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OF DEMOCRACY

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

*Late City Vol. 13 Issue 229
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

DEHRADUN, SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹2



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Booster shot for sagging economy

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



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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The stimulus package included rollback of super-rich surcharge on FPIs, domestic investors on gains from stock market, frontloading of already announced ₹70,000 crore of recapitalisation package for PSU banks, CSR violation not to be treated as criminal offence, reduction on EMIs

for housing loans, vehicle and other retail loans and providing protection to honest decision-making by bankers for boosting lending. Also it included additional liquidity support to HFCs raised to ₹30,000 crore, pending GST refunds to MSMEs to be paid within 30 days, amendment to MSME Act to move towards single definition to be considered, issue of IT orders, notices, etc through a centralised system to cut harassment, etc.

Besides, the Government said it will set up an inter-Ministerial task force to short-list infrastructure projects for its ambitious target of spending ₹100 lakh crore in the sector. With several major companies reporting sinking profit and announcing job cuts, the Government had a few options, but to come out with some relief for both the equity market and corporates as well as commoners. The Finance Minister did try to cover all the key stakeholders within the constraints of not too rosy tax revenue scenario.

The reversal of FPI surcharge shows that the people engaged in the Budget making

completely failed to understand the mindset of foreign investors.

It is also baffling why someone like the CEA made such a comment about no stimulus, the news was one of the prime reason of sell-off in the market and estimated loss of nearly ₹2 lakh crore of investors' wealth in a single day. "In order to encourage investment in the capital market, it has been decided to withdraw the enhanced surcharge levied by Finance (No.2) Act, 2019 on long/short term capital gains arising from the transfer of equity shares/units," Sitharaman told reporters here.

The move will dent Government revenues by ₹1,400 crore. Sitharaman had in her maiden Budget hiked the surcharge on income tax paid by super-rich individuals. The surcharge, levied on top of the applicable income tax rate, was hiked from 15 per cent to 25 per cent for those with taxable income of ₹2-5 crore and to 37 per cent for those earning more than ₹5 crore. This increased the effective tax rate for these two groups by 3.12

GAME-CHANGING DECISION

- Super-rich surcharge on foreign, domestic equity investors dropped
- Upfront release of ₹70,000 cr to PSBs; enhances lending capacity by ₹5 lakh cr
- Banks to pass on rate cuts; to benefit all borrowers
- Home, auto, other retail loans to become cheaper
- To provide protection to honest decision-making by bankers for boosting lending
- MSMEs to get pending GST refunds within 30 days
- CSR violations not to be treated as criminal offence
- Issue of IT orders, notices, etc through a centralised system to cut harassment
- Startups registered with DPIIT exempt from Income Tax, subject to certain conditions
- To set up a dedicated cell under CBDT for addressing the problems of startups
- Allows additional 15 pc depreciation on all vehicles till March 31, 2020
- To set up an entity for credit enhancement for infrastructure, housing projects
- Simplification of KYC procedure to improve market access for foreign investors
- Announcement with regard to real estate sector to be made next



per cent and 7 per cent to 39 per cent and 42.74 per cent, respectively. Some 40 per cent FPIs automatically came under the higher tax rate as they have been investing as a non-corporate entity such as trust or association of persons (AOPs), which in the Income Tax law are classified as an individual for the purpose of taxation.

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

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

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

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

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

"BS-IV vehicles was a big issue. There was a confusion because the government wanted to make an announcement to encourage electric vehicles and electric batteries (produc-

tion)... BS-IV vehicles, which are purchased up to March 2020 will all remain operational for their entire period of registration," she told reporters while announcing measures to boost the sagging economic growth.

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

The additional liquidity support to be provided by the National Housing Bank (NHB) will help the real estate sector which is facing a demand slowdown and cash crunch. The Rs 20,000 crore is in addition to Rs 10,000 crore support announced earlier by the housing sector regulator NHB.

Announcing this as part of measures to prop up the economy, the Finance Minister said now the liquidity support for HFCs would be Rs 30,000 crore.

Commercial vehicles sans RFID can't enter Delhi after 3 weeks

Till then they need to cough up hefty fine at toll gates as system comes into effect at midnight

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Friday announced that only those commercial vehicles which have radio-frequency identification tags (RFID) will be allowed to enter the national Capital after three weeks.

With the RFID system coming into force at 13 busy border points from August 23 midnight, non-RFID vehicles will have to pay penalties in order to enter the city. However, after three weeks, non-RFID vehicles will not be allowed to enter the city, SDMC authorities said. "After three weeks, those without RFID will not be allowed to enter the city," a senior corporation official said.

The 13 entry points receive 85 per cent of the incoming traffic in Delhi. Once a person buys an RFID tag and it is pasted on his registered vehicle, the environment compensation charge will be deducted at the 13 toll plazas automatically.

The sale of tags will continue on the points-of-sale (POS) installed at 13 RFID toll plazas. Additional six points have been set up in satellite towns of UP and Haryana.

The SDMC had earlier extended the last date for pre-registration and subsequent issuance of RFID tags from August 16 to August 23, considering difficulties being faced by owners of commercial vehicles and taxis in getting pre-registered and subsequently

obtaining RFID tags for entry into Delhi from 13 toll plazas.

Additional Commissioner of SDMC Randhir Sahay said after Friday midnight, non-RFID vehicles will have to pay twice the basic amount of environment compensation charge in the first week. It will become four times in the second week and six times in the third week. "After three weeks, the entry of non-RFID commercial vehicles will be completely banned," he added. Around 12 to 15 thousand RFID tags are being issued every day, Sahay said, adding that the civic body has issued 1.63 lakh tags and expecting the figure may cross around 1.75 lakh at Friday midnight.

RFID tag aided system facilitates entry of commercial vehicles without any stoppage at toll plazas, cashless transaction, and automatic deduction of the amount of the Environment Compensation Charge (ECC) and MCD toll, completion of the process within three seconds, permanent solution of the congestion at toll plaza and no visibility of long queues apart from containing air pollution, the official said. The officials said that to recharge the RFID tags through mobile handset, customers can download 'MCD Toll App' from the mobile play store by registering their number. The RFID system will help smoothen the traffic movement and bring down pollution levels, he added.

CAPSULE

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

IAF MISSILE BROUGHT DOWN MI-17 AIRCRAFT
New Delhi: A surface-to-air missile of the Indian Air Force brought down the Mi-17 aircraft in Kashmir's Budgam on the morning of February 27 when the Indian and Pakistani air forces were engaged in a fierce dogfight, a high-level probe has concluded. P5

RAGA AMONG OPP TEAM TO VISIT J&K TODAY
New Delhi: A delegation of Opposition leaders will visit Srinagar on Saturday to meet people and assess situation in the Kashmir Valley where restrictions are in place after the Centre withdrew special status to Jammu & Kashmir. The sources said top Congress party leaders who will visit Jammu & Kashmir are Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma. Rahul Gandhi is likely to accompany senior party leaders.

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Resounding mandate to build new India: PM Corruption, nepotism reined in like never before, says Modi

PTI ■ PARIS

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

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

In a veiled reference to abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir, Modi said, "There is no scope for temporary in India.

You would have seen that



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

a country of 1.25 billion people, the land of Mahatma Gandhi, Gautam Buddha,

Ram, Krishna, took 70 years to remove what was temporary. To remove temporary it took

70 years, I don't know whether I should laugh or cry... Reform, perform, and transform and with permanent systems, the country is moving forward to achieve its goal."

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

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

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

ED can't arrest PC in INX case till Mon, orders SC

In Aircel case, local court grants ex-FM protection from arrest till Sept 3

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to former Union Minister P Chidambaram in the INX media scam, the Supreme Court on Friday granted him protection from arrest by the Enforcement Directorate till August 26. Chidambaram is in the CBI custody in the INX case till August 26.

In real term, the SC's decision does not matter much for Chidambaram as he is already in the CBI custody till August



26. However, his legal team sees the order as the first victory since the ED vehemently opposed Chidambaram's plea for interim protection.

Meanwhile, a Delhi Court on Friday refused to adjourn

the Aircel-Maxis case against Chidambaram and his son Karti on the pleas by the CBI and the ED, which sought the adjournment saying that another case pertaining to INX Media involving them was pending before the Supreme Court.

Special Judge OP Saini took strong objection to the agencies seeking repeated adjournments, saying "things have become very embarrassing for me".

The court then reserved order on Chidambaram's anticipatory bail plea for September 3 and extended the interim protection from Chidambaram's arrest by the agencies till then.

SC to check validity of law making triple talaq punishable offence

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine the validity of a newly enacted law which makes the practice of instant triple talaq a punishable offence entailing jail for up to three years.

A Bench of Justices NV Ramana and Ajay Rastogi issued notice to the Centre on a batch of petitions seeking to declare The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019 as "unconstitutional" on grounds that it allegedly violates the provisions of the Constitution.

"We will examine this," the SC told senior advocate Salman

Khurshid, who was appearing for one of the petitioners. Khurshid said there were many dimensions, including making the practice a punishable offence and jail term of up to three years, which need to be examined by the top court.

He said the petitioners were concerned about making triple talaq an offence as the SC had already declared it to be null and void. "If there is no such thing as triple talaq then what are they making an offence," he told the SC and referred to a five-judge Constitution Bench verdict which had declared the practice of triple talaq null and void.

Singhvi, Tharoor back Jairam on futility of demonisation of Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leaders Abhishek Singhvi and Shashi Tharoor on Friday came out in support of party colleague Jairam Ramesh, saying demonising Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "wrong" and he should be praised for doing the right things.

While Singhvi said Modi's acts must be judged issue-wise, not person-wise, Tharoor said praising the PM for doing the right things would lend credibility to the Opposition's criticism of him.

"Always said demonising Modi wrong. Not only is he PM of the nation, a one-way opposition actually helps him,"



Singhvi tweeted while echoing Ramesh's views. "Acts are always good, bad and indifferent — they must be judged issue-wise and not person-wise. Certainly, Ujjawala scheme is only one amongst other good deeds," he said.

Tharoor also joined him saying, "As you know, I have argued for six years now that Narendra Modi should be

praised whenever he says or does the right thing, which would add credibility to our criticisms whenever he errs. I welcome others in Opposition coming around to a view for which I was excoriated at the time."

When asked to comment on the views expressed by these leaders, Congress spokesman Manish Tewari said they are best placed to clarify or amplify, add or subtract to what they have said.

"As the Congress party, we believe the country is facing a grim economic situation that will affect the lives of millions and we are extremely worried about it," Tewari said at a Press briefing.

Trump 'very focused' on Kashmir situation: WH

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump is "very focused" on the Kashmir issue if both sides ask for it, a top White House official has said, underlining that the US President is "very focused" on the situation in the Valley in view of its "broader implications".

Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked after New Delhi abrogated provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution to withdraw Jammu & Kashmir's special status and bifurcated the State into two Union Territories on August 5.

"The United States is watching the situation in Kashmir very closely. We are

continuing to call for calm and restraint, including on rhetoric," a senior administration official said on Thursday ahead of the bilateral meeting between Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France over the weekend.

India has categorically told the world that the scrapping of Article 370 is an internal matter and also advised Pakistan to accept the reality.

"We note the broader implications of the developments in Kashmir and the potential for increased instability in the region.

So the president is very focused on this situation," the official said.

THE OTHER SIDE

Denigrate the indigenous, glorify the foreign



Paritosh Kimothi

Some days ago, a Union minister spoke about our ancient knowledge of gravity before Newton came into the scene. As usual, this elicited laughs and criticism from some quarters in the media and the public.

One is free to like or dislike the person saying this, but why do we continue to feed our proclivity to look down upon anything indigenous and glorify all things 'western'? In general, those called intellectuals tend to believe and propound things attributed to Caucasian, English speaking sources but outrightly reject talk of our own heritage and knowledge in Sanskrit and other native languages.

This reminded me of a lecture delivered in a premier institute in Dehradun by a scientist who had won the highest civilian award of the nation.

During his talk he gave a presentation about all the western scientists and their contribution to science. Though he also mentioned CV Raman and Ramanujan he said that talk of scientific activity in India thousands of years ago was all humbug as they were doing nothing more than mixing colours.

I felt like asking him where the zero was invented and whether any of his scientific work would have been possible without the humble zero. But, I had work to do which was more important than debating with a scientist who by being so rigid had negated one of the basic principles of science- an open mind.

Anyway, after the Union minister's speech there were media reports ridiculing his assertion with further dissection and rejection of such facts on the social media. It seems people are either eager to reject facts just because they are native and not originally in English or accept the same without ascertaining why they are true.

Among one of the illogical arguments going on in the social media, a senior journalist friend quoted the Siddhant Shrivastava treatise along with the verse which puts forth the theory of gravity. However, given the general proclivity to reject such knowledge because it is native, one thought it bet-

ter to cite what a noted American historian had to say about the Indian civilisation. Will Durant, an American historian, writer and philosopher, wrote The Story of Civilization in 11 volumes in collaboration with his wife Ariel Durant. In the part 1 of this series- Our Oriental Heritage published in 1954, he begins the chapter The Foundations of India by stating, "Nothing should more deeply shame the modern student than the recency and inadequacy of his acquaintance with India." He goes on to write, "The greatest of Hindu astronomers and mathematicians, Aryabhata, discussed in verse such poetic subjects as quadratic equations, sines and the value of pi; he explained eclipses, solstices and equinoxes, announced the sphericity of the earth and its diurnal revolution on its axis, and wrote, in daring anticipation of Renaissance science: 'The sphere of the stars is stationary, and the earth, by its revolution, produces the daily rising and setting of planets and stars. His most famous successor, Brahmagupta, systematised the astronomical knowledge of India, but obstructed its development by rejecting Aryabhata's theory of the revolution of the earth."

These men and their followers adapted to Hindu usage the Babylonian division of the skies into zodiacal constellations; they made a calendar of twelve months, each of thirty days, each of thirty hours, inserting an intercalary month every five years; they calculated with remarkable accuracy the diameter of the moon, the eclipses of the moon and the sun, the position of the poles, and the position and motion of the major stars. They expounded the theory, though not the law, of gravity when they wrote in the Siddhantas: "The earth, owing to its force of gravity, draws all things to itself." To make these complex calculations the Hindus developed a system of mathematics superior, to that of the Greeks.

Among the most vital parts of our Oriental heritage are the 'Arabic' numerals and the decimal system, both of which came to us, through the Arabs from India.

The mis-called 'Arabic' numerals are found on the Rock Edicts of Ashoka (256 BC), a thousand years before their occurrence in Arabic literature. The oldest known use of the zero in Asia or Europe is in an Arabic document dated 873 AD, three years sooner than its first known appearance in India; but by general consent the Arabs borrowed this too from India, and the most modest and most valuable of all numerals is one of the subtle gifts of India to mankind," writes Durant.

As early as the second century BC Nagarjuna devoted an entire volume to mercury. By the sixth century the Hindus were far ahead of Europe in industrial chemistry; they were masters in calcinations, distillation, sublimation, streaming, fixation, the production of light without heat, the mixing of anesthetic and soporific powders, and the preparation of metallic salts, compounds and alloys. The tempering of steel

was brought in ancient India to a perfection unknown in Europe till our own times; King Porus is said to have selected, as a specially valuable gift for Alexander, not gold or silver, but thirty pounds of steel.

The Moslems (sic) took much of this Hindu chemical science and industry to the Near East and Europe; the secret of manufacturing 'Damascus' blades, for example, was taken by the Arabs from the Persians, and by the Persians from India." One can go on and on about the achievements of ancient India in the field of medicine, various sciences, arts and religion as stated by Durant and other historians too, apart from being recorded in our own ancient books.

But even that would not suffice to convince generations of people schooled into denigrating the wealth of our own civilisation. While we talk so authoritatively on various subjects, most of us suffer from profound ignorance when it comes to our actual history and roots.

We may achieve some progress in some fields but without factual knowledge about our own history and identity, we will remain open to being influenced exploitatively by others- nations, politicians and other entities with ulterior motives.

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INBRIEF

RIMC WINS LLEWELYN INTER-SCHOOL DEBATE
Nainital: The sixth Llewellyn inter-school national level debate final saw RIMC Dehradun defeating Vasant Valley school, Delhi to win the competition here on Friday. The Sherwood College principal Amandeep Sandhu said that this debate provides students from schools across India to test their skills. A total of 12 teams from schools in Nainital, Ghodakhal, Ajmer, Delhi, Mussoorie, Dehradun and Lucknow had participated in the debate competition this year.

JANMASHTAMI CELEBRATED IN DOON CAMBRIDGE
Dehradun: Janmashtami was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Doon Cambridge school during the special assembly of students. Students of different classes donned the roles of lord Krishna and Gopis among other characters related to Janmashtami. The students also performed a dance on the life of Krishna. Dahi Handi performance, plays and fancy dress competition. Principal HK Chhabra reminded the students about lord Krishna's virtues on the occasion.

BROOKLYN SCHOOL CELEBRATES JANMASHTAMI
Dehradun: Brooklyn School celebrated Janmashtami with various activities on Friday. The programme saw students delivering speech, reciting poetry, performing a dance and a Dahi Handi performance. Principal Manju Grover, director Nitin Grover and vice principal Smriti Grover were present during the function.

FICCI FLO & BALAJI INVESTMENT STRESS ON FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
Dehradun: Balaji Investment and FICCI FLO, Uttarakhand organised a seminar aimed at financially empowering women. Krishna Kumar Sharma from HDFC discussed issues like finance and investment related to women. He said that every woman, whether working or not, should know about finance and investment. FICCI FLO Uttarakhand chapter head Nazia Yusuf Izzuddin said that even the women sitting at home today need to become financially empowered and know how to save and stay at home and take advantage of it in the long run. She said that FICCI FLO has always insisted on empowering women in every way. Balaji Investment managing director Shashank Jain also expressed his views on the occasion.

SEWS TO SEEK GOVT HELP IN TACKLING SLUMP
Dehradun: The SHDCUL Entrepreneur Welfare Society (SEWS), Pantnagar held a meeting to discuss the various issues being faced by members of the industrial fraternity due to the slump currently being experienced in the industrial sector. The office bearers and members of SEWS decided that they would raise this issue with senior officials of the State government and seek financial and other assistance. An industry delegation led by SEWS executive would request some concrete steps to tackle the situation.

Milind Soman presents 'Face of Doon' title



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The third season of Face of Doon was held here on Friday. Noted model and actor Milind Soman was the chief guest while director general, Police, Ashok Kumar, co-founder of Been There Doon That group Lokesh Ohri and lawyer and poet Atul Pundir were present as the guests of honour.

