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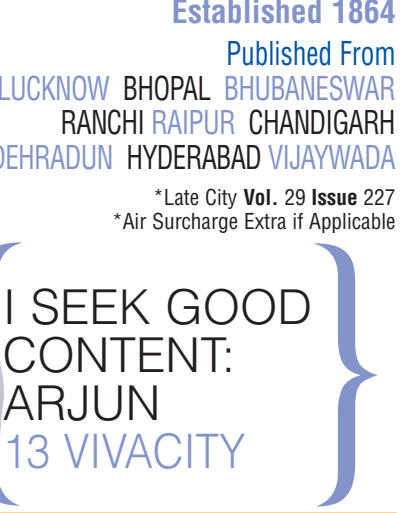
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# Govt to loosen up Valley by Mon

Phone lines to be restored over weekend, schools to open from Monday

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

As the ground situation is gradually showing signs of improvement, with no major incident of violence reported from anywhere in the Kashmir Valley during Independence Day celebrations, the Jammu & Kashmir Government on Friday announced they have decided to open schools from Monday and ease out restrictions to allow "locked" down population to resume their normal lives in a phased manner.

Most phone lines in Kashmir will be restored over the weekend, said Jammu & Kashmir Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam.

Since August 5, 2019, the entire Valley has been witnessing unprecedented shutdown and communication blockade ahead of the Abrogation of Article 370 by the Narendra Modi-led Government at the Centre. The announcement to lift restrictions was made by the Chief Secretary in Srinagar within hours after the Union Government told the Supreme Court that they are ready to ease certain restrictions in the wake of improvement in the situation on ground zero.



Children walk past concertina wire during restrictions in Srinagar on Friday

Listing out the measures, the Chief Secretary told reporters, "Schools will be opened after the weekend." He said currently 12 of the 22 districts of the State are functioning normally with some limited night-time restrictions in five of these.

"Keeping in view the evolving situation, as well as the

cooperation of the people in maintaining peace, we are now taking measures to ease the restrictions in a gradual manner. After Friday prayers, there would be an easing of restrictions in the next few days in an orderly way," he said.

Defending the actions of the Government, the Chief Secretary claimed the mea-

sures put in place have ensured that there has been not a single loss of life or serious injuries to anyone during the course of maintaining peace and order.

"We have prevented any loss of human life despite concerted efforts by terrorist organisations, radical groups and Pakistan to destabilise the situation," he said.

Referring to the resumption of public transport facilities in the Valley, the Chief Secretary said, "As movement restrictions are removed, public transport will start moving in these areas. Government offices have been made fully functional from today. Telecom connectivity will be gradually restored in a phased manner, keeping in mind the constant threat posed by terrorist organisations in using mobile connectivity to organise terror actions."

He said the intent of terrorist attacks was to create an atmosphere of fear and terror and to block development that could unleash opportunities for the younger generation of the population. Among the groups that are well-known for sponsoring violence and carrying out such attacks are Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Hizbul Mujahideen, etc.

When asked whether local politicians in preventive custody too would be released soon, the Chief Secretary said, "Preventive detentions are being continuously reviewed and appropriate decisions will be made based on law and order assessments."

"It is expected that over the next few days, as the restrictions get eased, life in Jammu & Kashmir will become completely normal. This is already visible on the roads which has seen steady return of regular traffic."

# No-first-use N policy may change: Rajnath

'Sticking to policy, but circumstances will decide future'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid Pakistan's posturing following the Narendra Modi Government's move on Article 370, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said India is "firmly committed" to the "no first use" nuclear policy but what happens in future depends on the circumstances. His remark assumes importance since it underscores that India reserves the right to change its policy of "no first use" in place for many years.

Rajnath said this on Twitter after visiting Pokhran, where India conducted nuclear tests under the leadership of then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1998. Pokhran is also the site where two nuclear tests were first conducted in 1974 when Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister.

"Pokhran is the area which witnessed Atal Ji's firm resolve to make India a nuclear power and yet remain firmly committed to the doctrine of 'No First Use'. India has strictly adhered to this doctrine. (But) What happens in future depends on the circumstances," Rajnath said.

A no-first-use (NFU) policy gives an assurance by a



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh speaks during the 5th International Army Scout Masters Competition 2019 in Jaisalmer on Friday

nuclear power not to use nuclear weapons unless first attacked by an adversary with nuclear weapons. The Government's stated position till now has been that nuclear weapons are solely for deterrence and India will pursue a policy of "retaliation only".

"India attaining the status of a responsible nuclear nation became a matter of national pride for every citizen of this country. The nation will remain indebted to the greatness of Atal Ji," Rajnath said in a tweet on the occasion of Vajpayee's first death anniversary.

He said, "It is a coincidence that today I came for International Army Scout Masters Competition in

Jaisalmer & today it is the first death anniversary of #AtalBihariVajpayee. So, I felt I should pay tribute to him on the land of Pokhran only.

Accompanied by Army Chief General Bipin Rawat, Rajnath was the chief guest at the closing ceremony of competition held at the Jaisalmer military station from August 6 to 14. The Indian contingent stood first.

The NFU doctrine saw India acquire civil nuclear technology after it signed a deal with the US, despite being a non-member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and a non-signatory of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Continued on Page 4

# SC in no hurry to pass order on media curbs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said it will wait for sometime before passing any direction on the plea seeking removal of restrictions on the media in Jammu & Kashmir after the Centre said curbs are being lifted gradually.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and justices SA Bobde and SA Nazeer said, "We would like to give little time. We have read in newspaper today that landline and broadband connections are being restored gradually. Therefore, we will take up the petition with other connected matters," the Bench said.

"The landlines are working. We also got a call today from the CJ of J&K HC," the Bench further said.



"We will see when the matter can be listed for hearing. We will fix a date on the administrative side," the SC said.

Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for Anuradha Bhasin, Executive Editor, the *Kashmir Times*, said there was a need for early restoration of communication mode for journalists to carry out their work. "My matter is related to freedom press," Grover said and added it had nothing to do with Article 370.

Continued on Page 4

# J&K internal matter, India rebuffs Pak's UNSC move

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India on Friday defended its decision to scrap provisions of Article 370 that have special status to Jammu & Kashmir, saying it is an internal matter. India also slammed Pakistan for interfering in the internal matters of the country, saying Pakistan was misleading the world.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council on Friday began a rare closed door meeting to discuss India revoking the special status of Jammu & Kashmir after Pakistan, backed by its all-weather ally, China, requested "closed consultations" on the issue.

The outcome of the UNSC meeting will not be a formal pronouncement as the consultations are informal in nature. India and Pakistan are not

attending the meeting, which is open only to the five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.

China, a permanent member of the UNSC and close ally of Pakistan, had asked for "closed consultations" in the Council, which began its deliberations at 7.30pm IST.

On August 5, India revoked Article 370 of the Constitution removing special status to Jammu & Kashmir, and has also bifurcated the State into two Union Territories — J&K, and Ladakh.

India has categorically told the international community that its move to scrap Article 370 of the Constitution revoking the special status to Jammu & Kashmir was an internal matter and has also advised Pakistan to accept the reality.

Continued on Page 4

# Major Gen loses job, pension for Capt's sexual harassment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Major General was on Friday dismissed from service without pension over a case of sexual harassment involving another officer of the rank of Captain. The dismissal was confirmed by Army Chief General Bipin Rawat after the court martial proceedings against Major General RS Jaswal recommended severe action in December.

The decision of the Chief of Army Staff was intimated to the Major General by the 2 Corps Commander Lt Gen



MJS Kahlon in Ambala on Friday, officials said. The Army Chief had signed the orders for dismissal in July.

The alleged sexual harassment incident took place in late 2016 when the Major General

was serving as Inspector General, Assam Rifles in Nagaland. The officer had denied the charges against him by the Captain-rank woman officer as the Judge Advocate General branch of the Army had filed a written complaint against Jaswal following which the court martial was ordered. During the court martial, Jaswal denied the charges and alleged that he became a victim of the Army's factional feud following General Rawat's appointment as the Army chief in December 2016.

Continued on Page 4

## CAPSULE

### SC CLEARS CHARDHAM HIGHWAY PROJECT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has cleared the decks for the ambitious Chardham highway project for all-weather connectivity to four holy towns of Uttarakhand and constituted a fresh high-powered committee to address environmental concerns.

### WOMAN FOUND DEAD INSIDE NOIDA SCHOOL

Noida: The body of a 36-year-old woman was found hanging from the ceiling fan inside the room of a private school here, police said on Friday. The woman, identified as Basanti, worked as a sanitation worker in the Delhi Public School located at Sector 30, a police officer said.

# Trump proposes, Greenland disposes

## Self-governing part of Denmark dashes POTUS' hopes to buy it

AFP ■ STOCKHOLM

Greenland is not for sale, the mineral-rich island said on Friday after a newspaper reported that US President Donald Trump was asking advisers whether it's possible for the United States to buy the Arctic island.

Trump has expressed interest in the self-governing part of Denmark — which is mostly covered in ice, — asking advisers if it is possible for the US to acquire the territory, *The Wall Street Journal* said on Thursday, citing people familiar with the discussions.

The President, a former real estate magnate, has been curious about the area's natural resources and geopolitical relevance, the paper reported. Greenland is a self-gov-

erning region of Denmark, which colonised the 772,000 square-mile (two-million square kilometre) island in the 18th century, and is home to only about 57,000 people, most of whom belong to the indigenous Inuit community.

There has been no official comment from the White House, and the Danish Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment.

But Greenland's Ministry of foreign affairs insisted the island was ready to talk business, not purchase.

"Greenland is rich in valuable resources such as minerals, the purest water and ice, fish stocks, seafood, renewable energy and is a new frontier for adventure tourism," it tweeted. "We're open for business,



An aerial view of large icebergs floating as the sun rises near Kulusuk, Greenland, on Friday. Greenland has been melting faster in the last decade and this summer, it has seen two of the biggest melts on record since 2012.

not for sale," it added. The office of Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen declined to comment when contacted by AFP.

But a former premier, Lars Lokke Rasmussen, tweeted, "It must be an April Fool's Day joke... But totally out of season!"

Some Trump advisers say acquiring Greenland, which is northeast of Canada, could be good for the US, while others called it only a "fleeting fasci-

nation" from the American President, *The Wall Street Journal* said.

Others outside the White House say Trump's interest could be a desire to secure a legacy achievement, the paper reported, and advisors wondered about the potential for research or greater military clout for the US.

The US's northern-most military base, Thule Air Base, has been located on Greenland for decades. But Greenland doesn't quite live up to its lush name — 85 per cent of the island is covered by a 1.9-mile-thick (three-kilometre) ice sheet that contains 10 per cent of the world's fresh water.

The world's largest island has suffered from climate change, scientists say, becoming a giant melting icicle that threatens to submerge the world's coastal areas one day.

July saw unprecedented melting of the Greenland ice sheet, with 12 billion tonnes of ice flowing into the sea.

# Commercial vehicles entering Delhi get 7 more days for RFID

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

Considering difficulties being faced by owners of commercial vehicles and taxis in getting pre-registered and subsequently obtaining "Radio Frequency Identification Device" (RFID) tags for entry into Delhi from 13 toll plazas, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has extended the last date for pre-registration and subsequent issuance of RFID tags from August 16 to August 23.

The decision was taken

after transporters and their unions requested Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) to put off the deadline.

A senior SDMC official said after the deadline, all commercial vehicles entering the city without RFID tag and sufficient recharge amount will be bound to pay penalty double of specified rates during first week, four times of specified rates during second week and six times of specified rates during third week.

Continued on Page 4



DU's SOL to start Choice Based Credit System

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

The much-awaited demand of the students of School of Open Learning (SOL) and Non-Collegiate Woman Education Board (NCWEB) for change of syllabus and adoption of semester system...



plan to implement the scheme for this year? The strength of SOL is more than a lakh and has a very minimal amount of teachers to teach the students.

BENEFIT OF THIS PATTERN

- New Syllabus, CBCS pattern
Semester system
Same degree alike the regular college
Chance to migrate to regular college

The same scheme has been tabled for the approval of Executive Council (EC) meeting scheduled on Saturday. Though the decision of the university will be one of the major decisions but it is getting controversial even before its implementation since some of the teachers and members of Academic Council (AC) have started putting up questions such as 'How DU is going to implement the programme and semester system in such a short time?'

duct examinations for students of SOL and NCWEB. Further, the CBCS pattern is already been taught to the regular students, thus it will be upgraded for the open schools students also," she added.

Several departments in Gurugram are toiling hard to tackle waterlogging and other problems in the city. District Administration, Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA), Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG), Haryana Sahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and the Police Department have connected with an internal WhatsApp number to share waterlogging, traffic jams, garbage and other related issues on the group to resolve the problem.

Till now the students enrolled in DU via 'correspondence mode' are studying the oldest version of syllabus pattern since 2008 and face problems in getting admissions in master programme as the results for these schools come late, jobs in private and teaching field due to old pattern of syllabus and no migrations options to the regular colleges.

"The university will distribute online material but half of the students enrolled in SOL are coming from economically weaker sections and many do not have computers at home," Jha added.

The different agencies have prepared a detailed action plan to resolve traffic issue, waterlogging and other issues so that the resident of the city could not face traffic mess during the heavy rain.

"This is a very welcoming step and will give an equal opportunity and rights to the students to study the upgraded syllabus but the questions is- Is the varsity have a solid

While another member of EC as well as officiating Director of NCWEB, Geeta Bhatt said, "Obviously the university is implementing the scheme with proper and articulated planning. Further, admissions are still going in the SOL, NCWEB and even in some regular colleges,"

"The district administration is working with the NHAI and GMDA to ensure all water pumps are in working condition so that they can be used in emergencies," a district administration officer, said.

NCB recovers 220 kg of drugs, arrests 19 traffickers in 14 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Friday claimed to have arrested 19 people, including foreigners, and seized more than 220 kilogram (kg) of drugs from them in the last fortnight as part of its drive against illegal narcotics trade and traffickers across the country.

including 11 Indians and eight foreigners during the first fortnight of August in various operations conducted across the country," said the official.

