaining to biscuit plant situated at Mauza Saipana, Roorkee - II, Sahewar, Mohdood Village, Pargana Roorkee Tehsil, District Haridwar, Uttarakhand together with all buildings existing and/or to be constructed thereon in future pertaining to the biscuit plant. Item II (Machinery): Hypothecation of plant and machinery at the plant. The details of Machinery will be provided on request.

Terms & Conditions:

- The Auction Sale is being conducted by the Authorised Officer under the provisions of SARFAESI Act with the aid and through e-auction. Auction/Bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Mode" through the website <https://www.bankauctions.com> M/s C1 India Private Limited is the service provider to arrange platform for e-auction.
- The Auction is conducted as per the further Terms and Conditions of the Bid Document and as per the procedure set out therein. Bidders may go through the website of Phoenix, www.phoenixarc.co.in and website of the service provider, www.bankauctions.com for bid documents, the details of the secured assets put up for auction/obtaining the bid form.
- The bidders may participate in the e-auction quoting/bidding from their own offices/ place of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be arranged by each bidder himself/itself. The Authorised Officer/Phoenix/ service provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, power failure etc.
- For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact M/s C1 India Private Limited, Contact Number: 91-120-4888888, +91-124-4302020/202112022/2023/2024, 09594597555 email id: support@bankauctions.com
- Bidders may also go through the website of Phoenix, www.phoenixarc.co.in for verifying the details of the secured assets put up for auction/obtaining the bid form.
- The e-auction will be conducted on the date and time mentioned herein above, when the secured assets mentioned above will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" basis and "AS IS WHAT IS" condition.
- All the intending purchasers/ bidders are required to register their name in the portal mentioned above as <https://www.bankauctions.com> and get user ID and password free of cost to participate in the e-auction on the date and time as mentioned aforesaid.
- For participating in the e-auction, intending purchasers/ bidders will have to submit the details of payment of refundable Earnest Money Deposit of 10% of the Reserve Price of the Secured assets along with copies of the PANCARD, Board Resolutions in case of Company and Address Proof on or before 3.10.2019. Intending purchasers/bidders are required to submit separate EMDs for each of the items detailed herein above.
- The successful purchaser/ bidder shall deposit the 25% (inclusive of EMD) of his/ its offer by way of RTGS to the account mentioned hereinabove on or before the close of banking hours on 4.10.2019 i.e., the day of Auction, which deposit shall have to be confirmed by Phoenix, failing which the sale will be deemed to have been failed and the EMD of the said successful purchaser/ bidder shall be forfeited.
- The EMD of all other bidders who did not succeed in the e-auction will be refunded by Phoenix within 48 hours of the closure e-auction. The EMD shall not carry any interest.
- The balance amount of purchase consideration shall be payable by the successful purchaser/ bidder on or before the fifteenth (15) day of confirmation of sale of the said secured assets or such extended period as may be agreed upon in writing. In case of default, all amounts deposited till then shall be liable to be forfeited.
- For inspection of the property or more information, the prospective bidders may contact Mr. Suresh Varjaniy / Mr. Sandeepan Mandal, at above mentioned address or at suresh.varjaniy@phoenixarc.co.in / sandeepan.mandal@phoenixarc.co.in (email) or on 07502600936/09291225981 (Mob)
- It shall be the sole responsibility of the intending bidders to inspect, verify and satisfy themselves about the secured assets encumbrances, title of property put on auction and claims/rights/dues affecting the secured assets, including the statutory dues and specifications before submitting the bid.
- The particulars specified in the auction notice published in the newspapers have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned; however undersigned shall not be responsible/liable for any error, misstatement or omission.
- At any stage of the auction, the Authorised Officer may accept/reject/modify/cancel the bid/offer or post-pone the auction without assigning any reason thereof and without any prior notice.
- The successful purchaser/bidder shall bear any statutory dues, taxes, fees payable, stamp duty, registration fees, etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed in his/her favour as per the applicable law.
- The successful bidder/purchaser shall be solely responsible for any cost/expenses/fees/charges etc payable to the society/any other authority towards the transfer of the rights in his/her favour.
- The Borrower/ Guarantors, who are liable for the said outstanding dues, shall treat this Sale Notice as a notice under Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, about the holding of the above-mentioned auction sale.
- In the event the auction scheduled hereinabove fails for any reason whatsoever, Phoenix has the right to sell the secured asset under auction through this Notice by way of PRIVATE TREATY under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, 2002.

*For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link <http://phoenixarc.co.in/saleauction.php?id=NDY5> provided in Phoenix ARC Private Limited's website i.e. www.phoenixarc.co.in

Sd/-
 Authorised Officer
 Phoenix ARC Private Limited
 Phoenix Trust FY17-18

Place : Haridwar
 Date : 22.08.2019

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. 07/AMC/EI/MB/2019-20 Dated: 19.08.2019
 Sr. Divisional Signal and Telecom engineer/ Co. Moradabad for and on behalf of President of India invites Open tenders through E-Tendering system for the following works:

S. No.	Tender No. & Description of Work	Approx. Cost Rs.	Earnest Money Rs.	Cost of Tender form Rs.	Last date and time for Submission of tender and opening of tender
1	07/AMC/EI/MB/2019-20 Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract of EI equipments on MB-CH section of Moradabad Division for Three year.	10620000.00	203100.00	5000.00	23.09.2019 upto 14.00 hrs. and 23.09.2019 at 15.00 hrs.

Note: Complete details of tender can be seen at www.irps.gov.in 2687/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED
 National Office: DHFL, HDIL Towers, B-Wing, 6th & 8th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051.
 Branch Office : Dreams Mall, Upper Ground Floor, B.S Marg, Bandrup (West), Mumbai - 400078

DEMAND NOTICE
 Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further applicable interest from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
1.	(LC No. 00006079 of Dehradun Branch) Nakul Patil (Borrower)	23-04-2019 ₹ 3171654 /- (₹ Three Lakhs Seventeen Thousand One Hundred Sixty Four) NPA (01-03-2019)	Plot No Sg-1,ext/58 Khasra No-1348 Shivalki Ganga Vihar Village-hetampur Pargana Roorkee,Haridwar,Haridwar-249403
2.	(LC No. 00003581 of Haldwani Branch) Satyendra Kumar (Borrower) Reena Devi (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2019 ₹ 1160199 /- (₹ Eleven Lakhs Sixty Thousand One Hundred Ninety Nine) NPA (01-02-2019)	Part Of Khasra No. 3 Min Village Jaspur Patti Mansha Tehsil Jaspur,Jaspur,Moradabad-244712
3.	(LC No. 00003683 of Haldwani Branch) Raghuvver Singh (Borrower) Vineta V (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2019 ₹ 981459 /- (₹ Nine Lakhs Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Nine) NPA (01-01-2019)	Part Of Khasra No. 643/1 Min Village Maheshpura ,Kashipur, Udhamasinghgar-244713
4.	(LC No. 00003928 of Haldwani Branch) Hukum Singh (Borrower) Pransi Rani (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2019 ₹ 2034288 /- (₹ Twenty Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Eight) NPA (01-02-2019)	Part Of Khasra No 112 Min Village Jaspur Patti , Jaspur,Moradabad-244712
5.	(LC No. 00000138 of Yamunanagar Branch) Manish S/o Subodh Kumar (Borrower) Pooja W/o Manish (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2019 ₹ 1653645 /- (₹ Sixteen Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Six Hundred Forty Five) NPA (01-02-2019)	House On Plot No2345/1/2 Mouza Dham Colony VIII Jagtepur,Haridwar, Haridwar-249403
6.	(LC No. 00001917 of Dehradun Branch) Vinod Kumar Pundir (Borrower) Pooja Pundir (Co Borrower 1) Mahendra Singh Waldia (Guarantor 1)	30-04-2019 ₹ 1209619 /- (₹ Twelve Lakhs Nine Thousand Six Hundred Nineteen) NPA (01-04-2019)	Const On Prt Of Khasra No2345/1/2 Mouza Rajpur Pargana Parwa Doon, Dehradun, Dehradun-248001
7.	(LC No. 00002728 of Dehradun Branch) Sunil Gupta (Borrower) Roopa Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2019 ₹ 1860657 /- (₹ Eighteen Lakhs Sixty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Seven) NPA (01-02-2019)	Khasra No 760 Khasra No 3182 Min Mauza Etanbagh Pargana Pachwoodn,Dehradun, Dehradun-248001
8.	(LC No. 00003282 of Dehradun Branch) Sanjay Kumar (Borrower) Shashi Wo Sanjay (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2019 ₹ 1189972 /- (₹ Eleven Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Two) NPA (01-03-2019)	Khasra No. 371 Situated At Mauza Bhanjiawala Tehsil Rishikesh,Dehradun, Dehradun-249201
9.	(LC No. 00003853 of Dehradun Branch) Tushar Joshi (Borrower) Jagdamba Devi (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2019 ₹ 2568720 /- (₹ Twenty Five Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty) NPA (01-03-2019)	Khasra No.420 Mauza Badripur Pargana Parwa Doon,Dehradun,Dehradun-248001
10.	(LC No. 00004431 of Dehradun Branch) Poonam Devi (Borrower) Jayant Prabhakar (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2019 ₹ 2134774 /- (₹ Twenty One Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Four) NPA (01-02-2019)	Khasra No 1932 Situated At Mauza Mehulwala Maafi Pargana Central Doon, Dehradun,Dehradun-248001
11.	(LC No. 00005453 of Dehradun Branch) Pradeep Kumar (Borrower) Mohit Kumar (Co Borrower 1) Bhupal Singh Tyagi (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2019 ₹ 1284065 /- (₹ Twelve Lakhs Eighty Four Thousand Sixty Five) NPA (01-04-2019)	Khar No-137m Mohala, Ashok Nagar, Dhanlaha Pargana, Tehsil,,Dehradun, Dehradun-248001
12.	(LC No. 00005554 of Dehradun Branch) Sanjay Katharia (Borrower) Shashi Kala Katharia (Co Borrower 1) Sunanda Devi (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2019 ₹ 1997248 /- (₹ Nineteen Lakhs Ninety Seven Thousand Two Hundred Forty Eight) NPA (01-04-2019)	Kha No 123ka,khata No 08 Std At Mauza Danda Nooriwala Pgn-pawrdn,Dehradun,Dehradun-248001
13.	(LC No. 00008497 of Dehradun Branch) Raman Singh (Borrower) Sunita Devi (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2019 ₹ 1471083 /- (₹ Fourteen Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Eighty Three) NPA (01-01-2019)	Khasra No 16 Ka Mi Khata No 360 Mauza Badowala Pargana Pachwoodn Dehradun Dehradun Uttarakhand 248001
14.	(LC No. 00004136 of Haldwani Branch) Omprakash Singh (Borrower) Savita Yadav (Co Borrower 1)	23-04-2019 ₹ 1250828 /- (₹ Twelve Lakhs Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Eight) NPA (01-03-2019)	Part of Khasra No 02 Min Shakshipuram Village Bigwara Rudrapur Udhamasinghgar Uttarakhand 263153
15.	(LC No. 00005799 of Dehradun Branch) Mohd Anjar Ahmed (Borrower) Saista Parveen (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2019 ₹ 865548 /- (₹ Eight Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Five Hundred Forty Eight) NPA (01-03-2019)	Khasra No 529 Jt, Rakba 99.86sq Mtr, Mauja Kargi Grant Pargana Central Doon, Behind Nissan Show Room,Dehradun, Dehradun-248001
16.	(LC No. 00001802 of Haridwar Branch) Sudhir Kumar Gupta (Borrower) Richa Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	20-05-2019 ₹ 2139640 /- (₹ Twenty One Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Forty) NPA (01-04-2019)	Part Of Plot No- 207&206, Khasra No-1569, Hari Green Colony VIII- Anneki Hetampur Roshnabad, Haridwar, Haridwar-249402
17.	(LC No. 00000759 of Yamunanagar Branch) Rupendra (Borrower) Tilashra Devi (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2019 ₹ 1442862 /- (₹ Fourteen Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Two) NPA (01-04-2019)	Matalika Khasra No 1518/1 MI , Near Gali No-20, Near Sky World School Mohalla Krishna Nagar Roorkee, Haridwar, Haridwar-249403

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Sd/- (Authorised Officer)
 For Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DCM acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 9.Sanitation/CC-RP/Cluster/CM-CH/19C Closing Date/Time 23.09.2019 up to 14.00 hrs. Bid will be opened on 23.09.2019 at 16:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Information regarding this tender is available on website www.irps.gov.in on internet & can be seen/download. The tenders/bidders will have to make payment towards Tender document cost and Earnest Money against this tender through online payment modes like Net Banking, debit/Credit cards etc. available on IREPS portal. Manual/offline mode of payment through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Cash Deposit receipts etc. are not permitted.