The winners announced on the occasion included Himadri Negi, Satvika Goyal, Tanaya Kotnala, Deepak Rathore, Rachit Gupta, Deependra Singh Negi, Shekhar Singh, Arshleen Kaur, Ganesh Saini, Maanas Lal and Lt Col (retd) Rohit Mishra. Soman and the other invited guests crowned the winners.

Addressing the audience,

Soman said, "I congratulate all the winners present here, for winning the title of the 'Face of Doon'. It is your hard work and dedication that has made you achieve such a prestigious honour." The theme of this year's campaign was #BornToDoon and the entries for the same were accepted from earlier this month.

Various performances were also held on the occasion including a fusion and patriotic dance. Vice president of Pacific Mall, Anshul Pahuja said, "We're excited to announce the winners of the third season of Face of Doon. Our aim behind hosting this campaign was to bring the people of Dehradun face to face with creators, influencers, warriors and reformers, who have brought about a change in the city."

Woman accuses husband of giving triple talaq



PNS ■ HALDWANI

A woman in Indiranagar area has lodged a police complaint accusing her husband of giving her triple talaq. Kamarunissa had alleged in the police complaint that her husband and in-laws were harassing her for dowry and that her husband uttered talaq thrice to divorce her at a time when she is five months pregnant.

Earlier, she attempted to commit suicide on the railway track but her neighbours noticed her and brought her to the police station.

She told the police that she had been married to Saddam about six months ago. Her family had given Rs one lakh to

the groom's family but soon after marriage, her husband and in-laws started taunting her for getting less dowry, she alleged. On the night of August 21, her in-laws questioned her as to why she had not yet arranged for a motorcycle. The father in-law then allegedly told his son to divorce her, adding that they would get him remarried.

Kamarunissa had alleged that her husband uttered talaq thrice and divorced her. According to the police, based on the complaint, a case has been booked against the husband and in-laws under sections pertaining to dowry harassment, domestic violence and triple talaq.

Two power houses to be built for Kumbh Mela

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited (UPCL) is mulling over construction of two power houses of 10 MVA each to cater to the growing needs of electricity in the district during fairs and fests.

The power corporation has got approval and is now preparing to send a budgetary estimate for the same to the Government. With the installation of these two power houses, some two lakh people are expected to be benefited, say the officials.

From these two power houses, electricity shall be provided in and around

Laltaroo and Jagjeetpur areas. At present electricity is supplied from Laljiwala sub-station to Laltaroo area in Haridwar which is the main connecting area to Har ki Paudi. In Jagjeetpur, power supply is made through Kankhal sub-station. In the holy city apart from the snan days based on lunar calendar, other small fairs and festivals are held around the year due to which the electricity load is increased and power crisis occurs.

To cater to the demand for extra power which is expected to be experienced during the Kumbh Mela of 2021, the department is thinking of constructing more power houses. Two power houses of 10

MVA each load sharing will be made in these areas. During the Mela there will be ample source of electricity, claim the officials.

Speaking to The Pioneer, the UPCL executive engineer, V S Panwar said, "To install two power houses, we are searching for the land."

As soon as the land is marked, the work of installation of two power houses shall soon be started. Both the power-houses shall be made in Laltaroo and Jagjeetpur area. We have received permission for the same and now estimate is big compared and soon Detailed Project Report shall be submitted," he said.



Girls perform a dance at a programme held to mark Janmashtami in Nainital on Friday

Pioneer photo

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Whereas
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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/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.

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Date : 23-08-2019
Place : Haridwar

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Students showcase dramatic talents in Tagore characters

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The place of Bengal's literary legend Rabindranath Tagore in reshaping Bengali literature and music in the late 19th and early 20th century is well known and his portrayal of emotional characters as a playwright is par excellence. In English drama contest Literati Concorso held on Friday, six schools of the city participated and staged dramas based on scripts written by Tagore.

From his drama titled 'Bhikharin', the role of blind woman beggar by student Kanchan of Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School was appreciated by the audience and she won the best actor award.

The host school Delhi Public School Ranipur won the trophy for enacting the play 'My Lord the Baby', the second prize was bagged by two



schools Mont Fort Roorkee and Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School BHEL which were in a tie. Tagore's play Dakghar (The Post Office) written in 1912 dealt with death

as in his own words, "spiritual freedom" from "the world of hoarded wealth and certified creeds". The students of classes IX and X set the stage alive through their performances.

The narrator of the play 'My Lord the Baby' Aradhya Walia mesmerised the audience with her flawless command on English language.

The vice principal of the

DPS Pawinder Singh said, "This was the fifth series of inter school drama contest organised to test the abilities of the students in dialogue delivery, presentation, linguistics and stage acting."

With each passing year, the young talents are coming forward and through such contests the students get encouragement to script their own plays too." The coordinator and head of English department, DPS, Neelam Bhatt said that choosing Indian playwright Tagore was a step to build up interest of students in our own land's artists and not only stick to famous western playwrights as Shakespeare only.

Presiding as judges, language experts senior teacher, Veena Kaul and Saroj Bhauguna from Kendriya Vidyalaya shared tips with the students on honing the dramatic skills.

Chopper makes emergency landing; pilot, staff injured

IT IS LEARNT THAT THIS ACCIDENT, LIKE THE PREVIOUS ONE, ALSO OCCURRED WHEN PILOT WAS ATTEMPTING TO AVOID OVERHEAD CABLES

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The pilot and technical assistant of a helicopter involved in relief works in disaster affected area of Uttarkashi district had a narrow escape after they were forced to make an emergency landing. The duo sustained injuries and were brought to a private hospital in Dehradun.

According to information provided by the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), a helicopter of Aryan Aviation Private Limited engaged in post-disaster relief operations in Arakot area of Uttarkashi district made an emergency landing at Nagwara while on its way to Chiva from Arakot.

While the helicopter was damaged in the incident, the persons on board including the pilot Sushant Kumar Jaina from Madhya Pradesh and technical assistant Ajit from Haryana sustained some injury. The duo was taken by the state helicopter to Dehradun where they were admitted to a private hospital.

It is learnt that this accident, like the previous one, also occurred when the pilot was attempting to avoid the overhead cables set up in the area to transport apples from vil-



lages to the road-head.

It will be recalled that three persons had died on Wednesday when a helicopter engaged in relief work crashed after dropping supplies in a disaster affected area.

The pilot of that ill-fated chopper was also trying to avoid the overhead cables when the helicopter crashed onto

the mountainside.

Meanwhile, relief works have continued in the disaster affected villages of Uttarkashi district where disaster caused by heavy rains on August 18 had resulted in 15 deaths, three persons missing and 12 persons sustaining injuries in a 70 square kilometre area of Kotigad valley in Mori Tehsil.

Balkrishna admitted to AIIMS Rishikesh

Fell sick after eating sweet offered by a man, says Ramdev

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The managing director of Patanjali Ayurved Limited and right hand of Yoga guru Swami Ramdev, Acharya Balkrishna complained of dizziness on Friday after his lunch, and was rushed to AIIMS Rishikesh.

In the afternoon he gained consciousness and the pathological tests were started, said the accompanying doctors. It is being suspected that he fell sick as a result of some sort of food poisoning.

Around 2 pm on Friday, Balkrishna complained of dizziness and his own team of Ayurvedic doctors examined him and gave him local treatment. When his condition went out of control and he fell off his chair, as per the sources, he was rushed to Swami Bhumanand hospital from where he was taken to AIIMS, Rishikesh where his treatment was going on till the filing of this report. The doctor accompanying him said that he had regained consciousness around 5 pm.

Spokesman of Patanjali Yogpeeth, S K Tijarawala said that it seemed to be food poisoning since Balkrishna had



complained of vomiting and dizziness after having lunch. The CCTV camera footage and food samples were taken soon after this episode.

Meanwhile, Ramdev tweeted a video message thanking all those who had expressed concern for Balkrishna's health. He said that the Acharya had fallen sick after eating a Peda offered by a man on the occasion of Janmashatmi. The medical bulletin released by AIIMS Rishikesh states that Balkrishna was brought at 4:15 PM in altered conscious level. On examination, his blood pressure, pulse rate and other para-

ameters were found within normal limit. The patient was evaluated by cardiologist, neurologist and general physician at the time of arrival. His ECG, screening echo and RBS were done and found to be within normal limit.

The brain MRI report also came out normal. He was shifted to department of critical care medicine for further management. He is in exhaustion but stable from the point of view of all normal parameters of BP, pulse, respiratory rate, blood sugar electrolytes, MRI and ECG, the medical bulletin stated.

Project to make U'khand villages plastic free to start from October 2

WASTE COMPACTORS AT EVERY NYAY PANCHAYAT AND RECYCLING PLANT AT HARIDWAR TO BE INSTALLED

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Enthusied by positive response shown by the central Government, the Panchayati Raj department is gearing itself for laying the foundation stone of the Common Waste Recycling Facility (CWRF) at Haridwar on October 2.

It is learnt that the union government has in principle agreed on the proposal of Uttarakhand to set up a CWRF at Bhadrabad in Haridwar district.

In a recent meeting of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGS) of Ministry of Panchayati Raj in Delhi, Uttarakhand project to make its villages plastic waste free by involvement of self help groups was appreciated.

The Additional secretary, Panchayati Raj institutions, Harish Chandra Senwal confirmed that the unveiling of the plastic recycling plant would be done on October 2. He said that the facility would take at least six to eight months to become functional.

It is worth mentioning here that the project to set up waste

compactors in villages has already got approval of the union government. Initially one compactor in one Nyay Panchayat in all 95 blocks would be installed. Later these machines would be installed in all 670 Nyay Panchayats of the state. The objective of the compactors is to reduce transportation cost of the waste to the recycling plant.

These compactors would be operated by Women Self Help Groups (SHG) in the villages who would be trained in segregation and compaction of plastic waste. The villages would earn money by sale of the waste to the recycling plant.

The CWRF would be set up in Haridwar district and for it the department has earmarked a plot of two acres in Alipur village, Bhadrabad Haridwar. The recycling plant would convert the compact plastic wastes transported from villages to durable product termed 'Plastwood' and multi layered laminates.

Both these products are commercially valuable and can be used in building industry. The CWRF would be installed at a cost of Rs 3.75 Crore. Incidentally the recycling plant is a green industry and shall be operated in a PPP mode.

After installation of waste compactors and recycling plants Uttarakhand would become the first state in the country where an elaborate mechanism of disposal of plastic waste and its economic usage is set in place.

Dengue cases continue to mount, 12 new cases reported

DM says there will be no shortage of platelets

Visits dengue wards of GDMC hospital, Gandhi Centenary Eye hospital and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya hosp

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The district magistrate (DM) of Dehradun, C

Ravishankar has assured that there would be no shortage of platelets for dengue patients.

On Friday, the DM made inspection of dengue wards of Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital, Gandhi Centenary Eye hospital and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (Coronation) hospital. In the visit, the DM directed the GDMC hospital and Gandhi hospital to write letters to the Director General (DG) of health services for

deployment of more staff. The DM directed that number of beds should be increased in these hospitals to cater large flow of patients. For increase of beds the DM said that these hospitals should seek more technicians, staff nurses, ward boys and pharmacists.

Before inspecting these hospitals, the DM summoned Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Dehradun Dr S K Gupta, district vector borne diseases officer Subhash Joshi and Chief

Medical Superintendent (CMS) of Gandhi centenary eye hospital Dr B C Ramola.

In the meeting, he sought the status of the disease in the district and preparation made in the hospitals. In GDMC the dengue ward has 34 beds. Here the DM found that the hospital do not have ELISA reader machine on which he immediately released budget for purchase of this machine.

After GDMC hospital, Ravishankar visited Gandhi

centenary eye hospital and Coronation hospitals which have 24 and 4 beds respectively.

The DM said that panic should be avoided on dengue. He advised that people should not insist doctors to administer platelets on the patients. The DM said that it is for the doctors to decide on platelets. He said that the platelets should be administered only when their count falls below 20000 or if there is any internal bleeding.

The number of dengue patients in Dehradun jumped to 545

Dengue is continuing to hit the residents of Doon valley. On Friday, 12 new cases of the dreaded vector borne disease were reported by the district health authorities.

With these cases, the number of dengue affected patients in Dehradun has jumped to 545. Out of these

patients 531 patients are residents of Dehradun while 14 belong to other districts. The special dengue ards in GDMC hospital, Gandhi Centenary Eye hospital and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya hospitals have become full of patients and in GDMC hospital the authorities are forced to occupy other wards to accommodate surging patient flow. The District

Vector Borne Diseases Officer, Subhash Joshi said that teams of health department and Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) are visiting the affected areas and activities like fogging and spread of insecticides are being undertaken apart from spreading awareness on preventive measures to be adopted for the disease. He said that people

should ensure that the breeding places of mosquitoes inside their homes and vicinity are destroyed.

Joshi added that since Aedes mosquito, the vector of the disease bites during day time it is advisable that everyone should wear full sleeve clothes to reduce exposure of their body for the mosquito bite.

U'khand finding it hard to get doctors of reserved categories

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The shortage of young medicos belonging to the reserved categories is hitting the State health services of Uttarakhand hard. In the forthcoming recruitment of medical officers, the Uttarakhand Medical Services Selection Board (UMSSB) more than 70 percent of total posts would be kept reserved. Recently the state administration has sent a requisition of recruitment for 314 medical officers to the UMSSB. The board is expected to release the recruitment advertisement soon.

The Chairman of UMSSB, Dr D S Rawat said that in the drive 86 posts out of 314 would be for general category candidates while rest would be kept reserved. He said that online

HOWEVER BACKLOG OF VACANT POSTS OF MOS CONTINUES. IN FORTHCOMING RECRUITMENT DRIVE MORE THAN 70 PERCENT OF TOTAL POSTS TO BE KEPT RESERVED

Tribe (ST) while 154 were reserved for the Other Backward Castes (OBC). More than 1600 candidates applied for 712 posts of medical officers in the recruitment drive out of them 1400 appeared for the interviews. In view of the less number of candidates belonging to the reserved category, the UMSSB extended the last date of application many times.

The board was so lenient that it allowed new candidates to apply even during the course of interviews which continued till last week of December. Even after many attempts of the board 231 posts of belonging to reserved categories remained vacant.

Interestingly these vacant posts of medical officers cannot be filled by candidates of general category as the backlog is needed to be filled first.

Heritage expert offers to restore old clocks in Clock Tower

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Amidst news of the historic Clock Tower to be replaced by modern digital clocks, local heritage expert Lokesh Ohri has offered to restore the old clocks free of cost. However, the municipal commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey said that the clocks are non-repairable and MCD will continue with the installation of digital clocks.

Ohri said, "In Amritsar there is a conservation project on-going around the premises of Golden Temple in which one of my friends was one of the conservation architects.

She reached out to friends stating that there is two faced clock on the gateways which was not working for quite some time. Then I reached out to another friend in Kolkata who works on clock restoration. Basically, we acted as a link and they were able to restore the clock."

He further said, "They said that they are restoring the Clock Tower, but the structure is made of lime plaster. However, during the restoration they removed the lime plaster and coated it with cement plaster.

This goes against material authenticity. People of Uttarakhand do not raise these questions because no one listens." He questioned where



had the old clock disappeared. Whether it is possible to restore it or not is another matter. He also said that MCD should have worked carefully and in detail on the documentation of this heritage site.

Clock Tower is one of the most valuable heritage of Dehradun. He added, "We can help if they want we can get in contact with the restorers. It is possible to fabricate the antique parts also. Today technology is

beyond our imagination, if some of the parts are not working we can find a solution in order to get around the missing or non-repairable parts." When asked about the attempts they will be making

to restore the clocks, "We are already trying to speak with the municipal commissioner and the mayor so that one more attempt for the restoration can be done. We are trying to work with the govern-

We have already asked several experts to check it and the firm which is providing these digital clocks has confirmed that these clocks are not repairable

ment as MCD and BRIDCUL both are Government institutions. We want to engage constructively and not politically. We are trying to reach out to them and convey that our services are available free, we can help in the restoration of old clocks."

Meanwhile, municipal commissioner Pandey said, "What is done is done. The installation process will be done as per the schedule. We have already asked several experts to check it and the firm which is providing these digital clocks has confirmed that these clocks are not repairable."

One expert on the condition of anonymity alleged that the old parts of the heritage clocks might have been stolen as the clocks have high value in the antique market.

It will be recalled that the Clock Tower was inaugurated in 1953 by the then Union Railway minister Lal Bahadur Shastri

Ad hoc teachers oppose open recruitment plan

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The education department's decision to give additional weightage of 12 marks to the Ad hoc teachers - who earlier were shiksha mitra (SM) - who have passed the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) level 1 and invite open recruitment requisition of teachers on the posts where they were working has shocked hundreds of such teachers working in government schools of the state.

After clearing the TET level 1, these teachers were hoping that they would be directly absorbed in the primary teacher cadre. The association of ad-hoc teachers also wants that the state government should give some more chances to those ad-hoc teachers who have failed to clear the TET level 1 examination.

Incidentally, these teachers are drawing salary of a regular assistant teacher (Grade Pay Rs 4200). The state president of Uttarakhand ad-hoc Primary teachers association, Deepak Joshi said that all the ad hoc teachers who have cleared the TET before March 31, 2019 should be merged in the primary teacher cadre without any open examination. He also

added that the teachers who have failed to clear TET should be given more chances. He said that the Uttarakhand HC in its order had directed the state government that TET examination should be held two times in a year according to which these teachers should have got nine chances to appear in the TET examination.

The SMs were appointed in the government primary schools on a monthly stipend of Rupees 13000 in the year 2001. To get their services regularized the federation of SMs undertook a long agitation.

Under pressure of the agitation these teachers were adjusted as primary teachers in education department. The department even imparted Diploma in elementary education (DEEd) course to them. However this decision was challenged in the Uttarakhand HC which ordered that only those teachers who have cleared TET level I are eligible for being primary teachers.

The HC asked the department to give chances to these teachers to clear TET. Out of 3300 such teachers about 1700 teachers were able to clear the TET but rest are yet to clear the barrier.