Member of Shakeel-Satte gang involved in 65 cases nabbed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 31-year-old criminal and a member of 'Shakeel-Satte gang' involved in more than 65 criminal cases of attempt to murder, dacoity, robbery, assault, intimidation, snatching and arms act registered across the National Capital.

that Dhananjay would come near Shriram Dharamkanta in Lal Kuan area of Ghaziabad between 8 to 9 PM to meet one of his contacts. "Acting on the inputs a trap was laid and the accused was arrested at around 8:45 PM. He has been arrested under the appropriate section of the law," said the DCP.

other belongings at gunpoint. Victims were employees of a MNC in Gurgaon," said the DCP.

Scooterist killed after Chinese-manjha kite string slits his throat

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old civil engineer was killed on Independence Day in the presence of his sisters after a Chinese manjha got entangled into his throat while he was riding his scooter in outer Delhi's Paschim Vihar flyover.

throat so badly even before he could halt the scooter. His two sisters, however, escaped unhurt, he said, adding that the cut was so deep that his windpipe was slashed. Sharma was taken to Balaji Action hospital by the public where he was declared brought dead, the senior officer said.

According to a senior NCB official, these interdictions are result of an increased effort put by the agency against drug trafficking. "The concerted and coordinated efforts led to a total seizure of 221.29 kg of drugs that includes 13.25 kg opium, 2.09 kg cocaine, 10.10 kg hashish, 182.6 kg ganja and 13.25 kg heroin," said the senior NCB official.

In an operation conducted in Mumbai on August 2, the NCB seized 2.09 kg cocaine at the airport and arrested a man from Suriname, South Africa.

The accused has been identified as Dhananjay alias Barood, a permanent resident of village Phoolwaria in Mujaffarpur (Bihar) and was living in Delhi's Nand Nagri for last 15 years.

"The accused further revealed that he is involved in more than 65 criminal cases including two cases of attempt to murder, 30 cases of dacoity and robbery, 12 cases of snatching, five cases of theft, five cases of arms act and various other cases of assault and intimidation registered across National Capital," said the DCP.

Dhananjay is associated with notorious Shakeel-Satte group of Trans-Yamuna for seven years. Dhananjay was arrested in 39 cases of robbery and snatching with Shakeel in the year 2014.

Police said they were informed about the incident at around 12.30 pm by the hospital authorities. A case was registered under section 336 (Act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 304 (A) (Causing death by negligence) of Indian Penal Code and an investigation has been initiated.

A case has also been registered under section 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code.

NCB officials said the drug originated from Suriname and was destined to Mumbai via the Ethiopian capital city of Addis Ababa.

In another incident, the federal anti-narcotics agency seized 2.7 kg opium, 6.14 kg heroin from various parts of Punjab like Ludhiana, Amritsar and Ferozpur.

According to Pramod Singh Kushwaha, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, on August 13, police received specific inputs

"The accused also revealed that on the intervening night of August 7 and 8, the accused along with his aide had intercepted Maruti Eriga car at Vikas Marg, near Geeta Colony and robbed the three occupants of the car of their cash, ornaments, debit cards, valuable and

When he reached near a petrol bunk, a Chinese manjha from a stray kite got entangled around his neck and slit his

Police said they were informed about the incident at around 12.30 pm by the hospital authorities. A case was registered under section 336 (Act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 304 (A) (Causing death by negligence) of Indian Penal Code and an investigation has been initiated.

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Lecture on Atal Niti-Rashtra Niti organised to mark 1st death anniversary of ex-PM Vajpayee

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE. The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted on following dates. The gold ornaments being auctioned have been pledged by various borrowers who have failed to close the loan accounts and redeem the pledged gold ornaments despite being notified by letters sent by registered post. The lists of pledges taken up for auction have also been displayed at the respective branches. Please note that the items remaining un-auctioned shall be auctioned on any other date with our further notice. Changes, if any, in the venue and date of auction shall be displayed at the venue on the date of auction mentioned above and on the Company website and no further notice regarding the change of date and venue shall be issued.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The GYAN foundation organised a memorial lecture on 'Atal Niti - Rashtra Niti', to mark their tribute to former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his first death anniversary on Friday. The event was chaired by Shyam Jaju, National Vice-President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (MoS) and Dr Sumeet Bhasin, Founder of GYAN Foundation.

nation makes fun of you." True to his words, today, every karyakarta is proud because he knows what we say is what we do," said Jaju.

He said Atalji realised that the youth and student political participation is genuine and pure. Atalji used to come around Jammu & Kashmir for elections, with little preparation, and full knowledge of few seats winning. Still, he came to Kashmir, just to encourage the young karyarkartas," said Jaju. Dr Jitendra Singh speaking about Vajpayee's personal warmth said that when Vajpayee ji went to Belapur in 1957 to open a Janata party office. "To save money, the local karyarkartas offered Atalji a ride on a bicycle to see him off. However, when Vajpayee ji went to the same village once again in 1977, he asked to get the same cycle. This was what built this gigantic cadre," said Singh.

As a part of this mission, "Atulya Atal", an event in the commemorating the legacy of Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also announced and the collateral of the same were also released by the dignitaries on the dais today. Speaking at the event and quoting Vajpayee Jaju said that no one took the BJP's Manifesto seriously in its early years. "Everyone told that they would never come to power. Atal ji once said, 'Today you will make fun of us, a day will come when

PUBLIC NOTICE. This is to inform to the General Public that the Original GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY, dated 12.11.2003 registered as document number 52328 in Add. Book No. 4, Vol. No. 9391 on pages 26-27 registered in Sub Registrar 12.11.2003 have been cancelled vide cancellation deed dated 25.06.2018. That it is further inform that any transaction arising out of the above mentioned qua Flat No. A-501 Himachali Apartment Plot No.3 Sector-3, Dwarka, or Plot No.165 a Shakti Khand 1 LIG-II Indraprastha Ghaziabad, or 13/17 Punjabi Bagh Ext.1 or Kharsa No. 98 Gali No 18-19 Nisivala, Karol Bagh, New Delhi or 9-J Gopala Tower Rajindra Palace, or plot No. X13-01 in Block X, Parklands Sector-76, Faridabad, or D-080 XUI Greater Noida, except specifically executed by M. Vigneshwaran, shall be treated as null and void and if any one has any objection in this regard should raise complaint within 5 days of publication of this notice to below address. S-26J, Dharmia (Advocate), S-26J, L.G.F., Ghatia Kailash1, New Delhi-110018

PUBLIC NOTICE. Known to all that my client Vishnu and Sharda Devi is mortgaging property in plot no. 13, area 74.05 sq. yards Kharsa no. 820, 830, 831, 832, Village Govardhan, Distt. Mathura, U.P., with Satin Housing Finance Ltd. Sharda Devi has lost original of said Floor, Plot No. 21, Kharsa No. 100 of sale deed executed by Sharda Devi favoring Sharda Devi regarding said property registered with the Registrar of Property on 24.05.2017. Police complaint dt. 13.08.19 was given to P.S. Govardhan. It is informed that any deal with said lost deed by any person except my said client with said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person found said deed or is having right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned and within 8 days of this publication. For AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION Ch. No. 760, Dwarka CourtSector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75, M.-8899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE. Known to General public that my client Lakshmi & Ravu Kumar are purchasing property in 2nd Floor, Plot No. 21, Kharsa no. 281, Prakash Nagar, Village-Kharsa, Loni, Distt. Gaziabad, near Harendra Singh & mortgaging with Satin Housing Finance Ltd. And said Harendra Singh purchased the property from Pritivi Haj & Prithvi Raj from Amar Singh. Amar Singh became owner of the said property after death of Saroj as her legal heirs. And if any person is having any objection, right or claim in respect of the said property in capacity of legal heirs of said Sh. Saroj in any manner or said mortgage then he may contact the undersigned within 8 days of publication of this Notice. For AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION Ch. No. 760, Dwarka CourtSector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75, M.-8899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE. My Clients Smt. Prabha Vij & her husband Shri. Ashok Vij and her husband Shri. Ashok Vij S/o. Late C.L. Vij and their family members all R/O. B-27, third and Fourth Floor, Dayanand Colony, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110024. (Smt. Prabha Vij) is owner of foreclosed premises have served all their relations/family connections with their son Shri. Varun Vij and his wife Smt. Sonia Maggu (Sonia Vij), R/O. B-27, Fourth Floor, Dayanand Colony, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110024, due to their adamant behavior and misdeeds, my client has also disowned, debarred them from all moveable and immovable properties as they are disobedient and disrespectful towards my clients as such they are not in the control of my client. My aforesaid clients shall not be responsible/liable for their acts, conducts and deeds, or any liability in future from today. Sd/- Amit Garg Advocate

# CM: AAP will win all 70 seats in Delhi poll

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lauding the contribution of party workers on his birthday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will win all the 70 seats in the Assembly election next year. Kejriwal addressed his party workers who came to greet him on his 51st birthday.

"I want to thank the AAP workers for their contribution towards the party. In last Assembly elections, we won 67 seats but this time we will win all 70 seats," he said in a video posted on the AAP's official Twitter handle.

It may be recalled that the AAP had registered a landslide victory in the last Assembly election and won 67 out of the 70 seats in Delhi. Congress that ruled Delhi for consecutive three terms was relegated to zero seats while Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) could manage only three seats. BJP increased its tally to four after



MS Sirsa won Rajauri Garden assembly seat by-election.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also wished the chief minister on his birthday. "Birthday greetings to Delhi CM Shri @ArvindKejriwal. Praying for his good health and long life," Modi tweeted. Replying to him the Chief Minister said "Thank u so much PM sir for ur good wishes"

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Vijender Gupta, his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee, former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren and BJP MP Rajeev

Chandrasekhar, among others who greeted Kejriwal on his birthday.

"Wishing you a very happy birthday, Arvind ji," Banerjee tweeted. "Thank u so much Didi," replied Kejriwal. Gupta also wished Kejriwal on his birthday. "I wish Arvind Kejriwal ji on his birthday. I wish you a long and healthy life," he said.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal also greeted Chief Minister. "Birthday wishes to Chief Minister, GNCTD Sh @ArvindKejriwal ji. I pray for his good health and long life!", he tweeted.

Several Bollywood celebrities, including directors Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri and Shirish Kunder, also wished Kejriwal. "#HappyBirthdayAK you literally changed Indian politics," Agnihotri tweeted.

Riteish Deshmukh tweeted "Happy Birthday @ArvindKejriwal ji - May god grace you with good health & happiness."

# CAIT to train traders to rid of single-use plastic

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) will launch a nationwide campaign to educate traders about the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to eliminate the use of single-use plastic. The traders' body has also decided to distribute bags made of cloths and jute as a Diwali gift to customers.

The CAIT will educate 40 thousand trade associations and their members spread across the country to adopt this campaign and to gift such bags also give to their customers against the cost price.

Welcoming the initiatives announced by the Prime Minister, CAIT in a communication sent to him assured full cooperation of seven crore strong trading community.

CAIT National President B C Bhartia and Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said they fully support the



move announced on Thursday. However, presently large number of people are employed in manufacturing and trading of plastics and huge investments have been made in this business therefore it is requested that some alternative business allied with their line should be made available to them so that their investment is saved.

"There are certain items which are essentially packed in plastic like milk, dairy products etc. An alternate to these items needs to be identified as these are daily use items by the peo-

ple," they added. The traders' body has also suggested the PM that a "Special Task Force" may be constituted with senior officials, representatives of plastic industry and traders to study the impact of plastic ban on employment & trade and recommend remedial steps to the Government in a time bound period.

Khandelwal said that 'Yes to Digital Payment- No to Cash' is one of the most basic fundamental to make India a cashless or less cash Country and CAIT

is already educating traders across Country from year 2014 to accept and adopt digital payments and so far it could able to convert about 25per cent traders across Country to accept digital payments.

# Prez visits AIIMS to enquire about Jaitley's health

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind visited All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to enquire about the health condition of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Friday.

However, AIIMS administration has not issued any official statement regarding his health condition since August 9, after he was admitted in the ICU after he complained of breathlessness and restlessness. Jaitley is said to be critical and a multidisciplinary team of doctors is supervising his treatment, sources said.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Minister of State for Health Ashwini Choubey were also present during president's visit to the hospital.

# NGT directs DDA to rejuvenate Neela Hauz lake without delay

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has directed the Delhi Development Authority to rejuvenate the Neela Hauz Lake in South Delhi without any delay.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel noted that the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has written to the Public Works Department to arrange fixing of iron meshes and create vertical gardens or to issue a NOC to it to undertake the work.

"In view of the damage being caused to the environment by illegal dumping of waste, we direct DDA to undertake the requisite remedial measures without waiting for further response from PWD. If PWD has any objection, it may move this tribunal," the bench said in a recent order.

The tribunal had earlier directed the DDA to furnish action taken report on rejuvenation of the Neela Hauz lake.

According to the report, commuters passing through Aruna Asif Ali Marg Road Bridge over the lake are dump-

ing plastic bags, bottles, glass framed photographs, polythene bags and other waste including bio-medical waste which is removed by the staff of Neela Hauz Bio-diversity park managed by DDA.

The tribunal's order came after taking note of a newspaper report which said the lake is becoming a dumping ground.

Waste so dumped is being retrieved daily by the DDA but no preventive or remedial action against illegal dumping is being taken which adversely affects conservation of the lake, it said.

# City gets longest spell of clean air

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality has been oscillating between good and satisfactory categories for the past one week, making it one of the longest spells of clean air in the national Capital this year.

The authorities have attributed increased rainfall with approaching western disturbance as the main reason behind the improvement in air quality.

According to the Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR), the overall air quality index (AQI) of Delhi was 44 on Friday which falls in good category, while the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) said the AQI was recorded in satisfactory cate-

gory at 59.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The level of PM2.5 (particles in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometre) was recorded at 44 and the PM10 level was recorded at 21 on Friday, SAFAR said.