Name of work	Tender for comprehensive cleaning & Rag Picking & Conservancy of Work of the section of Commercial Inspector-Chandausi for a period of four years.
Tender Type	Open
Tender closing Date & Time	23.09.2019 14:00 hrs.
Pre-Bid Conference (Yes/No)	No
Advertised Value (Rs.)	3,22,87,898.9/-
Bidding Style	Single Rate for Each Schedule Item
Earnest Money (Rs.)	3,11,500.00
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	11,800.00
Period of Completion	48 Months
Contract Type	Service

1. Two packet system shall be adopted in this tender. 2. In case of any difficulty helpdesk and learning centre available on the website IREPS may be approached. 3. Tender(s) are advised to read tender document carefully before participating in the tender. No.: 9-Sanitation/CC-RP/Cluster/CM-CH/19C Dated: 19.08.2019. 2693/2019

Serving Customers with a Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDERS

Sr. DEN/MB acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against following Tender Notice, closing date & time are mentioned against each colour. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender No.	92-DRM-MB-19-20 dt. 16.08.2019	93-DRM-MB-19-20 dt. 16.08.2019	94-DRM-MB-19-20 dt. 16.08.2019
Name of Work	Construction of boundary near station MB		

STEP TOWARDS MODERNISING ARMED FORCES

Def Min OK's first batch of reforms

ARMY COMMANDERS HAVE GIVEN THE NOD IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

Another key approval

given by Singh is to set up a separate vigilance cell under the Army Chief with tri-services representation. At present, the vigilance department operates through multiple agencies and there is no single point interface.

"An independent vigilance cell will be made functional under Chief of Army Staff (COAS). Accordingly, Additional Director General (vigilance) will be placed directly under the COAS for it," the ministry said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROTESTING AGAINST CENTRE'S MOVE TO CORPORATISE OFB

Ordnance factory employees set aside Govt promise, begin strike

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

A committee of senior offi-

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

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

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

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

CBI ARRESTS PC

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

According to the FIR,

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

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

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

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

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

complex transactions and shell companies.

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

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

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

plainant in the case alleged.

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

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

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

AMUL told to formulate plan to recycle plastic milk pouches

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BJP to start awareness drive on abrogation of Article 370

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HRD Min launches NISHTHA aimed at training over 42 lakh teachers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"Inclusive education, ICT in teaching-

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

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

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

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

Onion prices likely to shoot up

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

the coming days. Sharma says farmers mainly in Maharashtra, who are aware of the current situation of floods impacting crops in Karnataka, are holding back their produce anticipating better prices in the days ahead. In Delhi, wholesale rate of onion is between ₹10 and 22 per kg while in Lasalgaon, the wholesale rate is ₹20 per kg.

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

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

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

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

Packaged food in India least healthy: Survey

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

'Obesity Reviews'.

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

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

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

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

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

The report notes that many

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

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

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

Valley gradually showing signs of improvement

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

According to police spokesman, SPO identified as

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

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

In response, Indian Army gave befitting reply.

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

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



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

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

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



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

the Valley to ensure security of the people. He said stringent action will be taken against those disrupting peace and creating panic among masses.

Earlier, DGP attended the wreath laying ceremony of

martyr SPO Bilal Ahmad Magray who was martyred during the Ganai Hamam, Baramulla encounter.

Meanwhile, addressing routine Press conference, Director Information & Public

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Government is also open to amend the radio guide-



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

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

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

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

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

IANS

J&K Govt grants MoS status to its Mayors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

restored. IANS

Communication blockade fueling anger in Kashmir

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

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

Ahmad broke down on seeing his ageing parents, and tightly hugged his two and three year old nephews.

He is getting married next week. But the communication blackout has complicated his wedding arrangements. While most weddings in Kashmir

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Uddhav throws weight behind cousin Raj ahead ED'S summons

Says nothing will come out against him in probe

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chidambaram, a paper tiger, charge Congressman, rivals

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further boost to Sena, sitting Cong MLA joins its fold

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

In a development that came four days after former MLA Dhanraj Haribahu Mahale — who had quit the Shiv Sena and joined the NCP and contested the recent Lok Sabha polls — returned to the Sena, Nirmala joined the Shiv Sena.

Welcoming Mrs Gavit into his party, Uddhav said that with Gavit's entry to the Sena would strengthen the party in Nashik district of northern Maharashtra.

A sitting Congress MLA from Igatpuri, Nirmala is the daughter of veteran congressman from north Maharashtra.

Nirmala, who had tendered her resignation to State Assembly Speaker Haribahu Bagade on Tuesday, had said that she was quitting the Congress and resigning as an MLA to ensure development in his constituency.

Nirmala's entry to the Shiv Sena came amid speculation that the Congress' former minister and sitting MLA from Indapur Harshvardhan Patil might also join the BJP.

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

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

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

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

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

EXTENSION OF RUN OF SPECIAL TRAINS

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

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

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

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

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Stalin backs Chidambaram, accuses BJP Govt of pursuing vendetta politics

PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

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

Responding to queries, the DMK leader said, "Chidambaram is a legal expert. He will for sure face the case legally."

As many as 14 parties will take part in a protest in Delhi to be held by DMK on Thursday, seeking the release of leaders under detention in Kashmir, he said.

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

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
Office of the Dy.Dir(Hort) 1st floor C-Block Community Hall Raghbir Nagar New Delhi-110027
Phone: 011-25913770 e-mail: ddhort.dusib@gmail.com

PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

The Deputy Director(Hort.), DUSIB, invites on behalf of DUSIB online Percentage rate bid on two bid system for following works :-

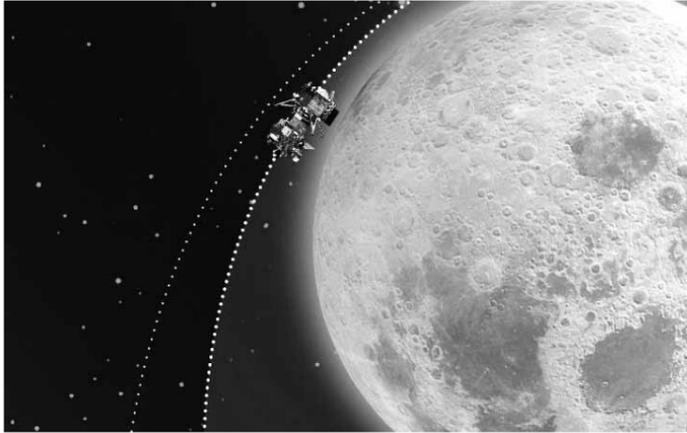
Last date and time of submission of bid 07.09.2019 (upto 15:00 hrs.) The bid form and other details can be obtained from the web site (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

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

Note :- (1) Any Amendments / Change / Clarifications (If any) will be uploaded only on <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> therefore intending tenderers may inspect the site regularly.

DIP/Shabarth-0548/2019-20 Dy.Dir(Hort)DUSIB

Chandrayaan-2 enters second lunar orbit



PTI ■ BENGALURU

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

ISRO has said subsequently the lander will separate from the Orbiter (on September 2) and enter into a 100 km X30 km orbit around the Moon. Then it will perform a series of complex braking maneuvers to soft land in the South polar region of the Moon on September 7, 2019. ISRO Chairman K Sivan has said the proposed soft-landing on the Moon is going to be a "terrifying" moment as it is something ISRO has not done before, where as LOI maneuver was successfully carried out during the Chandrayaan-1 mission. The health of the spacecraft is being continuously monitored from the Mission Operations Complex (MOX) at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru with support from Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) antennas at Bylalu, near Bengaluru, the space agency has said. India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV MkIII-M1 had successfully launched the 3,840-kg Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into the earth's orbit on July 22. Following the landing, the rover 'Pragyan' will rollout from lander 'Vikram' and carry out experiments on the lunar surface

for a period of one lunar day, which is equal to 14 earth days. The mission life of the lander is also one lunar day, while the orbiter will continue its mission for a year. The orbiter carries eight scientific payloads for mapping the lunar surface and study the exosphere (outer atmosphere) of the Moon, its South Polar region. While the lander carries three scientific payloads to conduct surface and subsurface science experiments. The rover carries two payloads to enhance the understanding of the lunar surface. India's second lunar expedition — would shed light on a completely unexplored section of the Moon, its South Polar region. According to ISRO, the mission objective of Chandrayaan-2 is to develop and demonstrate the key technologies for end-to-end lunar mission capability, including soft-landing and roving on the lunar surface. On the science front, this mission aims to further expand the knowledge about the moon through a detailed study of its topography, mineralogy, surface chemical composition, thermo-physical characteristics and atmosphere, leading to a better understanding of the origin and evolution of the moon, the space agency has said.

Yogi brings in 23 new Ministers, many 1st timers

SIANS ■ LUCKNOW

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



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

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

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

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

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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



Tumakuru.

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

Arsalan story twist: Elder brother was driving, arrested

SIANS ■ KOLKATA

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

3 IAF personnel killed as truck falls into Barmer gorge



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

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

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

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ICAC/C-862/2019-20

Mukul Roy aide held in bribery case

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

recently played an important role in getting a galaxy of Bangla cine personalities to join the saffron outfit. The BJP promptly refuted charges saying it was all being done at the behest of the ruling TMC to malign the party and victimise people who were joining the party. The complainant is known to have also named Roy and another person in the FIR lodged at Sarsuna Police Station in south-west Kolkata. According to Mandal, the accused had lured him into giving lakhs of rupees with a promise of making him a Railway Board member. "I met Baban Ghosh at Nizam Palace in Kolkata where I was told I will be made Railway Board member. Accordingly I was taken to Delhi several times," Mandal said, adding he even visited Parliament and Railway Ministry where I was introduced to some people." Among them was a "stated personal assistant of then Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu," he said. "I was told there that I will have to spend some money in order to become a Board member. To win my trust I was also given some papers. Believing in them I paid them several lakh of rupees some even through cheque."

Kerala women to drive Govt vehicles

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

One are the days when the post of a driver in Kerala State Government departments and State owned public sector undertakings could be filled only by a male. The State Cabinet, on Wednesday, decided to open this post for women also. After the weekly cabinet meeting held here, the office of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan intimated that it's no longer a male domain.