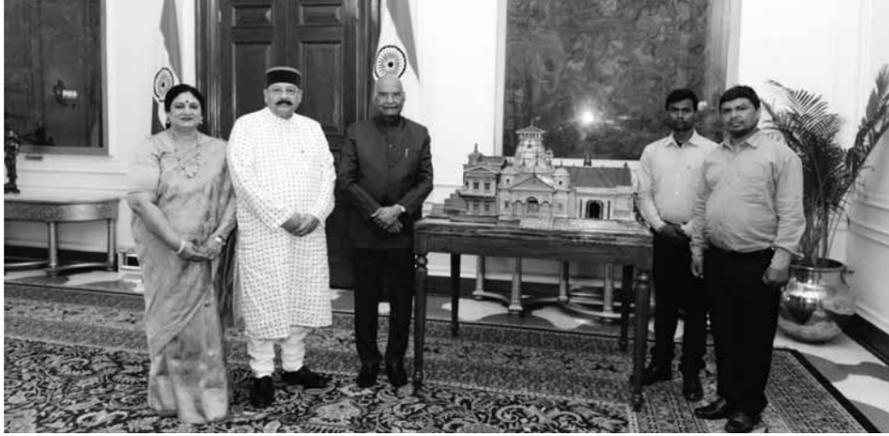
Maharaj presents wood model of Char Dham to Prez

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State's Tourism and Culture minister Satpal Maharaj along with ex-cabinet minister Amrita Rawat met the President Ram Nath Kovind along with wood craftsmen from Uttarakhand. They presented a Char Dham model made of wood to the President on the occasion.

During his visit to the President, the minister was also accompanied by craftsmen from Pithoragarh- Anil Kumar and Mukesh Koli. The craftsmen had for long been wanting to present the Char Dham model made by them to the President. Fulfilling their wish, the State's Tourism and Culture minister presented the wooden model to Kovind in their presence.

The President said that though he had earlier received models of different shrines in Uttarakhand, this is for the first time that he had received one model of all the Char Dham



shrines. The President also said that he would keep the model in the museum. It is pertinent to mention here that wood craft is one of the traditional arts practiced in Uttarakhand.

In the past, various wooden parts of a home built in the traditional architectural style were engraved with carvings of gods and other designs. However, this old craft is on the verge of

disappearing due to factors like use of modern styles for construction. The State's Tourism and Culture minister has been making efforts to encourage this art and publicise it extensively. It

was with this in mind that he met the President and gifting the wooden model of Char Dham shrines to him, also informed him about the wood craft of Uttarakhand.

Govt will not increase power charges for next 5 years: Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Power minister Satyender Jain has announced that Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government will not increase electricity charges for the next five years. Speaking in Delhi Assembly, Jain said, "Our party has vision and we will not impose tax on electricity."

Delhi will get 24 hours uninterrupted water supply while cleaning of river Yamuna and providing free Wi-Fi services are the top priorities of the government.

"We have fulfilled our promises and will prove again as the party has the will power to clean Yamuna, 'Ham Yamuna Clean karke dikhayenge,'" Jain declared amidst thumping of the desk



by his party MLAs. Citing example of round the clock power supply to Delhi, Jain said, "AAP has ensured that people were not dependent on inverters. It is time now to provide 24/7 water to people."

Mentioning about Yamuna reservoir plan, Jain said with

the success of this pilot project, we will be able to combat water scarcity situation. "Delhi will have regular water supply in every household and the people will not have to rely on water pump/motors," Jain said.

It may be noted that few days earlier Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced blue print of free Wi-Fi services in Delhi.

Remarkably, concluding the session, Jain announced, "We have floated tender for free Wi-Fi services in Delhi, the work will start soon." Providing free Wi-Fi services was the main promise in AAP's 2015 election manifesto.

While the possibility of early assembly elections are evolving, Jain's announcement may have impact on Delhi voters.



Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and Assembly Speaker Prem Chand Agrawal inaugurate Janmashanti programme at police lines in Dehradun on Friday. Pioneer photo

BEL may be fined ₹16 cr for slow CCTV work

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Friday proposed to impose a penalty of ₹16 crore on the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for its slow pace of installing one lakh forty thousand CCTVs across Delhi. One of the dream projects of Chief Minister (CM) Arvind Kejriwal was started on group two months ago. Approximately 1000 CCTV cameras are supposed to be fitted in each assembly constituency in Delhi in addition to these schools and colleges will also be fitted taking the total number of around three lakh individual units. Out of the 1.40 lakh CCTV

cameras to be installed by November 22, 2019 across the city, only around 16,000 till date, (which is just 11% of the total cameras to be installed).

"Penalty clause is part of the agreement between the Delhi government and BEL, which was awarded the contract in November last year and after completion of all formalities, the BEL was to begin the installation of CCTVs in February this year and the entire installation work is to be completed by 22nd November," states the statement issued by the office of the CM. The BEL is under legal obligation to complete the installation of CCTVs within nine months

according to its agreement with the Delhi government, and in case it fails to complete the entire installation work within these nine months, it is liable to pay a 10 percent penalty.

Besides, the Public Work Department (PWD) of Delhi government has also issued a show cause notice to the BEL over the slow installation of CCTV cameras all over Delhi.

PWD has also sought a schedule from the BEL on the future course of action of BEL on completion of the process of installation of CCTV cameras. PWD has on numerous occasions, written to BEL and has alerted them time and again to

speed up this very important project of women safety and public welfare. As a first step, since more than two-thirds of the time given to the BEL is already over, the Delhi government proposes to impose a five percent penalty (Rs. 16 crore) of the overall CCTVs installation project cost (Rs 320 crore) to begin with.

The step of invoking the clause of imposition of penalty follows expression of strong displeasure by the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over the unjustified slow pace of work, said the official. The government officials said that the CM is committed to complete the installation of CCTV cam-

eras in Delhi on time and he has made it clear that no delay will be tolerated and in case of any default, the company will be blacklisted and complete 10 percent penalty will be imposed.

BEL is liable to pay a penalty in case it fails to fulfil the mandatory condition under the agreement signed with the Delhi government of finishing the work on time.

Delhi government will release this amount of Rs 16 crore to the BEL, only if it honours the legal commitment of finishing the installation of 1.40 lakh CCTV cameras by 22nd November this year, said the official.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Manish Kumar S/o Satish Chand Jain, R/o 10 A, Bhagirathipuram, Jakhan, Dehradun have changed my name from Manish Kumar to Manish Kumar Jain for future purposes.

I, Neeraj Chaudhary Address: Vill- Bharapur Bhouri, Po- Bharapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand have changed my name from Neeraj Chaudhary to Neeraj Choudhary for all purposes.

मेरे कुछ दस्तावेजों में मेरे पिताजी का नाम श्री राम सिंह राणा अंकित है। जबकि उनका वास्तविक नाम नैन सिंह राणा है। श्री मुन्ना सिंह राणा पुत्र श्री नैन सिंह राणा निवासी ग्राम कोटा खानू पो.ओ. मंत्रगांव खानू तहसील चकराता, जिला देहरादून।

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NOTICE

To whom so ever it may concern it is to notify that my son's name has been mentioned wrongly in passport i.e. Gurbux Singh, which is correctly called as Gurbux Singh Grewal. Randeep Singh Grewal S/o Lt Shri Sukhdev Singh R/o 126, Lane No. 4, Mata Mandir Colony, Ajabpur Kalan, Dehradun.

Punjab CM orders a series of flood relief measures

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

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

Reviewing the progress of rescue and relief operations, the Chief Minister has assigned responsibilities to his five cabinet ministers to oversee work.

"The state's Industries Minister Sundar Sham Arora and the state Technical Education Minister Charanjit Singh Channy has been asked to oversee operations in Ropar district, while Revenue and Rehabilitation Minister Gurpreet Singh Kangar, and the Food and Civil Supplies Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu will oversee operations in Jalandhar and Kapurthala," said the spokesperson.

Spokesperson informed that the Chief Minister has expressed concern over the slow pace of resumption of electricity supply in certain flood-affected areas. "The Chief Minister has asked the state Rural Development and Panchayats Minister Triptat Rajinder Singh Bajwa and the PSPCL (Punjab State Power



Corporation Limited) chairman-cum-managing director Baldev Sran to tour the areas and ensure early resumption," added the spokesperson.

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

"@PunjabGovtIndia along with @NDRFHQ, @adgpi & @IAF_MCC are working with urgency to carry out relief work. I will again appeal to everyone to move to specially

created camps because saving lives is of prime importance. I have directed all the officials to be on their toes," he had tweeted on Friday.

In another tweet, the Chief Minister informed that a breach in Mau Sahib village has been plugged. "Good news coming in from Phillaur, where the local administration has plugged a 165 feet breach in Mau Sahib village with the help from MGNREGA workers and volunteers from various organisations. Relief work is being carried out on war footing to ensure normalcy returns at the earliest," he said in his tweet. Meanwhile, to help out the flood victims, all IPS

Officers of the Punjab cadre have unanimously decided to contribute a day's salary each to the CM Flood Relief Fund, according to DGP Dinkar Gupta.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Kapurthala informed the Chief Minister that out of the 82 flood affected villages in the district, 20 were inundated. A dedicated team comprising a MBBS doctor, along with staff and requisite medical kits, had been pressed into service in each of these villages.

In addition, a veterinary doctor with staff, a food inspector, full dry ration for three days and a police constable had

Water starts receding in Punjab areas, threat of epidemic diseases emerges

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The floodwater from the deluged areas of Punjab, particularly Jalandhar, Ropar and Ferozepur districts began receding on Friday, giving rise to the threat of an outbreak of epidemic diseases.

With no rains in the past two days, the water in flooded areas has started receding, officials said. The Army and NDRF personnel, however, continue to work overtime to shift people out of the flooded areas to safety, officials said. The prime concern for the state health authorities is the possible outbreak of epidemic diseases in the flood-hit areas once the water vanishes, Jalandhar Medical Officer A S Duggal

also been deputed in these villages.

Apart from providing adequate medical assistance to the people and veterinary care to the livestock, two kg feed per cattle per day was being distributed for livestock, in addition to adequate medical assistance to the people and livestock. The Chief Minister was apprised by Jalandhar Deputy Commissioner that the relief and flood protection works in

said. Many people are already affected by diarrhoea, gastroenteritis, fungal infection and skin disease and are being treated at different camps, he said. Apprehending the outbreak of various diseases, he said the cases of water-borne ailments would increase in days to come.

After recent rains and the release of excess water from the Bhakra Dam, the Sutlej river and its tributaries had flooded villages in Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Ferozepur and Rupnagar in Punjab, causing damage to the crops and houses in low-lying areas. With no fresh rains in the last two days, the water has started receding in swollen rivers of Punjab and Haryana but the farming fields over hun-

dreds of acres and several villages remain inundated, officials said. Heavy rains a few days ago caused extensive damage to crops and property at many places in Punjab, submerging around 400 villages with the state government estimating loss worth Rs 1,700 crore by the deluge in the state, officials said. People are struggling to get their dwellings rid of slush and garbage to get on with life in the flood-ravaged villages.

Punjab Local Bodies Minister Brahm Mohindra issued strict directions to ensure comprehensive measures to keep a check on the outbreak of any disease in the state, especially in the low lying areas.

Resources Department had been asked to complete the work of plugging the 350 feet wide breach at village Meowal in Phillaur Sub-Division by Saturday. He also told the Chief Minister that volunteers and MGNREGA workers were engaged in filling sand bags for plugging of this breach. Capt Amarinder was further informed by Ropar Deputy Commissioner that the relief and flood protection works in

affected areas were going on in full swing as the water level was gradually receding.

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Rana KP Singh visited the flood hit areas and interacted with the local residents during the day. He asked the Deputy Commissioner Ropar to ensure adequate supply of feed and fodder for the cattle, besides providing the best medical assistance to the people in the region.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DME/O&F/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. M-1-OT-RR-MB-19, Closing Date & Time 20.09.2019 upto 15:00 hrs. and will be opened on the same day at 15:30 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their 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.ireps.gov.in on internet & can be seen/download. The tenderers/bidders will have to make payment towards Tender document cost and Earnest Money against this tender through online payment mode 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	Round the clock security, upkeep, maintenance of Running Room including lawn & garden in Running Room premises, cooking & serving of food to occupants of RR, round the clock serving of Train ordering calls to occupants of RR, collection of soiled linens from RR and delivery back duly washed & ironed, providing washed linens to every occupant of Running Room at Moradabad for a period of 01 year*		
Tender Type	Open	Bidding System	Two Packet System
Tender closing Date & Time	20.09.2019, 15:00 hrs	Date & time of Uploading Tender	22.08.2019
Pre-Bid (Yes/No)	No	Pre-Bid Query Date Time	Not Applicable
Advertised Value	Rs. 1,82,53,468.67 (Inclusive of all statutory payments, taxes and charges excluding GST)	Tendering Section	O & F
Bidding Style	Single Rate For Each Schedule	Bidding Unit	(In %) ABOVE/BELOW/WAT PAR
Earnest Money	Rs. 2,41,300/-	Validity of Offer	90 Days
Tender Doc. Cost	Rs. 5000.00	Period of Completion	12 Months
Bidding start date	06.09.2019	Contract Type	Service

No: M-1-OT-RR-MB-19 Dated : 22.08.2019 2727/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Elephant rehab centre in Haryana set for facelift

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

As a part of its modernisation drive, the expansion of Elephant Rehabilitation and Research Centre (ERRC), located at Ban Santour in Yamunanagar district of Haryana is on the cards.

The Haryana department of Forests and Wildlife has decided to draft a master plan involving Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun and an NGO called Wildlife SOS to upgrade ERRC with infrastructure and modern equipments, including boundary wall, Elephant shade, installation of CCTV cameras among others, said Panchkula Forest and Wildlife Forest officer Shiv Singh. The number of elephants in Haryana is quite less. But there are encouraging signs as this year their population has gone to nine, he added. Singh further said, "A proposal on its expansion, includ-



ing the new layout master plan, is being made by the department officials concerned along with the agencies concerned. The drafted master plan will be sent to Centre Zoo Authority for its approval," he said.

ERRC, Ban Santour in Yamunanagar was set up in 83-acre patch of land in 2008. Four jumbos (female) are resting and roosting in the forest protected land here.

Haryana Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) VS Tanwar said, "ERRC at Ban Santour is a sanctuary to rehabilitate the rescued, abused, exploited and sick elephants. It was set up by the Haryana Forests and Wildlife department in association with an NGO called Wildlife SOS, with the help of Government of India's grant under the Project Elephant.

ERRC has now elephant shelters, veterinary services, elephant husbandry and fodder service, elephant walking and exercise trails among others." Panchkula Forest and Wildlife Forest officer Shiv Singh further said that the department has four rescued female elephants, namely Chanchal, Jungle, Laxmi, and Lilly. These elephants were rescued from persons who had illegally possessed them.

Chanchal and Laxmi were rescued from Karnal while Lilly from Sirsa and Jungle from Kurukshetra. In 2018, Delhi Forests and Wildlife department had rescued an elephant named Moti which was illegally possessed by a person and sent to Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary in Haryana.

The number of "migrant wild elephants" is changing each year. A couple of elephants from the Rajaji National Park had been frequently visiting the Kalesar

National Park, spread over 11570 acres every year. The number of "migrant wild elephants" has gone to four. Wild Elephants roam Kalesar and adjoining Rajaji National Park and Tiger Reserve spread across the Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Out of four wild elephants, two are permanently living in Kalesar National Park while two migrate periodically to Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand and Simbalbara National Park in Himachal. After receiving information about the migration of the elephants, the employees of the department were pressed for keeping a close watch on the herd's movements.

The team takes photograph of the wild migrants from a long distance. The Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary was declared a National Park in December, 2003, Shiv Singh added. He said that a herd of eight

wild elephants was spotted in 2016-17 and they camped for around three months. As for the steps taken to ensure protection of wildlife and environment, he said the forest staff have been given weapons by the state government to tackle the menace posed by poachers. The State had also set up two special environmental courts in Kurukshetra and Faridabad to deal with crimes related to poaching and illicit felling of trees from the area.

The forest officer said that to spread awareness on cruelty against elephants, a programme was held on the occasion of World Elephant Day on August 12. About 60 students of Navodaya Vidyalaya, Yamunanagar participated in the programme and pledged never to take joy rides on elephants. The first time International Elephant Day was observed on 12th August 2012.

5 officers found guilty of Budgam chopper crash: IAF report

6 IAF men died in friendly fire

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The IFF helps air defence

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

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

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

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

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



Rain, flood hit kharif sowing, tea plantation

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Friday was the eleventh day of the hearing in the matter

before the apex court.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Manmohan takes oath as RS member for 6th term

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

INX MEDIA CASE

CBI mulls confronting Chidambaram with Indrani

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHO for research into microplastics, crackdown on plastic pollution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

"We are not alarmed," WHO technical officer Jennifer

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

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

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

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



Tiger reserves face staff shortage

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

According to the recent data available from the



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CEASEFIRE VIOLATION BY PAK

Jawan martyred in J&K

Pak targets civilian pockets along LoC

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

On Friday, Pakistan Army initiated 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation in which one Indian Army jawan attained martyrdom in Nowshera sector of frontier Rajouri district. Pakistan Army is regularly targeting civilian pockets along the Line of Control to disturb peace in the region. Traumatized local residents have been staying back inside their houses to ensure their safety but are worried a lot as on going work on completion of bunkers, sanctioned by the Union Government is going on at snail's pace.

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

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



Nowshera sector of Rajouri district on Friday morning.

He said, in the exchange of fire, Naik Rajib Thapa attained martyrdom. Hitting back, Indian Army responded strongly and effectively.

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

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

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

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

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

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

POST FRIDAY PRAYERS

Violent protests, azadi chants grip Srinagar

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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



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

joining the chorus of anti-India slogans".

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

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

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

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

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

BSF assistant SI, wife declared foreigners in Assam

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



sent themselves in the Jorhat Circuit House.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

DENTIST BOOKED FOR GIVING INSTANT TRIPLE TALAQ

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

In the second case, a 55-year-old woman, Rehana alleged her husband Sarwar Ansari, a former employee of Kota's Command Area Development project, divorced her by uttering talaq thrice earlier in the day.

On the woman's complaint, an FIR was registered at the Kunhari police station. **PTI**

Section of advocates come out in support of Justice Vaidyanathan

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

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

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

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

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

It would clearly amount to gross interference in the admin-

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

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

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

MNS notices ED on non-Marathi name board

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Raj was grilled for more



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Guj women's panel summons IAS officer over bigamy charges

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

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

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

She did not specify when he was supposed to appear.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In another tweet, Mayawati

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

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

Lioness gives birth to 4 cubs; two of them die

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rakbar Khan lynching: 4th accused held

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

Vijay Kumar was caught in Murtikala colony of Jaipur on Thursday and taken to Alwar. The fifth accused, Naval Kishore, is still absconding, police said.

The police have already arrested Dharendra Yadav, Paramjeet Singh and Naresh in connection with the case and filed a charge sheet against them.

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

Aslam managed to flee, but an injured Akbar died at a hospital in Alwar. **PTI**

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

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

3 killed, 25 hurt in stampede in Bengal

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

injured are being treated, she said.