The AQI was recorded at 69 on Tuesday, 63 on Wednesday and 75 on Thursday. Officials said it is the longest spell of clean air experienced by Delhiites this year.

The air quality is predicted to be in good category for the next three days, according to SAFAR.



Delhi sky after the rain on Friday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer




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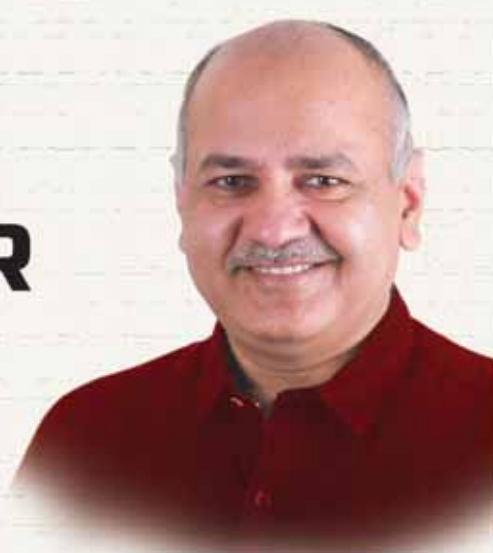
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# NBCC not to invest money in Amrapali projects

To work as project mgmt consultant



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned NBCC Friday said it will not "invest any money" in completing debt-laden Amrapali's stalled projects that require a whopping Rs 8,500 crore investment. Last month, the Supreme Court asked the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) to complete pending projects of the Amrapali Group at an 8 per

cent commission.

Replying to an investor query regarding balance construction cost for stalled Amrapali projects and how the same will be funded, NBCC's Executive Director (Finance) Yogesh Sharma said the total estimated investment required is around Rs 8,500 crore. This amount includes 8 per cent PMC (project management consultancy) margin for the NBCC which has been

agreed and ordered by the Supreme Court, he said in an investor call after announcing financial results for the first quarter.

The transcript of the investor call was filed by the NBCC with stock exchanges. "This funding will be arranged, explicitly it has been put in our proposal also and agreed by the Supreme Court that the funding will be arranged by either the Supreme Court through its various mechanism which it is operating through Amrapali group of company and the NBCC will definitely not be investing any money in the construction of the project," Sharma said.

The expected time schedule for the completion of Amrapali projects is around four to five years considering volume of work as well as difficulties of the execution process, he added.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives a painting from Hussain Burhanuddin, son of His Holiness Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, spiritual head of Dawoodi Bohra community during a meeting, in New Delhi on Friday

## INSHORT

### J&K GOVERNOR TO OPEN AADI MAHOTSAV

New Delhi: Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Satya Pal Malik will on Saturday inaugurate a 9-day Aadi Mahotsav (National Tribal Festival), a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) at Polo Ground, Leh-Ladakh which has been recently declared as Union Territory. Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda and Minister for State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh will also be present at the festival which will see around 160 tribal artisans from more than 20 states, participating and showcasing their masterpieces, said a statement here.

### 'REAL FREEDOM LIES IN HATRED-FREE LIFE'

New Delhi: Sant Nirankari Mission Chief Satguru Mata Sudiksha on Friday said that our real freedom lies in getting rid of the false sense of pride, ego, jealousy, hatred, enmity and all other negative thoughts and feelings. "Even political freedom will become all the more fruitful when accompanied with spiritual liberation," Mata Sudiksha said while addressing a gathering of devotees here on the occasion of Mukti Parv Samagam.

### TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR RURAL WOMEN

New Delhi: With an aim to empower the rural women with skill sets to aid them in making a livelihood, Amity Humanity Foundation (AHF) in association with Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) provided three months training programme to more than 200 women from rural areas. A Certificate Distribution Ceremony for Advance Sewing Machine Operators (ASMO) and Basic Sewing Machine Operators (BSMO) batches was organized at Amity University campus wherein training completion certificates were conferred by E.S Ranganathan, MD, IGL and Pooja Chauhan, Chairperson, AHF.

# J&K internal matter, India rebuffs Pak's UNSC move

From Page 1

Russia's deputy permanent representative, Dmitry Polyanskiy told reporters before entering the meeting room that Moscow's view is that it is a "bilateral issue" between India and Pakistan.

He said the meeting was being held to understand what is happening.

"That's what closed consultations are for. What does Russia think the next step should be - we favour bilateral track between India and Pakistan. You know our position. It hasn't changed. Today we have closed consultations and we will just exchange opinions and see what we can do and what we cannot do. It is a normal process."

When asked if Russia was concerned over the tense situation between India and Pakistan, Polyanskiy said, "we are very much concerned. We hope to avoid it."

Asked if the Council can play a useful role, he replied, "We first need to discuss and then we'll see."

Replying to another question, he said, "Sometimes it is better not to touch upon such an issue. It's a bilateral issue," the Russian diplomat said.

It is significant that the discussions are not being held at the horse-shoe table in the Security Council Chamber, which is a more formal format for meetings.

In a setback to Pakistan's intentions, the consultations on its letter to the Council are closed and informal and there will unlikely be a formal pronouncement after the meeting, diplomatic sources said.

In the letter to the UNSC, Pakistan had requested that its representative be allowed to participate in the meeting, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

But Pakistan's request was not allowed, the sources said.

According to UN records, the last time "the Security Council addressed the dispute between India and Pakistan over the territories of Jammu and Kashmir" under agenda item "The India-Pakistan question" was in 1965.

The Council's schedule said "Security Council consultations (closed) India/Pakistan", listed for 10 am.

Sources said since it is a consultation, any outcome is not formal pronouncement.

A UN diplomat had told PTI that China had asked for closed consultations on the Security Council agenda item 'India Pakistan Question'.

"The request was in reference to the Pakistani letter to Security Council President Joanna Wronecka," the diplomat said. Poland is the Security Council President for the month of August.

The five permanent members of the UNSC are China, France, Russia, the UK and the US. The 10 non-permanent members are Belgium, Cote d'Ivoire,

Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and South Africa.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has urged India and Pakistan to exercise "maximum restraint" and refrain from taking steps that could affect the status of Jammu and Kashmir. He had highlighted the Simla Agreement which rejects any third-party mediation on the issue.

Pakistan formally called for an emergency meeting of the UNSC to discuss India revoking the special status to Jammu and Kashmir, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said on Thursday.

Last Friday, Qureshi had air-dashed to Beijing for urgent consultations with the Chinese leadership on the issue of raising the Kashmir issue at the UNSC.

During his meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday in Beijing, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar conveyed that India's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was an internal matter.

He said the issue related to changes in a temporary provision of the Constitution of India and was the sole prerogative of the country.

Jaishankar emphasised to Wang that these changes had no bearing on Pakistan as it was an internal matter.

"It did not impact the LoC. Where India Pakistan relations are concerned, Chinese side should base its assessment on realities. India, as a responsible power, had shown restraint in face of provocative Pakistani rhetoric and actions. India has always stood for normalisation of the ties in an atmosphere free of terror," the minister said.

# No-first-use N policy may change: Rajnath

From Page 1

Given this position, at present, experts and politicians in the last few years questioned the "no first use" policy. Then Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar had raised doubts about in November 2016. The nuclear doctrine underlining not first use policy came into being in 2003 during the NDA regime.

While India sticks to its policy, Pakistan does not have an NFU policy and often brandishes it claiming it needs nuclear weapons to deal with India's much bigger military. In fact, Pakistan threatened to use nuclear weapons after India mobilised troops in the aftermath of Parliament House terrorist attack in December 2001.

# Nigerian Shia cleric returns after India medical row

AFP ■ ABUJA

Shia leader Ibrahim Yaqoub Zakzaky, who was granted permission to travel to India for medical care after years in detention, returned to Nigeria on Friday following a row over his treatment, his supporters said.

Zakzaky, founder of the pro-Iranian Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), and his wife Zeenah Ibrahim were "whisked away by security agents" to avoid waiting media after touching down at the airport in the capital Abuja, group member Abdurrahman Abubakar told AFP.

There was no official comment from the Nigerian authorities on the couple's whereabouts.

The cleric had been in custody in Nigeria along with his wife since December 2015 after they were arrested during violence in which the army killed some 350 of his followers and buried many in mass graves.

The couple flew to India on Monday after a court gave them permission to travel abroad for medical treatment under Nigerian government supervision following a spate of bloody protests by IMN supporters.

But the medical care was held up by a row over the conditions for the treatment as the IMN complained its leader had been denied access to his preferred doctors and was kept under close guard.

On Thursday Zakzaky said he and his wife were told to leave India.

The Nigerian authorities had said Zakzaky would still stand trial on his return from India.

Fears about the health of the cleric, in his mid-sixties, had fuelled near daily protests by his followers in Abuja that descended into bloodshed after a crackdown by security forces.

# Flower: Lack of freedom, security most frustrating about living in Pak

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Grant Flower said the "lack of freedom and security aspect" is the most frustrating thing about living in strife-torn Pakistan, where he has served as the national team's batting coach for five years.

In 2014, the former Zimbabwe opener was roped in to coach the Pakistan batsmen, but the country's Cricket Board (PCB) last week decided not to renew his contract.

Asked what was the most frustrating thing about living in Pakistan during an interview to ESPNcricinfo, Flower replied: "The security aspect and the lack of freedom." The former Zimbabwean cricketer termed the Champions Trophy triumph in 2017, when Pakistan defeated India in the final, his "proudest personal achievement."

Asked what he won't miss about working in Pakistan, Flower said: "Some of the backstabbing by ex-players. And a lot of the politics that happens within the TV channels, the journalists and some of the politics in the PCB itself. I won't miss those, certainly."

# Temple existed before Babri Masjid came up at disputed site, Ram Lalla's lawyer to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A "massive" temple of Lord Ram, dating back to the second century BC (Before Christ), existed at the disputed site in Ayodhya before the construction of Babri Masjid, a counsel for deity "Ram Lalla Virajman" told the Supreme Court on Friday.

The counsel for Ram Lalla, a party to the decades-old Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute, referred to the report of a court commissioner, appointed to inspect the site in 1950, and also relied upon the findings of the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) to buttress its claim over the disputed 2.77-acre land in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya.

Advancing submissions before a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi on the seventh day of the hearing, senior advocate C.S Vaidyanathan, appearing for the deity, said according to the ASI report, there "existed a massive, pillar-based structure dating back to the second century BC and the ASI survey was conclusive about there being a 'mandap' at the site with pillars."

The senior lawyer extensively referred to various pictures and reports, including the ASI's

findings on the excavated materials from the disputed site, and said, however, there was no such material to show that it was a temple of only Lord Ram.

But the pictures of the deities, including those of Lord Shiva, sculptures on the pillars of "Garuda" flanked by lions and the images of lotus amply indicated that it was a temple and moreover, these things were not found in mosques, Vaidyanathan submitted before the bench also comprising justices SA Bobde, DY Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and SA Nazeer.

"Keeping in mind the faith of Hindus and preponderance of probability, it would indicate that this was a temple of Lord Ram," he said.

"Along with the massive old structure, other materials found during excavation suggested that it was a temple," the senior lawyer added.

Referring to the Allahabad High Court order, he said one of the judges, Justice SU Khan, did not deal with the ASI report in his judgment and erroneously concluded that the mosque came up on a vacant land and on the ruins of a temple, while the other two judges took note of the report, which said there was a temple where the mosque came up.

# SC in no hurry to pass order on media...

From Page 1

At this point, the Bench said it can also refer this matter to the Bench which on Tuesday had entertained a similar petition. Another Bench, headed by Justice Arun Mishra, on Tuesday had refused to interfere with the Centre and the Jammu & Kashmir Government imposing several restrictions, saying "reasonable time" be given for bringing normalcy in the sensitive situation and had decided to hear the issue after two weeks.

During Friday's hearing, Grover submitted that there had been a lot of curtailment on the movement of media personnel and there has been blackout on the publication of newspapers because of the communication shutdown.

Attorney General KK Venugopal said he had read Kashmir Times, which had been published from Jammu, and permission has been granted to all media to function from all other places. He expressed surprise why Kashmir Times was not published from Srinagar. "So far the situation is concerned it would gradually be settled and, therefore, there is no need to jump to any conclusion," Venugopal said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that there was no need to entertain the petition seeking lifting of curbs on media. He said people should trust the security forces



deployed in Jammu & Kashmir and authorities are taking stock of situation on day-to-day basis.

He said some time should be given to bring normalcy in the region. The petition filed by Bhasin had sought removal of restrictions imposed on working of journalists in the state after scrapping of provisions of Article 370.

Bhasin has sought restoration of all modes of communication, including mobile Internet and land-line services, throughout the state in order to provide an enabling environment for the media to practise its profession.

In the petition, the editor said she is seeking a direction for the Centre and the Jammu & Kashmir administration to immediately relax all restrictions on freedom of movement of journalists and media personnel in Kashmir and some districts of Jammu.

The direction was sought in

order to enable media personnel to practise their profession and exercise their right to report in furtherance of their rights under Article 14, 19 (1) (a) and 19 (1) (g) and 21 of the Constitution as well as the right to know of residents of Kashmir Valley, the petition said.

In the petition, the editor submitted that since August 4, all connectivity was shutdown leaving Kashmir and some districts in Jammu completely isolated and cut-off from all possible modes of communication and information. "No formal orders, under which such action was taken, were communicated by the Centre and state administrators, and power and authority under which such exces-

sive and arbitrary action was ordered is still unknown to the petitioner," the plea submitted.

It said on August 5, orders under section 144 of the CrPC were issued and all of Kashmir was placed under a de facto curfew and severe restrictions imposed on movement.

Press identity cards of reporters were not given any attention and they were effectively disabled from reporting on the situation by restricting their movement, the petition submitted, adding due to severe and pervasive restrictions imposed by authorities her newspaper Kashmir Times, Srinagar edition could not be distributed and circulated on August 5.

# Major Gen loses job, pension for Capt's sexual harassment

From Page 1

The court martial held at the Western Army Command, Chandimandir, Chandigarh, found Major General Jaswal guilty under Section 354A (sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 45 (unbecoming conduct) of the Army Act. The court martial was headed by a Lieutenant General and had six

Major Generals as members.