Appeal for Identification

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

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

SHO
P.S., Civil Lines, Delhi

DP/345/N/19 Ph. : 011-23815444,8750870127

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

RERA approved

CATEGORY: 1BHK (301 Sq. Ft.)				Category: 2BHK-C (498 Sq. Ft.)			
S. No.	Application No.	Unit No.	Name	S. No.	Application No.	Unit No.	Name
Preference -1				Preference -1			
1	10950	6041	Ranjana Bhatnagar	1	00836	17018	Shakir Husain
2	00841	6022	Ravi Mohan Tewari	2	00823	18118	Jumnu Bhaskar
3	00870	5043	Manju Joshi	3	00835	17071	Girish Chandra
4	00844	5013	Durga Singh	4	00850	1021	Sunila Chhabra
5	00864	10042	Lalit Dawra	5	00810	3138	Avinash Choudhary
6	00842	6033	Preeti Mathpal	6	00839	17031	Bhupal Datt Karnatak
7	00857	10012	Vijayam R Nair	7	00846	2091	Deepak Singh Bioria
Preference -2/ Waiting				Preference -2/ Waiting			
1	10234	WL1	Saraswati Sahoo	1	10736	WL1	Sarver Kumar Chahal
2	00824	WL2	Neeraj Kumar	2	10252	WL2	Kamali Jeet Singh
Category: 2BHK-B (524 Sq. Ft.)				Category: 2BHK-A (569 Sq. Ft.)			
S. No.	Application No.	Unit No.	Name	S. No.	Application No.	Unit No.	Name
Preference -1				Preference -1			
1	00827	18144	Santosh Kumar Arya	1	00814	3136	Neetu Goyal
2	10964	1024	Vipin Kumar Sawariya	2	00813	1146	Barkha
3	00833	3054	Satyajit Ashok Pande	3	00817	3013	Anuj Saini
4	00831	18074	Arun Yadav	4	00807	1077	Neelam Rani/Done
5	00847	17115	Shailesh Kumar	WL1			
Preference -2/Waiting				Preference -2/Waiting			
1	9880	WL1	Kshilz Srivastava	5	00834		Mohammed Javed Ahmed
2	00853	WL2	Sunil Kumar				

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WESTERN RAILWAY
CONSTRUCTION OF 2 LANE ROAD OVER BRIDGE
 Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway RATLAM (M/P) invites offer through E-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in under One packet system for the following:- Tender No.: RTM/DV.CE(C)ROB/S(81). Name of work: Construction of 2 lane Road Over Bridge 1 x 36.00m + 2 x 18.00m effective span (composite girders) at km: 651/14-16 in lieu of L-xing no. 81, near Ratlam, between Ratlam Gochra section of Ratlam Division, Western Railway. NIT Cost: ₹8,99,12,349.58. EMD: ₹5,99,600/- Bid submission closing date: 16.09.2019 at 15.30 hrs. Bid open date: 16.09.2019 at 15.30 hrs. Instructions of tenderers: 1. Only E-offers submitted online through E-tender portal will be considered. Please note that printed offers will not be entertained. 2. The date of tender, terms & conditions and scope of work are uploaded and are available only in electronic format in our website www.ireps.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM
ICICI Bank
 Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakri Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra 390 007
 Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra - Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400 051
 The Sarfaesi notice under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT was published in Delhi/NCR dated July 18, 2019 The Pioneer Hindi & English for Loan Account No. LBDEL0003240672 and Name of the Borrower UNNATI FORTUNE TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD. In the column-3 (Three) the mentioned property address is NO-4GF2ATS ONE HEMLET TOWER-4 SECTOR-04 UTTAR PRADESH NOIDA to read as FLAT NO-4GF2ATS ONE HEMLET TOWER-4 SECTOR-104 UTTAR PRADESH NOIDA
 Dated: 22-08-2019
 Place : Delhi/ NCR
 Sd/-
 (Authorized Officer)
 Secured Creditor

WESTERN RAILWAY
E-AUCTION SALE DURING SEPT 2019 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP
SPECIAL ATTENTION: ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS
 Public e-auction for disposal of P. way scrap, rail scrap & other various scrap material will be held in SEPT,2019 as per program given below:-

SEPTEMBER 2019			Depot	Depot officer In charge	Contact No.
1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round			
04.09.2019	13.09.2019	23.09.2019	Mumbai Central	Sr.Divl. Material Manager-Mumbai Central	022-23094142/09004499003
04.09.2019	13.09.2019	23.09.2019	Ahmedabad	Sr.Divl. Material Manager-Ahmedabad	07922205888/09724093750
04.09.2019	13.09.2019	23.09.2019	Sabarmati	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Sabarmati	07927500080/09724093770
06.09.2019	16.09.2019	25.09.2019	Mahalaxmi	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Mahalaxmi	022-24929571/09004495750
06.09.2019	16.09.2019	25.09.2019	Pratapnagar	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Dahod	02673241295/09724090455
06.09.2019	16.09.2019	25.09.2019	Varodara	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Mahalaxmi	022-24929571/09004495750
09.09.2019	18.09.2019	27.09.2019	Ratlam	Sr.Divl. Material Manager-Ratlam	022-2230080/0975249750
09.09.2019	18.09.2019	27.09.2019	Rajkot	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Dahod	02673241295/09724090455
09.09.2019	18.09.2019	27.09.2019	Bhavnagar	Sr.Divl. Material Manager-Rajkot	022-22476943/09724097750
10.09.2019	20.09.2019	30.09.2019	Dahod	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Dahod	02673241295/09724090455

For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot Officers. Note:- 1. Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot for e-Auction. 2. e-Auction will start at as per scheduled time. 3. e-Auction catalogues are available at materials management site of www.indianrailways.gov.in as well as on site www.ireps.gov.in e-Auction portal. 4. In case of any assistance regarding e-Auction, digital signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned Depot Officer. 5. All payment transactions shall be done through the online payment gateway (No.S438/e-Auction/2019-20 Dated -20/08/2019).
 Deputy Chief Material Manager (Sales)

Chidambaram in a spot

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



In the end, Palaniappan Chidambaram, the former Home and Finance Minister of India and one who artfully played power games to his benefit so long, should have surrendered with grace to the investigative agencies on the INX media case. For politics is never about right or wrong but smart positioning in a set context. He could have made a virtue of the rather incriminating accusations against him by willfully surrendering under the law, flagged his honour, howsoever fake, instead of hiding out for hours after a lookout notice was issued

against him. Which is why his drive to the AICC headquarters, claiming he was being framed, that the investigative agencies had not filed a chargesheet and that he was the victim of a political witch-hunt, didn't wash with anybody. The drama was not quite stage-managed to suit the image he had carefully cultivated over the years. Earlier in the day, every senior advocate in Delhi was either trying to figure out the whereabouts of or appearing for or against him in the Supreme Court. For a man regularly used to being feted in the media, a source of salacious gossip, himself a senior advocate and one of the cogs of the Lutyens' Delhi machine, he simply winced at a moment of crisis. His role in several scams and scandals has long been suspected and many of them reported diligently in this newspaper for years. His intervention in deals, the extent of its propriety and the legality or illegality of his actions, however is something for the courts to decide. That said, his battery of lawyers — all of whom are his senior colleagues in the Congress — has always managed to ensure that Chidambaram remained on bail for years, free from prosecution. This frustrated the attempts of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to question him and his son, Karti Chidambaram, who, too, is accused in several cases alongside him. But this sudden rash of actions against Chidambaram now, as the carefully cultivated Congress ecosystem collapses in the capital after a successive election loss, seems to have caught him and his friends off guard, thus making the man nothing more than a common fugitive who feared arrest.

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

Delhi roads unsafe

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



As a signatory to the Brasilia declaration on road safety, India intends to reduce accidents and traffic fatalities by 50 per cent in the next three years. So when a most damning report on the state of Delhi roads was released by the traffic police, revealing that one person died in a road accident every five hours on an average in 2018, it raised a million eyebrows. Not only that, fatalities rose to a five-year high and remained the highest for any city in the country, the report added. Breaking down the bone-chilling statistics, the report

concluded that nearly half of these crashes, 46 per cent to be precise, were hit and run cases where the vehicle could not be identified. Of the 1,690 deaths, one-third were caused by speeding and 7-10 per cent due to dangerous driving, usually reckless lane-changing and stunts. In other words, driving behaviour and the Delhiite's gross indiscipline were diagnosed as reasons for the nightmarish state of affairs and something which no existing policy or penalty has clearly been able to rein in. The report also highlighted the role played by defective road designs, pathetic street lighting (33 per cent) and callously unguarded civic works (40 per cent) in causing accidents. Shockingly, 20 per cent of road deaths were attributed to bumpy roads and potholes, a severe indictment of the city's planners and the Public Works Department.

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

A haunting silence

It is the telling silence of nations in the immediate east of Pakistan that has given Islamabad a resounding wake-up call to go beyond change in nomenclatures



BHOPINDER SINGH

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

In the tense and hyphenated domain of India-Pakistan realm, the 'K' (Kashmir) word dominates above all. Herein, the operative library of preferred words from New Delhi's perspective has been "bilateral", "cross-border terrorism" and "internal affairs" among others; whereas, from Islamabad's perspective, it has been "international mediation", "plebiscite" and "UN resolution." Even the language syntax, emotions and phraseology in the war-of-words between India and Pakistan is decidedly more escalatory, shriller and beseeching when it emanates from Islamabad. Historically, irrespective of the merits in the topical India-Pakistan arguments, the audience would typically respond in favour or against either of the countries — on the basis of a certain predisposed equation and preference. It's only some unrelated country with negligible stakes which would occasionally partake an unbiased assessment of the arguments involved, as indeed, would some of the multilateral formations. Therefore, the inevitable play of certain "blocs" or realpolitik considerations resulted in a pre-decided tilt at least till now.

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

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



ous role in the terror industry and multilateral bodies like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) breathing down its neck to further "blacklist" it — Imran Khan had gone ahead with ostensible "course-correction", austerity-drive and personal charm-offensives to posture "Naya Pakistan" onto the global stage. Khan made quick dashes to China and to the Gulf sheikhdoms and made sure that he personally drove the visiting Princes from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE when they visited his country. As money started trickling in and the noose of corruption tightened against his political opponents, Khan felt even more confident of his own position, success and that of his country. He postured reconciliation (whilst still undertaking a Pulwama in parallel), yet his eye on the global map with a changed "Naya Pakistan" was clearly work-in-progress.

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

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

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

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

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

Barring China, which has come out with its loaded statements in favour of its "all-weather friend" Pakistan, it continues grappling with its own imploding destiny in Hong Kong. Basically, Pakistan remains stunningly isolated and ignored. Sabre-rattling by the Pakistani deep state (military) and its local political classes notwithstanding, the reality of a persisting trust deficit and perceptions of sovereign incorrigibility still abound the Pakistani narrative. The transactional equation with China is also premised on the strategic investments of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which necessitates that Islamabad remains reciprocally mum on the fate of Uighur repression in China.

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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

Congress leader
—Rahul Gandhi



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

Music producer
—Nucleya



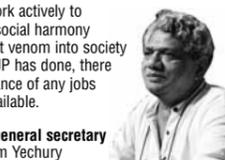
Kashmir is a very complicated place. You have Hindus and you have the Muslims and I wouldn't say they get along so great. I will do the best I can to mediate.

US President
—Donald Trump



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

CPI(M) general secretary
—Sitaram Yechury



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A garb of concern

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

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

The evils of bad economics

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

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



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

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

Controversial preacher

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

minority group. He was rightly gagged for his exertions. As a matter of fact, Malaysia did not invite him but he sought asylum over there, which was granted to him along with citizenship. He embarrassed the Government by calling the Chinese "old guests" and asked

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

SC Panda
Bhubaneswar

Music genius

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

M Pradyu
Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Perils of supping with the devil

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



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



THE BJP HAS NO INVOLVEMENT IN THE MATTER. ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE WHO INDULGE IN CORRUPTION. —UNION MINISTER KIREN RIJJU

Upping deterrence ante?