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

She expressed her displeasure over the existence of the makeshift bamboo and poly-thene stalls in the narrow lane leading to the temple. "They (shopowners) set up

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

demanding immediate probe into the mishap.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It was shared widely on social media on Thursday.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UK AMBEDKAR MEMORIAL

Maharashtra Govt appoints experts to present its case

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

"Singhania & Co Solicitors have been appointed to present

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

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

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

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

DN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the upcoming days," he said.

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

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

Savarkar bust blackening: Maha CM wants guilty to be punished

PNB ■ MUMBAI

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

Talking to media persons at Dhule in north Maharashtra during the

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

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

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

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

Bandra station completes 130 years, Sharukh releases postal cover



DN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Railway, Postal department officials and local corporators.

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

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

Didi pens poem on democracy

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

grains of rice."

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

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

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

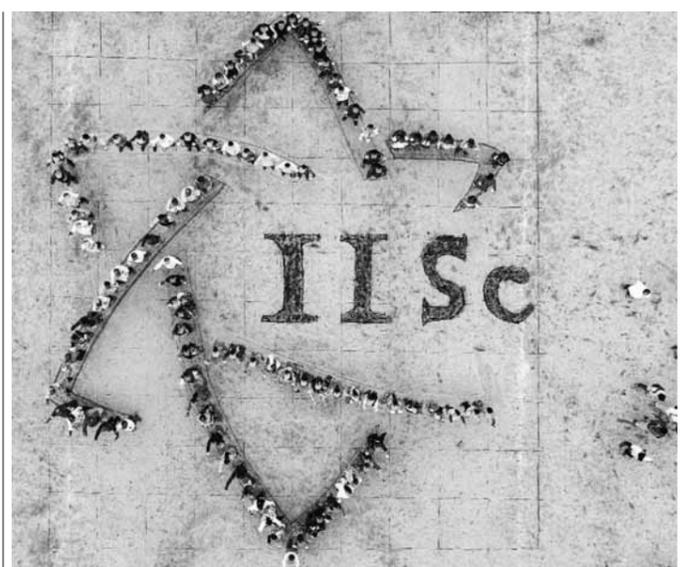
Incidentally, the Chief Minister had on Thursday reacted to the arrest of former Finance Minister P Chidambaram saying "I am depressed, I am sad" at how things have been done. Without delving much into the legality of the senior Congress leader's arrest she said "the process of his arrest is sad. It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

bad. It makes me depressed"

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

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

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



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

After breach, Mumbai airport tightens security

DN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SBSP leader Rajbhar meets Akhilesh ahead of UP bypolls

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

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

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

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

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

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

He was allocated the Backward Class Welfare and Divyangjan Empowerment

ministry -- a portfolio held by Om Prakash Rajbhar earlier.

The SBSP had won four seats in the 2017 UP assembly elections, though the party could not open its account in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

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

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

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

The new Dalit identity

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



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

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

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

Fire in the jungle

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



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

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

For the sake of democracy

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



JS RAJPUT

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

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

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

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



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

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

We are all aware how traditional democratic values have confronted difficult situations in the era of globalisation and commercialisation. They stand overshadowed by emerging materialist values. On several occasions, elected representatives, including those holding positions of greater political power, find it difficult to maintain the right balance between public life and the lure of power and pelf — glamour and glitz in a globalised free-market world.

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

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

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

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

The youth of today may find it difficult to believe that the members of the Constituent Assembly did not get any salary, let alone pension. They got an allowance of ₹45 per day for the days of sitting. And they were the ones who got it reduced to ₹40 per day in consideration of the tough economic condition of the country.

An eminent expert on the nuances of parliamentary democracy and an internationally acknowledged scholar and author of *Our Constitution*, Subhash Kashyap brilliantly analysed the "rise" of the Indian parliamentarian at the national level in his latest outstanding

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

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

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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

Shiv Sena deputy leader —Priyanka Chaturvedi



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

Actor-comedian —Kapil Sharma



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

French President —Emmanuel Macron



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

West Bengal Chief Minister —Mamata Banerjee



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chidambaram's arrest

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

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

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

The rule of law must prevail

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

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



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

G David Milton Maruthancode

Let the court decide

in the INX Media case, firm director Indrani Mukerjee has deposited against Chidambaram and his son Karti for flouting rules for approval of up to 26 per cent foreign investment in her company. The reaction of Opposition parties was on expected lines.

JS Acharya Hyderabad

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

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

TK Nandanam Chennai

Stop interfering

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

Manisha Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

RSS roots for reservation

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



SANJAY PASWAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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

— JD(S) SUPREMO HD DEVE GOWDA



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

— CONGRESS LEADER SIDDARAMAIAH

Enforced altruism

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



MOÏN QAZI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is now widely acknowledged that CSR



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AI will transform digital marketing

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

potential to transform your digital strategy.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



FOREIGN EYE



AN ESSENTIAL ADDITION

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



TUHIN BANIK

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

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

Withdrawal of enhanced surcharge on FPIs big move: Analysts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MSMEs to get pending GST refunds within 30 days: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

reviewed by the Cabinet Secretariat.

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

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

India Inc cheers steps to stem slowdown

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

erate spirits," Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra tweeted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Economists and experts

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

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

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

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

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

Business Corner



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



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



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



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



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

M/S BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LIMITED			
CIN - L67120DL1992PLC049038, Tel No: 011-49800900 Fax: 011-49800933			
Email: commodities@bharatbhushan.com, Website: www.bbinvestments.in			
Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001			
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019 (Rs. in Lakhs)			
Particulars	Quarter Ended		
	30.06.2019	30.06.2018	
	UNAUDITED	UNAUDITED	
1. Total Income from operations	6.37	6.98	
2. Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	-0.39	2.26	
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	-0.39	2.26	
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	-3.55	-0.69	
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	-1.26	14.21	
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	
7. Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)			
- Basic	-0.11	-0.02	
- Diluted	-0.11	-0.02	

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Sd/-
Nisha Ahuja
Director
DIN : 06001875

Place : New Delhi
Date : 23.08.2019

SEARCH FOR MISSING

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

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

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

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

DP/9294/NW/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

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

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

DP/5662/SD/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

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

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

SHO
P.S. Mayapuri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-28117644, 28116097

DP/8380/WD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

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

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

SHO
P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27811933, 27811934

DP/535/ON/19.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

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

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

DP/2584/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

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

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

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

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

DP/526/ON/19

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED

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

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

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

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

DP/2559/OD/19.

Moody's downgrades GDP growth to 6.2%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

stimulus," it added.

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

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

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

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

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

₹ rebounds 15 paise to 71.66 against US Dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal withdraws plea to visit abroad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

In his plea, Goyal said he came to know of the LOC on May 25 when he and his wife Anita were off-loaded from a flight to Dubai with an onward connection to London.

He said when he had filed the petition in July, he was in an urgent need to travel

abroad and thereafter, he received summons from SFIO for recording of statement regarding the investigation which has been initiated.

The petitioner (Goyal) is participating and fully cooperating in the investigation and has appeared before the authorities on three occasions.

"As the investigation has commenced and since the petitioner is extending full cooperation, he is not pressing the present writ petition at this stage for permission to travel outside India," it said, adding he be given liberty to avail appropriate remedies in future.

Earlier when Goyal had moved court seeking permission to go abroad, the judge had observed that if he wanted to go abroad, he should first deposit Rs 18,000 crore as a guarantee that his company owes to lenders.

Denying him permission to fly abroad, the court had sought the Centre's reply to his plea.

The court was informed by the Centre that it was a serious fraud involving Rs 18,000 crore and the investigation



was being carried out by the SFIO.

Goyal has sought quashing of the LOC as well as several office memorandums which lay down the guidelines for issuing the travel ban.

According to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the LOC was issued after the ministry found in an inspection large-scale irregularities in Jet Airways, which shut its operations in April due to acute cash crunch.

The ministry subsequently ordered a probe by the SFIO into the affairs of Jet Airways.

Naresh and Anita Goyal had resigned from the board of Jet Airways, which the former founded 26 years ago, in March following a debt restructuring plan. He had also resigned as the airline's chairman. Jet Airways is facing insolvency proceedings.

Govt to allow Aadhaar-based KYC for retail investors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will allow Aadhaar-based KYC for domestic retail investors, and necessary amendments to the rules under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act will be issued.

Announcing a slew of measures to boost the economy, the Government said the Depository Receipt Scheme 2014 is expected to be operationalised soon by Sebi. "This will give Indian companies increased access to foreign funds through American Depository Receipt (ADR)/Global Depository Receipt (GDR)," she said.

In order to improve market access for the domestic retail investors, Aadhaar-based KYC will be permitted for opening of demat account and making investment in mutual funds. In this regard, necessary notification for amendments in PMLA rules would be issued.

"To bring offshore rupee market to domestic stock exchanges and permit trading of USD-INR derivatives in GIFT IFSC, Ministry of Finance is working with RBI to introduce this measure shortly," the government said.

RCEP trade ministers to meet in Bangkok on Sep 8

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce ministers of 16 countries including India and Japan, which are negotiating mega free trade agreement RCEP, will hold a crucial meeting in Bangkok on September 8 to iron out differences and push the negotiations forward, an official has said.

The negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has reached at a fundamental phase as the member countries are targeting to conclude the talks, according to the official.

"This will be most likely the last meeting at ministers level," the official said.

This meet assumes significance as several sectors have raised serious concerns over the impact of the agreement on domestic industry.

So far 27 rounds of talks have been held, but the member countries are yet to arrive at the number of goods over which import duties will be eliminated or significantly reduced.

Similarly, talks on liberalising rules for trade of services, a key area of interest for India, too are moving slowly.

Indian industry has raised concerns over the presence of China in the grouping with which India has a trade deficit of over \$50 billion. Various sectors, including dairy, metals, electronics, chemicals, and textiles, have urged the government to not agree on duty cut in these segments.

Amul, which contributes about 4 per cent to India's total dairy production, has sought exclusion of all dairy and dairy products from any liberalisation. Australia and New Zealand are among the largest players in the dairy sector.

RCEP bloc includes the 10 ASEAN members (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand.

India has registered trade deficit in 2018-19 with as many as 11 RCEP member countries, including China, South Korea and Australia.

The trade agreement aims to cover issues related to goods, services, investments, economic and technical cooperation, competition and intellectual property rights.

IIFL set to snap up L&T Fin's wealth mgmt arm for ₹250 cr, deal likely early next week

PTI ■ MUMBAI

As part of its strategy to exit non-core businesses, L&T Finance is selling its wealth management arm to IIFL Group for around ₹250 crore and the deal is set to be inked early next week, say three people aware of the development.

Once concluded, this will be the fourth acquisition by IIFL Wealth, in which General Atlantic holds 21.8 per cent, in the past three years after the Chennai-based Wealth Advisors in October 2018, Ashburton India Equity Opportunities Fund in December 2017 and Bengaluru-based Altire Advisors in 2016.

With over 10,000 clients, IIFL Wealth is the third largest player with an asset under management (AUM) of close to ₹1.7 trillion, or around \$24.5 billion, in the around \$170-billion-strong domestic wealth management business, that is dominated by Kotak Wealth with an AUM of around \$36 billion, followed by ICICI at \$27 billion, according to industry estimates.

IIFL Wealth reported a net income of ₹384 crore on a fee income of around ₹1,060 crore in the year to March 2019 when it closed the fiscal with an AUM of ₹1,69,312 crore.

L&T Wealth has an asset under management of ₹25,600 crore as of June and employs around 100 people. The company entered the wealth management segment in 2012 by roping in the Indian team of the Swiss private bank EFG.

"IIFL Wealth is set to snap up L&T Financials' wealth management business for close to ₹250 crore. The negotiations got delayed over valuation, as L&T was demanding higher valuation at over ₹300 crore," two people aware of the deal told PTI Friday.

Another person confirming the deal said, "a formal announcement is expected early as early as in the first half of next week."

Normally, the valuation in wealth management deals is around 1 per cent or thereabout of the AUM.

The sources, however, did not say whether IIFL will absorb the employees of Larsen Wealth who number around 100.

The deal will be inked between India Infoline Finance Wealth and Asset Management and the wealth management unit of L&T Financial Services.

Both the companies refused to confirm the deal. In an email Larsen Finance said, "as a policy we don't comment on market specula-

tion", while an email sent to the IIFL spokesperson did not elicit a response.

The move by the Nirmal Jain-promoted group, which is majority owned by the Canadian NRI Prem Watsa's Farifax Holdings, will help it close the gap with the segment leader Kotak, say industry observers.

IIFL Wealth has been growing through organic route and had acquired Wealth Advisors India, a Chennai-based firm, for a ₹235 crore in October 2018.

In December 2017, it had acquired Ashburton India Equity Opportunities Fund for an undisclosed amount, and in the previous year it had also bought Altire Advisors based in Bengaluru, helping it grow the AUM.

One of the sources said for L&T Finance, the deal is good as it has been trying to pare non-core businesses to focus on its core areas of consumer and infra lending.

There are also rumours that Larsen Finance is looking to exit mutual fund business.

In the June quarter earnings, Larsen Finance had said it was looking to focus on core businesses like rural lending, housing finance and infra finance, and may enter consumer loans.

Jet: Irish lessor moves NCLT seeking to take back Boeing 777

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Irish aircraft leasing firm Fleet Ireland, which had leased the impounded Boeing B777 plane to the defunct Jet Airways, Friday moved the NCLT seeking a recall of the tribunal's July 5 order that directed DGCA not to deregister the aircraft on the ground that it is an affected party and thus needs to be heard.

The aircraft was seized by a European cargo operator at the Amsterdam airport end March for non-payment of dues. Following this, a Dutch court had ordered bankruptcy proceedings against the airline in May.

The tribunal adjourned the matter to September 3. The bankruptcy tribunal had on July 5, prevented the Directorate General of Civil Aviation from deregistering the Boeing 777 plane, which has been under the possession of a Dutch cargo provider since April.

After the airline was taken to NCLT on June 17, the Dutch company had moved an application to the DGCA seeking to de-register the aircraft. When the NCLT resumed hearing the case on July 5, the RP sought a direction to DGCA against de-registration of the plane citing the moratorium under the bankruptcy process. Meanwhile, the RP informed the tribunal that about 200 employees have consented to the terms of the agreement on salary payments. The RP also sought a direction to the lenders on interim financing so that a portion of the pending salaries could be paid. The tribunal comprising VP Singh and Rajesh Sharma directed the RP to file a fresh application in this regard.



AI asked to come clear on GDS rights issue by Sept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a major admonition to State-run Air India, Delhi High Court has directed national carrier to present its reasons behind its decision to shift domestic ticket-booking business "exclusively" on Travelport, and abruptly discontinuing using the services of global ticket distribution firm Amadeus.

In its order dated July 25 the High Court ruled, "Time is sought to file counter affidavit. Let the counter affidavit be filed within four weeks. Rejoinder, if any be filed within four weeks thereafter". The HC is slated to hear the case on September 26.

The court has given Air India four weeks' time to respond to the judgement with relevant documents.

In October last year, Travelport had announced that it had "won competitive tender process undertaken by Air India for the sole provision of distribution of its domestic flight content in the airline's home market".

Technologies Quotient, a strategic business unit of InterGlobe Enterprises which is the parent company of IndiGo, India's largest airline by market share and Air India's biggest competitor.

GDS is a globally connected computerised reservation network offering a one-point access to airline bookings, hotel reservations as well associated travel-related areas including car rentals.

A GDS also connects travel agents and other such service providers with large corporations. Such networks are usually operated in partnership with, either through joint ventures or as supporting business partners, major airlines, hotel chains or transnational travel service providers.

Taking strong stance against the allocation made to Travel Port, the Punjab and Haryana High Court in January noted that under Article 12, the national carrier was "duty bound" to invite bids before giving "exclusive rights to any agency for GDS".

"It is further contended that Air India was duty bound to call bids in the form of tenders and that Amadeus could not be arbitrarily excluded from sale of tickets for domestic flights," it had said.

IBC can't resolve power sector crisis, but ARCs can: Secy

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Financially crippled power companies cannot be revived or resolved under the provisions of the existing bankruptcy laws, but asset reconstruction companies can better deal with them, a senior government official said Friday.

Crucial agreements on the power purchase and fuel supply come apart if an asset goes for bankruptcy by sending it to NCLT as required under the law now, leaving only the plant and machinery, Union power secretary SC Garg said.

The power sector is one of the worst performing from an asset quality perspective for banks and Garg pegged the overall stressed portfolio at around Rs 4 trillion or over 65,000 mw of generation capacity.

"Not every kind of industry or every kind of asset can be best reconstructed through the IBC," Garg told an event on ARCs organised by industry lobby Assocham.

If a power sector asset goes to NCLT, "practically nothing will survive, except the plant", he said, adding PPAs and FSAs will come off. Any new buyer will lose interest asset because of this, he said, recommending the ARC route to resolving the stress in the sector.

He said the dozen-odd ARCs, which have been around for over a decade now, can collaborate with an industry expert, to help in resolution.

However, absence of strong homegrown power companies which can team up with financial investors to resolve an asset, is delaying the resolution process.

Meanwhile, Garg also pitched for an amendment in the powers of ARCs, underlining that they need to be empowered to act like an asset manager, much beyond the current limited role of being a debt manager.

Slowdown in auto sector temporary: KIA Motors

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Korean automobile maker KIA Motors India on Friday said the current slowdown in the industry is a temporary phase, and customer sentiments will revive again.

"There is some industry slowdown. We believe that the slowdown in the automobile industry is temporary. Customer sentiments will revive again," said Yong S Kim, ED and CSO of KIA Motors India.

Kim was talking to reporters here at the launch of the SUV 'Seltos', manufactured at its plant in Andhra Pradesh.

He said the company entered the Indian market with an SUV, as it is the fastest growing segment in the automobile industry in the country.

"For a new entrant, there is no good time. We are confident of our product...," he said.

The company claimed to have received around 33,000 bookings in the last five weeks. The Andhra Pradesh facility has a capacity of three lakh units per annum, Kim said.

Production of illicit cigarettes poses high health risk in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is in the midst of a silent health crisis as illicit cigarettes, with dangerous implications for lungs and throats, are beginning to find their way in large swathes of India. Other than hundreds of illegal units manufacturing illicit cigarettes, there are 12134 units registered under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, which are engaged in tobacco products including cigarette manufacturing units. These units are registered under a special 2015-notified scheme Udyog Aadhar Memorandum (UAM), according to an RTI reply by the ministry.