The woman had alleged that Major General Jaswal misbehaved with her. He allegedly used to call her to his room late in the evening for official work in Kohima in late 2016. It is learnt that the dismissed officer had played a role in the cross-border raids against insurgent camps in Myanmar in June 2015.

# Commercial vehicles entering Delhi get...

From Page 1

"Environment Compensation Charge (ECC) and toll rates have been fixed depending on the vehicle category," he added.

It may be recalled that the RFID system implementation was made mandatory for commercial vehicles entering Delhi for which arrangements of the pre-registration of commercial vehicles and sale of RFID tags and its recharge arrangements had been made at toll plazas.

The official said the response in getting commercial vehicles pre-registered and subsequent issuance of RFID tags is encouraging as around 50, 000 RFID tags have been issued in the last six days.

The civic body introduced this system with an aim to curb air pollution, congestion and to reduce time taken to get commercial vehicles enter Delhi. The RFID based toll system is already functional at Kundli, Rajokari, Tikri, Aya Nagar,

Kalindi Kunj, Kapasehra, Shahdara (main), Shahdara (flyover), Ghazipur (main), Ghazipur (old), DND Flyway, Badarpur-Faridabad (main) and Badarpur-Faridabad (flyover) toll plazas. The 13 entry points cater to the entry of around 85 per cent of traffic entering Delhi.

"The RFID-based toll system comprises of 58 RFID lanes and 33 free lanes. A web portal has also been setup to enable the users to recharge their individual RFID tag

accounts and keeping track of their transactions," said the official, adding that the sensor of RFID system can read the tag on the commercial vehicle and allow entry of vehicles in Delhi without human intervention.

He said the RFID tag will allow for a database to be prepared of the vehicle and the owner; this will improve compliance in the future as defaulting vehicles can be penalised.

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**NOTICE**  
NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to Section 191(1) of the Companies Act, 2013, the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from 18th September, 2019 to 27th September, 2019 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting of the Company which is scheduled to be held on Friday the 27th September, 2019.

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For Supra Industrial Resources Limited  
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Date: 14th August, 2019 Director

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# UNSC meet on J&K grave diplomatic failure: Cong

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Terminating the UNSC discussing the Kashmir issue a "grave diplomatic failure" of the BJP Government, the Congress on Friday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to talk to "India's friends" in the United Nations to stall the scheduled meet on the issue.  
Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said it was a failure on the part of the government's foreign policy to allow internationalisation of the Kashmir issue in the UN. "This is a grave diplomatic failure of the government. In fact, it is worse, it is a grave strategic failure at a time when India's Foreign Minister is in China," Singhvi said at AICC Press briefing.  
External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who concluded his three-day visit to Beijing on Monday, conveyed that the decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir



was an internal matter for India. Singhvi said Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh is India's internal issue and nobody, group or organisation can assert to the contrary. It is for the first time in 48 years that the UN has taken up the Kashmir issue, he said, adding that this is a glaring "diplomatic failure" by the BJP government.  
"I implore and beseech the prime minister not to remain silent...I urge the prime minister to pick up the phone and talk to all India's friends to get this meeting cancelled," he said. Singhvi said as he is mak-

ing the demand for getting the UN meeting cancelled, he fears being dubbed by the BJP as "anti-national".  
He said this is not a dismissable issue as this is something that has not happened for decades and is being allowed to happen now. The UN Security Council was scheduled to meet on Friday to discuss India revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir after Pakistan wrote a letter on the issue to the world body. China, an ally of Pakistan, asked for "closed consultations" in the Council, which met to discuss the matter.

# SC expresses anguish over filing of 'defective' petitions on Article 370

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court on Friday expressed anguish over "defective" petitions on the issue of scrapping of provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution.  
A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said the petition by advocate M L Sharma has "no meaning".  
The CJI said he spent 30 minutes reading the petition but could not make out anything and also could not understand what was the prayer.  
"What kind of petition is this? It could have been dismissed but there are 5 other pleas with the registry which are under defect," the bench also comprising Justices SA Bobde and SA Nazeer said.  
"You are not praying for setting aside the Presidential order. What is the prayer it is not clear. It can be dismissed on technical grounds."



"In a matter of this nature if this is the petition, there is no meaning," the bench said.  
The court was hearing the petition by Sharma, who had filed it on August 6, a day after the Centre had abrogated Jammu and Kashmir's special status.  
The apex court asked lawyers to cure defects in their six petitions on Article 370 and adjourned the hearing.  
The bench also noted that it was hearing the petition on Article 370 by breaking the combination of judges which was hearing the sensitive Ayodhya matter.

# Ponzi scam case: ED attaches ₹300 cr assets of Heera Group

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹299.99 crore of Nowhera Shaik of Heera Group of Companies and others spread across multiple states under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act in a ponzi scam case.  
The attached assets consisting of 96 immovable properties located in Telangana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh worth ₹277.29 crore in the form of agricultural lands, commercial plots, residential buildings, commercial complexes and balances in bank accounts worth ₹22.69 crore.  
ED initiated investigations under PMLA on the basis of FIRs registered by Central Crime Station, Hyderabad, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Police against Shaik and others on the allegation of illegally collecting deposits from lacs of investors under the guise of

high returns. There are Multiple FIRs registered across the country against Heera Group of Companies, the ED said.  
The ED probe revealed that Shaik incorporated multiple companies under Heera Group of Companies and collected an amount of approximately ₹5,600 crore as unauthorized deposits from around 1,72,000 investors across the country by engaging a network of marketing executives and direct selling agents with a false promise of paying high rate of returns to the tune of three per cent per month (36 per cent per annum).  
Shaik floated multiple schemes and extensively advertised the schemes to lure the victims. She started 24 firms/entities under Heera Group and 182 bank accounts were opened in different banks in different parts of the countries in the name of these 24 entities. Further 10 bank accounts were also opened in foreign countries such as UAE

and Saudi Arabia for collecting these deposits, the ED said in a statement.  
Shaik does not possess any valid permission either under the Banking Regulation Act, Companies Act, RBI Act or from any other government agency such as SEBI for collecting deposits. She started Gold, Food & Textile trading businesses only to create the impression that she earning legitimate profits, but in reality, the payouts to the new members were simply being funded from the cash flows generated from new members/investments. The volume of business in her Gold, Textile & Food marts was minuscule and not sufficient to justify the high returns promised by her, the agency said.  
Shaik along with her family members and close associates diverted the depositors' money to their personal accounts and amassed huge movable and immovable assets for wrongful personal gain, the agency added.

# PC welcomes PM's I-Day announcements

**Chidambaram hails call on population control, wealth creators**  
**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram, who has been one of the strongest critics of the Modi Government, sprang a surprise on Friday as he welcomed the Prime Minister's announcements on population control, respect for wealth creators and shunning single-use plastic. He said he hoped the Finance Minister and tax officials would heed to his exhortation.  
"All of us must welcome three announcements made

by the PM on I-Day. Small family is a patriotic duty; Respect wealth creators and Shun single-use plastic. Of the three exhortations, I hope the PM and her legion of tax officials and investigators heard the PM's second exhortation loud and clear," Chidambaram said.  
Chidambaram has been the most vocal critic of Modi's governance particularly on economic and security issues. He has been continuously questioning the Centre over abrogation of Article 370 for Jammu and Kashmir. Chidambaram, along with his son Karti, faces allegations of wrongdoing in allowing foreign direct investment when he was finance minister in UPA-1.  
Chidambaram, who is a former finance minister, said,

"The first and third exhortations must become people's movements. There are hundreds of dedicated voluntary organisations that are willing to lead the movements at local levels."  
Addressing the nation on the 73rd Independence Day on Thursday, the prime minister expressed concern over "population explosion" in the country, saying it causes innumerable challenges for the coming generations, and asserted that the central and state governments should launch measures to deal with the issue.  
Modi also said wealth creators should not be eyed with suspicion and that they are country's wealth and should be respected. He urged people to shun single-use plastic and encouraged usage of jute and

cloth bags to protect the environment.  
Chidambaram's response came weeks after the death of VG Siddhartha, founder of popular chain Cafe Coffee Day who in a purported suicide note mentioned as "harassment" from a senior income tax officer which forced him to end his life.  
Former Infosys Director Mohandas Pai too alleged threat to businesses from "tax terrorism", and a report said Biocon Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar Shaw was told by a "government official" not to speak about issues such as income tax harassment. Pai also recounted an incident, where an official called up his colleague in Infosys and threatened to "shut him down".

# Prez, PM pay tribute to Vajpayee

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
The first death anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was marked on Friday by a prayer meeting here held at Sadaiv Atal—the memorial to the late leader—which was attended by top dignitaries and political leaders.  
President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and members of Vajpayee's family were amongst those who paid tributes to the BJP leader amid the playing of hymns and devotional music.  
The memorial was dedicated to the nation in December last year. The central samadhi platform comprises nine square black polished granite stone blocks, capped



President Ram Nath Kovind with Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at his memorial on his first death anniversary in New Delhi on Friday

announcing various schemes in the memory of the late leader including setting-up of hospitals and schools after his name.  
In the national capital, DR RML Hospital's medical college was named after the ex-Prime Minister. Union Health Minister Harshvardhan also laid the foundation for Super Speciality block and New doctor's hostel.  
Medical Superintendent & Director Dr. VK Tiwari said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of medical sciences (ABVIMS) starts with 100 MBBS seats this year. "It will be a state of art medical college with reputed faculties and world class infrastructure. Super Specialty Block has more than 550 beds and the New Resident Doctors' Hostel has 827 bed units," Dr Tiwari said.

# Will take decision on elevation of Justice Kureshi within a week, Centre tells SC

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Centre on Friday told the Supreme Court that it would take a call within a week on the collegium's May 10 recommendation to elevate Justice Akil Kureshi as Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court.  
A bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S A Bobde and S Abdul Nazeer was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the Centre would take a call within a week on the top court collegium's recommendation for the elevation of Justice Kureshi as Chief Justice

of Madhya Pradesh High Court. "I have instruction that within a week some decisions will be taken in this regard," Mehta said and requested the court that the matter be taken up after a week as the Centre was going through the files sent by the collegium on the judge concerned.  
The bench adjourned the hearing on the matter and indicated that the next date for hearing will be fixed on the administrative side.  
On August 2, the top court had asked the Centre to take a decision in the matter by August 14 after Mehta had

informed the bench that the collegium proposal was under consideration.  
The top court was hearing a petition filed by the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association (GHCAA) seeking direction to the Centre to notify the elevation of Justice Kureshi.  
The lawyers' body alleged that the Centre has cleared the appointment of Chief Justices of other high courts. The plea had said that Justice Kureshi name has not been notified by the Centre even after the collegium has recommended his name on May 10.

# SC clears Chardham highway project, forms fresh committee for environmental concerns

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court has cleared the decks for the ambitious Chardham highway project for all-weather connectivity to four holy towns of Uttarakhand and constituted a fresh high-powered committee to address environmental concerns.  
A bench comprising Justices Rohinton Fali Nariman and Surya Kant modified the National Green Tribunal's September 26, 2018 order by constituting the high-powered committee.  
"However, the Committee is to be headed by Prof. Ravi Chopra, who will replace

Justice U C Dhyani, and will be the Chairman of the Committee.  
"In addition to this, we add a representative of the Physical Research Laboratory, Department of Space, Government of India, Ahmedabad; a representative of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, a representative of MoEF, Regional Office Dehradun and a representative of the Ministry of Defence dealing with Border roads, not below the rank of Director. We direct MoEF to constitute the High Powered Committee within two weeks from the date of this order," the bench said.

# Rebuild demolished Guru Ravidas Mandir: Brinda

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Brinda Karat on Friday urged Urban Development Minister Hardeep Puri to rebuild the recently demolished Guru Ravidas Mandir and nearby for samadhis in Tughlaqabad by Delhi Development Authority (DDA). In her letter Brinda said that DDA authorities decision to a lot another place to the followers of the Guru is not at all acceptable and the Mandir must be rebuilt in the same place.  
Citing the Modi Government's position in

Ayodhya case on supporting the faith of the people, the CPI(M) leader said that this should be applicable to the followers of the Guru Ravidas. "This is to draw your attention to the demolition of the Guru Ravidas Mandir and four samadhis in the "forest area" in Tughlaqabad extension on August 10. I had visited the place on August 14th along with my Party colleagues and office bearers of the Dalit Soshan Mukti Manch and met the petitioners (Guru Ravidas Samiti) who gave me the details and took us to the site.  
"I had read in the papers

that you had met the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi in this connection and are working out "a solution" namely to "allot another place" for the temple and the samadhis. Unfortunately in these developments the DDA, which is directly under your Ministry, has played the worst role in riding roughshod over the legitimate grievances of the petitioners leading to the present plight. I strongly urge you to rectify this by going in for a review petition before the Supreme Court," she said, insisting the rebuild of the Guru Ravidas Mandir on the same spot.