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



VIVEK MISHRA

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

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

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

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

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

If this is any indication, it shows that the rungs of conventional escalation between India and Pakistan may be reaching the fog end, and the Indian government wants to come out of the retaliation-counter-retaliation cycle with a conventionally inferior power, which is on a quest to gain conventional parity with India. Pakistan's constant threat of battlefield nuclear weapons further complicates India's conventional superiority gap assessment vis-à-vis Pakistan, setting foundations of a strategically revisionist thought process within India.
 Chances of nuclear policy revision seem more plausible in the light of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) historical assessments about making India a credible nuclear power through a directly proportional relationship between the country's political will to revise its nuclear policy and deterrence-based posturing.

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

The Defence Minister's assertion has

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



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

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

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

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

New Delhi's lessening of the civil-military gap can be seen in the context of the government's recent decision to appoint a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), a five-star General with possibly a Cabinet rank whose role would supersede the three armed forces chiefs.
 The centralization of power through the office of the CDS will not only consolidate general decision-making in one office, but is likely to reduce intra-forces rivalry on issues of budget and government favourability between the three wings of the armed forces.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

An overlooked solution to climate crisis

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



KOTA SRIRAJ

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

Nearly, 30 per cent of the world's carbon is stored in these grasslands,

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



VENTING HATRED

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

₹ recovers 16 paise to close at 71.55 a dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

On Tuesday, the Indian unit had closed at a six-month low of 71.71 a dollar.

The recovery in the Indian unit was seen despite headwinds in form of economic uncertainties, FDI outflows and rise in global crude oil prices, according to forex traders. Besides, investors continued to fret over long-lasting US-China trade war.

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

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

Aiding in rupee recoup, the



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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BMW launches 7-generation 3-series

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

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

the Dutch administrator.

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

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

Maruti launches new XL6 MPV

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the midst of the worst sales slump for passenger cars in decades, Maruti-Suzuki took the wraps off their new multi-person vehicle (MPV) the XL6.

The XL6 which is a variant of the popular Ertiga MPV will however be sold through the carmaker's premium sales channel Nexa, and features several premium touches such as a second-row of individual captain seats and full-LED headlights in the front. In keeping with Maruti's decision to stop production of small diesel engines, the Ertiga is available only in a petrol variant however has both manual and automatic transmission options. Prices

will range from ₹9.8 lakh to ₹11.46 lakh.

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

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



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

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

Trump acknowledges China policies may mean US economic pain

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ZEDBLACK LAUNCHES MANTHAN ZAROORI HAI CAMPAIGN, ROPES IN SURESH OBEROI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

1. NAME OF THE WORK WITH ITS LOCATION	Replacement of old 4x120 KVA UPS by Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning & handing over at main PRS centre in IRCA Building New Delhi of Northern Railway.
2. Approx. Cost of the work	Rs. 624999/-
3. Cost of the tender form to be deposited	Rs. 5000/- + GST extra. Tender cost to be paid on line
5. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 125000/- One lakh twenty five thousand only.
6. Completion period of the works	3 Months
7. Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Up to 15:00 hours till 19.09.2019 at www.ireps.gov.in The tender will be opened at Dy. CEE/CR office/IRCA Bldg, New Delhi soon after 15:00 hours on ireps.gov.in on 19.09.2019.
8. Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

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

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
e-OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest money. Pre and Post attention Survey of Track (ongitudinal & Lateral) in ADENKUN section on NDLG-LUMB section of DL1 Division. Approx. Cost: Rs. 49,98,085.95, Earnest Money: Rs. 1,00,000. Completion Period: 08 Months. Earnest Money should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note: FDR or Demand Draft will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016. Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15:00 hrs. on 13.09.2019 opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 13.09.2019. Website particulars, published-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. Tender document Cost: Rs. 3,540/- Tender cost should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note: FDR or Demand Draft will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016. Similar nature of work: For work at SN-1: Definition of Similar work: Nil. NOTE: - i) All attachments must be self attested by the tenderers and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XXIII is compulsory. No.: 128-W/280/Tender Notice/19-20/W/1 (NIT-8-1-19-20) Dated: 20.08.2019. 2681/2019

Serving Customers with a Smile

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone no.

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

DP/341/N/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

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

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

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

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

DP/336/N/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

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

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

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

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

DP/3175/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

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

Ph.: 011-23014046 (Direct), 011-23015229 & 23015218 Extn. 210

SHO
E-Mail ID: cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368639

PS, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi,
Ph.: 011-23693611

DP/9881/N/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

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

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

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

Website : <http://cbl.nic.in>
e-mail : cic@cbl.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639

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

DP/2566/OD/19

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

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

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

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

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

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

DP/347/N/18

Sensex tumbles 268 pts; Tata Motors tanks 9 pc

AGENCIES ■ MUMBAI/HONG KONG

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

After plunging 305 points, the 30-share Sensex settled 267.64 points, or 0.72 per cent, lower at 37,060.37. It hit an intra-day high of 37,406.55 and a low of 37,022.52.

The broader NSE Nifty too ended 98.30 points, or 0.89 per cent, down at 10,918.70. During the day, it swung between a high of 11,034.20 and a low of 10,906.65.

Tata Motors was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack, plummeting 9.29 per cent, followed by Yes Bank at 8.21 per cent. Other losers included Tata Steel, ONGC, IndusInd Bank, SBI, L&T, ITC, Vedanta, HCL Tech, ICICI Bank and M&M, which declined up to 4.26 per cent.

Hero MotoCorp, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, HUL, Bajaj Auto, Maruti, NTPC and HDFC Bank bucked the weak market trend, rising up to 1.78 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee appreciated 22 paise to

171.49 against the US dollar intra-day.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, spurted 1.28 per cent to USD 60.80 per barrel.

ASIAN MARKETS DROP AS TRADERS AWAIT POWELL SPEECH

Equities stuttered in Asia on Wednesday as investors took a step back after recent gains, with focus now turning to a key speech by Federal Reserve boss Jerome Powell at the end of the week.

Rising hopes for China-US trade talks have provided a much-needed lift to markets over the past two days but with few fresh catalysts, dealers are keeping their powder dry ahead of Friday's address.

After positive signals from Donald Trump and some of his top advisers on Monday over progress in the talks with Beijing, and an olive branch with the delay of a ban on Huawei purchases, there have been few developments for traders to buy on.

"Our trade-war headline-inspired relief rally appears to have run its course as I suspect there is still a lot of nervousness among US investors as the global economic realities are just too hard to ignore," said

Stephen Innes at Valour Markets.

Hong Kong added 0.2 per cent, Shanghai was barely moved and Tokyo ended down 0.3 per cent. Sydney fell almost one per cent, Singapore shed 0.3 per cent and Wellington was 0.9 per cent lower. Taipei finished flat and Seoul added 0.2 per cent.

In early trade, London rose 0.5 per cent, Paris added 0.8 per cent and Frankfurt was up 0.5 per cent.

The Fed releases minutes of its July meeting later on Wednesday which will provide an insight into its deliberations when cutting interest rates for the first time since the financial crisis.

But Powell's talk at the central bankers' gathering in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, is the key event and will be closely pored over for clues about the bank's plans for next month, with experts unable to agree on whether or not he will announce further cuts.

There has been increased speculation that central banks and governments will step in with stimulus support to head off a global downturn, but analysts warn they could be disappointed by what Powell has to say regarding Fed action.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices on Wednesday appreciated ₹50 to hit a new high of ₹38,820 per 10 gram at the bullion market here on account of consistent buying support from jewellers, according to the All-India Sarafa Association. Silver also soared by ₹1,140 to ₹45,040 per kg on fresh offtake by industrial units and coin makers.

Traders attributed the gain in gold to increase in the domestic spot market demand. However, a weak trend in the international market restricted the gains, they said. Besides, the decline in equity markets also aided the rally in the precious metal as investors moved towards safe-haven assets such as gold, they added.

Gold prices traded weak with international spot gold prices but continue to hover around USD 1,500 an ounce.

In the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity rose ₹50 each to ₹38,820 and ₹38,650 per 10 gram, respectively. Sovereign gold advanced by ₹200 to ₹28,800 per eight grams. Silver surged ₹1,140 to ₹45,040 per kg, while weekly-based delivery gained ₹210 to ₹43,632 per kg. Silver coins were in good demand and traded higher by ₹2,000 to ₹91,000 for buying and ₹92,000 for selling of 100 coins.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

According to the global financial services major, even though growth is set to slow further in Q2 (April-June) the economy is expected to see some recovery in the July-September quarter.

"High-frequency indicators continue to show familiar pain points — a deep contraction in consumption, weak investment, a slowing external sector and an under-performing services sector," Nomura said in a research note.

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

Nomura's Composite Leading Index (CLI) for Q3 (July-September) has ticked marginally higher to 99.9 from 99.8 in Q2, led by higher industrial production growth, an improvement in visitor arrivals and growth, equity markets and lower policy rates.

"While the concurrent state of the economy remains quite concerning, nascent signs of green shoots and positive performance of leading indicators provide some signs that a recovery may be slowly materialising," the Nomura report said. India's economic growth

slowed to 6.8 per cent in 2018-19 — the slowest pace since 2014-15. There are ominous signs showing that slowdown may be deep. Consumer confidence is waning, foreign direct investment has plateaued and international trade and currency war is further aggravating the problem.

To take stock of the situation, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held several meetings with officials and industry leaders who have asked for stimulus measure to boost consumer demand and private investments.

Though there are increasing signs of the government taking stock of the slowdown, and possibly announcing some short-term measures to buoy business confidence, Nomura assesses limited fiscal space

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

The Central Statistics Office will come out with the GDP figures for the first quarter (April-June) on August 30.

Meanwhile, the automobile sector is facing its worst crisis in two decades and reports suggest thousands of job losses in the auto and ancillary industry.

In the real estate sector, the number of unsold homes has increased, while fast-moving consumer goods companies have reported a decline in volume growth in the first quarter.

Nippon Life Insurance raises stake in RNAM to 54 pc

New Delhi (PTI): With the closure of open offer, Nippon Life Insurance stake in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM) has risen to 54 per cent.

The open offer was part of the stake sale process. Nippon Life floated open offer to acquire nearly 22.49 per cent stake in RNAM for ₹3,179 crore under a deal with Reliance Capital which is exiting the mutual funds business. The mandatory open offer tendering period was from July 23 to August 5, sources said, adding that approximately 11 per cent shares were tendered in the open offer. Nippon Life paid ₹230 per share in the open offer.

P&G Q4 net up 36.45 pc

New Delhi (PTI): Procter & Gamble Hygiene and Health Care (P&G) on Wednesday reported a 36.45 per cent rise in net profit at ₹60.79 crore for the June quarter.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹44.55 crore in the year-to-date period. Total income in the quarter under review stood at ₹646.98 crore, up 21.73 per cent from ₹531.48 crore in the same quarter last year, P&G said in a regulatory filing. "In a challenging market environment, we delivered strong double-digit growth for the year and the fourth quarter... We will continue to focus on delivering balanced and sustained growth in a challenging and competitive macroeconomic environment," Procter & Gamble Hygiene and Health Care MD Madhusudan Gopalan said.