The RTI reply says that the "Ministry has notified the Udyog Aadhar Memorandum (UAM) on 18th September 2015, a one page online registration system for MSMEs based on self-certification and no additional document is required to be uploaded at the time of filing of UAM. "Any entrepreneur either in manufacturing or service oriented enterprise can register as MSME online at www.udyogaadhar.gov.in only

after establishing the unit, obtaining all regulatory approvals and starting commercial operations. Any activity defined in the certificate is valid provided the activity is under purview of the law, except the activities not covered under MSMED Act 2006, for registration of UAM," explained a senior government official.

The reply goes on to give the break-up of number of "tobacco products including cigarettes manufacturing units registered under UAM - Micro 11611, Small 490, Medium 33. According to experts, this defeats the tobacco control policy of the Health Ministry according to which no fresh licenses have been issued to any cigarette manufacturing unit after 1999.

Licensing for manufacturing of cigarettes are issued by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) of Ministry of Commerce as per IDR Act 1951. However, even in this Act, there are clauses which have loopholes exploiting which companies are manufacturing cigarettes.

According to another RTI Reply by Tobacco Board of

India, which supplies virginia tobacco used in cigarettes, "Four companies are registered with Tobacco Board as manufacturer of virginia tobacco and are manufacturing cigarettes based on the certificate issued by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, using the exemptions available under IDR Act 1951 for the units engaging less than 50/100 laborers with/without the aid of the power."

Such manufacturers not only evade taxes causing revenue losses to the government, but also pose severe health risks to smokers given that hazardous substances are mixed with tobacco. Other than manufacturing illicit and counterfeit products, such units are also exploiting their status to manufacture popular foreign brands.

Recently Police, District Tobacco Control Units and NGOs across Delhi-NCR have conducted several raids and found such units manufacturing illicit and counterfeit of popular foreign brands, packs of which do not contain the mandatory Health Warning, as mandated by law.

US officials confirm Israeli strike in Iraq

Attack marks significant escalation in Israel's campaign against Iranian military entrenchment in Iraq

AP ■ JERUSALEM

US officials have confirmed that Israel was responsible for the bombing of an Iranian weapons depot in Iraq last month, an attack that would mark a significant escalation in Israel's years-long campaign against Iranian military entrenchment across the region.

The confirmation comes as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is strongly hinting that his country is behind recent airstrikes that have hit bases and munitions depot belonging to Iran-backed paramilitary forces operating in Iraq.

The mystery attacks have not been claimed by any side and have left Iraqi officials scrambling for a response, amid strong speculation that Israel may have been behind them.

Earlier this week, the deputy head of the Iraqi Shiite militias, known collectively as the Popular Mobilisation Forces, openly accused Israeli



Drones of carrying out the attacks, but ultimately blamed Washington and threatened strong retaliation for any future attack.

Such attacks are potentially destabilizing for Iraq and its fragile Government, which has struggled to remain neutral amid growing tensions between the United States and Iran.

There have been at least three explosions at Iraqi Shiite militia bases in the past month. American officials now confirm Israel was responsible for at least one of them.

Two American officials

ence to the Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah group. He said the attack targeted the headquarters of the advisers and a weapons depot.

On August 12, a massive explosion at the al-Saqr military base near Baghdad shook the capital, killing one civilian and wounding 28 others. The base housed a weapons depot for the Iraqi federal police and the PMF.

The most recent of the explosions came Tuesday night, at a munitions depot north of Baghdad.

There have been weeks of speculation in Israel that the army is attacking targets in Iraq.

In an interview with a Russian-language TV station on Thursday, Netanyahu indicated the speculation is true.

"I don't give Iran immunity anywhere," he said, accusing the Iranians of trying to establish bases "against us everywhere," including Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq.

Asked whether that means Israel is operating in Iraq,

Netanyahu said: "We act in many arenas against a country that desires to annihilate us. Of course I gave the security forces a free hand and the instruction to do what is needed to thwart these plans of Iran."

Early Friday, the *New York Times*, citing Israeli and U.S. Officials, reported that Israel bombed an Iranian weapons depot in Iraq last month.

Homemade bomb kills Israeli, wounds two others in West Bank

AFP ■ JERUSALEM

A blast from a homemade bomb killed one Israeli and seriously wounded two of her family members in an attack near a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank on Friday, officials said. Israeli security forces were deployed throughout the area of the attack near the settlement of Dolev, northwest of Ramallah, in a search for suspects.

Sri Lanka ends state of emergency

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has ended the four-month-long state of emergency imposed in the country following the Easter Sunday attacks that claimed 258 lives.

Officials sources said a government gazette which should have been issued on Thursday to extend the state of emergency by a further month was not issued.

"The president did not issue the gazette to extend emergency," they said.

President Maithripala Sirisena has been extending the emergency through a gazette notification every month since the bombings on April 21.

Sri Lanka initially imposed the emergency on April 23 to crack down on the nine suicide bombers who attacked three churches and as many luxury hotels, killing 258 people and injuring 500 others.

The ISIS terror group claimed the attacks, but the government blamed the local Islamist extremist group

Over 1,000 people were arrested for their links to the NTJ, including five people who were extradited from Saudi Arabia

National Thawheed Jammath (NTJ) for the Ester Sunday bombings.

The state of emergency gives sweeping powers to the security forces to arrest and detain people in the aftermath of the attack.

Over 1,000 people were arrested for their links to the NTJ, including five people who were extradited from Saudi Arabia.

The tourism industry has been lobbying extensively to lift the state of emergency as it saw a surge in tourist cancellations.

The government initiated several high level probes to investigate the security lapses which led to the attacks despite prior intelligence warnings.

GLOBE TROTTER

'PAK MIN PUNCHED, PELTED WITH EGGS'
London: Pakistan railway minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad was punched and pelted with eggs during a visit to London, according to Pakistani media reports. The Minister, the chief of Pakistan's Awami Muslim League (AML), was accosted when he stepped out to smoke his cigar at a London awards ceremony earlier this week.

SUDAN FLOODS KILL 54 SINCE JULY: UN
Khartoum: Rain and flash floods have killed 54 people in Sudan since the start of July and affected nearly 200,000, the United Nations said on Friday. The worst affected area is White Nile state in the south but Khartoum and other regions have also been affected. "More than 37,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged," the UN said, quoting figures from the Government body it partners with in the crisis response.

22 MISSING AFTER INDONESIA FERRY FIRE
Jakarta: Nearly two dozen people are missing from the carcass of a ferry that went up in flames off Indonesia's Java island, a port official said on Friday. The boat was en route from Indonesia's second-biggest city Surabaya to Balikpapan on Borneo island with some 277 people aboard when it caught fire Thursday evening, according to the official.

17 DIE IN ROAD CRASH IN CENTRAL NIGERIA
Lagos: Seventeen people were killed when a passenger bus collided with an oncoming truck in central Nigeria, a road safety official said on Friday. The accident involving an 18-passenger Toyota bus and a truck transporting a container happened in Kwara state on Thursday.

Amazon wildfires 'acute emergency', belongs on G7 agenda: Germany

AFP ■ BERLIN

The fires raging in the Amazon rainforest amount to an "acute emergency" and Chancellor Angela Merkel believes it should be discussed by world leaders when they meet for this weekend's G7 summit, her spokesman said on Friday.

"The extent of the fires in the Amazon area is shocking and threatening and not only for Brazil and the other affected countries, but also for the whole world," Steffen Seibert told journalists in Berlin.

"When the G7 comes together this weekend, then the chancellor is convinced

that this acute emergency of the Amazon rainforest belongs on the agenda," added Seibert, saying that Merkel backs French President Emmanuel Macron's call on the G7 to address the issue at the summit in Biarritz.

Macron's bid at rallying world leaders on the issue had been immediately blasted by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who accused the G7 summit host of having a "colonialist mentality".

Bolsonaro is facing growing criticism over his anti-environment rhetoric, which activists blame for emboldening loggers, miners and farmers in the Amazon.

Putin vows 'symmetric response' to US missile test

AFP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday he has ordered the military to prepare a "symmetric response" after Washington tested a formerly banned missile.

Putin said he had ordered an analysis of "the level of threat for our country created by the actions of the US and to take comprehensive measures to prepare a symmetric response".

The US Department of Defense said Monday it had tested a type of ground-launched missile that was banned under the 1987 INF agreement, which limited the use of nuclear and conventional

Moscow and Washington ripped up the pact early this month after several months of accusing one another of breaching its conditions

medium-range weapons.

Moscow and Washington ripped up the pact early this month after several months of accusing one another of breaching its conditions.

Russia and China have both warned that Sunday's launch of the nuclear-capable Tomahawk cruise missile with a MK-41 launcher had heightened military tensions and risked sparking a new arms race.

China, Pak targeted on persecution of religious minorities at UNSC meet

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

China and Pakistan were targeted for their persecution of religious minorities, with western powers such as the US and UK calling out both nations at a UN Security Council meeting for the oppression faced by Christians, Ahmadis, Uighurs and other ethnic minorities.

The Arria-Formula Meeting of the Security Council on 'Advancing the Safety and Security of Persons Belonging to Religious

Minorities in Armed Conflict' was organised by Poland, the Council President for August, to mark the first International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief.

Addressing the meeting, US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Samuel Brownback on Thursday said religious freedom is essential for achieving peace and stability within nations and among nations.

Malta to disembark 356 migrants en route to 6 EU countries

AP ■ MADRID

Malta says it will disembark 356 migrants aboard a humanitarian ship in the central Mediterranean Sea after six European countries agreed to accept all of them.

In a series of tweets Friday, Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said the migrants will be transferred from the Ocean Viking to vessels of the country's armed forces before taking them on shore.

WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM TO e-AUCTION SALE PROGRAM
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Please refer to this office e-Auction Sale Notification No. S438/e-Auction 2019-20 dt. 20/08/2019. Kindly issue corrigendum to above mentioned e-auction programme as follows:-

Depot	From Existing Depot Officer In Charge	To Depot Officer In Charge	From Existing Contact No.	To Contact No.
Vadodra	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Mahadram	Sr.Div. Material Manager-Vadodra	022-24923571	022-22641592
Rajkot	Deputy Chief Material Manager-Dahod	Sr.Div. Material Manager-Rajkot	02673241295	022-22476943
Bhavnagar	Sr.Div. Material Manager-Rajkot	Sr.Div. Material Manager-Bhavnagar	09724090455	09724036770
			022-22476943	022-22444360
			09724097750	09724097750

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.
Like us on: [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Open Domestic Tender)
E-Tender Notice for Online Bidding only
'E-Tender with E price Bid' is invited by the General Manager (MM)/HOD, ECL. Brief detail is as under:
Tender No. & Date: ECL/Hq/Pur/O/51913042/NUT/044 Date: 19.08.2019
Name of Work: "Domestic open e-tender for procurement of Hexagonal Bright Nut M20 Long Series for use in 20mm Roof Bolt & Long Series Hexagonal Bright Nut BSW 3/4".
Note: The tendered item is reserved for procurement exclusively from Micro and Small Enterprises as per Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) Order, 2012 under MSMED Act, 2006. Hence, only Micro and Small Enterprises are allowed to participate in this tender.
Document download start date: 28.08.2019 11.00 hrs IST.
Document download end date: 19.09.2019 at 11.00 hrs IST.
Tender Opening Date & Time: 21.09.2019 11.00 hrs IST.
Estimated Tender value: Rs 1,29,84,720.00
In order to view the detail of the Notice Inviting Tender/Tender Documents, Download the same and Participate in the tender online, please visit NIC portal website <https://coalindiatenders.gov.in>
For queries if any, bidders may contact:-
Mr. P.E. Arun Kumar, Chief Manager (MM), Ph-9434795194
Mr. S. Raut, Assistant Manager (MM), Ph-9434795367
General Manager (MM)/HOD
VISIT US AT www.easterncoal.nic.in

UNITED LEASING & INDUSTRIES LTD.
Regd. Office : Plot No.66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurugram, Haryana. Sec-34
CIN : L17100HR1983PLC033460, Phone:011-26258237, 26253522
email. id: investorrelations@ullitd.com, website : ullitd.com.

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to SEBI Circular SEBI/HO/MIRSD/DOS3/CIRP/2018/139 dated 6th November 2018, the Company has received requests from the following transferee(s) to transfer the below mentioned securities held in the name(s) of the security holder(s) mentioned there against as detailed below, to his/her/their name(s). These securities were claimed to have been purchased by him / her / them and could not be transferred in his/her/their favour.

Folio No.	Name(s) of the Holder(s)/Transferor	Security Type and Face Value	Number of Securities	Distinctive Nos. From - To	Name(s) of the Transferee(s)
0014003	REETU GUPTA MAHENDRA KUMAR GUPTA	Equity 10/-	20	1596021-1596040	MANISH SHAH
0014006	CHAMANLAL PAWAR MAHENDRA KUMAR PAWAR	Equity 10/-	20	1951906-1951925	MANISH SHAH
0014004	SURBHI GUPTA MAHENDRA KUMAR GUPTA	Equity 10/-	20	2245461-2245480	MANISH SHAH

Any person who has a claim in respect of the above mentioned securities, should lodge such claim with the Company at its Registered Office within 30 days from this date along with appropriate documentary evidence thereof in support of such claim, else the Company will proceed to transfer the securities in favour of the above proposed transferee(s), without any further intimation.

For United Leasing & Industries Ltd. Sec-34
Place: New Delhi Chandni Arora
Date: 22/08/2019 Company Secretary

Japan leader says S Korea ending intel deal damages trust
Tokyo: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said South Korea's decision to cancel a deal to share military intelligence, mainly on North Korea, is damaging mutual trust and vowed Friday to work closely with the US for regional peace.
Abe also accused South Korea of not keeping past promises. The intelligence agreement started in 2016.
"We will continue to closely coordinate with the US to ensure regional peace and prosperity, as well as Japan's security," he said ahead of his departure for the Group of Seven summit.
South Korea announced Thursday it would terminate the intelligence deal because Tokyo's decision to downgrade South Korea's preferential trade status had caused a "grave" change in the security cooperation between the countries.
Yemeni Govt forces rout separatists from southern city
AP ■ SANAA (YEMEN)
Forces loyal to Yemen's internationally recognised Government have taken full control of a key southern city after overnight clashes with separatists there, Yemeni security officials said on Friday.
Clashes over Ataq, the capital of oil-rich Shabwa province erupted late Thursday night and lasted until Friday morning, said the security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because there were not authorised to talk to the media.
The city of Ataq was previously divided between the government forces of Saudi-backed President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and a separatist militia, trained and armed by the United Arab Emirates.

Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board
Office Of The Executive Engineer C-3
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
2nd Floor, Circle Office Bldg., Road No.-28, Shivaji Place, Raja Garden, New Delhi 110027.
E-Mail I.D : eec3.dusib@gmail.com
Tel. No. : +91-11-25417491

No:- WG/4840/25/EE-C-3/Acctt.Br./2019-20/D- 574 Date: 19-08-19
The Executive Engineer -C-3 (DUSIB) Govt. of N.C.T. Delhi invites on behalf of DUSIB online Percentage rate bid on two bid system for following work.
NIT No. 37 /EE C-3/DUSIB/2019-20 (PID No. 11254) Tender I.D 2019_DUSIB_178301_1. NAME OF WORK:- Built Up Facilities.SH:- ARMO and special Repair works and development works with rain water harvesting works for the community hall at L Block Mangolpuri. Estimated cost: Rs. 30,01,595/- Earnest Money (In Rs.) 60,100, Tender Cost (In Rs.) 500.00, Time allowed 60days. Date & time for down load/ upload of entire Tender document w.e.f 23.08.2019 by 17:00 to 03.09.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs. through E-Procurement System.
NIT No. 38 /EE C-3/DUSIB/2019-20 (PID No.9713) Tender I.D 2019_DUSIB_178341_1, Name of Work:- Improvement of SC/ST Basties SH:- Improvement of the lanes in Balmiki Basti at village Peeragarhi. Estimated cost: Rs. 36,10,565/- Earnest Money (In Rs.) 72,300/-, Tender Cost (In Rs.) 500.00, Time allowed 90days. Date & time for down load/ upload of entire Tender document w.e.f 23.08.2019 by 17:00 to 03.09.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs. through E-Procurement System.
NIT No. 39/EE C-3/DUSIB/2019-20 (PID No.9753) Tender I.D 2019_DUSIB_178342_1. NAME OF WORK:- Improvement of SC/ST.GOV. OF NCT DELHI; SUB HEAD :- Construction of Community Hall Single storey (SPS) at block C-4, Sultanpuri. Estimated cost: Rs. 76,14,626/- Earnest Money (In Rs.) 1,52,500/-, Tender Cost(In Rs.) 1000.00, Time allowed 300days. Date & time for down load/ upload of entire Tender document w.e.f 23.08.2019 by 17:00 to 03.09.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs. through E- Procurement System.