# Flood fury affects sowing of kharif crops in 13 States

**RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI**  
Floods affecting 13 States have severely affected the cultivation of rice and pulses as the kharif crops could not be sown in a whopping 40.25 lakh hectares of farm land. To add to it, an estimated 6-7 lakh hectare crops have been damaged due to floods. India has recorded 604.8 mm rainfall as against the normal of 595.7 mm so far. The data shows rice and pulses cultivation has been most hit in West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.  
As per data released by the Agriculture Ministry on Friday, kharif crops sowing are 40.25 lakh hectares less this year due to flood and erratic rains across the country. The data shows Rice and Pulses cultivation, however, has remained slow in major eastern states such West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.  
As per data, overall, total kharif crops so far have been sown in around 926.13 lakh hectares this year as compared to 966.39 lakh hectares sown in the corresponding week last year.  
The shortfall is the highest in rice. The data shows rice cultivation is down by 36.85 lakh hectare so far. Rice is planted at nearly 301.40 lakh hectare this year as compared to 338.25 lakh hectare last year.  
Flood-hit West Bengal (a deficit of 8.86 lakh hectare), Odisha (4.66 lakh hectare) and Bihar (5.54 lakh hectare), Jharkhand (5.54 lakh hectare), Assam



(1.31 lakh hectare), Tamil Nadu (1.06 lakh hectare), Maharashtra (1.66 lakh hectare), Kerala (1.2 lakh hectare) and Sikkim (0.11 lakh hectare) are among the States that reported the maximum drop in rice planting.  
Besides, it is estimated that 6 to 7 lakh hectare crops have been damaged due to flood. This number could go higher as assessment of crop damaged yet to be completed in several states. Similarly, kharif pulses (arhar, urad, moong) area stands at 115.55 lakh hectare against 120.94 lakh hectare last year. Gujarat and Telangana reported decline in kharif pulses sowing so far. The sugarcane cultivation is also declined this year so far.  
"The decline in sowing is mainly because of the delayed onset of the southwest monsoon and floods in several states. Though most crops are in the growing stage and it is difficult to predict the final harvest now," said officials of agriculture ministry. July, August and September is considered as main season for Kharif cultivation across the country.  
According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD),

there was some respite for the rain-battered states-Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra for the second consecutive day, even as the toll climbed to 111 with more bodies being retrieved from landslide hit areas in Malappuram and Wayanad districts as the southwest monsoon turned week on Friday. On the other hand, there is a threat of flood in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat as rivers are in spate.  
The IMD has predicted moderate to heavy rainfall activity in several north Indian states including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh over the next two days due to low pressure area over Bay of Bengal. "The situation is likely to continue till August 20," the IMD said. In Rajasthan, five people were killed in rain-related incidents in the past 24 hours and flood like situation created in Hadauti. A red alert warning was issued for Jodhpur, Nagaur and Pali for the next 24 hours. In Madhya Pradesh, the water level in 96 out of 251 big and medium reservoirs in Madhya Pradesh has crossed 90 per cent capacity mark following copious rains over the last few days.  
The IMD said that the southwest monsoon are crucial for farm output and economic growth as the agricultural sector's 2.5 trillion economy. India received 45 per cent more rainfall than the 50-year average in the week to August 16. The rains from June to September are a lifeline for rural India, delivering some 70 per cent of the country's rainfall, but they also cause death and destruction each year.

# IIT develops prototype that can produce green fertilisers, water from human urine

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
At a time when every drop of water counts in view of its scarcity, researchers of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, have developed a prototype that can produce green fertilizers and water from human urine.  
The product, 'Water Chakra', works on the development of a modular on-site toilet treatment unit. It recovers about 96 per cent of phosphorus and 85 per cent of nitrogen in the form of commercial grade ammonia solution and struvite fertiliser, besides recovery of 90 per cent water, according to the researchers. The Project has won the Indian Innovation Growth Programme 2.0 award in July 2019.  
Anusha Gupta, a PhD scholar at IIT Madras who led the team, said the aim was to protect valuable water assets, reduce customer's operation costs and create new products from toilet resources (human urine) in a simplistic approach. On an average, a man flushes nearly 1 liter of water every time he urinates, which equals to nearly 2160 liters of water per year.  
"The Water Chakra project aims to recover fertilizers and water from urine," Gupta said. "The developed prototype can be installed in large footprint areas like commercial complexes, corporate buildings, where huge amount of urine can be collected and used for processing to obtain green fertilizers and water."  
According to the researchers, the

human body excretes elements that are highly essential for the production of nutrients. Urine contains of about 98 per cent of water and remaining are nutrients — nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium — that are currently flushed into sewers.  
About 22 per cent of the global phosphorus demand can be achieved through the recovery of phosphorus from human waste like urine and faeces, they said.  
Explaining the product's way of operation, Indumathi M Nambi, technical mentor at the IIT Madras, said: "Urinals are retrofitted to make water-less urinals in one of our buildings, which helps us to collect the concentrated urine that is stored in a primary storage tank in large volumes of up to 500 litres."  
"This tank is followed by a hydrolysis tank where the urine is stored for three days for rise in pH to 9-10," Nambi said. "This hydrolyzed urine then gets pumped to the distillation column, where it gets in contact with steam generated using a steam generator."  
In this column, the technical mentor said, ammonia present in urine strips out and gets collected in the ammonia collection tank after condensing happens with the help of a condenser.  
"The remaining urine goes to the electro-chemical polishing unit for the removal of the organic and pharma residues," she said, adding that 98 per cent of the water recovered can be reused for flushing, firefighting and gardening purposes.

**SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Transporters & Transporters Unions have requested Hon'ble Mayor, SDMC & EPCA to postpone the deadline of midnight of 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 for entry of commercial vehicles into Delhi only with RFID Tags/sufficient Recharge amount. EPCA has considered the request and deadline for entry of commercial vehicles only with RFID Tag/sufficient Recharge amount is postponed from midnight of 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 to midnight of 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2019. This is the final extension and the deadline of midnight 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2019 will be adhered to.

From midnight of 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2019, all commercial vehicles entering Delhi without RFID Tag / sufficient recharge amount will be bound to pay penalty i.e. twice the specified rates of ECC and MCD Toll during first week, four times the specified rates of ECC and MCD Toll during second week and six times the specified rates of ECC and MCD Toll during third week. ECC and toll rates are fixed depending on the vehicle category.

To avoid inconvenience, all commercial vehicle owners / transporters are hereby again requested to visit the permanent point of sale (POS) installed at 13 entry points/RFID Toll Plaza for pre-registration for RFID Tags and Recharge of Tags.

In addition to above 13 locations, following 06 permanent POS in State of Haryana & UP have been established before Delhi entry point:-

1. Tikri Main, Bahadurgarh By Pass Road, Near New Bus Stand, Haryana.
2. India Oil Petrol Pump, Near Biswa Mill, GT Karnal Road, Kundli Sonapat, Haryana.
3. GT Road, Anand Industrial Estate, Mohan Nagar, in front of ITS College, Ghaziabad, UP.
4. Sector-1, Heritage Village Resort, Manesar Police Station, NH-8, Manesar, Haryana.
5. NH-24 Bridge, UP Gate, Ghaziabad, UP.
6. NHAI & MCD Toll Tax Badarpur Haryana Border near Bhart Petrol Pump, Agra Road, Badarpur Delhi

Transporters with the big fleet of vehicles can contact representatives of our toll operator M/s. MEP Infrastructure Developers Ltd. on above mentioned locations or on their telephone numbers DND - 7903176120, Rajokari - 9354320562 and KGT (Kundli) - 9205262947 for providing/arranging mobile Vans / POS to their desired location for getting the pre-registration of commercial vehicles along with Recharge of Tags.

For recharging the RFID Tag / through Mobile, the customer can download the "MCD Toll App" from their mobile play store by registering their mobile number.

In case of any issue, the transporters / vehicles owners can also contact Mr. Ganesh Viswas Pahadke on his mobile No. 8879333612.

Ro No. 41/DPV/South/2019-20 AC (Toll Tax)

KASHMIR

# Return of Pandits possible, Guv told

Support of all stakeholders needed, including civil society, says Adviser



**Jammu:** Adviser to J&K Governor, Farooq Khan, has said the complete return of Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) to the Valley is possible only with the support and cooperation of all stakeholders.

"The complete return of Kashmiri migrants to the Valley is possible only with the support and cooperation of all stakeholders, including the civil society of Kashmir, who share a social and cultural bond with the Kashmiri migrants," Khan said on Thursday.

He said the Government

was committed to the safe return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits in the Valley.

Khan further said the process for the recruitment against 3,000 posts for the migrants and the construction of transit accommodations for the migrant employees serving in the Valley would start soon. The statement came in the wake of hopes for the return of over 3 lakh displaced pandits to the Valley after the scrapping of the special status for Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370.

# Doval returns to Delhi after 11 days in Valley

**Srinagar:** National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Friday returned to Delhi after spending 11 days in Kashmir Valley to ensure smooth implementation of plans after the withdrawal of special status accorded to Jammu & Kashmir, officials said.

Doval, who came here on August 6, took charge of security and development-related activities with a special focus on ensuring that there was no loss of life, they said.

During his stay, the NSA took a round of Shopian, a district worst hit by terrorism, and met locals and security personnel.

Visuals of Doval having lunch with locals, with closed shops in the backdrop, at an undisclosed locality were circulated in the media. He was

heard saying in the video that once the new administration is set up, things will change.

He also addressed personnel of the Jammu & Kashmir Police, CRPF and Army separately, telling them about their successes in disturbed areas and underlining their importance in ensuring the safety of the country and citizens.

The officials, while commenting on some adverse news reports about his visit to Shopian, said one cannot take away the credit that he visited the place.

The officials said that the NSA had to ensure that there is no loss of life and damage to properties as well as to see that the morale of troops on the ground is high, and he has been successful in that.

Doval, during his meetings,

conveyed in clear terms that there should be no inconvenience to the people in general public.

During his stay in the city, he also toured downtown areas, including the sensitive Eidgah locality, which is notorious for incidents of stone pelting at security forces.

The NSA also ensured smooth coordination between all arms of security forces in J-K and getting them with available intelligence inputs for smooth operations in the hinterland as well as along the line of control.

On August 5, the Government announced the decision to abrogate special status of Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution, and dividing the state into two Union Territories.



Security personnel patrol a street during restrictions following the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 in Srinagar on Friday

# Detained Kashmiri scribe released on bond

**Srinagar:** A Kashmir-based journalist, who was picked up from his home in Pulwama by security forces on Thursday night, has been released on a bond, officials said on Friday.

Irfan Malik, a correspondent with the Greater Kashmir newspaper, was questioned before being released, they said.

It was not immediately



known as to why was he detained. Officials, however,

said a bond is taken from those who indulge in anti-social activities.

After the Government removed Jammu & Kashmir's special status on August 5, it imposed restrictions on free movement of people, prevented large gatherings, put curbs on telecom connectivity and announced closure of schools and colleges.

# NPP DELEGATION TO MEET CENTRAL LEADERS OVER J&K SITUATION

**Jammu:** The National Panthers Party (NPP) on Friday said a party delegation would be meeting into the hands of outside land mafia, NPP chairman and former minister Harsh Dev Singh said in a statement here.

The team will also demand to further protect the interests of the local youth in the employment, he added.

desirability of enactment of domicile laws so as to protect the land of state subjects from getting into the hands of outside land mafia, NPP chairman and former minister Harsh Dev Singh said in a statement here. The team will also demand to further protect the interests of the local youth in the employment, he added.

# AK-47, explosives recovered from Bihar MLA's ancestral house

**Patna:** An AK-47 rifle was recovered from the ancestral house of controversial Bihar MLA Anant Singh on Friday during a raid which also yielded a large number of ammunition and explosives.

Acting on a tip-off, a police party raided the house of Singh a multiple term MLA from Mokama at Nadawan village in Barh sub-division of rural Patna where bomb disposal squad has also been summoned to defuse the explosives that have been recovered.

We had received information that some illegal arms and explosives were stashed inside the house. Accordingly, we conducted a raid. The AK-47 rifle was found wrapped in sheets of paper. Ammunition and explosives were also recovered and bomb disposal squad will do the needful, Superintendent of Police (Rural), Patna, Kantesh Kumar

Mishra told reporters at Barh, about 70 kms from here.

Notably, Singh nicknamed "Chhote Sarkar" has long criminal record and was recently summoned to the Police Headquarters in Patna for giving his voice sample in connection with a bid on the life of a Mokama-based contractor.

The MLA angrily reacted to the raid conducted on his ancestral house and alleged a conspiracy has been hatched against me at the behest of Lalan Singh as part of which weapons not belonging to me are being shown as having been recovered. My house has also been badly vandalized during the raid.

Notably, Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan is the JD(U) MP from Munger the Lok Sabha constituency under which Mokama assembly segment falls. He had clinched the

seat defeating the Mokama MLAs wife Neelam Devi who contested on a Congress ticket by a huge margin.

However, Mishra debunked the allegations levelled by the MLA and pointed out the raid was carried out in presence of a magistrate, in accordance with law, as well as the caretaker of the house. Moreover, videography has been done of the entire exercise.

Singh was formerly known to be close to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar but fell out with the latter ahead of the 2015 assembly elections which led to his exit from the JD(U) and contesting and retaining his seat as an Independent.

Thereafter, the MLA — known for his strong-arm tactics — has been accusing JD(U) leaders of conspiring against him to get him framed in criminal cases.

# Maya slams Raj Govt for acquittal of accused in Pehlu Khan case

**Lucknow:** BSP President Mayawati on Friday charged the Congress Government in Rajasthan with laxity, saying the accused in the Pehlu Khan mob lynching case were acquitted due to its "gross negligence".

An Alwar court on Wednesday acquitted all the six accused in the lynching case of Pehlu Khan.

"Due to gross negligence and inaction of the Congress government of Rajasthan, all the six accused in the infamous Pehlu Khan mob lynching case have been acquitted by the lower court there. This is most unfortunate," Mayawati said in a tweet.

"Would this have been possible if the government there was cautious in ensuring justice to the victim's family, perhaps



never," she added.

Pehlu Khan (55), his two sons and a few others were transporting cows when they were allegedly stopped and thrashed by a mob near Behror in Alwar district on April 1, 2017. Khan later died in a hospital.

# TMC's Partha, ex-Kolkata CP quizzed in chit fund cases

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a major embarrassment for the Trinamool Congress, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probing the larger conspiracy angle of the Saradha and other chit fund cases, on Friday, interrogated Partha Chatterjee, a comparatively less controversial face of the Bengal ruling outfit.

In a similar vein, CBI also questioned former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajiv Kumar in Rose Valley case.

Chatterjee, one of the senior-most leaders, a key aide of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and State Education Minister, was grilled for about four hours in connection to the Saradha chit fund case, sources said adding his name cropped up during the interrogation of TMC Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien and party general sec-

retary Subrota Bakshi.

"Chatterjee's name surfaced up during the questioning of Mr O'Brien last week, sources said adding "we got his name in connection with alleged funding of the party's newspaper, Jago Bangla." Chatterjee is the editor of the TMC mouthpiece and O'Brien is the publisher.