NIFTY 50

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

NIFTY NEXT 50

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

BSE 500

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

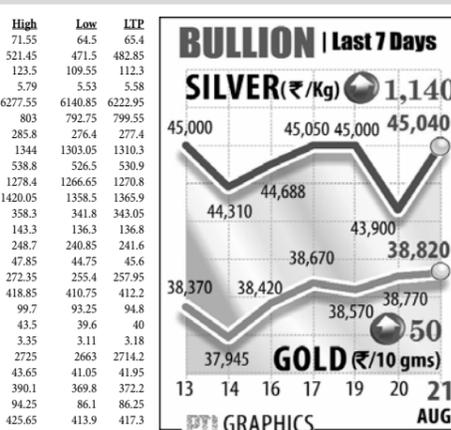


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B'desh backs Modi Govt on Article 370

PTI ■ DHAKA

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

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

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

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

Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked this month after New Delhi abrogated provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution to withdraw Jammu & Kashmir's special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories.

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



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

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

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No complete withdrawal from Afghanistan: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

Tuesday.

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

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

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

He was asked, "Could we be back to where we were pre-9/11 with the Taliban in complete and total control of Afghanistan?"

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

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

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

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

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

Afghanistan, he said is a tough place.

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

Minister confirms Canada will not repatriate 'Jihadi Jack'

AFP ■ MONTREAL

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

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

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

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

Goodale had tweeted the same sentiment Monday before

officially confirming it in the televised interview.

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

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

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

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

Pak submits compliance report to FATF

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

The assessments, represented from Pakistan by State Bank of Pakistan Governor Baqir Reza, will conclude on August 23, the daily said.

Pakistan has submitted its compliance report on 27-point action plan committed with the FATF to the APG, which is reviewing its compliance on about seven areas mostly relating to financial and insurance services and facilities as part of an ongoing five-year review cycle.

These areas cover safeguards against money laundering and terror financing by banned outfits and non-government entities through banking and non-banking jurisdictions, capital markets, corporate and non-corporate sectors like chartered accountancy, financial advisory services, cost and management accountancy firm, jewellers and similar related services.

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

AFP ■ SEOUL

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ HOUSTON

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

"Howdy", is a friendly greeting commonly used in southwestern United States.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM-1
Tender Notice No. M13767(ST-Watering-2019) dt. 08.08.19. In the subject tender the following details of NIT is revised and may be read as under:
Description Earlier To be read as
Date & Time of Submission 04.09.2019 at 15:00 Hrs. 11.09.2019 at 15:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of Opening 04.09.2019 at 15:30 Hrs. 11.09.2019 at 15:30 Hrs.
All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged. Please visit our website http://www.irps.gov.in via Tender Notice to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details, if any.
Like us on: Facebook.com/WesternRly - Follow us on: Twitter.com/WesternRly

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(See Section 82 Cr.PC)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that Anoop S/o Sh. Chandra Singh R/o H. No. E-679, E-Block, Mangolpuri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 14321/18 u/s 379/411 IPC, P.S. South Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Anoop cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Anoop has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Anoop of FIR No. 14321/18 u/s 379/411 IPC, P.S. South Rohini, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 31.10.2019.
By Order,
Sh. Virender Singh,
Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 208, 2nd Floor, DP/3168/RD/19 - (Court Matter), Rohini Courts, Delhi

CAPRI GLOBAL CAPITAL LIMITED
Registered & Corporate Office: 1-502, Tower-A, Peninsula Business Park, Sector-13, Gurgaon, Haryana, India-122002
Circle Office: Capri Global Capital Limited 2nd Floor, 3B Pusa Road, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110005
APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (B) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of CGCL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.
S. No. Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property) Demand Notice Date & Amount Date of Possession
1. Loan Account No. LNCGCKDTL0000003278 All that is piece and parcel of bearing Property No. 1, third floor with roof right, Block D, The Diplomatic Enclave Extension Co-operative Housing Building Society LTD. Colony Knappe As Westend, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110 021. 23-May-2018 Rs. 4,41,50,862/- 18-Oct-2018
Place: New Delhi Date: 22/08/2019 Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL)

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Registered Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakri Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodra- 390007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kuria Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext. New Delhi- 110055
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.
S. No. Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number Description of property/ Date of Physical Possession Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs) Name of Branch
1. Kuldeep Singh Khalsa/ LBDEL00003911217 Flat No. 18 B, 1st Floor, Pocket 1, Sector 10 (Along With Scooter Garage), Dwarka, Delhi/ 19-Aug-2019 December 04, 2018 / Rs. 6353616/- Delhi/ NCR
The above-mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: 22-08-2019 Sd/- Authorized Officer
Place: Delhi/ NCR ICICI Bank Limited

बिहार सरकार
अधीक्षक का कार्यालय
दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अस्पताल, लहेरियासराय
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अस्पताल, लहेरियासराय, दरभंगा एवं इसके अधिनस्थ विभागों हेतु वित्तीय वर्ष 2019-20 में 5,00,000.00 (पाँच लाख) से कम मूल्य के मशीन उपकरण के क्रय हेतु इच्छुक सरकारी/ गैर सरकारी/ निवृत्त फर्म/ आपूर्तिकर्ता/ निर्माता/ प्राधिकृत विक्रेता से मूह्रबंद निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि प्रकाशन की तिथि से तीस (30) दिनों का होगा। निविदा की शर्त एवं सूची इस अवधि में अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में प्राप्त होगी। निविदा प्राप्ति के अंतिम तिथि को अवकाश रहने पर दूसरे दिन कार्य दिवस माना जायेगा। डाक विभाग में हुई देरी के लिए अंतिम तिथि में कोई छूट नहीं दी जायेगी। निविदा के प्रथम प्रकाशन की तिथि ही मान्य होगा। निविदा सिर्फ डाक/ स्पीड पोस्ट द्वारा भेजा जाना ही मान्य होगा। हाथो-हाथ निविदा स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा केवल कम्प्यूटराईज्ड अंकित होना चाहिए। मैनुअल टाइप/ हाथ से लिखा गया निविदा स्वीकार नहीं होगा। निविदादाता को निवृत्त जी0एस0टी0 नंबर होना अनिवार्य है। निविदा प्राप्ति के अंतिम तिथि के उपरान्त निविदा को खोलने एवं स्वीकृत करने हेतु अलग से तिथि निर्धारित की जाएगी। निविदा खोलने के समय निविदादाता या उनके प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि उपस्थित रह सकते हैं। निविदादाता को बिना कारण बताये किसी भी निविदा को रद्द करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी/ क्रय समिति को सुरक्षित होगा
निविदा दो (2) प्रकार की होगी।
तकनिकी निविदा एवं वित्तीय निविदा
उपरोक्त दोनों तरह की निविदा तथा तकनिकी निविदा एवं वित्तीय निविदा को अलग-अलग लिफाफे में मुह्रबंद कर दोनो लिफाफे पर यथा तकनिकी निविदा एवं वित्तीय निविदा स्पष्ट अक्षरो में लिखा होना चाहिए। दोनो लिफाफे को एक बड़े लिफाफे में मुह्रबंद कर दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अस्पताल, लहेरियासराय को भेजना है। निविदा शर्त एवं सूची अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय से किसी भी कार्य दिवस को प्रकाशन की तिथि से अंतिम तिथि के एक दिन पूर्व तक कार्य अवधि में अपने फर्म/ कम्पनी के लेटरपैड पर आवेदन के साथ प्राप्त की जा सकती है। माँग पत्र के साथ अधीक्षक के पदनाम से रुपये 500.00 (पाँच सौ) का नगद जो कि अधीक्षक, दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अस्पताल, लहेरियासराय को देय होगा। (जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा।)
विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु www.prdbihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
अधीक्षक,
दरभंगा मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल,
लहेरियासराय
PR.06531 (Health) 2019-20 बाल विवाह एवं दहेज से संबंधित सूचना टॉल फ्री नं. 181 पर दें।

बिहार सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, शिवहर।
द्वितीय शुद्धि-पत्र 2019-20
एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के पत्रक 410 (अनु०) दिनांक 02.07.2019 के द्वारा निर्गत राष्ट्रीय स्पर्धा ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं०-01/2019-20 एवं पी० आर० सं० 003862(BCD) 2019-20 हेतु को निम्न विवरणी अनुसार निविदा को निम्नवत संशोधित किया जाता है। कार्य का नाम- अभियंत्रण महाविद्यालय, शिवहर का निर्माण कार्य। वर्ष-2019-20
क्र० सं० कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि पूर्व निर्धारित संशोधित
1. कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि 24 माह 18 माह
3. प्रिवीड मिटिंग की तिथि समय एवं स्थान :- दिनांक-25.07.2019 को 3:00 बजे मुख्य अभियंता, उत्तर बिहार उपभाग, भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना का कार्यालय। दिनांक-29.08.2019 को 3:00 बजे मुख्य अभियंता, उत्तर बिहार उपभाग, भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना का कार्यालय।
4. परिमाण विपत्र (डाउनलोड करने) अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 22.08.2019 को 3:00 बजे अपो तक। 26.09.2019 को 3:00 बजे अपो तक।
5. निविदा प्राप्ति (अपलोड करने) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 24.08.2019 को 3:00 बजे अपो तक। 28.09.2019 को 3:00 बजे अपो तक।
6. निविदा खोलने (तकनीकी बीड) की तिथि एवं समय 26.08.2019 को 3:00 बजे अपो। 30.09.2019 को 3:00 बजे अपो।
अन्य सभी शर्त एवं कंडिकाएँ पूर्ववत् रहेगी।
कार्यपालक अभियंता,
भवन प्रमंडल, शिवहर
PR.006528 (BCD) 2019-20
आओ मिलकर बढ़ाएँ कदम, चहेज न लेंगे, टान लें हम।

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai Electrical Division, P.W.D., Sawali Building GanpatJadhavMargWorli Mumbai-18.
e-mail : elcentralmumbai.ee@mahapwd.com
Tel. No. 022-24924349
E-Tender Notice No.07/2019-20
Online item rates tenders form are invited by the Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai Electrical Division, Worli Mumbai for the following work from Electrical Licence Holder Contractor. B-I e-Tender document can be downloaded from the e-Tendering portal of P.W.D., Government of Maharashtra <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. The Executive Engineer, CMED, Worli, Mumbai reserves right to accept or reject any tender. The conditional tender will not be accepted.
Sr. No. Name Of Work Amount
1. Est No. 5016/2019-20 Providing Special Repairs to 11 TR & 22 TR Packaged Air Conditioning Units Installed and earring out robot type cleaning to existing ducts at Sales Tax Building, at Mazgaon, Mumbai. Rs. 9420617/-
2. Est No. 6047/2019-20 : Providing Semi Comprehensive Type Maintenance and Servicing of Lift at Trupti 8 A Building, Ladies Hostel Building, Physiology Building, Library Building & P.G. at Sir J.J. Hospital Group of Hospital, byculla, mumbai. Rs. 1188600/-
3. Est No. 6045/2019-20 : Providing Semi Comprehensive Type Maintenance of Lift at Apana Boys Hostel (Lift No. 1) V.D. Skin Building, Metron Building and 300 Dr. Ortel Building at Sir J.J. Hospital Group of Hospital, Byculla, Mumbai. Rs. 1188600/-
4. Est No. 4316/2019-20 : Providing renovation to Electrical Installation at Kalachauki Police Station at Kalachauki, mumbai. Rs. 450695/-
5. Est No. 6045/2019-20 : Providing Fully Comprehensive Type Maintenance of Lift At Main OPD Building, (20 Passenger cum Stretcher, G+2 Fir, Collapsible Type) at Sir J.J. Hospital Group of Hospital, byculla, mumbai. Rs. 405072/-
2. Download/ Sale Period: Date: 19.08.2019 to 02.09.2019 up to 05.30 pm
3. Bid Opening Date: 05.09.2019 after 10 Am. As Possible Time.
4. All information about E-Tender is available on following website, <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
5. (If there will be change in E-Tender Notice, it will be informed on above website)
6. Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai Electrical Division, Worli Mumbai for office Notice Board.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Central Mumbai Electrical Division
P.W.D. Worli Mumbai
Date: 13.10.2019
DGIPR/2019/2020/2065

Trend Slazer

'Every child should have the right start'

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

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

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

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

—Shraddha Kapoor




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

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

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

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

DISCOUNTS NOT A PRIVILEGE

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



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

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

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

of platforms due to competitive pressures. "The picture that was initially shown was that of an increasing size of the industry. However, what started out as something that would increase footfalls to the restaurants and in general, increase revenues, enhance the guest experience, has turned into massive discounts that render unprofitable sales. In many cases, it ends up costing the restaurant to service these offers. The restaurant lives and breathes due to its patrons and will go to the ends of the earth for them. We believe in a sustainable ecosystem whereby aggregators help increase the size of the industry in a sustainable manner by focussing on quality rather than discounting," he says and suggests that only then can restaurants and aggregator platforms jointly thrive.