SD/
DIP/Shabdarth/0562/19-20 Executive Engineer C-3 (DUSIB)

WESTERN RAILWAY
BULK ADVERTISING RIGHTS AT VARIOUS STATIONS
1. Executive : Sr. DCM, e-Tender Notice No. CA11-NFROOH-NIG-BSR-VR-15 dated 19.08.2019. Work and location: Bulk advertising rights at circulating area of or at Naigaon, Vasai Road and Virar stations for display of advertisements by dismantling & replacing the existing hoarding structures with new structure or by modifying, repairing, strengthening & painting of existing structures as well as erection & display of new hoarding structures, for a period of five years. First Year Reserve Price: ₹46,31,636/-(excluding taxes etc). Approx. cost of work: ₹2,46,22,031/-(excluding taxes etc). EMD: ₹4,92,500/-. Date & Time of closing of online submission: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 11.09.2019. Date & Time of opening of e-tender: At 15.30 hrs. on 11.09.2019.
2. Executive : Sr. DCM, e-Tender Notice No. CA11-NFROOH-BAROB-19-16 dated 21.08.2019. Work and location: Bulk advertising rights at Bandra ROB-North Location (Group-I) for display of advertisements by dismantling existing hoarding structures & replacing with erection of new hoarding structure of size 120' x 40' (3) i.e. Triple Decker facing west, for a period of five years. First Year Reserve Price: ₹8,94,18,240/-(excluding taxes etc). Approx. cost of work: ₹47,53,52,264/-(excluding taxes etc). EMD: ₹95,07,100/-. Date & Time of closing of online submission: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 16.09.2019. Date & time of opening of e-tender: At 15.30 hrs. on 16.09.2019. Note: Please visit our website www.ircps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. Cost of tender and EMD shall be accepted only through online net banking or E-payment gateway. Bidder should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.
Like us on: [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

PRESS E-TENDER NOTICE
The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. VII, Irrigation & Flood Control Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector- 15, Rohini, Delhi invites online item rate E- tenders on behalf of the President of India from approved and eligible contractors of I&FC Deptt. The contractors who are registered with other Departments but granted provisional permission by the Chief Engineer (I&FC) are also eligible for participation of e-tendering for the following works:-

Sr. No	NIT No.	Name of Work	Head of Account	Estimate Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed
1.	EE/CD-VII/NTI/2019-20/42	Repair of Badshahi Road from Khera Kalan Industrial Plot to Play Ground at village Khera Kalan in Distt. North.	4515 Capital DVDB	23,01,682/-	46,034/-	02 Months
2.	EE/CD-VII/NTI/2019-20/43	Improvement of street and side drain of Gali No. 7 (Badd Wala Chowk) at village Samaypur in Badli A.C.	4515 Capital DVDB	19,30,964/-	38,619/-	03 Months
3.	EE/CD-VII/NTI/2019-20/44	Construction of road and side drain for approach of Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Siraspur to Main road at village Siraspur in Badli A.C.	4515 Capital DVDB	20,59,933/-	41,199/-	03 Months
4.	EE/CD-VII/NTI/2019-20/45	Strengthening of inspection road including construction of inner side wheel guard on Left Bank of Bawana Escape drain between RD 4165 M to RD 4730 M.	4711 Capital	1,10,05,407/-	2,20,108/-	12 Months

- The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case, the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
- Earnest money in physical form and self attested copy of Registration of enlistment & other documents (eg. ESI & EPF registration, copy of PAN card, Copy of GST documents) should be submitted in the Office of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-VII, I&FC Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110085 upto 3.00 PM on the last date of submission of technical bids for obtaining the deposition slip for uploading.
- The details of above mentioned work(s) can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
- The agencies who do not fulfill eligibility criteria/ do not submit required documents upto the stipulated time, their tenders shall be rejected summarily at technical bid stage.
- Tenders submitted through e-procurement portal shall only be considered and no manual tender shall be accepted.
- Intending tenders participating in tendering process in EE CD-VII, I&FC shall furnish ESI & EPF registration along with other required documents and the same shall be uploaded while bidding. Moreover the ESI & EPF registration documents of all contractors shall be kept on records and ESI & EPF registration documents of lowest tenderer to whom the work awarded shall form the part of the agreement.(I&FC department office order No.1417-48 dated 29.01.2016).

DIP/Shabdarth/0565/19-20 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CD-VII)

SHORT CIRCUITS



VIVEK OBEROI
As a proud Indian, a patriot, and a member of the film fraternity, it's my duty to highlight what our Armed Forces are truly capable of. In the form of a trilingual, the film which is based on balakot air strike is a powerful tool to underline the achievements of brave officers like Wing Commander Abhinandan and make the country proud.



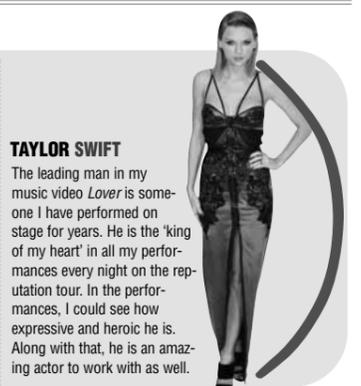
SUNIEL SHETTY
I am playing mentor to Sudeep's (actor) character in the film *Pehlwaan*, a father figure to the protagonist. It was exciting as I always wanted to play a character which is calm and composed. I think it's always best to play your age and it has come out beautifully. Sudeep and Krishna (director) have managed my character well.



ANGAD BEDI
I am looking forward to spend some good time with Neha (Dhupia) and Mehr (kid). This trip is special as we went to Maldives for our honeymoon and now this is the first time we are going with Mehr. On a personal front, the past two years have been a golden period for me. Professionally too, work has been constant and I have never been this busier.



VIJAY VARMA
In my film *Hurdang*, we arrived at the final look after many trials. We wanted to get the milieu right and took references from many real life personal pictures of late 80s, which the team had gathered. Sheetal Sharma is the designer in this film and we worked closely over many trials to get the vibe of my role, Loha Singh, right.



TAYLOR SWIFT
The leading man in my music video *Lover* is someone I have performed on stage for years. He is the 'king of my heart' in all my performances every night on the reputation tour. In the performances, I could see how expressive and heroic he is. Along with that, he is an amazing actor to work with as well.

ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

TOSS AND LOVE

For actor RAJEEV KHANDELWAL, it's either a 'yes' in the first narration of a script or simply a 'no'. However, he tells CHAHAK MITTAL, that he gave time to decide whether he should work on his forthcoming web series, *Coldd Lassi aur Chicken Masala*. But it intrigued him and love stories are something he hadn't done in a long time. And this one was 'gourmet-licious'

Do you remember the last time you saw actor Rajeev Khandelwal being the protagonist in a love story? *Kahin Toh Hoga* was the only show you could recall, isn't it? Well, a role like Sujal Garewal's certainly was not one to be forgotten. Even after donning a number of versatile hats as an actor, his image of a boy next door has been the most favourite one. And when one watches the trailer of his forthcoming ALTBalaji web series, *Coldd Lassi aur Chicken Masala*, one can surely recall his similar avatar in his previous such roles. He tells us that it's the very reason why he chose this role too. "I am doing a love story after a very long time. I really liked and appreciated how the story was written so powerfully. So when love stories are written well, it's great fun to work and perform on them. It's premise was also very different. I really liked how the love story proceeded in the backdrop of food as well as the back and forth of the characters within a span of eight years. Also, because it is a web series, it would come to an end after a certain amount of episodes rather than going on for months on TV," says the actor, who

had initially refused to be part of the show as he found the script to be very "superficial" in its first narration. However, after reading the first four chapters later, he agreed with the "beautifully-written script."

The show features Rajeev as Vikram, a two-star Michelin chef, who is chef Nitya's (played by Divyanka Tripathi) senior and ex-lover. The story revolves around the couple as they move back and forth between love and conflict in a 'gourmet-licious' world. The two lovers had separated after a tiff eight years ago. And in the present day, as they face each other in the same kitchen again, their past makes a comeback. Nitya's focus on detailing and perfection makes her look like a stubborn and short-tempered person among her colleagues, whereas, Vikram believes in experimentation and is not very approving of Nitya's idea of traditionality.

A title like that is, for a fact, intriguing. It certainly generates some level of curiosity among the audience if one hasn't watched the trailer to know what it actually tries to showcase. Why would a love story be named on a food item and an ingredient after all? Rajeev laughs and



says that even he had questioned the same. "When I was told that the title of the series would be *Coldd Lassi aur Chicken Masala*, I was perplexed. I never expected a love story to be named like that. I thought it would be a very romantic title and something new and different. But then, Ekta (Kapoor) usually has a knack for coming up with very interesting titles. She would always think beyond the clouds and come up with something unique. And then, after going on with it for a few days, I also came to terms with it, especially after knowing the complete script. It's not just the dishes that we are talking about but also has something to do with the characters. If one person matches with the nature of a cold *lassi*, the other matches with the

chicken *masala*. Somewhere, you'll notice it even in the characters too. So I find it apt now."

There have been a plenty love stories, especially when it comes to shows and a dramatic universe created by Ekta Kapoor, but this one appears like a first of its kind to have been airing under her production. With an interesting and new pairing, the trailer makes it evident that the show would promise an added culinary experience with the right flavours and spices in a love story. One can see Divyanka and Rajeev dealing with everyday issues in a hotel kitchen and the challenges chefs face. However, not even once would one point out that they are not professional cooks. We can see them preparing dishes with the

same body language and style sous chefs have. So was there any specific kind of training that went into making the cast look like professional kitchen experts? Absolutely. And Rajeev tells us how. "Not just me and Divyanka, but even the other people in the kitchen were trained under head chefs everyday for some time. We were taught the basics of cooking. We were taught how to hold the butcher's knife and cut, chop and toss. There was a chef always present on the sets who would point out if we were making mistakes in performing a particular act related to cooking. They would tell us, 'No, you're holding it wrong. You should pour the sprinkles like this.' But of course, the dishes which are shown are not prepared by us. They are just prompts that we use," he says and adds that even though the story has cooking elements in it, it's a love story, so a kitchen is just a place.

Rajeev believes that the essence of a love story always remains the same. It's actually the storytelling that changes the game. He says, "Stories can always be similar or can have similar elements but storytelling is different in every plot. Which is the reason why even two same stories would look different when told through different perspectives."

Be it *Table No. 21*, *Reporters*, *Sach Ka Saamna*, *Aamir*, *Shaitan* or even *Soundtrack*, Rajeev is known for his roles that have might not be commercially acclaimed, but definitely critically. Talking about how he selects a role and how the approach has changed with time, the actor says that he doesn't think a lot while making a selection. It just comes to him spontaneously. He tells us, "Nothing has really changed. My approach is still the same. I am very instinctive as a person. If something excites me, I want to do it. I say yes, instantly. I have never had a particular way of picking up my projects. I don't give them too much of a thought." All these listed above, he adds, were instinctive decisions. "I have sealed all of my projects with the first meeting itself. If I like it, it's a yes, and if I don't, it's a no. Simple!" However, *Shaitan* was out of the list here and even *Cold Lassi...* scripts of which, he says, hadn't convinced him in the first meetings.

Though he always convinces, no matter what. Laughs. (The show releases on September 3 on ALTBalaji and ZEE5.)

CONVERSATION 25 MINUTES

A melange of traditions

For sustainability to take the lead in the fashion industry, textile conservationist SAILESH SINGHANIA tells AYUSHI SHARMA how people need to understand the difference between what's perishable and plastic

When the Indian textile industry stood at the second position from 2014 to 2017, it certainly seemed that it would top the ladder in the coming years. However, it's only two days ago that the Confederation of Indian Textiles Industry (CITI) revealed that the industry is losing its edge in the international market as it slipped to rank five last year. Sailesh Singhania, who happens to be the sixth-generation textile conservationist and designer from Hyderabad, whose forefathers joined the Nizam's legacy in 1881, points out its reason. "Indian textile industry was earlier available to the people globally. We are very well known for our prints for the past 3,000 years. When we say prints, it is always India that comes to everybody's mind. When you say *Kalamkaari* prints, it's India again. And how can we forget Khadi, of course. Because of a lot of competition today, there is a lot of production of power looms. So the production cost has become a major factor for shrinking of the Indian textile industry," says he and adds that when you talk about the international market, it only consists of the volume of sales, they never check upon any other measures. "The volume needs to be more reasonable."

One of the solutions to sustain the industry, he shares, could be if the government starts to provide them tax holidays just like textile countries like China do. "If you compare the textiles of India, in terms of the cost and pricing turnovers, the handloom industry is hardly 10 per cent of the market. The major market is covered by power looms," he says.

The designer has always been passionate about Khadi as he feels that it is the most "luxurious" fabric. Though Indians feel that silk is the most luxurious one but Singhania says that the hand-spun Khadi takes more time than spinning the silk and the concentration level needs to be at extreme while we are at it. And that is the reason why the designer's latest collection features a combination of Khadi and age-old techniques like the *Jamdani* and embellishing it with intricate motifs inspired by modern Japanese art, thereby bringing a

plethora of cultures and traditions together and culminating them into one final creation.

"That's why I wanted to do something with Khadi with the finer accounts. *Jamdani* technique was started 1,000 years ago. It is very time-consuming but yes, there is no limitation to the designs. A four to five metre saree can be of a single design and that's its beauty," says Singhania.

Though *Jamdani* has enjoyed immense popularity right from the beginning, the art form bloomed during the Mughal period. However, colonisation by the British saw a decline in the production of it. Export of cheaper yarn from European countries in the 19th century was one of the primary reasons for the decline. Also, with the decline



of Mughal rule in India, producers of *Jamdani* were deprived of their most influential patrons. Villages like Madhurapur and Jangalbadi in Bihar, once famous for the intricate *Jamdani*

industry, faded into oblivion. Post Partition, many weavers had migrated to present-day West Bengal, which marked the beginning of the art form in India. He shares about its tedious process. The making of it involves the supplementary weft technique along with the standard weft technique. With the latter, the base sheer material is made on which thicker threads are used to create designs. Each of the supplementary weft motif is then added manually by interlacing the weft threads with fine bamboo sticks using individual spools. This process results in the vibrant patterns that appear to float on a shimmering surface, which is a feature unique to *Jamdani* sarees.

So why can't we use the age-old techniques as they are — raw and rich

— rather than blending it with newer approach? He says, "We are using the old techniques only. The new technique is like power looms, which gives you the price-effective production cost, which is the difference between handloom and power loom. Handloom has its limitation of production and the cost, which is meant to be high. Power loom reduces the cost and enhances the efficiency of the production."

The fabric Khadi, now 100-years-old, has taken decades to become a global fashion statement. Does Singhania think that age-old things just like Khadi should be given equal exposure? And that there is a need to revive them as well to make them recognise globally? He says, "Khadi is something you need to experience first. Once people start wearing and experimenting, they understand the difference between Khadi and other products. Brands have started promoting it very well. It was earlier majorly done by our government only, which never had a proper channel to manage it. Khadi has been brought into highlight through better branding. Indian government is not great at branding and marketing the products, it is always done better by private companies. Of course, other things should be given an equal exposure. And I think, the topic must be inculcated in the syllabus of school children."

Comprising opulent whites and enigmatic gold threads, each saree in his collection has been woven painstakingly over a labourious period of over eight months to match the unparalleled beauty of his muses. "We have used different types of silk like Assam silk, Mulberry silk from Bangalore, *Muga* silk and *Ahimsa* silk, is so much in fashion today," he says.

There exists in nature, a certain type of harmony, beyond the confines of human belief and within those of the spirit. Singhania's royal *Banarasi* silk, is assiduously woven with motifs inspired by the sun and the moon, the natural forces upon which life sustains and the society thrives. The motifs embody nature and its interaction with the human race, like an orchestrated symphony of life in the weaves. The Kanjeevaram silk sarees that have

remained a constant in every closet since the Chola and Pallava dynasty, are also revisited through his collection, celebrating the identity of the fabric with a modern outlook, tapping into its potential without tampering with its ethnicity.

Singhania has worked with 700 handloom weavers belonging to 22 different clusters from areas like Pochampally, Gadwal, Uppada, Kota, Pranpur and others to curate his collection. "We need to fulfill their requirements. We need to teach them how to mend the looms and how to get perfection in their designs with the graphs. I agree, ultimately weaving is done by the weavers. But it's not like all the 700 weavers would come to the industry daily. It is done at homes. So in the local villages we have master craftsmen and weavers. We coordinate with them and they support the local people there because every local cluster has their local language and culture. So the master craftsmen bridge that gap. It's a



chain. It's like an organised industry working in a semi-organised pattern," he says as he chuckles a bit.

Regional weavers are actually keeping the traditional style craft alive from different states. Being a textile conservationist, what does Singhania think of how can these weavers from small towns and cities could be given a platform to be recognised in the global forum? "Our efforts lie in creating a sustainable world, wherein our artisans can thrive and are celebrated. This collection is a testament of our efforts and we strive to bring to the fore the sheer talent that our weavers possess. However, small weavers generally know the technique quite well but designers need to help them for latest designs and innovation so that it stays relevant in today's contemporary world. Without that, it is really difficult as they need help in various things. And things have also got very expensive. Just a weaver to run a handloom, they need an investment of more than ₹2-3 lakh for one loom. They also need help from master weavers or designers to educate them about innovation, latest colours, designs, patterns and price," he says.

The designer is determined to promote sustainable fashion, craftsmanship with a commitment to 'Make in India' initiative. So what drives his passion for this? "I really love sustainable fashion because the old things goes and the new things comes, it has to move on and it's not like a polyester but a process. Sustainability was practised from many years and it defines luxury. If it's not perishable, then it's plastic," he says and adds that there are only pre-forms of natural yarns — cotton, silk and woolen. These things are quite skin-friendly and also suit the Indian weather since we sweat a lot, and skin feels more comfortable in cotton or Khadi.

"I really wanted to do something for the textile industry. To revive the textile and give it a global recognition and showcase the Indian heritage globally. You simply cannot find the Indian crafts in other places," says Singhania.

BACKSTAGE 30 MINUTES

From the streets of Mathura

Artist SHOBHA DEEPAK SINGH shares the journey of Krishna woven with an array of tales, beliefs, and myths. She presents his teachings through traditional dance forms like *Mayurbhanj*, *Chhau* and *Kalaripayattu*. By SAKSHI SHARMA



Whether it is Krishna's joyous years of childhood or the antics he played while growing up, his romance with nature and his compassion for everything that had life or eventually attaining the stage of human adoration, classical dancer Shobha Deepak Singh brings his journey on stage through scenes which will take you back to his various folk lores. And what better an occasion than Janmashtami for this? The performance begins with the celebration that takes place at midnight with devotional songs, dances, *artis* and rocking the cradle of baby Kanha. In the show, which is the 43rd edition of the story of Krishna, Shobha tries to couple Indian traditions with newness and dynamism so that the audience can relate to it as per the current scenario. It is woven with an array of tales, beliefs and myths. The essence of the show remains the same, she says, but it has been blended with various things in order to make it appealing and different from its previous versions. Shobha says, "The audience wants to see something new every year while keeping

the traditionality intact. So, we play in terms of the choreography, costumes and characters." She has tried to make the choreography more vibrant and technologically advanced. She shares that this year LED screens have been used for projection and a new audio and video-visual screen, which enhances the video quality of the show. This will give a more realistic element to the show and the audience will connect closely. Shobha breaks the story into individual passages and then tries to set the sequence. She then checks how each sequence is different from the previous one. She is a keen believer of learning from each phase of the show and tries to improvise consistently. "As soon as the show is over, we see and analyse our performances, we check what could have been done better and then work on that," she says. This helps them to refine their performance and become "better versions" of themselves. There are specifically some editions of the show that are loved more by the audience. She says, "I am someone who won't stick to an idea even if it works. I start thinking about newer concepts that can enhance my

'INITIALLY, I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT KRISHNA. BUT THEN I READ A LOT AND SPENT TIME AT THE SAHITYA AKADEMI AND CAME ACROSS NEW INTERPRETATIONS OF HIS STORY. THIS HAS HELPED ME ADD MORE ELEMENTS TO THE STORY AND ENRICH MY PERFORMANCES'



show instantly after one performance is done." Initially, she used to do simple shows and performances as there were not much facilities or technology but the stage has travelled too far from then and evolved with each show. Shobha recalls, "When I look back, I could only remember few famous episodes of Krishna but now we have a series depicting all his

stages." She further shares that the research on Krishna shows him in two different avatars. One, where his *nakhat* activities are highlighted and the other, in the battle of Kurukshetra. Shobha has tried to show the same. She says, "The first half is completely devoted to his mischiefs and shows the popular episodes like *makkhan chori*, his fight with *Kaliya*, *Govardhan parvat* whereas the second half is based on the *Mahabharata* and the message of Krishna on the battlefield in the form of traditional dance forms like *Mayurbhanj*, *Chhau* and *Kalaripayattu*." Shobha agrees that along with the evolution of the story, there has been a growth in her journey too. "Initially, I didn't know a lot of things about Krishna. But I read a lot and spent time at the Sahitya Akademi and came across new interpretations of his story. This has helped add more elements to the story and enrich my performances," she says. The artist is all set for the 63rd edition of *Ramayana* starting on September 27 and 28. (The show will be staged today at 6.30 at Kamani Auditorium.)