On the reason of him being questioned in the chit fund case Chatterjee said he had been called to not on individual capacity but to explain some organisational transactions between the Saradha group and the party as such.

CBI sources said Chatterjee's statements were recorded and would be counter-checked adding "If need be he may be summoned later on."

The CBI earlier turned down the request of Kumar

who had earlier sought a month's time for appearance.

The former CP, currently acting as the Additional Director General of CID, was questioned for more than three hours and was asked to explain his role in some transactions at Burdwan. He was questioned about his role in some land deal at Burdwan, inside sources said.

Meanwhile, Kumar on Friday got a judicial respite with the Calcutta High Court extending the order stopping his arrest till September 3. The Court had earlier directed him not to venture out of his official bungalow and to appear at the CBI office whenever asked to do so.

A major political storm kicked up last year when the Chief Minister personally descending on the streets in support of Kumar after CBI raided his bungalow.

# Lightning kills 4, injures 17 in Kolkata

PNS ■ KOLKATA

A 34-year-old man was killed and 17 people were injured after lightning struck the southern gates of historic Victoria Memorial in Kolkata. The condition of all those injured continued to be critical but stable, sources at the SSKM Hospital where they were rushed in by the police said.

Three other persons of a family were killed by lightning at Purulia bordering Jharkhand, sources said. The thunder struck when the farmers were working in the field. One person was seriously injured and was undergoing treatment.

The rain gods finally smiled on South Bengal —



which had thus far experienced more than 50 per cent shortage in average rain fall — pouring down heavily on Friday late noon even as the weather man predicted heavy showers for another 48 hours.

# Goa mining dependents urge Shah to convene GoM meeting

**Panaji:** People dependent on iron ore mining in Goa on Friday urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to convene a meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM), led by him, to discuss the issue of resumption of the industry in the state.

The GoM, which has been formed to examine the vexed issue of mining in Goa, includes Union Ministers for Finance, Environment, Agriculture, Mining, Commerce and Industries, Petroleum and Law. It is led by Shah.

"The complete closure of mining in Goa since March

2018 has had a devastating effect on the dependents of the industry. This has severely impacted the state's economy and resulted in a heavy drain on the revenues," Puti Gaonkar, president of the Goa Mining People's Front (GMPF), said.

GMPF is an umbrella organisation of the people rendered jobless following the closure of the key industry.

"A GMPF delegation, under the leadership of Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, wants to meet Shah to present our case before him once again...This would help sustain the livelihood of lakhs

of people and provide a strong boost to the ailing economy of the state," he added.

The GMPF representatives had met Shah in January this year to discuss the issue.

"A follow-up meeting was supposed to be held by July end. However no such meeting has taken place so far. Hence, we request the home minister to kindly convene a meeting of the GoM on the mining issue at the earliest," he said.

The mining industry in Goa has come to standstill since March 2018 after the Supreme Court quashed 88 mining leases.

# 31-year-old arrested in first Kerala triple talaq case under new Act

**Kozhikode:** A 31-year old man was arrested on Friday near here for allegedly giving instant triple talaq to his wife, in the first such case in Kerala after the practice became a criminal offence, police said.

E K Ussam (31) was arrested in Mukkom following a warrant issued by the Thamarassery Judicial First Class Magistrate Court. This is the first arrest in the state under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 after the Parliament passed the triple talaq bill last month and the President gave his assent to it,

police said. "On the basis of the directions of the magistrate, he was arrested and produced before the court. His wife had directly complained to the court which issued the warrant," a senior police official told PTI.

The man has been charged under section 3 which makes pronouncement of talaq by words, either spoken or written or in any other manner whatsoever void and illegal and section 4 that provides for punishment with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.

# Father of Dalit man beaten to death last month commits suicide

**Jaipur:** The father of a Dalit man who was allegedly beaten to death last month after his motorcycle hit a woman in Rajasthan's Alwar district has committed suicide, police said on Friday.

They said Ratiram Jatav (60) consumed a poisonous substance on Thursday, a month after his son died at a Delhi hospital.

Harish (28) had sustained serious head injuries on July 16 after he was allegedly thrashed by a group of men when his motorcycle hit the woman.

No suicide note has been recovered and Ratiram's body has been kept at a hospital's mortuary for post-mortem, Chaupanki police station in-charge Vijay Kumar Chandel said.



His family members on Friday refused to get the post-mortem conducted. They held a protest at Alwar's Tapukda Community Healthcare Centre, demanding compensation and a job for one of the

family members.

Alwar Superintendent of Police Anil Paris Deshmukh said Ratiram's family has demanded a compensation of Rs 1 crore.

He added that the accused

in Harish's killing have been booked under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the investigation is underway.

Blaming the Congress-led Rajasthan government for the

incident, state BJP spokesperson Satish Punia demanded a CBI inquiry into Harish's killing.

"Ratiram committed suicide as he was disappointed over not getting justice for his son. Accused named in the FIR have not been arrested even after a month of Harish's death," Punia said at a press conference.

"It seems that protection of Dalits and majority community is not the state government's priority. The government tried to sweep the matter under the carpet by giving Rs 4 lakh compensation (to Harish's family)," he added.

Punia claimed that the police booked the accused under section 302 of the IPC only after the local leaders protested.

# 35 crocodiles rescued in Vadodara since July 31 downpour

**Vadodara:** As many as 35 crocodiles have been rescued so far from various parts of the city ever since heavy rains battered the city and its surrounding areas over a fortnight ago, a forest official said on Friday.

The city and its adjoining areas had received nearly 500 mm of rainfall in a day till August 1 morning, which had created a flood-like situation. Water from the overflowing Vishwamitri river entered several localities in the city, bringing with it many crocodiles.

According to the official, till August 8, around 22 crocodiles had been rescued. After

that, at least 13 others were rescued from various parts of the city.

"Apart from the forest department, volunteers of NGOs working in the field of wildlife and animal welfare, as well as teams of NDRF are involved in the task of safely capturing and rescuing crocodiles from parts of the city," Vadodara range forest officer (RFO), Nidhi Dave, said.

"They had captured 22 crocodiles till August 8. After that they rescued another 13 crocodiles from different localities in the city, thereby taking the total number of crocodiles rescued to 35," she added.

# Sengar shares space with PM Modi in ad by BJP leader

**Unnao (UP):** Rape accused MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar may have been expelled from the BJP but he found a prominent place along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an advertisement given by a party leader on the occasion of Independence Day.

In the advertisement inserted in the local edition of a leading daily, Ungu Nagar Panchayat chairman Anuj Kumar Dixit used the picture of the Bangarmau legislator and his wife Sangeeta Singh Sengar, who is the chairman of the zila panchayat.

Ungu falls under the the Bangarmau assembly segment and it was Sengar who had reportedly brought Dixit into the BJP fold.

The advertisement also has pictures of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, state BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh and Uttar Pradesh assembly speaker Hriday Narain Dixit.

Dixit, when approached by the media, defended himself for giving Sengar's picture.

He said, "It is there as he is the MLA of our area." The BJP has distanced itself from the controversy. Party spokesperson Shalabhmani Tripathi said, "It might have been someone's personal choice to give Sengar's photograph. It has nothing to do with the party or the State Government."

"Whatever had to be done by the party or by the government, has been done. We have no sympathy for Sengar," he told PTI in Lucknow.

# India suspends Thar Link Express to Pak

**Jodhpur:** The railways on Friday cancelled operations of Thar Link Express that connects Jodhpur in India to Karachi in Pakistan, officials said, a development that temporarily snaps all rail links between the two countries, as the services of Samjhauta Express have already been suspended.

The railways said it cancelled the services of Thar Link Express from Jodhpur as Pakistan has already suspended its operations on their side.

"We have been continuously chasing Pakistan about the status of Thar Express running on its end. But we have not got any response. We cannot leave our passengers in limbo. So in view of Pakistan cancelling the train on its end, we have also decided to cancel its operation on our end till further orders," North Western Railway's Chief Public Relations Officer Abhay Sharma told PTI.

Another railway spokesperson said here that the Thar Link Express would not undertake its journey scheduled for early

Saturday (1 am) and the administration has initiated the process of cancellation of all the 45 tickets which have been issued so far.

"The directions (to suspend the train) were issued by the railway ministry to the North Western Railway on Friday," said Gopal Sharma, the spokesperson for Jodhpur Division-NWR.

The weekly train departs from Jodhpur's Bhagat Ki Kothi railway station on Saturdays and reach Munabao, the last station on the Indian side of the border, early morning of the day. At the zero point on the international border with Pakistan, passengers change trains. And a train from Pakistan then takes them to Karachi.

"Till now, 45 tickets have been issued. But with this order in effect now, we are cancelling the tickets," said Sharma.

The Thar Express has been running between Jodhpur and Karachi since services resumed on February 18, 2006 after a 41-year suspension.

The train service was not suspended even after the deadly terrorist attack in Pulwama on February 14 which sent the tension between the two countries soaring.

According to estimates, over four lakh passengers have taken the train in the past 13 years.

Last Saturday, the train had departed from Bhagat Ki Kothi station with 165 passengers. The train from Pakistan was also received successfully by India with as many passengers.

Pakistan had last week announced suspension of all train services to India after the Centre scrapped provisions of Article 370 and divided Jammu & Kashmir into two Union territories.

Pakistan also stopped the Lahore-Wagah Samjhauta Express services — the main rail link between the two hostile neighbours. Following the move, the Indian Railways announced on Sunday that it has cancelled the New Delhi-Attari Samjhauta Express on its side. **PTI**

# NCP gets another setback as ex-MLA returns to Shiv Sena

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

In yet another setback to Opposition NCP ahead of the October 2019 State Assembly polls, former MLA Dhanraj Haribahu Mahale — who had quit the Shiv Sena and joined the Sharad Pawar-led party and contested the recent Lok Sabha polls from Dindori constituency — returned to the parent party on Friday.

Mahale, who had unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha polls on an NCP ticket, rejoined the Shiv Sena in the presence of its president Uddhav Thackeray. Uddhav welcomed Mahale back into the Sena by tying a saffron thread on the latter's hand symbolising 'Shiv Bandhan' and handing him a party flag.

The NCP has been losing its leaders to the ruling Shiv Sena and BJP one after another in recent months in the run-up to the State Assembly polls.

First, it was NCP's former minister and once Pawar's close-confidant Jaydutta

Kshirsagar from Beed district in Maharashtra who quit the NCP and joined the Shiv Sena on May 22, 2019. Later on July 10, sitting MLA from Shahpur Pandurang Barora quit the NCP and entered the Sena. Later, NCP's Mumbai unit president Sachin Ahir quit the party and joined the ruling Shiv Sena on July 25.

Similarly, three sitting MLAs Shivrajendra Bhosale (Satara), Vaibhav Pichad (Akole in Ahmednagar district) and Sandeep Naik (Airoli in Navi Mumbai), NCP's former state NCP president and Sharad Pawar's erstwhile confidant Madhukar Pichad, Navi Mumbai's former Mayor Sagar Naik and NCP's former women president Chitra Wagh joined the BJP on July 31.

Mahale's re-entry to the Shiv Sena is a classic case of political musical chair game being witnessed in Maharashtra ahead of the State Assembly polls. Mahale had quit the Shiv Sena to contest the Lok Sabha polls on a NCP.

# TN CM Palaniswami announces trifurcation of Vellore district

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI**

Opposition parties may allege Edappadi Palaniswami-led AIADMK Government as corrupt and inefficient. But that has not deterred the Chief Minister from taking steps to facilitate governance easily accessible to the people of the State. While addressing the Independence Day Parade at Fort Saint George in Chennai, the Chief Minister delivered yet another pro-people act by declaring the formation of two more districts in the State.

With the announcement of two more districts, Ranipet and Thirupattur by trifurcating the district of Vellore, Tamil Nadu will have 37 districts. The number of districts in Tamil Nadu went up by five during the last eight months.

"We have created 85 taluks and 11 revenue divisions since 2015," said RB Udhayakumar, Tamil Nadu Minister for Revenue. He also said that the creation for new districts was the first step towards effective administration.

"You can watch a marked difference in the quality of governance with the creation of these new districts. The District Collectors who are the bosses of the districts would find it easy to monitor the progress of government schemes and ensure that the aspirations of the population get fulfilled," said Udhayakumar.

S Ramdoss, founder, PMK and a staunch critic of the Edappadi Palaniswami Government was the first to congratulate the chief minister for the bold initiative. "This is a right step in the right direction. The districts in Tamil Nadu have become difficult to administer because of population explosion and the area of each unit. Smaller area and lesser population should be the criteria to carve out districts. The district administration should be able to attend to the grievances of the public within minutes and resolve them fast," Dr Ramadoss told The Pioneer.

The PMK founder is also of the view that there is

enough potential to carve out smaller districts from the existing large land mass. "I feel the number of assembly and parliamentary constituencies too should be increased based on the population. This would make it easy for legislators and Parliament members to go justice to their electorate," said Ramadoss.

Most retired civil servants too made it known that more the number of districts, the people stand to benefit. "There will be employment generation in government services as well as in business establishments. It will be a win-win situation," said Swaran Singh, a former Chief Secretary.

People who are familiar with local body governance are of the view that once the local bodies are in place after the election, the quality of administration would be visible. "Based on the present day population, Tamil Nadu should have at least 60 districts for speedy and fair governance," said Ramadoss who believes in the dictum small is beautiful.

# Maha flood toll rises to 50, crisis eases

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

With three more deaths, the toll in the flood-ravaged western Maharashtra rose to 54 on Friday, even as the authorities restored a majority of flood-ravaged roads and bridges and distributed a total cash relief of ₹16.88 crore among the flood victims in the Pune revenue division.

Sangli, which is one of the two worst flood-hit districts in western Maharashtra after Kolhapur, accounted for a maximum of 26 deaths, including 17 persons killed in a boat tragedy on August 8.

While there have been 10 deaths in Kolhapur, Pune and Satara districts have reported nine and eight deaths respectively. There has been one death in Solapur district. Four persons have been missing in Sangli, Kolhapur and Pune districts.