Savar Malhotra, managing partner of The Embassy Restaurant, Connaught Place, believes that it is a great initiative taken by NRAI and they are supporting the campaign because "we feel aggregators are misusing their power and dictating business terms to us."

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

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

Pointing towards the GST reforms, where the input tax credit was removed from the restaurant industry, he says, it had even bigger "delusionary and deflationary pressure" on the industry and as a result, restaurants are finding it difficult to stay afloat. "One also needs to understand that the industry is the second largest employee of human capital in the country and contributes to almost two per cent of country's GDP. A few years ago before these aggregator platforms came on, their growth graph was good. The industry was growing at 21 per cent annually, which means every four years, it was doubling and margins were good," he says. It was the time when customers used to be happy when they were given a "complementary dessert or a cocktail."

However, today, the difference has come. Even if the customers liked the place but didn't get a sop, they would walk out. "And restaurants simply cannot

afford this. If the margin is 15 per cent, how can I pay a 25 per cent discount? It would mean I am losing out 10 per cent on every dish that I serve," adds Kalra.

Talking about how they can redesign their schemes, Malhotra says, "Restaurants don't have heavy margins to afford the 'buy one get one free' concept. Also, we are here to make money and not to work for aggregators. Hence, any scheme that will be introduced should take the cost of products in account."

Kalra suggests that the restaurants can serve better only if these platforms "do not come in the way" because Indians love eating out and it's always been a source of entertainment for them. He says, "We spend the highest amount of disposable income in eating out than any other form of entertainment. The restaurant industry is 40 times larger than Bollywood. The removal of discounts might create certain interim problems of some short-lived issues, where people who were addicted to discounts might start eating out less. But this will definitely change because people inherently love going out. Moreover, since the restaurant will be more profitable, it will be able to focus more on high quality rather than dilute quality to serve the discounted customers."

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

Let's express art in motion

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

it so beautifully," Arunima adds.

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

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

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

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

Marvel breaks up with Spiderman



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The tourism minister of Uttarakhand, Satpal Maharaj, talks about his plans for enhancing Uttarakhand tourism in the coming years. He is exploring possibilities for broadening the trek route and upgrading the infrastructure to facilitate the process of tourism.

Uttarakhand is becoming a destination for winters. Maharaj says, "We will make an Alpine village during winters. At that time many tourists come who are interested in investing." This will help the state in meeting its demands. He has suggested the ministers to hold the next meeting in Kashmir so that they can work together and exchange their inputs which will help each other grow. He has been to Kashmir but was always in between the Armed Forces as the chairman of Defence Committee.

Uttarakhand is hit by landslides and floods too often. Therefore, it is the need of the hour to work on disaster management. Maharaj is making efforts to make the tourism of the state world class. But there are various things that hold him back. He says, "We need to have skilled people and expertise. How many people understand the potential of Uttarakhand?" They need to be aware of its future prospects and there is a dire need to develop the equipment for the training of various water sports too.

To add to the process he has written letters to his MLAs and asked them about "haunted or old houses and hot water springs nearby" so that he can develop and utilise them for some useful purpose. He shares about his idea of air balloons in Kumbh but the authorities denied. "They felt that

WORTH A VISIT

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



India to compete in WorldSkills

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

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

Addressing the candidates,

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

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

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

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

ICSI launches fee waiver scheme

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

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



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

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

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

Sanrakshika celebrates its sixth foundation day

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

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

Ranjeeta Ranjan, president of the association, said



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

SRM TO SET UP A COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

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



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

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

Strike at Ordnance Factories

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

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



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



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



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

RIL joins hands with Neva BNP COUNCILLORS GET A BIG BLOW

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

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

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



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

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

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



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



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



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



GAIL chairman and managing director, Dr Ashutosh Kamatak (centre) and company directors at the 35th Annual General Meeting of GAIL (India) Limited



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



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

Double Delight

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



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

PTI ■ TOKYO

The Indian men's hockey team won the Olympic Test event here on Wednesday, beating New Zealand 5-0 to avenge the loss it endured in their round robin clash.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh (7th minute) set the ball rolling before Shamsher Singh (18th minute), Nilakanta Sharma (22nd minute), Gursahibjit Singh (26th minute) and Mandeep Singh (27th minute) scored for India at the Oi Hockey Stadium here.

India had lost 1-2 to New Zealand earlier in round robin league-stage.

"We played very well. We managed to score our opportunities at the start of the game," Harmanpreet said after the triumph.

"I think the final was always going to be tough, we

lost to New Zealand earlier. But we had been having practice sessions after that and worked on our mistakes to win today," he added.

Both teams began the match on a cautious note by turning over the ball in the mid-field. India won a penalty corner in the seventh minute, but couldn't capitalise on the opportunity.

However, skipper Harmanpreet didn't miss out on a re-awarded penalty corner. He executed a perfect dragkick to put India in the lead.

The Indian team continued to hold possession and put tremendous pressure on the New Zealand defense as they ended the first quarter at 1-0.

Shamsher scored India's second goal through a penalty corner in the 18th minute. New Zealand managed to make only two circle entries

in the second quarter as the Indian team scored three more goals.

Nilakanta found the back of the net in the 22nd minute before Gursahibjit and Mandeep scored in quick succession.

Vivek Prasad intercepted the ball brilliantly to assist a goal for Gursahibjit and Mandeep converted a penalty corner just before the half-time whistle.

After an action-packed first half, the intensity dropped from both sides. New Zealand tried to make a few inroads in the third quarter as they took a shot in the 37th minute which went wide of the post.

Jarmanpreet Singh saved a penalty corner in the next minute as India and New Zealand played out a goalless quarter but the former held the lead at 5-0.

In the last quarter, India

ensured they stayed in the lead and didn't allow New Zealand to break through their defense throughout the match.

India's attacking approach in the match paid off as they walked off the pitch as winners of the competition.

EVES EDGE PAST JAPAN

The Indian women hockey team also won the Olympic Test event with Navjot Kaur and Lalremsiami leading the side to a 2-1 win over Japan in the final.

Navjot Kaur (11th minute) opened the scoring to put India ahead but the

CAPTAIN HARMANPREET SINGH (7TH MINUTE) SET THE BALL ROLLING BEFORE SHAMSHER SINGH (18TH MINUTE), NILAKANTA SHARMA (22ND MINUTE), GURSAHIBJIT SINGH (26TH MINUTE) AND MANDEEP SINGH (27TH MINUTE) SCORED FOR INDIA

lead was neutralised within a minute as Minami Shimizu (12') scored for the hosts.

Lalremsiami (33') struck the winning goal for India. India dominated the first 10 minutes, and finally managed to find the breakthrough when Forward Navjot kept her nerves under pressure and produced a fine finish in front of the goal.

However, the next minute saw Japan strike back immediately with a well-crafted field goal which was put into the back of the net by Shimizu to make it 1-1.

The second quarter saw both the teams focus on their defensive structure and

tread carefully in the attacking third.

It was an aggressive start from the Indian team after the half-time break as they won themselves a penalty corner in the 33rd minute.

India's prolific drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur stepped up to take the execution, but her shot was saved by the Japanese Goalkeeper Megumi Kageyama.

However, the rebound fell to India's young Forward Lalremsiami, who did not make a mistake in putting the ball into the back of the net to make it 2-1 for India.

It was a huge blow to the hosts who were finding it difficult to cope up with

India's rhythm, but after some tough battles in the midfield, the Japanese team earned themselves back-to-back penalty corners in the 42nd minute.

However, India's defense was up to the task, and made sure that they protected their lead. India also had a penalty corner in the 45th minute, but could not extend their lead.

The first chance of the last quarter came India's way but Kageyama made a diving save. Japan too got back-to-back penalty corners but Indian Goalkeeper Savita made a great save on the second attempt to make sure that India saw out a 2-1 win.

Sanches, Boateng could leave Bayern



Renato Sanches trains during Bayern Munich practice session. Sanches/Twitter

AFP ■ MUNICH

BOATENG, 30, APPEARED CERTAIN TO LEAVE BAYERN AT THE END OF LAST SEASON AFTER CLUB PRESIDENT ULI HOENESS ADVISED HIM TO "FIND A NEW CLUB"

Bayern Munich CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has suggested that Renato Sanches and Jerome Boateng may be heading for the exit door at Bayern Munich, telling Sky Germany that both players will find it difficult to break into the first team this season.

Portuguese midfielder Sanches and German defender Boateng have both pushed for a move away from Bayern in recent months. Both have dropped down the pecking order in their positions.

Sanches, 22, was fined 10,000 Euros (\$11,100) by the club after he publicly complained of a lack of game time and stated his desire to leave following a cameo appearance in Bayern's 2-2 draw with Hertha Berlin last Friday.

"Renato is a player who wants to play, and I can understand that. We need to find a solution that also suits the coach and the club," Rummenigge told Sky.

The Bayern CEO expressed sympathy for Sanches, who has made just 17 starts for Bayern since arriving three years ago with a winner's medal and Young Player of the Tournament award from Euro 2016.

"He came to us as a golden boy and newly crowned European Champion three years ago. Now he has lost his

place in the national team, and he needs to play if he wants to get it back," said Rummenigge. He added that the same was true of veteran defender Jerome Boateng, following the arrival of Lucas Hernandez and Benjamin Pavard.

"(Boateng) will not find it easy to get regular game time," said Rummenigge. "If he wants to leave the club, he needs to tell us."

Boateng, 30, appeared certain to leave Bayern at the end of last season after club president Uli Hoennes advised him to "find a new club". Yet his departure was thrown into doubt after Mats Hummels returned to Borussia Dortmund. Coach Niko Kovac insisted last week that the 2014 World Cup winner remained part of his plans.



Paine backs Warner to hit form

AFP ■ LEEDS

Australia captain Tim Paine says the tourists will not be intimidated by England fast bowler Jofra Archer and has backed misfiring batsman David Warner to hit form in the third Ashes Test at Headingley.

Paine was full of praise for Archer, whose raw pace electrified the drawn second Test as he took five wickets and peppered the Australians with bouncers, leaving Steve Smith with concussion that has ruled him out of the match in Leeds.

But Paine said Australia's batsmen were used to facing pace and had a few useful speedsters of their own. "It's fantastic to see a young cricketer with so much talent come onto the scene and it was a bit of a buzz to face him at Lord's," Paine wrote in a column for the Australian newspaper.