Mars is 'rolling stones'

There is now a "Rolling Stones Rock" on Mars, and it's giving Mick, Keith and the boys some serious satisfaction. NASA named a little stone for the legendary rockers after its InSight robotic lander captured it rolling across the surface of Mars last year, and the new moniker was made public at the night's rolling stones' concert at the Rose Bowl. "NASA has given us something we have always dreamt of, our very own rock on Mars. I can't believe it," Mick Jagger told the crowd. "I want to bring it back and put it on our mantelpiece." Robert Downey Jr announced the name, taking the stage just before the band's set at the Southern California stadium that is only a stone's throw from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which manages InSight. "Cross-pollinating science and a legendary rock band is always a good thing," the actor said. He told the crowd that JPL scientists had come up with the name "in a fit of fandom and clever association." "Charlie, Ronnie, Keith and Mick were in no way opposed to the notion," Downey said, "but in typical egalitarian fashion, they suggested I assist in procuring 60,000 votes to make it official, so that's my mission." He led the audience in a shout before declaring the deed done. Jagger said, "I want to say thank our favourite action man Robert Downey Jr, that was a very nice intro he gave." The rock, just a little bigger than a golf ball, was moved by InSight's own thrusters as the robotic lander touched down on Mars on November 26. It

only moved about three feet (0.9 meters), but that's the farthest NASA has seen a rock roll while landing a craft on another planet. "I've seen a lot of Mars rocks over my career," Matt Golombek, a JPL geologist who has helped NASA land all its Mars missions since 1997, said in a statement. "This one probably won't be in a lot of scientific papers, but it's definitely one of the coolest," he added. The rolling stones and NASA logos were shown side by side in the run-up to the show as the sun set over the Rose Bowl, leaving many fans perplexed as to what the connection was before it was announced. The concert had originally been scheduled for spring, before the stones postponed their No Filter North American tour because Jagger had a heart surgery. The 76-year-old showed no signs of poor health or even his age as he danced, pranced and boogied up and down a long catwalk that extended to the middle of the stadium's field. He did poke fun at his advanced years. "It's great to be back at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena," Jagger said. "At least I think we've been here before." (They have, in 1994.) He added, "We walked up and down Hollywood Boulevard looking for the rolling stones star but couldn't find it." (The band doesn't have one.) And he took a dig at President Donald Trump's recent talk of acquiring Greenland when introducing his bandmates. "On the drums," Jagger shouted, "Greenland's new economic adviser, Charlie Watts" —AP

STUDIO CHAT 20 MINUTES



Sonam's character inspired by Mandira Bedi?

Actress Sonam Kapoor and actor Dulquer Salmaan-starrer *The Zoya Factor* has been in the news recently owing to a story where luck proves to be the greatest factor. It is based on the eponymous book by Anuja Chauhan. On the film front, the latest rumour circulating is whether the film is inspired from the life of actress and presenter Mandira Bedi. As per a source, the book is inspired by the life of a woman who gained massive traction after the 2003 World Cup. Mandira, who was originally an actor, started her stint as a presenter for the Indian Cricket team in 2003 and it was her compere and the luck that followed for the team, which is still remembered. The source said, "Mandira Bedi's associa-

tion with the cricket team as their compere somehow had proven to be lucky for the cricket team. Whenever the team's day started with a greeting from Mandira, they won. And therefore, it was believed that she is indeed the lucky mascot for our cricket team. In the earlier days of reading sessions with the author (Anuja), director and the actors, they often discussed how the book is hugely inspired from her life and Sonam hence drew references from the same." *Zoya Factor* is about a Rajput girl named Zoya Singh Solanki (played by Sonam Kapoor) who meets the Indian Cricket Team through her job as an executive in an advertising agency and ends up becoming a lucky charm for the team in the 2010 Cricket World Cup.

What did you think of the *Riviera* script when you first read it? I thought it was ambitious. We only got the first two episodes to read and a gentle overview of where things would go after that so you base your appreciation on those two things. But it was a very intriguing series and a world full of art that I haven't seen before on television so I was glad to jump in and be a part of it.

How do you go about preparing for a role and do you build up a backstory to your character? When you're doing a TV project of this nature, you can replace your backstory with front one because you don't know where the character's going to end up. Also, the information about their backstory contained in the first couple of scripts you receive is very minimal, so you invent it to make sure you have a real working connection with the other actors to move forward. But what might happen then is you read episode three, which you didn't get before and suddenly find out that you were orphaned. So you might say "I'm going to do loads of back preparation" when actually you have to just jump in and play. Then when you reach to episodes five and six, those scripts will have been written by writers, who have watched your performances in episodes one and two, so they will be working from what you've already brought to the character. So you have to change the backstory for front story and they start to create the character in line with what you're playing already.

Is it becomes a collaborative process? It feels collaborative because you get the script and might say "well this wouldn't happen and that wouldn't happen," and then they can shift and change the whole script.

Tell us about your character, Robert? He's an art dealer, who trained in the same class as Georgina. They both know a lot about art, although they work on different sides of it. Georgina is a curator and she falls in love with him. Robert, on the other hand, has used his knowledge to start tracking where paintings are being sold, where they are being kept and who has them. It's quite common for people, who buy a piece of art, to actually have a really good reproduction on their wall while the original

It's all about classics

Actor ADRIAN LESTER says he personally believed in art and has collected some original artistic pieces, carvings and triptych from different countries while doing *Riviera*. By TEAM VIVA



is locked away in a vault somewhere.

The explosion sets off a huge chain of events for many people. How does Constantine's death specifically change Robert's life? It changes Georgina's life and that changes Robert's life. It brings someone who was very close to him back into his life.

Are you an art lover yourself? What kind of art do you prefer? I have some original pieces. Some carvings, but not conventional art and there are triptych that I got from different countries. There's nothing major that falls in line with the classics that people pay millions for.

As an actor, what do you ideally want from a director? Is it freedom? Is it guidance? Or does the answer vary from project to project? It varies because if you don't relate



to the character, you need to have an expert eye watching you as you climb towards it. Or if the character is close to you, is very emotional and is quote private, then you want freedom and the security that it brings. Every actor works in different ways. Some actors might be brilliant and amazing on their first two takes. Other actors really need to warm up.

They get into the skin slowly. So you have to see who's bringing what in rehearsal and work from that.

You directed episodes seven and eight of this series. How did this understanding of your fellow actors feed into your work as a director? It's something you have to read. As an actor who is also directing, I know exactly how the other actor could feel. So when you shout 'action', what goes down the lens is brutally real and convincing and they can do that in a very safe environment.

How did you find the experience of directing *Riviera* given it has such a distinctive cinematic look? You've got set design by 18th-century France and lighting by God, so you just have to point the camera on it at the right time of day, having been given these things for nothing. But having said that, you do require the time, energy, budget and a good

crew so that you can capture all these moments and make them as expressive as they could be. The characters are very rich, so we had to put all of that on screen and make people feel like they were watching a very lush, almost voluptuous world of art. And you can't do a drama set in that world and present it in a picture box frame without treating that frame like it's a piece of art.

Did you have fun while making the show with such a great ensemble cast? There were people there from all over the world — Germans, French, Russians, Americans, Britishers. We were all there, speaking all of those languages. Everyone has a slightly different method of working. As a director you step in line with the ways everyone chooses to work and on this series they all brought their cultural influences with them, which was really great.

What did you make of the *Riviera* itself? There's a lot of money there and you can see the part of that world, when you go to Monaco Harbour and see the massive yachts there. They just stay there empty for most of the year. If you have that kind of money, why not just rock up and hire one for five days?

What's your most extravagant purchase? Me and my family go so practically through life. We never buy things we can't see or feel the value of. People telling me something is worth 'x' doesn't sway it for me. I have to see the practical value of something I buy. Therefore, we haven't really splashed out on anything ridiculously expensive. If there is anything that I truly wanted to keep precious, it is my kids and the best way of looking after them is making sure I don't spend loads of money on train kits. (*Riviera seasons 1 and 2 are streaming on SonyLIV.*)

SINDHU BREAKS TAI CODE

PV inches closer to elusive Gold; Praneeth breaks 36-year drought

Momota vs Sai Praneeth
Live from 1:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

PTI ■ BASEL

PV Sindhu secured her fifth World Championships medal following a stunning comeback while B Sai Praneeth became the first Indian male shuttler in 36 years to grab a podium in the prestigious event here on Friday.

On a day of double delight for India, Olympic Silver medalist Sindhu staged a come-from-behind victory over Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying, before Praneeth ended an agonising wait with a straight-game win over Indonesia's Jonatan Christie.

Sindhu, who won back-to-back Silver medals in the last two editions of the tournament to go with her two Bronze, edged past world number 2 and Asian Games Gold medalist Tzu Ying 12-21, 23-21, 21-19 in a pulsating contest that lasted 71 minutes, inching closer to an elusive gold medal at the worlds.

World No 19 Praneeth, who got the Arjuna Award this year, notched up a 24-22, 21-14 win over Asian Games Gold medalist Jonatan in a 51-minute battle, joining Prakash Padukone in the medal list at the tournament.

Padukone was the first Indian to win a men's singles World Championships medal — a Bronze — in the 1983 edition.

In the women's singles, Sindhu showed tremendous grit after being blown away in the opening game, edging past her fancied rival, who enjoys an upper hand (10-4) after 14 career meetings.

"I think in the first game, I had given a huge lead and I couldn't cover. I was prepared for her deception but my shots were going to mid court. But the second game was anybody's game and I kept fighting and won the second. The



B Sai Praneeth reacts after beating Jonatan Christie



PV Sindhu celebrates after winning quarterfinal match against Tai Tzu Ying

third game went same way, she was leading but I had hope. At 18-18, I had to be patient and keep the shuttle inside, there were long rallies and I am happy to win this," Sindhu said after the win.

"We keep playing each other, so we know each other's game. I needed to be positive. It was a really good match and taking out such close matches gives a big boost to the confidence and I hope I can prepare well and come back stronger tomorrow."

The 24-year-old Indian will take on the winner of the match between China's Chen Yu Fei and Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt on Saturday.

"I don't know whom I will play. Chen Yufei is doing well in recent times and Mia has beaten Saina yesterday. I will be playing them after a long time. Anything can happen, I just have to be there and focus on tomorrow's match," Sindhu said.



In the men's singles quarterfinals, Praneeth, who had won the Singapore Open in 2017 and finished runners-up at Swiss Open earlier this year, came into the tournament with a 1-2 head-to-head count against the Indonesian.

But the past record didn't matter as the Indian came out attacking to stage off a stiff challenge from Jonatan in the opening game and then blew him away in the second to find his place in history.

"It feels awesome. It feels great and I am happy to win today. I still have matches, so I have to focus on that and be fitter for tomorrow. We can talk about what medal later on," laughed Praneeth after the match.

Talking about the match, Praneeth said: "In the first game,

the rallies were going on really long and I was attacking a lot and there was a lot of pressure and it made me tired. It was crucial because if he would have won then it could have been different.

"Later Gopi sir told me not to attack and that changed the rhythm and I think those inputs helped me a lot."

Praneeth will take on World No 1 Kento Momota of Japan in the semifinals on Saturday.

"I think everybody is trying to find a way to beat him. It is not easy being the world No 1. You have to put him under pressure, so lets see how it goes. I will give my best"



Saina Nehwal
@NSaina

still can't believe 2 match points which the umpire overruled in the second game. And the umpire tells me in the mid of second game "let the line umpires do their job" and I dnt understand suddenly how the umpire overruled the match points..very sick @bwfmedia @HSBCBWF

Kashyap, Saina slam 'bad umpiring'

PTI ■ BASEL

Indian badminton ace Saina Nehwal on Friday slammed the standard of umpiring in her BWF World Championships pre-quarterfinal loss to Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt, terming it "very sick".

Her husband Parupalli Kashyap, who often sits by the courtside during her matches, also lashed out at the umpire following the narrow defeat.

"Still can't believe 2 match points which the umpire overruled in the second game. And the umpire tells me in the mid of second game 'let the line umpires do their job' and I don't understand suddenly how the umpire overruled the match points..Very sick," the London Olympic Bronze medalist tweeted.

Saina, who had won a Silver at the 2015 World

Championships and a Bronze in 2017, put up a gritty performance before losing 21-15, 25-27, 12-21 to Blichfeldt, seeded 12th, in the women's singles match that lasted an hour and 12 minutes on Thursday.

There was no video referral in place for Saina's match as it was not held in one of the two courts with live streaming facility.

"2 match-points snatched away by bad umpiring. And numerous wrong decisions," Kashyap, a 2014 Commonwealth Games champion, wrote on his Twitter handle.

"Unbelievable that there are no reviews on other courts at the WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS. When will our sport get better? SICK @bwfmedia @HSBCBWF @NSaina #feelingcheated #totalbwfworldchampionships2019"

Table toppers clash

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool vs Arsenal
Live from 10:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Early Premier League leaders Liverpool and Arsenal face-off, while Frank Lampard is under pressure to deliver his first win as Chelsea boss at Norwich today.

One of the only two remaining 100 percent records in the Premier League will go at Anfield where the European champions will hope to continue a fine recent record against the north Londoners.

Jürgen Klopp has never lost in seven previous Premier League meetings against Arsenal and his side have beaten the Gunners 4-0 and 5-1 at home in the past two seasons.

However, Unai Emery's outfit are hoping a busy summer in the transfer window, while Liverpool did not strengthen, will have significantly narrowed the 27-point gap between the sides last season.

Emery could hand a first start to £72 million (\$87 million) club record signing Nicolas Pepe, while on-loan Real Madrid midfielder Dani Ceballos earned rave reviews by creating both goals on his full debut against Burnley last weekend.

However, it is at the back Arsenal need a drastic improvement and there is an early opportunity for veteran centre-back David Luiz to make his mark by halting the free-scoring trio of Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah, who combined for all five Liverpool goals when the sides last met.

Arsenal have some outstanding finishers of their own. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who shared the Premier League Golden Boot with Mane and Salah last season, has scored his side's winner in the first two games of the campaign.

And on the evidence of Liverpool's first four games of the season across all competitions, a defence

that registered 20 Premier League clean sheets last season looks far less solid.

Alisson Becker remains sidelined with a calf injury, meaning Adrian — whose calamitous attempted clearance gifted Southampton a goal last weekend — will keep his place in goal.

Whilst Liverpool and Arsenal have taken advantage of a couple of kind fixtures to get their campaigns off to a bright start, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham all dropped points on matchday two.

The roles are reversed this weekend as United host Crystal Palace, who have yet to score this season at Old Trafford, City travel to Bournemouth and Spurs seek to dismiss Newcastle with the ease newly-promoted Norwich did last weekend.

PUKKI TO PILE PRESSURE

Lampard was not handed an easy start to life as Chelsea boss with a trip to Old Trafford followed by Liverpool in the UEFA Super Cup and the visit of an ambitious Leicester side to Stamford Bridge last weekend.

However, Lampard, who had just one year's managerial experience at Derby prior to taking over his old club, needs a win at Norwich to ease the questioning of his tactics.

The former England international has been accused of being too gung-ho in his approach as both United and Leicester cut Chelsea open relentlessly on the counter-attack and if he cannot tailor his approach, Norwich have a striker in form ready to take advantage. Teemu Pukki has scored four times in his first two Premier League appearances, including a hat-trick against Newcastle last weekend.



AFP ■ TURIN

Juventus begin their Serie A campaign at Parma today looking to push their record Scudetto run to nine but with a different style of football under new coach Maurizio Sarri, who will miss the opening fixtures with pneumonia.

Behind, Napoli and Inter Milan are waiting in the wings hopeful that Sarri's arrival can lead to turmoil in Turin and a changing of the guard in Italy.

Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli have not won the title since 1990 and open at Fiorentina Saturday with Antonio Conte's Inter at home to promoted Lecce on Monday.

Like Sarri, Conte last coached at Chelsea, and along with three-times Champions League winner Ancelotti, Serie A have a world class coaching setup this season.

Juventus start the season without Sarri however who will miss the Parma game and his former club Napoli in Turin on August 31 with pneumonia. The 60-year-old is still overseeing training.

Juventus are targeting a 36th

Juve begin title defence



Juventus players pose for group photo after the end of training session in Turin

Scudetto but their main objective remains the Champions League which they have not won since 1996.

After splashing out on Cristiano Ronaldo last season Juventus have again reinforced with midfielders Aaron Ramsey and Adrien Rabiot and Dutch defender

Matthijs De Ligt.

'RAISED THE BAR'

In Milan, Conte, who led Juventus to the first three in their series of eight titles, has also been given money to spend to give Inter a first Serie A title since 2010.

Zizou challenges Bale to prove his worth

AFP ■ MADRID

R Madrid vs R Valladolid
Live from 10:30pm IST
LIVE ON FACEBOOK

Zinedine Zidane has challenged Gareth Bale to show why he is still one of the world's best players as he continues his reintegration at Real Madrid.

Bale was a surprise inclusion in the starting line-up against Celta Vigo last weekend, when Madrid opened with an impressive 3-1 win in La Liga and Bale was arguably man of the match.

Zidane said in July it would be "best for everyone" if Bale left Madrid this summer but the Welshman has been eager to stay and appears to be regaining the confidence of his coach.

"What has changed is that the player is going to stay, nothing more," Zidane said in a press conference on Friday, ahead of today's game at home to Real Valladolid.

"The important thing is the player wants to stay. It's true that a lot was said about him, by me as well, but he is going to stay."

"He is a great player, he has shown that before and he has to show it again. He has to be the player we know that he is."

Bale's start in Vigo came after Eden Hazard sustained a thigh injury in training and it remains to be seen if he can keep his place when the Belgian returns after the international break.