The situation in Sangli and Kolhapur districts, which witnessed unprecedented floods early this month, is fast returning to normal. "We have restored traffic on the 37 out of the total 47 damaged roads in Sangli. In Kolhapur, traffic has resumed in 65 out of the

total 88 roads which had been closed early this month. State Transport bus services have resumed on 39 out of 45 routes in Sangli and on 26 out of 31 routes in Kolhapur district," Pune Divisional Commissioner Dr Deepak Mhaisekar said.

With banking services crippling back to normal in the affected areas, the banks have reopened 229 ATMs out of total 329 ATMs in Sangli district and 390 out of 647 ATMs in Kolhapur district.

The relief work has picked up pace during the past few days. "We have distributed cash relief amounting to a total of ₹16,88,75,000 among 33,775 flood victim families in five districts of the Pune revenue division at the rate of ₹5000 per family. Similarly, we have distributed 2388.9 quintals of wheat, 2,388.9 quintals of rice and 10,251 litres of kerosene among 23,889 affected families," Mhaisekar said.

As many as 7,847 cattle including cows, bulls and buffaloes have perished in the flood waters, while more 1,065 goats, sheep and 160 calves or donkeys have either been killed or have gone missing during the floods.

# Situation in Kerala, K'taka improves; toll reaches 176

**Thiruvananthapuram/Bengaluru/Amaravati:** The situation in Kerala and Karnataka, battered by heavy rains over the past several days improved on Friday with the combined toll in the two states rising to 176, while the Krishna and Godavari rivers in Andhra Pradesh were in spate.

Over five lakh people have been housed in 1,758 relief camps in these three states.

There was some respite for the rain battered Kerala for the second consecutive day, even as the toll climbed to 111 with more bodies being retrieved from landslide hit areas in Malappuram and Wayanad districts. The sunny weather helped in search operations as more bodies were retrieved from Kavalappara in Malappuram and Puthumala in Meppadi in

Wayanad, the worst hit in the second spell of rains since August 8.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said 31 persons were still missing and over 1.47 lakh are in 891 camps across the state.

"111 lives lost; 31 missing. Now there are 891 relief camps, 1,47,286 persons from 46,450 families are in these camps. As per initial estimates 1,116 houses were fully damaged, 11,935 houses suffered partial damages," Vijayan tweeted.

In Karnataka, the toll in rain related incidents went up to 65 on Friday with the recovery of three more bodies, according to officials.

While 14 people are still classified as missing, nearly seven lakh people have been evacuated till date.

The Karnataka government

said inflows into reservoirs has reduced and the situation has improved in affected districts of north, coastal and Malnad regions, where the rain fury had created mayhem in the last couple of weeks.

As many as 849 relief camps are operational in Karnataka, housing 3,20,106 people, an official release said.

It said 103 taluks in 22 districts have been affected by floods and incessant rains over the past few days, resulting in loss of agriculture and horticulture crops on 6.9 lakh hectares and damaging 74,374 houses.

In Andhra Pradesh, more than 4,200 people have been moved to relief camps as the Krishna river is in spate, causing floods and affecting life in several mandals of Guntur and Krishna districts on Friday, authorities said. **PTI**

# Facing criticism, BSY drops offer to rename villages after donors

**Bengaluru:** Apparently faced with criticism from a section of villagers and political class, Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Friday dropped the offer to rename flood-hit villages after donors who contribute more than ₹10 crore for relief works.

The offer has now been modified, and the Chief Minister said such donors contributing for the development of the flood-affected villages would have the new layouts, which would come up there, named after them, not villages.

"Clarification: Chief Minister had announced that donors contributing more than ₹10 crore will have the layouts named after them, not the villages," he tweeted.

Yediyurappa's announce-

ment on Wednesday at a meeting with industrialists and corporates in the wake of last fortnight's rain fury that left 62 people dead, that villages would be renamed after companies if they give more than Rs ten crore had drawn criticism from some villagers and the JDS.

The contention of those villagers and some JDS leaders is that changing village name is nothing short of losing one's identity.

The JD(S), headed by former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, had termed the move "Tughlaq"-like.

"Please don't make people who have lost everything in the floods to lose the name of their village," the party had said.

"Do not put Karnataka up for sale". **PTI**

# 3 brothers get 7 years RI for practising black magic

**Thane:** A court here has sentenced three brothers from Maharashtra's Palghar district to seven years of rigorous imprisonment for physically torturing patients at the de-addiction centre run by them and also for practising black magic on them.

Thane district court judge Shailendra Tambe, in his order passed on Wednesday, also imposed a fine of Rs 1.2 lakh on each of the convicts Kantilal Purushottam Deshmukh (52), Nandkumar (58) and Umesh (46). Additional public prosecutor Rekha Hiwrale told the court that the trio ran Om Shiv Arogyadharm Daru Mukti Kendra, a de-addiction centre in Wada, which was previously in Thane district.

However, they used to beat patients with belts and other things. They used to threaten victims that if they don't follow directions, they would undergo pain and also face consequences. This continued between 2010 and 2015, she said.

The court relied on the statements given by over a dozen victims and inspector Sanjay Hazare, who investigated the case. Hazare told the court that a dozen victims and their relatives, who had come to the de-addiction center, were mercilessly beaten in the name of driving away evil spirits.

The court found the trio guilty under IPC sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) and also under sections of the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013. **PTI**

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
<b>Name of work with its location</b>	30-Elect-27-T-2019-20-E3 Electrical work in connection with (i) Provision of IBS in between block section of Rontak-Samargopalpur, Jind-Barsola & Jakhla-Bareta. (03 Nos). (ii) Provision of IBS between KIP-RE sections at km 773-4 in Delhi division.
<b>Approx. cost of the works in:-</b>	Rs. 15.50 lacs
<b>Address of the office :-</b>	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
<b>Earnest Money:-</b>	Rs. 31000.00
<b>Date and time for submission of tender</b>	12.09.19, 15.00 Hrs
<b>Opening of tender :-</b>	12.09.19, 15.15 Hrs
<b>Website &amp; notice board :-</b>	www.irps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
2632/19	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	
राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम, केन्द्रीय कार्यशाला आगरा रोड बगराना जयपुर निविदा सूचना	
केन्द्रीय कार्यशाला बगराना आगरा रोड जयपुर में विभिन्न जाति वॉलस कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जा रही है। संबंधित निगम व शर्तों का विवरण निगम की वेबसाइट www.transport.rajasthan.gov.in/rstc अथवा राज्य उपनिवेश पोर्टल sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।	
UBN NO.	
1. Tender for Prepare dummy of Corridemed vehicles	RTC1920WSOB00213
2. Tender for Loading/Unloading work	RTC1920WSOB00214
3. Tender for Reconditioning of Transmission assy	RTC1920WSOB00215
4. Tender for Bus Body work	RTC1920WSOB00216
5. Tender for Dismantling and washing of Engine Assy	RTC1920WSOB00217
6. Tender for Rewinding of Electrical Assemblies/Items	RTC1920WSOB00218
7. Tender for Chassis Work	RTC1920WSOB00219
8. Tender for Spring leaf Assemblies Work	RTC1920WSOB00220
राज.संवाद/सी/19-20/2063 मुख्य उत्पादन प्रबंधक	

**G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar-263145 (U.S. Nagar), Uttarakhand**

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PERSONNEL OFFICER  
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE NO. A-25/2019**

Applications are invited from all over the country for the posts of Dean, College of Post Graduate Studies/ Dean, College of Agriculture / Dean, College of Home Science/ Dean, College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences/ Dean, College of Basic Sciences & Humanities/ Dean, College of Technology/ Dean, College of Fisheries/ Director Experiment Station & Director Extension Education. Last date for the receipt of the complete application direct and through proper channel is 21.09.2019 (Saturday). Details are available at University website www.gbpuat.ac.in.

**CHIEF PERSONNEL OFFICER**

# Substantive issues on Naga political problem resolved: Guv

**Kohima:** Nagaland Governor RN Ravi said on Friday that all substantive issues between negotiators and the Centre on the Naga political problem have been resolved and assured people that Article 371(A) of the Constitution will not be repealed.

Ravi, who was earlier the interlocutor for the Naga peace talks, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had told him before he joined as Governor that the Naga peace process must be concluded within three months.

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio expressed hope that the vexed issue would be settled soon with Ravi taking over as the Governor of Nagaland.

Ravi, who assumed office on August 1, quoting the Prime Minister as saying, "Now we must conclude the peace process... Having resolved all the issues we must do it within three months time."

"We need to do it because the status quo as it stands today is unbearable to the

Naga people," the Governor said.

Referring to the fear in the people on withdrawal of Article 371(A), which gives certain special rights to some Northeast States, he said it is a solemn commitment of the Government of India to the Nagas and not impermanent as Article 370.

He said there is no similarity between articles 370 and 371(A), which is a product of over three years of negotiation between the people of Nagaland and the Centre. The governor said any attempt to draw a parallel between the two articles is either due to misunderstanding, or is mischievous.

"Even in our negotiations that we are at today, we are trying to bring something more than what 371(A) says and there is no question of diluting it, but to strengthen it," he told a gathering of tribal bodies, civil societies, citizens and legislators of the state at a civic reception by the State in his honour.

On the Naga peace process,

he said, "All the substantive issues have been resolved and there is nothing left. We (Naga negotiators and the Centre) have agreed that with the Centre recognising the unique history of the Nagas, the settlement is on the basis of power sharing and peaceful coexistence."

"We know the sentiments in the neighbouring States. We are not opposed to integration of Naga areas, in fact we have considered and accepted it happily," he added.

"It is the legitimate right of the Naga people to pursue and achieve integration through democratic political process," he said.

Ravi said the rest of the country is moving forward at a fast pace and has become the hub of startups and favourite destination for global investment. But the people of Nagaland are craving for basic necessities like motorable roads, assured power supply, education, access to health care and decent employment for youths. **PTI**

# JD(S) takes dig at one-man Cabinet, says BSY both proposer & approver of projects

**Bengaluru:** The JD(S) on Friday took a dig at the one-man Cabinet of the BS Yediyurappa Government claiming that the Chief Minister is both the proposer and approver of projects worth thousands of crores of rupees.

The regional party also invoked "Nikhil Yellidiyappa" (Where are You Nikhil) campaign, on Yediyurappa and asked "YadiyurappaCabinetYellappa" (Yediyurappa where is cabinet). "Nikhil Yellidiyappa" phrase with its multiple funny versions had gone viral during the Mandya Lok Sabha poll campaign, from where JD(S)

leader and former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil Kumaraswamy was the party candidate.

Nikhil lost to Sumalatha Ambareesh, an independent candidate supported by the BJP.

"Minutes of Karnataka Cabinet meeting held recently Yadiyurappa (Yediyurappa) called Yadiyurappa for cabinet meeting. Yadiyurappa proposed projects worth thousands of crores.

Yadiyurappa approved all the projects proposed by Yadiyurappa. #YadiyurappaCabinetYellappa," JD(S) tweeted.

Yediyurappa, who took oath as the Chief Minister on July 26 and proved his government's majority on the floor of the assembly on July 29, is yet to induct any minister into his cabinet.

Yediyurappa is currently on a visit to Delhi during which he would hold talks with party president Amit Shah and finalise the much awaited expansion of his cabinet.

Yediyurappa had on Thursday said he would be in Delhi on Friday and the day after. "I will also talk to Amit Shah regarding cabinet and come to final decision before coming back," he added. **PTI**

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (through e-tendering)							
S. No.	Name of Work with its location	App. Cost of the work (in Rs.)	Tender Inviting Officer Address	Tender Documents Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest Money to be deposited (in Rs.)	Date & Time for Closed of Tender	Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.
1	Trenching, laying & termination of cable in c/w provision of GRFL Inland Container Depot Railway Siding at Garhi Harsaru in c/w Re-Location of the proposed handling line No. 1 & 2 of Phase-II inside the GRFL Premises at Garhi Harsaru Station on Delhi-Rewari section	Rs. 46,67,419.25/-	Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/II, Northern Railway, 2nd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.	Rs. 3,540/- Only.	Rs. 93,400/- only	Tender uploaded date & time 09.08.2019 up to 15:00 hrs.	See the N Rly website www.irps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, DRM office, State entry road, New Delhi-110055.
Tender No. 558-Sig/16/M/Tender/1292 Dated: 09.08.2019						2635/2019	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE							

DELHI JAL BOARD OFFICE OF THE EX.ENGINEER (NE) II R-POCKET DILSHAD GARDEN DELHI-95 PRESS NIT NO. 24 (2019-20)						
S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender	EMD Amount	Tender Fees	Date of Release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last Date/Time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Shifting of 450 mm dia water main coming in alignment of Trunk sewer at Karawal Nagar road from Kali Ghata Pusta road to Karawal Nagar chowk under NE-II in Mustafabad AC-69 Tender I.D.No. 2019_DJB_178246_1	26,20,307.00	52,500.00	500.00	14.08.2019	30.08.2019 upto 02:30 P.M
All the terms and conditions including technical specification and special conditions is available on Delhi Govt. Website <a href="https://delhi.govtprocurement.com">https://delhi.govtprocurement.com</a> ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER) Adv. No. J.S.V 273/2019-20						
						Sd/- EX. ENGINEER (NE)-II

PAPER WITH PASSION

## Will the CDS help?

Jointmanship won't have a cascading impact unless we upgrade the basic infrastructure and tech edge of our forces



After pitching a nationalist campaign foregrounding the valour of our forces post-Balakot, the Modi 2.0 regime was considered as cold-shouldering them when it slow-pedalled their concerns on One Rank One Pension, cut their disability pension before retracting it and generally didn't talk anything about reforms or shortage of infrastructure. So although Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the creation of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) post in his Independence Day speech, it was long overdue and almost

a necessity in the time of short-term, intense but technology-driven and multi-pronged warfare. What this essentially means is creating a single point-of-contact in coordinating with the three armed services to synergise functioning, training, logistics, planning and procurements among the forces and evolve a unified and targeted crisis response module. What this practically works out to is better utilisation of existing limited resources, better harvesting of intelligence for a unified approach to preparedness (the demand for CDS emerged after we were taken quite unaware in Kargil) and given the worsening nature of conflicts worldwide, build a robust expert advisory that can guide the political executive of the day on swift and decisive action. Of course, the fact that the post will become operational nearly 20 years after it was first conceived or that we are among the last nuclear weapon States to do so and well past our time, is not registering yet. The bigger question to answer is whether joint service command is allowed to function the way it should or serve to be another bureaucratic front. What our forces need to look into urgently, particularly in times of technology-driven warfare, is to upgrade fleet, equipment, weapons systems and infrastructure and manpower, the essential requisites for developing strategic depth, some of which have attained a critical mass of deficits. With a chronic crunch in funds, the lack of standardised indigenous systems and an overt focus on Army deployments, there needs to be a shift of balance to the Air Force and Navy requirements, Balakot exposing the chronic need to have state-of-the-art fighter jets. No matter how able, empowered the CDS is, it cannot take a call on such policy issues.