"He's fast for sure, but in Australia we've been brought up facing guys of his pace."

"Every time we have a net (session) we have Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and James Pattinson coming at us like we are the opposition."

Paine said Smith's replacement Marnus Labuschagne, who scored 59 when he came on as Test cricket's inaugural concussion substitute, showed the depth of Australia's squad.

He was unconcerned about Warner's lack of form, which has seen the left-hander score only 18 runs in four

innings. "David Warner hasn't hit his straps yet and I notice people getting a bit trigger happy on that subject, but I am not worried," he wrote.

"We are 1-0 up in the series and he hasn't got out of the blocks. He is a match winner... he is also the most mentally tough cricketer I know. He is due a score and that is a dividend I am looking forward to."

Meanwhile, former Australia paceman Andy Bichel has labelled England captain Joe Root a "blatant cheat" over a disputed catch on the final day of the second Test.

Root took a low catch to end Labuschagne's innings, with replays suggesting the ball may have bounced first, although the England skipper later insisted it had carried.

"It didn't carry. We can see that," Bichel told *Macquarie Sports Radio*.

"It's ricocheted off the player as well so it's bobbled a little bit to him, so therefore he'd know if he's picked it up on the half volley — it's blatant cheating."

"SAME OLD SMITH" Australia captain Tim Paine is expecting the "same old Steve Smith" when the star batsman eventually returns to Ashes action.

"Steve Smith's the best player in the world, he will come back in the next Test, if it's the next Test, or the tour game and we're expecting him to be the same old Steve Smith," said Paine.

"He's a high-quality player and he'll adapt as he always has."

Smith, whose Test average of 63.24 is exceeded only by all-time great Donald Bradman, marked his return to Test duty after a 12-month ball-tampering ban with innings of 144 and 142 in Australia's 251-run win in the first Test at Edgbaston before making 92 at Lord's.

"Steve loves batting. I don't think that's going to change," Paine told reporters at Headingley on Wednesday.

"Marnus is strange, he seems to enjoy getting hit on the head, so he's a different kettle of fish altogether. Marnus has handled himself exceptionally, his innings was unbelievable after that happened."

Smith could return to action in the three-day tour game against Derbyshire from August 29-31, with the fourth Test in a five-match series at Old Trafford beginning on September 4.

The wicketkeeper added: "Clearly they are huge shoes to fill and we don't put all that pressure on Marnus."

Meanwhile, England captain Joe Root said he would have no qualms about a player withdrawing from a match because of concussion.

"I think you have to give the responsibility to the doctors and if they say he's not fit, regardless of the situation in the game, then that has to stand," said Root during his pre-match conference.

Prajnesh goes down to Paire

PTI ■ NORTH CAROLINA

A profligate Prajnesh Gunneswaran went down to world No 30 Benoit Paire in the second round to crash out of the Winston Salem Open ATP 250 tournament here.

The left-handed Indian, ranked 89, could convert just one of his five break chances to suffer a 3-6, 5-7 loss to his French opponent in a match that lasted one hour and 10 minutes on Tuesday night.

Prajnesh struggled from the beginning as Paire broke his serve to take an early 2-0 lead. The Indian could not recover from that, conceding the first set tamely.

In the second set, Prajnesh held his serve but faltered in the 11th game giving Paire the match-winning lead.

Serving for the match, the Frenchman made no mistakes and avenged his Indian Wells loss from earlier this year.

Although Paire committed more double faults than Prajnesh, he hit 14 aces compared to the Indian's three.

In the doubles event, wild card entrants Leander Paes and his Israeli partner Jonathan Erlich, crashed out in the first round.

The Paes-Erlich pair lost to the duo of Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury 2-6, 3-6.

NAGAL IN 2ND ROUND

NEW YORK: Young Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal earned his first win at a Grand Slam qualifying event, knocking out seasoned Japanese Tatsumi Ito in straight sets at the US Open qualifiers, here.

Nagal, placed at a career-best 190 right now, knocked out the 133rd ranked and 26th seed 7-6 (6), 6-2 in one hour and 52 minutes on Tuesday.

Last year, he had competed in the qualifiers of the Australian Open, the French Open and the Wimbledon Championships but could not win a round.

This is Nagal's first attempt at making the Grand Slam singles main draw this season in which he enjoyed considerable success and broke into the top-200.

Sindhu makes positive start



PV Sindhu prepares to return a shot. PTI/File Picture

PTI ■ BASEL

Two-time Silver medalist P V Sindhu produced a commanding performance in her opening match at the BWF World Championships here on Wednesday.

Sindhu, who had reached the finals of the Indonesia Open last month, looked in good touch as she controlled the rallies and outsmarted Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po 21-14, 21-14 in a 43-minute contest.

The fifth seeded Indian, who received a bye in the opening round, is likely to face USA's Beibei Zhang, seeded ninth, in the pre-quarterfinals.

Sindhu, an Olympic Silver medalist, had lost to Zhang at the India Open finals last year.

In the first game, Sindhu moved ahead from 5-5 to lead 11-7 and entered the interval with a 11-7 lead. After the break, Sindhu continued to surge and grabbed six game points when Pai made an error in judgement at the back-

line. The Indian sealed it with a cross court return.

Sindhu zoomed to a 6-1 lead in the second game before Pai started constructing the rallies and narrowed the deficit to 5-7.

Sindhu's unforced errors also made life easy for the Taiwanese girl, who showed some great skills and managed to enter the interval with a 11-10 lead after Sindhu found the net.

The Indian, however, changed gears after the break, dishing out some good-looking strokes to eventually enter match point at 20-14 when her rival missed a shuttle at the backline.

She sealed the match next with a precise on-the-line return.

Among others, the Indian pairing of Jakkapudi Meghana and Poorvisha S Ram went down 8-21, 18-21 to eighth seeds Shiho Tanaka and Koharu Yonemoto of Japan in the women's doubles competition.

AFP ■ LONDON

England batsman Jason Roy has passed a concussion test after being hit in the nets ahead of the third Ashes Test against Australia at Headingley.

The 29-year-old opener was struck by a throw-down from ex-England international Marcus Trescothick, working with the team in a temporary coaching capacity, during practice on Tuesday.

Roy was assessed after taking the blow and was able to continue batting. But he also required a follow-up check on the eve of the match on Wednesday to determine any delayed symptoms.

Roy, 29, will be assessed again before the third Test starts on Thursday.

Meanwhile Ollie Pope, a Surrey team-mate of Roy's, has been placed on standby.

The 21-year-old Pope, who has played two Tests, is now on his way to Leeds.

But England captain Joe Root said he expected Roy to play, telling reporters at Headingley on Wednesday: "Jason's been monitored quite closely as you'd expect."

"He's undergone a couple of concussion tests so far and scored really well. So as it stands, I fully expect him to be fit and ready to go tomorrow." Roy averages just 10 in four innings this series, having only made



his Test debut earlier this season after starting at the top of the order in England's victorious World Cup winning campaign. England coach Trevor Bayliss said Roy may be more suited to the middle-order in Test cricket but Root insisted he could be a success as an opening batsman. "I obviously think he should

open, otherwise he'll be batting at four," said Root.

"I think there's a lot of talk about the batting order because of the variety of options we have."

"At no stage are we trying to reinvent the wheel."

STRUGGLING "But we've got to play to our strengths and be quite flexible over the course of the series. But I feel Jason can have a real big impact at the start of an innings."

"It might not have happened just yet but we fully expect him to go out and do that."

Meanwhile Australia captain Tim Paine, whose Ashes-holders are 1-0 up in the five-match series, said his side were not taking Roy lightly.

"Opening the batting in Test cricket in England is difficult," he said. "I know our guys are struggling a little bit as well to get the runs they would like. It's international cricket, it's tough," the wicketkeeper added.

"We've seen Jason Roy play amazing innings in one-day cricket, we've seen David Warner do the same thing in the early days of his career, and sometimes it takes a little bit of time to get used to Test cricket and the differences in that."

"We've seen that Jason is a highly-skilled batsman and on his day he can take a game away from you so at no point do we think or treat him like we've got the wood over him."

Red ball challenge

India gear up for Test Championship opener against Windies on tricky track

West Indies vs India
Live from 7:00pm IST
SONY TEN 1 & 3 NETWORK

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

A perfect combination and a winning start will be foremost on skipper Virat Kohli's mind when India take on West Indies in their inaugural World Test Championship opener here on Thursday.

A win in the opening Test will be the 27th for Kohli as skipper and will put him on even keel with his predecessor Mahendra Singh Dhoni. A century in the game (19th as captain) will place him on par with Ricky Ponting.

On paper, a batting line-up that has Kohli, Cheteshwar Pujara, KL Rahul, Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant in the ranks should be termed clear favourites but this West Indies team, led by Jason Holder, is no pushover.

England found that out the hard way at the start of the year when they lost a Test series 1-2 in some of the most lively pitches on the Caribbean islands in recent times.

One such pacer-friendly wicket was at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua where Kohli and his men will be facing the Windies first up.

The last Test played here saw England scoring 187 and 132 but that was a different time of the year.

Nevertheless, Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri, who recently got a fresh contract, will be wary of the challenge that can be posed by the new ball pair of Kemar Roach and Shannon Gabriel along with Jason Holder bowling his steady seam-up spells.

If there is pace and bounce, Kohli is likely to go with four specialist bowlers in which Ravichandran Ashwin and Kuldeep Yadav will be fighting for the lone spinner's slot.

The three pacers, in all likelihood, will be Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami.

However, it is the batting combination that will be the skipper's primary worry and if he can get it right, that will be considered as a tactical victory.

In an ideal situation, if Hardik Pandya was available, Kohli would have been tempt-



Rohit Sharma defends during India's warm-up game against West Indies A at Antigua. BCCI/Twitter

ed to drop one among Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane but given the recent record of West Indies in Tests, he might go in with an extra batsman which means both will feature in the playing XI.

If a green-top is provided and Kohli still goes with five bowlers which includes Ravindra Jadeja as an all-rounder, it could well be a toss-up between the two

Mumbaikars.

The other issue will be at the top of the order as to who will open with Mayank Agarwal.

The common logic says KL Rahul, who is a specialist opener, but Hanuma Vihari was sent to do the fire-fighting in Australia and it would be unfair to not give him another opportunity against a relatively easier pace

Head to Head

Venue	Played	WI	Ind	Draw
In India	47	14	13	20
In West Indies	49	16	7	26
Total	96	30	20	46
At North Sound	1	-	1	-

FAISEL FEATURES

attack.

The West Indies team in the Test format has been an understated one with players who have more talent than what the numbers currently show.

In Shai Hope, John Campbell and Shimron Hetmyer, they have the three talented youngsters.

Roston Chase, during the 2016 series against India, had thwarted Ashwin for a whole fifth day in Kingston after West Indies were staring at an innings defeat. In addition to that, he is a steady off-spinner with 50 Test wickets.

Darren Bravo is their most experienced batsman with 52 Tests and nearly 3500 runs under his belt.

However, the kind of talent he is, an average of 38 plus with only eight hundreds doesn't justify that.

All eyes will also be on whether, the new "giant" of world cricket, Rahkeem Cornwall is given an opportunity.

His imposing physical structure may have grabbed attention but Cornwall has also been a performer with his effective off-breaks and handy lower-middle-order batting.

SQUADS

India: Virat Kohli (captain), Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant (wk), Kuldeep Yadav, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Wriddhiman Saha (wk)

West Indies: Jason Holder (c), Kraigg Brathwaite, Darren Bravo, Shamarr Brooks, John Campbell, Roston Chase, Rakheem Cornwall, Shane Dowrich, Shannon Gabriel, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Keemo Paul, Kemar Roach.