Harmanpreet proud to lead India to success

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh is a proud man after having led India to success in his maiden stint as captain of the national team in the just-concluded Olympic Test event in Tokyo.

World No 5 India rested some senior players and fielded a relatively young team for the Olympic Test event but still managed to lift the crown, defeating New Zealand 5-0 in the final on Wednesday.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone involved in the team to showcase what they can do. With some experienced players rested for the tournament, we had a fairly younger squad, but it was a great chance for the youngsters to do well and I am really pleased with the way everyone stepped up."

"The team performed well against teams like Japan, Malaysia and New Zealand, and it was an immensely proud moment for me to have led the Indian men's hockey team for the very first time," said the 23-year-old Harmanpreet, who captained India in the absence of Manpreet Singh.

Harmanpreet scored two goals in the tournament and both his strikes came against New Zealand — the first in the 1-2 loss in round-robin match, while the other was in the final.

"Scoring is something that I have really worked on since the junior days. To be able to help the team in scoring some important goals at crucial junctures in a match is something that motivates me even further," Harmanpreet said.



Harmanpreet Singh poses for photo during Indian team training session

"I have worked on my drag-flicking with the coaches, and finally it is showing on the field as well and I am really pleased, but I will continue to keep working."



Niko Kovac & Philippe Coutinho walk during Bayern Munich training session

Bayern loanees ready to shine

AFP ■ BERLIN

Schalke vs Bayern
Live from 10:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

New loan signings Ivan Perisic and Philippe Coutinho both hope to make their Bundesliga debuts as champions Bayern Munich attempt to reboot a rocky start to the season at Schalke today.

Perisic and Coutinho, both of whom arrived in Munich on loan this month, will be in the squad for the first time as Bayern look to pick up their first win of the new season against David Wagner's Schalke.

Coutinho, 27, has been the talk of Germany since Bayern announced his arrival on a one-year loan deal from Barcelona last week.

Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic said the Brazilian would provide "a touch of the spectacular", and hopes the former Liverpool player can sprinkle some much-needed stardust on the German top-flight.

Bayern announced record engagement figures on their social media accounts following Coutinho's arrival, but fans may have to wait to see him in action.

Coach Niko Kovac confirmed on Thursday Coutinho was not yet fit enough to play the full 90 minutes, and would start on the bench against Schalke.

The Croatian coach said his compatriot Perisic had better chances of making a first start for Bayern.

Perisic, 30, joined Bayern on a one-year loan from Inter Milan earlier this month, but was forced to sit out the season opener against Hertha Berlin due to a suspension carried over from Serie A.

That game confirmed a bumpy start to the new season for Bayern, as they were held to a 2-2 draw and immediately slipped two points behind title rivals Dortmund, who had beaten them in the German Supercup two weeks previously.

Jadeja, Ishant lift India to 297



Ravindra Jadeja is greeted by Jasprit Bumrah after scoring half a century against West Indies AP

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Ravindra Jadeja and Ishant Sharma frustrated West Indies with a timely 60-run stand for the eighth wicket, helping India to 297 all out at lunch on day two of the first Test here on Friday.

Jadeja (58 off 112) and Ishant (19 off 62) were able to negotiate the threat posed by the potent pace duo of

Shannon Gabriel and Kemar Roach after losing Rishabh Pant (24) in the second over of the day.

Jadeja's innings comprised six fours and a maximum before he became the last man to be dismissed in the Indian innings, leading to lunch.

India resumed the day at 203 for six with Pant (20) and Jadeja being the overnight batsmen.



JADEJA (58 OFF 112) AND ISHANT (19 OFF 62) WERE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE THE THREAT POSED BY THE POTENT PACE DUO OF GABRIEL AND ROACH AFTER LOSING RISHABH PANT (24) IN THE SECOND OVER OF THE DAY

While Jadeja justified his inclusion in the playing XI ahead of Ravichandran Ashwin with a gritty effort, Pant could not deliver for the team.

Roach got his fourth wicket of the innings when he dismissed Pant with a beauty from around the wicket that moved away enough to get the edge of the young wicketkeeper-batsman.

Pant was guilty of playing the ball with hard hands as skipper Jason Holder took a regulation catch at sec-

ond slip, leaving India at 207 for seven. It seemed India's brittle tail will not put up much of a fight yet again, but Jadeja and Ishant batted sensibly in their 116-ball stand, defying the West Indian pacers.

While maturity was expected from Jadeja, Ishant impressed with the way he dealt with the express pace of Roach and Gabriel. He was not afraid to come on to the front foot and was equally comfortable at tackling the rising ball.

The lanky India pacer, whose highest score is 31, was finally dismissed in the 90th over, playing on to a full slower ball off Gabriel.

Mohammad Shami joined Jadeja in the middle but his stay lasted only one ball as he offered a return catch to off-spinner Roston Chase.

Running out of partners, Jadeja showed urgency to collect some vital runs and brought up his 11th half-century with a slap to cover for four. The following ball, he swept Chase for a six over deep midwicket, giving the Indian innings a welcome flourish towards the end.

Vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane had made a crucial 81 on the opening day to help India recover from a poor start.

I was thinking about team rather than hundred: Rahane

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

It's been two years since he last got a Test hundred but Ajinkya Rahane didn't want to be "selfish" thinking about his own milestone when the priority was to get his team out of the woods.

Coming in at a precarious 25 for 3 on the opening day of the first Test against West Indies, Rahane scored 81, an innings he values more than a hundred.

In fact, he knew a question would pop about missing out on a hundred, having last scored one against Sri Lanka back in 2017.

"I knew this question was coming and I was ready," he smiled when asked at the day end media conference.

"As long as I am at the crease, I am thinking about my team, I am not a selfish guy. So yes, I am not too concerned about the hundred as I thought 81 on that wicket was really crucial as we are now in a decent position," said Rahane.

A century would have been nice but what mattered more was playing according to the demands of the situation.

"See, as long as I am contributing for my team is what matters. Yes, I was thinking about my hundred but the situation we are in — 25 for 3 was tricky. As I have said, I just thought if I could contribute for my team. I am not too concerned about my hundred as that will come automatically," the 31-year-old said.



Virat Kohli chats with Ravi Shastri and R. Sridhar during ICC World Cup AP/File Photo

Ganguly hopes India get past big games and win ICC trophy

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Ganguly on Friday hoped the reappointment of the familiar Ravi Shastri as head coach will help India prevail in the "big games" and break the jinx of not winning a major ICC tournament in recent years.

"Ravi has been around for a while, five years he's completed so he's got an extension for two more years. Hopefully now India can go all the way in the two upcoming tournaments that are coming up, which is the T20 World Cup and the Champions Trophy which has now become a T20 format," Ganguly said.

"So I hope they do well, they're doing well, they get to the semi-finals."

"In 2015 in Australia they struggled, in 2017 (2016) in Mumbai, West Indies got the better of them and even in this World Cup. So, hopefully, they will get to the next step and create a winning combination."

India's last ICC tournament triumph was the win in the 2013 Champions Trophy.

"Hopefully they can get past the big games and win trophies in the next two years," said the former captain who is not the best of friends with Shastri.

Ganguly urged captain Virat Kohli to continue giving the new players a longer run to prove their mettle.

"This is one area where Virat (Kohli) needs to just be a

bit more consistent — pick players and give them a bit more opportunities consistently — for them to get that confidence, rhythm.

"I have said that before. You saw how Shreyas Iyer played in that ODI series (against West Indies), you pick him and you give him the freedom to play those matches and I think that needs to happen with a lot of players and I am sure Virat will do that," added Ganguly.

Ganguly was surprised to see chinaman Kuldeep Yadav and off-spinner Ravinchandran Ashwin being left out of the ongoing first Test against West Indies.

"Yes, I was also surprised to see Kuldeep Yadav left out because the last Test he played against Australia, he got five wickets, if you remember in Sydney on a good flat pitch, he picked up five wickets against Australia."

"But (Ravindra) Jadeja also has been in good form, the surface on Thursday at Antigua needed three fast bowlers because we saw the seam movement the fast bowlers got and it was a question of the spin."

"Ashwin's record is phenomenal to leave him out in the West Indies, so it's a decision which Kohli has made and we will find out in next couple of days whether how far Jadeja goes on to pick wickets on this surface."

SINGLES

WAQAR APPLIES FOR BOWLING JOB

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis on Thursday submitted a request to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to consider his candidature for the post of the team's bowling coach. According to *Geo News*, Waqar is the most high profile applicant for the post. The PCB had announced that it is accepting applications for the coaching staff of the senior men's team after deciding against renewing the contract of incumbent staff including that of head coach Mickey Arthur and bowling coach Azhar Mahmood. The deadline to submit those applications is August 26. Waqar has previously been the team's head coach twice.

NAGAL ENTERS FINAL ROUND

NEW YORK: India's Sumit Nagal moved one step closer to his first ever Grand slam appearance with a hard fought win over Peter Polansky in the second round of the US Open qualifiers. Nagal, placed at a career-best 190, knocked out the 192nd ranked Canadian 7-5, 7-6 (0) in two hours eight minutes on Thursday night in the men's singles qualifiers. The 22-year-old from Haryana will now take on Brazil's Joao Menezes, who is ranked 210, in the final qualifying round later in the day. Last year, he had competed in the qualifiers of the Australian Open, the French Open and the Wimbledon Championships but could not register a single win.

NAIR'S 92* TAKES INDIA RED TO 163/2

BENGALURU: Out-of-favour batsman Karun Nair struck 92 not out to help India Red score 163 for 2 on the rain-curtailed opening day of the Duleep Trophy match against India Blue on Friday. Sent in to bat, India Red suffered an early jolt as Bengal opener Abhimanyu Easwaran (0) was sent packing by Rajasthan left-arm paceman Aniket Choudhary. Skipper Priyank Panchal (15) and Nair added 40 runs in a little over 15 overs, before the captain nicked one from Services medium-pacer Diwesh Gurdev Pathania to 'keeper' Snell Patel. After the fall of Panchal, the Karnataka batsman forged a 120-run partnership with Himachal left-hander Ankit Kalsi (48 not out, 171 balls, 4 x4) for the unbroken third wicket stand before rain and bad light ended play early.

INDIA BAGS BRONZE IN YOUTH C'SHIP

MADRID: Indian junior compound men's team won a Bronze while Sukhbeer Singh assured himself of a second medal in the World Archery Youth Championships here on Friday. Playing in his first international event, Sukhbeer helped India open their medal account when he teamed up with Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Tushar Phadtare to shoot a flawless final round and beat Colombia 234-231 for the Bronze. Sukhbeer also assured himself of at least a Silver when he partnered Raginee Markoo to defeat Iranian duo of Geesa Bybordy and Danial Heidarzadehdehkhordi 154-151 in the semifinal of compound junior mixed pair event. The Indian team will face Switzerland for a Gold on Saturday.

PAK TO HOST SL FOR LTD OVER SERIES

KARACHI: Pakistan will host Sri Lanka for six limited over internationals starting next month, the two cricket boards said on Friday, another step towards reviving international cricket in Pakistan after years of isolation. In a joint statement, the cricket boards said the One Day International series will begin on September 27 in Karachi where they will play the other two ODI matches on September 29 and October 2. The Sri Lankans will then move to Lahore for three T20 matches starting on October 5 and the final match will be on October 9, with the second match scheduled for October 7. This will be Sri Lanka's second tour of Pakistan since their team bus was attacked by militants during a Test match in Lahore in March 2009.

AFP ■ LEEDS

Australia's Josh Hazlewood took five wickets as England collapsed to just 67 all out on the second day of the third Ashes Test at Headingley on Friday.

Australia, who will retain the Ashes with victory in this Test, then strengthened their grip by reaching tea in their second innings on 82-3 — a lead of 194.

Marnus Labuschagne, whose first-innings 74 was seven more than England managed between them, was 13 not out and Travis Head 17 not out.

England, 1-0 down in the five-Test series, had dismissed Australia for a seemingly modest 179, with fast bowler Jofra Archer taking 6-45 on Thursday.

But thanks mainly to Australia quick Hazlewood's figures of 5-30, England were bowled out inside 28 overs.

Joe Denly, with 12, was the only England batsman to reach double figures.

But whereas Labuschagne, in for concussion star batsman Steve Smith, and David Warner (61) fought hard during their first-innings partnership of 111, few England batsmen were as prepared to sell their wickets as readily.

Indeed, several played key roles in their own dismissals, for all that Australia bowled well.

By staging both the World

67 ALL OUT

Hazlewood takes five as England derail in 3rd Ashes Test



Josh Hazlewood celebrates with Australian teammates after taking wicket of Jonny Bairstow ICC/Twitter

Cup and the Ashes with a short turnaround between the two showpiece events, England had denied several batsmen proper first-class preparation for the very

different demands of Test cricket. By contrast, a number of Australians had played for English county sides — Labuschagne, the only batsman to so far score

1,000 first-class runs this season was with Glamorgan — or featured on the Australia A tour of England that preceded the Ashes. But England's batting woes

predated this season.

Friday's slump was the latest in a line of recent Test collapses that have seen England dismissed for 58 by New Zealand (Auckland 2018), 77 by the West Indies (Bridgetown 2019) and 85 by Ireland at Lord's last month.

But what made this woeful display all the more troubling was that the blue and sunny skies above Headingley on Friday ought to have made conditions for batting easier than the gloom of Thursday, when England captain Joe Root won the toss.

Opener Jason Roy took guard having made just 40 runs in four innings this series.

He fell for nine in familiar fashion when he edged a drive off a wide Hazlewood ball to Warner, holding the first of four catches at first slip.

Root walked out to applause from his Yorkshire home crowd but was out for a second ball nought — his second straight zero after a golden duck in the second innings of the drawn second Test at Lord's — when nicking a straighter Hazlewood delivery that seamed away to Warner.

Hazlewood had taken two wickets for no runs in three balls, with England 10-2.

All-rounder Ben Stokes came into this match following an unbeaten 115 in the second innings at Lord's.

But he all but gave his wick-

et away when he carved at a wide half-volley from fast bowler James Pattinson he could barely reach, with Warner holding a fast edge high above his shoulder.

Denly fought hard only for his 49-ball stay to end when caught behind following an inexplicably extravagant drive off Pattinson.

And 45-5 became 45-6 when Jonny Bairstow disappointed his home crowd by edging a good-length Hazlewood ball, with Warner holding another fine catch.

England were 54-6 at lunch and 54-7 off the very first ball afterwards when Chris Woakes was caught behind off Cummins (3-23).

Archer hooked a four off Cummins before his 'up periscope' attempt to duck a Cummins bouncer also saw him caught behind.

Hazlewood ended the innings when he clean bowled No 11 Jack Leach.

England did then reduce Australia to 36-2.

Stuart Broad had Warner lbw for nought and left-arm spinner Leach struck with his first ball of the match when a sharply turning delivery out of the rough bowled Marcus Harris.

The struggling Usman Khawaja was caught in the slips following a loose drive off Woakes but Labuschagne kept Australia in command.

Boult, Southee rattle SL

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Trent Boult and Tim Southee led New Zealand's charge against Sri Lanka on day two of the rain-hit second Test in Colombo.

The pacemen claimed two wickets each as Sri Lanka reached 144 for six at lunch when rain came down and no further play was possible.

Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne moved from his overnight 49 to score 65 and provided the only bit of resistance in the morning session, which saw 29.3 overs bowled.

Boult took two early wickets in one over after Sri Lanka resumed the day at 85 for two.

Dhanajaya de Silva on 32 and Dilruwan Perera on five were at the crease.

Southee, like Boult, also delivered a double-wicket maiden as the duo put on a superb display of seam bowling under overcast conditions.

Boult got overnight batsman Angelo Mathews caught behind for two to reach a landmark of 250 Test wickets — only the third Kiwi bowler to achieve the feat.

He trapped Kusal Perera lbw for nought after just three balls as Sri



Lanka slipped to 93-4.

Karunaratne also got a lifeline on 61 when Kane Williamson could not grab a tough chance at short midwicket off Ajaz Patel.

But the left-hander, who completed his 23rd Test fifty after resuming the day on 49, soon fell, caught behind off Southee for 65.

Southee struck again in the same over to send Niroshan Dickwella trudging back to the pavilion for nought.

Perera then played out the rest of the session with de Silva.

SA name Klusener as batting coach

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Former South Africa all-rounder Lance Klusener was on Friday appointed as the assistant batting coach of the national team for the three-match Twenty20 series against India in September.

Cricket South Africa (CSA) also announced that former pacer Vincent Barnes will serve as the assistant bowling coach. While Justin Ontong will retain his position as the assistant fielding coach in Enoch Nkwe's Proteas management.

"In terms of the new team structure the Team Director appoints his three assistant coaches who have specific skills focus in the three key disciplines of batting, bowling and fielding," CSA Acting Director, Corrie van Zyl, said in a statement.

"Former Proteas all-rounder Lance Klusener will fill the role of assistant coach (batting) for the T20



Lance Klusener in a file photo

Series only as he is currently not available for all formats."

Klusener, considered one of the best all-rounders of his generation, has collected 1906 runs and 80 wickets in Tests, as well as 3576 runs and 192 wickets in ODIs.

He took up coaching with domestic side Hollywoodbets Dolphins from 2012-2016 before being appointed as batting coach for the Zimbabwe

national team.

In July this year, he was appointed as the head coach of the Glasgow Giants for the cancelled inaugural edition of the Euro T20 Slam cricket tournament.

"His record as one of the best all-rounders in the world, particularly in white ball cricket, during his playing career speaks for itself and he also has extensive coaching experience both at franchise and international level," van Zyl said.

Barnes has a long history with the Proteas, having served as the bowling and then assistant coach from 2003 until 2011.

Ontong, who has represented the national side in all three formats, also served as South Africa's fielding coach under Ottis Gibson before the restructuring.

South Africa will travel to India for a three-match T20 series starting September 15. The two sides will then compete in a three-match Test series.



Fortunegiants edge past Patna

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gujarat Fortunegiants snapped a six-match losing streak in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 7, with a narrow 29-26 win over Patna Pirates at the Nehru indoor stadium in Chennai on Friday.

In the second match of the night, U Mumba defeated Tamil Thalaivas 29-24, ensuring that the latter finished the home leg without a win (with only a tie game to show). U Mumba jumped to fourth in the points table with the win while Thalaivas slipped to eighth.

Jaipur Pink Panthers sit on top of the table with 7 wins from nine matches for 36 points followed by Bengal Warriors and Delhi Dabang KC.

In the Fortunegiants-Pirates encounter, Rohit Gulia's Super 10 turned out to be the game-changer as Patna's Narwal's early heroics went in vain.