Australia rule out bouncer battle

England vs Australia
Live from 3:30pm IST
SONY SIX NETWORK

AFP ■ LEEDS

Australia coach Justin Langer has told his side to avoid being drawn into a bouncer battle after Steve Smith was ruled out of the third Ashes Test against England.

Star batsman Smith suffered delayed concussion symptoms after being hit on his neck by a 92 mph bouncer from England fast bowler Jofra Archer during the drawn second Test at Lord's.

His absence from the third Test at Headingley starting today leaves Australia with a huge hole to fill.

Smith marked his return to Test cricket after a 12-month ball-tampering ban with innings of 144 and 142 during Australia's 251-run win in the first Test at Edgbaston.

He also made 92, having retired hurt after being hit when on 80, at Lord's where Marnus Labuschagne, Test cricket's first concussion substitute, made a brave try in the second innings after being hit flush on the grille of his helmet by Archer.

World Cup-winning fast bowler Archer struck several telling blows on a Test debut that yielded five wickets.

Australia also have plenty of fast-bowling firepower at their disposal in Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc. But Langer insisted his side would not be sidetracked from their goal of becoming the first Australia side in 18 years to win an Ashes series in England.

"We know what our plans are to beat England," Langer told reporters at Headingley, where the third Test starts on today.

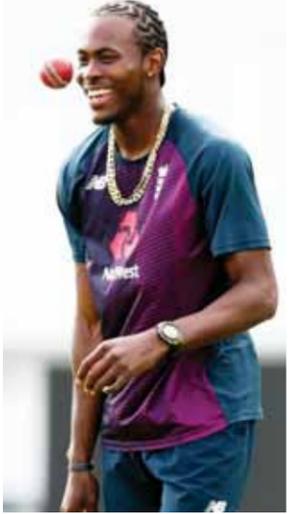
"It's not an ego game," the former Australia opening batsman insisted.

"We're here to win the Test match, not to see how many bruises we can give."

"I'm sure the bouncer will still be part of every bowler's armoury, if it helps us get batsmen out then we'll use it, otherwise we'll keep sticking to the plan."

England are still without James Anderson after their all-time leading wicket-taker broke down with a calf injury after bowling just four overs at Edgbaston.

Smith and England opener Rory



Burns apart, both top-orders have struggled in the face of some quality fast bowling.

But England have stuck by Jason Roy, even though the World Cup-winning opener averages just 10 in four innings this series.

Roy, however, has mainly been a middle-order batsman in first-class cricket with Surrey. England coach Trevor Bayliss hinted at a reshuffle in the batting line-up, if not in personnel.

"We think we've got the best seven batters available to us at the moment in England... Whether we can change it round and make that (order) any better, I'm not sure, but we'll certainly have a discussion about it," he said.

"There's one or two batting spots in the wrong positions but we're trying to do the right thing by the team," England's Australian coach added.

Now the question is can England, who had Australia 122-8 in their first innings at Edgbaston only for Smith to steer his side to 284, take advantage of his absence?

England will look for more heroes from Archer and hope that, with Ben Stokes fresh from an unbeaten century at Lord's, someone can give their attack enough runs to play with.



Kane Williamson, facing camera, chats with teammate Ross Taylor & coach Gary Stead as they inspect the pitch during practice session AP

NZ look to exploit Lanka's weakness

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka vs New Zealand
Live from 10:00am IST
SONY ESPN NETWORK

New Zealand will be hoping to add to Sri Lanka's poor record at their own Oval ground and level the series in the second and final Test starting today.

Unlike the spinner's paradise at Galle and the batting heaven that is the SSC, the Oval — the only ground in Asia where Don Bradman played — favours seam bowlers.

Sri Lanka have been often exposed here by quality seam bowlers and one up in the two-match series, they will have New Zealand's Trent Boult and Tim Southee — and possibly Neil Wagner — to contend with.

In the last 10 years, Sri Lanka have played seven games at The Oval and lost five, including once to New Zealand. In that game seven years ago, Southee claimed eight wickets while Boult finished with seven.

"We have some fond memories from last time, and we managed to win that," New Zealand wicketkeeper BJ Watling said at a pre-match media briefing on Wednesday.

Left-arm quick Wagner claimed nine wickets in New Zealand's last Test match and was unlucky to miss out in Galle as conditions heavily favoured spin. He is expected to make a return possibly at the expense of Mitchell Santner.

The opening Test was a lot closer than the six-wicket margin suggests and the New Zealanders know that fielding lapses cost them dearly after setting Sri Lanka a daunting task of 268 runs.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, will leave off-spinner Akila Dananjaya, whose action was reported to be suspect for a second time by match officials after the Galle Test.

Dananjaya, who claimed a five-wicket haul in the opening game, was forced to remodel his action after it was first reported in November last year.

Technically he is allowed to play the second Test, but he is likely to travel to India instead to test his action. Dilruwan Perera has been drafted into the squad and is expected to play.

Sri Lanka will move up to the number five of the official ICC rankings if they win the second Test and the series.

More importantly, it will give them a strong start in the World Test Championship.

Kumble can be selector in future: Sehwaag

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Test captain Anil Kumble's ability to boost confidence of the players makes him an ideal candidate for the role of chairman of selectors, said Virender Sehwaag, who also advocated a hike in remuneration for the job.

Never to mince his words, former opener Sehwaag said BCCI needs to pay more for heading the selectors' committee.

The current selection panel, led by MSK Prasad, has faced a lot of flak for it being a lightweight with a cumulative experience of 13 Tests.

"I think Anil Kumble could be the right candidate for the chairman of selectors post. He is someone who has interacted with Sachin (Tendulkar), Sourav (Ganguly) and Rahul (Dravid) as a player and with youngsters as a coach," Sehwaag told reporters during launch of a new app 'The Selector'.

"When I made a comeback (Australia series 2007-08), he (Kumble) came to my room and said you will not be dropped for the next two series. That's the kind of confidence a player needs," said Sehwaag.

However, Sehwaag also said that he doesn't think that Kumble will agree to do the job right now since the chairman gets ₹1 crore per annum. "BCCI needs to raise bar as far as pay is concerned. Then a lot of players will be interested," said Sehwaag.

Asked if he would also be interested in this post, Sehwaag said that he doesn't like too many restrictions.

"I write columns, appear on TV and being selector will mean a lot of restrictions. I don't know whether I would like so many

restrictions," the former Indian opener said.

Sehwaag, who had lost the race to be India's coach in 2017 to Ravi Shastri, said that he did not apply this time.

"In 2017, the BCCI secretary and (late) Dr MV Sridhar (GM Cricket Operations) asked me to apply so I applied. This time no one asked me, so I didn't apply," said Sehwaag when asked if he was amused in the manner Shastri was re-appointed the coach.

As the talk veered towards playing XI for the first Test against West Indies, Sehwaag's vote went to Ajinkya Rahane if India played five bowlers.

"Ajinkya Rahane has been batting at No 4 (No 5) so if it is a case of five bowlers then he should play. Rohit Sharma comes in only if you go with four bowlers," Sehwaag reasoned.

He also felt that "Mahendra Singh Dhoni should have batted at number five" in the World Cup semi-final against New Zealand.

"...Players like Hardik Pandya, who can play big shots should have come in at number seven towards the end," said the former India captain.

He also expressed his happiness at S Sreesanth's life ban being reduced to seven years.

"I am very happy for him. He now needs to play domestic cricket," he said.

Sehwaag was amused when he was asked about suggestions on wearing neck guards in the wake of Steve Smith recent injury.

"Why do you need to show your neck to the bowler? You have a bat and you are wearing a helmet. In my entire career, I never used chest pads," Sehwaag said.

BFI should do away with selection trials: Mary

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Celebrated Indian boxer M C Mary Kom on Wednesday said proven performers should not be made to undergo selection trials and asserted that she did no wrong by seeking an exemption from the ones for the world championships.

A controversy broke out over Mary's selection for the women's World Boxing Championships in Russia after her competitor in the 51kg category, Nikhat Zareen, was refused a trial bout. Zareen, in a letter to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), alleged that she was stopped from competing despite having a scheduled trial bout.

Mary Kom, a six-time world champion and an Olympic Bronze-medallist, was chosen by the BFI selection panel based on her Gold medal-winning performances at the India Open and a subsequent tournament in Indonesia.

"Maybe, the BFI can change the programme altogether, no trial for boxers who are performing well, they can directly get the quota for any championship or tournament," Mary said on the sidelines of an event arranged by the All India Gaming Federation.

The world championship is scheduled to be held in Russia in September-October.

"You look at other games like badminton, who gives trials? Did Saina Nehwal and P V Sindhu give any trial?" she added.

Mary defeated Zareen in the semi-final of the India Open in Guwahati ear-



Mary Kom, a six-time world champion and an Olympic Bronze-medallist, was chosen by the BFI selection panel based on her Gold medal-winning performances at the India Open and a subsequent tournament in Indonesia.

lier this year. When quizzed on her decision to approach the BFI with a request for exemption, Mary Kom said she merely left it on the federation and did not pressurise it to rule in her favour.

"I felt weird about my decision but I had told BFI clearly you decide who is doing better. If I have to give a trial or not is not in my hands. The BFI decides all these things, it's upto them" she said.

Soon after this furore, Mary Kom was caught in the eye of the storm on being picked in the selection panel for this year's national sports awards. The point of contention was her personal coach Chhote Lal Yadav's application for the Dronacharya award.

Mary Kom recused herself from the selection committee's proceedings after a media storm on conflict of interest. Yadav was eventually not among the nominees finalised this year.

"This was my second time in the committee. I have recommended many coaches and at that time there was no controversy. This time I don't know what happened, the media created a controversy, so I recused myself," she said.

Mary Kom was part of the awards selection committee for Dronacharya in 2016 as well but her coach was not in fray at that time.

Puneri beat Bengaluru Bulls 31-23

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Puneri Paltan registered a 31-23 win against defending champions Bengaluru Bulls in a Pro-Kabaddi League match at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Wednesday.

A heavily bandaged Surjeet Singh at the centre was the leader (6 tackle points) in the defensive unit for Puneri Paltan, never allowing the leagues best raider, Pawan Sehrawat, to weave his magic.

Sagar Krishna came in for a struggling Girish Ernak as coach Anup Kumar made the changes to a faltering Pune side while the Bengaluru Bulls went in with an extra defender in the line-up buoyed by the performances of their two raiders in Pawan Sehrawat and Rohit Kumar.

It was the Pune team which started off well, consistently tackling Bengaluru Bulls raiders, with Sagar Krishna justifying his inclusion with an incredible body block on Rohit Kumar six minutes into the match.



The defensive units matched each other tackle for tackle, as the raiders, including Punes Nitin Tomar struggled to impress.

A low-scoring, heavy tackling first half, which also saw Sehrawat reach 100 points for the season, ended with scores even at 10-10.

Bengaluru's decision to play just two raiders backfired

as Paltans improved defence thwarted any raider who ventured into their territory.

Pune inflicted the game's only All-Out on Bengaluru Bulls in the sixth minute of the second half to open up an 8-point gap.

Manjeets clever raids in do-or-die situations were also vital for Pune as they raced to a two-digit lead.

The defence held firm, as Surjeet Singh completed a personal milestone of 250 points in Pro Kabaddi League, and secured a very important victory that pushed his team up to 10th in the league standings.

Bengaluru loss meant they lost out on an opportunity to go to the top of the points table.