Have we learnt enough lessons from Kargil, where in the absence of air support, our soldiers were almost faced with hand-to-hand combat? Have we enough rifles and ammunition to save our soldiers who make for easy fodder even now? The Navy is saddled with outdated aircraft carriers. Even though India has inducted the Arihant as a nuclear submarine and has leased an Akula-class submarine from Russia, China's navy has built a fleet of attack submarines as well as several ballistic missile submarines with which they can contain India. We have only 11 destroyers, China has 36, all commissioned after 1999 or Kargil. China may not match the smart American Navy but in a short time has emerged as the second-most powerful Navy in the world. Unrealistic planning, a socialist mindset towards protecting PSUs in the defence sector without upgrading or revamping them and corruption in defence deals have meant that we continue to be the world's largest importer of military hardware when we should be making and customising our own. And if we could make our space programmes work, there is no reason why we cannot sharpen our defence capabilities with affordable and innovative technologies. For example, much like other advanced military nations, India has proven anti-satellite capabilities. But more resources have to be poured into research and development of military potential. There needs to be far more thought and money put into building up India's military preparedness. Even if a war isn't around the corner, we should not fall back decades behind and not anticipate scenarios. India's chest-thumping nationalism will not have much dare if we don't develop real power and build ground-up rather than a fancy imposition top-down. Our military mediocrity is the reason why even the neighbourhood is not convinced of our potential strategic weight and gets drawn by China's assumed superiority. As the CDS decision shows, it comes after a prolonged debate on political consensus. Modi may not have a consensus problem anymore but then that consensus should now set the compass of course correction.

## Fly over North Pole

Air India becomes first Indian airline to take the Arctic fly path and save us miles



At a time when its privatisation and strategic disinvestment only highlight the morass our national carrier has crashed into, Air India has done the country proud by conquering an uncharted path. On Independence Day, it became the first Indian airline to fly over the North Pole, making the world look much smaller than before and in climate-challenged times, minimising carbon footprints and cutting costs on aviation fuel. An Air India flight first flew over the North Pole 13 years ago when Captain Amitabh Singh took

an unconventional flight path after taking the delivery of a brand new aircraft and bringing it back from Seattle to New Delhi. The difference this time round was that AI 123 from Delhi to San Francisco had 243 passengers, making it a fully commercial flight. This may just be one of the last laurels to the Maharaja's credit before it unburdens the state exchequer and parcels itself to private players. But the silver lining is that in its supposedly last feat, it has achieved a new aviation milestone by adopting one of the oldest tricks, one used by many international carriers, to give the passengers the bonus of not only smoother flights but also some breathtaking views of the vast sheets of Arctic ice. So now, instead of flying over Bangladesh, Myanmar, China and Japan before crossing the Pacific to reach the US, the aircraft would fly over Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, the Arctic Ocean, Canada and then descend in the US, thus cutting travel time by 90 minutes. On the Atlantic side, we do not have to bother about the frequent closure of the Pakistani airspace. The advent of this transpolar flight also offers multiple benefits ranging from a reduction in fuel consumption cost to reduction in damage to the environment. Statistically, it is expected to yield fuel savings in the range of 2,000 to 7,000 kg per flight and also reduce carbon emission — in the range of 6,000 to 21,000 kg, per flight.

However, flying commercial jets over the Arctic Circle comes with its own risks and herein, lies the challenge. Pertinent among them relate to passenger's safety infrastructure and logistics. Thanks to technological advancements, what was once considered to be too challenging a path is now being conquered by newcomers. The area of magnetic unreliability, limited choices for diversion to alternative airports, solar radiation, fuel freezing possibilities, passenger and aircraft retrieval in case of diversions, are some specific factors requiring active mitigation to ensure equivalent levels of safety. Specialised crew training, weather monitoring, alternate selection and aircraft serviceability, too, will have to be of the highest standards to ensure viable operations.

## The food trap

Human activity had wiped out, between 1970 and 2014, 60 per cent of all animals with backbones — fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The International Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) latest report, released earlier this month and stating that the process of producing and making food available accounts annually for a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions, requires serious attention. The second in the series of the organisation's specially-focused reports and entitled *Climate Change and Land*, the validity of its observations is hardly in doubt.

Agriculture cuts both ways. As the report says, it accounts for 37 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions if one takes into account both the percentage generated by global food production and activities like transportation and the work of energy and food processing industries. On its part, climate change adversely impacts agriculture by affecting cropping pattern and reducing crop output through changing temperatures and unpredictable weather fluctuations. Worse, a quarter of the food produced is lost or wasted and, as the report further points out, "global food loss and waste contributed 8 to 10 per cent of total anthropogenic (man-made) GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions" during 2010 and 2016.

Besides agriculture, a number of land-based activities like forestry, cattle-rearing and urbanisation have contributed to the carbon load. While noting this, the report also takes into account the manner in which climate change impacts these. It further argues that measures like reduction in food wastage, sustainable agricultural practices and the consumption of more plant-based rather than animal-based food could reduce the emission of greenhouse gases estimated to be about 49 billion tonnes of CO2 annually.

It will not be easy to implement the report's recommendations. It will take a huge exercise of will by several billion human beings. Dietary habits, evolving ever since humankind appeared on earth, will be difficult to change. These, however, will have to, particularly since options are available. The alternative can be as drastic as the extinction of the species.

The danger is very real. Other species have been disappearing at an alarming rate. A report by the World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) conservation group, titled *Living Planet*, said human activity had wiped out, between 1970 and 2014, 60 per cent of all animals with backbones — fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. Referring to such activity, the WWF International's director-general, Marco Lambertini, has said that hunting, shrinking habitat, pollution, illegal trade and climate change had been too much for them to overcome.

The subject of mass extinction has been causing worry for quite some time. Ian Johnston writing in *The Independent* of the United Kingdom in 2017, cited scientists writing in a special edition of the magazine, *Nature*, that humans were causing the sixth mass extinction of life on earth. Earlier,



Elizabeth Kolbert had written in *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* (first published in 2014), "Very, very occasionally in the distant past, the planet has undergone change so wrenching that the diversity of life has plummeted. Five of these ancient events were catastrophic enough that they're put in their own category: The so-called Big Five. In what seems like a fantastic coincidence, but is probably no coincidence at all, the history of these events is recovered just as people come to realise that they are causing another one."

There is no reason why humans can escape the process. A major cause is the population increase under way. Referring to it, Desmond Morris predicts in *The Naked Ape: A Zoologist's Study of the Human Animal*, that a time will come when "the densities we are now experiencing in our major cities would exist in every corner of the globe. The consequences of all this for all forms of wild animals is obvious. The effect it would have on our own species is equally depressing."

Morris adds shortly thereafter, "Long before our populations reach the levels envisaged above we shall have broken so many of the rules that govern our biological nature, that we shall have collapsed as a dominant species. ... Many exciting species have become extinct in the past and we are no exception." Morris'

“ THE SUBJECT OF MASS EXTINCTION HAS BEEN CAUSING WORRY FOR QUITE SOME TIME. IAN JOHNSTON WRITING IN THE INDEPENDENT IN 2017, CITED SCIENTISTS WRITING IN A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE, NATURE, THAT HUMANS WERE CAUSING THE SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION OF LIFE ON EARTH ”

critics argue that the human mind will, through technology, find a way of preventing this. This is laughable. Technology would remain a formulation on paper if the environment in which it has to be applied disappears. Humankind has evolved, and is sustained by, support from a wide range of plant and animal species providing it with food and habitat. No technology can sustain it if these disappear.

Particularly severe will be the impact of mass extinctions on the human mind, which Paul Shepard writes in *Thinking Animals: Animals and the Development of Human Intelligence*, is at the centre of humanity's pride in its independence "from animals and animality." According to him "the mind and its organ, the brain, are in reality that part of us most dependent on the survival of animals. We are connected to animals not merely in the convenience of figures of speech — a zoological equivalent of 'flowery speech' — but by sinews that link speech to rationality, insight, intuition, and consciousness. Animal images and forms play a critical role in the shaping of human 'personality, identity, and social consciousness. They are basic to the development of speech and thought."

The situation is grim. Addressing a preparatory meeting of the UN Climate Action Summit scheduled to be held in

September, 2019, the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres had said in Abu Dhabi on June 30 that climate change was advancing at a rate that was outpacing efforts to address it. While lauding the Paris agreement, he said that the world would face a catastrophic three degrees Celsius rise in temperature by the end of century.

Things would start becoming worse even earlier. *The Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C*, released by IPCC on October 7, 2018, had observed that at the current rate, the global mean temperature — which is already one degree Celsius above the pre-industrial revolution level — is likely to rise to the 1.5-degree mark sometime between 2030 and 2052. It further stated that warming, even if limited to 1.5°C, would not reduce the risks and impacts of climate change. Sea levels will continue to rise beyond 2100, threatening coastal ecosystems and infrastructure. Flooding, drought and extreme weather events will wreak havoc on communities around the globe. Many species will continue to be driven toward extinction and marine ecosystems could face "irreversible loss."

The September meeting of the UN Climate Action Summit has its work cut out.

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

## SOUNDBITE

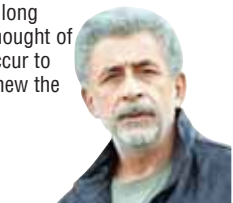
In last 65-66 years, it is for the first time that the issue of Kashmir is being taken up at the UN. This is a very big diplomatic failure of the Government.

Congress leader  
—Abhishek Manu Singhvi



I was prepared for a long hard struggle. The thought of failure didn't even occur to me, even though I knew the odds I was battling.

Actor  
—Naseeruddin Shah



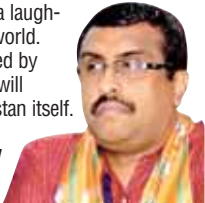
I think the longer the trade war goes on, the weaker China gets and the stronger we get. And I think the longer it goes, the stronger we get.

US President  
—Donald Trump



Pakistan is becoming a laughing stock all over the world. India will not be harmed by these moves but they will adversely impact Pakistan itself.

BJP general secretary  
—Ram Madhav



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Poll reforms

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Map of India" (August 16). Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the nation on independence day once again made a fresh pitch for simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies but did not elaborate on how it can be done with an outdated poll system. It is essential that Modi takes the initiative for consolidated and massive poll reforms, which have been deferred for decades in the name of political consensus.

A Chief Minister (or the Prime Minister) should be simultaneously elected with the Speaker and Deputy Speaker by secret and compulsory votes through EVMS equipped with VVPAT on nominations signed by at least 34 per cent of the House's members.

Such elected incumbents may be removed only through the same process but only after an alternative leader is named in the same motion. This is the only way to prevent hung legislative bodies and unstable Governments and pave the way for simultaneous elections.

SC Agrawal  
New Delhi

### Spare a thought for Kashmir

This refers to the article, "Lost art of development" (August 14) by Ashok K Mehta. Life has indeed become tougher for people in the Valley in the wake of the abrogation of Article 370. The administration is still to actualise the promised relaxation of restrictions. With no tourists around in popular holiday destinations, local residents are deprived of a major source of income. Confined to their houses, it may be difficult for them to live under constant curfew enforced by legions of troops. With the shutdown of telecommunications and internet, people are cut off from the rest of the world. We must also spare a thought for the Kashmiri children, who have been sitting at home instead of going to school.

If we are truly altruistic or patriotic, we must imagine ourselves in the place of Kashmiris and empathise with them. We should ask why the Kashmiris should lose their land and culture, which they are going to, consequent on the abrogation of Article 370. If they



are Indians and our compatriots, we should not leave them in the lurch. Whether the revocation of autonomy was intended to gobble up the Valley or not, it was certainly not a move to affirm the right to self-determination of the people of Kashmir.

G David Milton  
Maruthancode

### The Kashmir problem

Sir — This refers to the article, "Gambling for high stakes" (August 13) by Deepak Sinha and "Lost art of development" (August 14) by Ashok K Mehta. A major point made by Sinha was that Kashmiriyat died the very day the Hindu minority was targeted and forced to flee

the Valley to become refugees in their own country. This point is conspicuously absent in Gen Mehta's article.

Further, Gen Mehta quotes Haseeb Drabu, former Finance Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, who said that linking Article 370 to the "lack of development was misplaced" and that "the lack of public and private investment was due to militancy and violence."

But the root cause of militancy was not analysed objectively. Despite Article 370 being in place for seven decades, a section of Muslims refused to mainstream themselves. In this connection, it will be apt to quote what American economist and social theorist, Thomas Sowell, said: "When people get used to preferential treatment, equal treatment seems as discrimina-

tion." The abrogation of Article 370 did just that.

SC Panda  
Bhubaneswar

### A solution to deluge

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Nature's fury" (August 14). The catastrophic impact of monsoon rainfall has not just impacted Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra but torrential rains in other States like Gujarat, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, too, have creating havoc. While the respective State Governments were pro-active in providing relief operations, it's time we ask some tough questions about their preparedness to deal with floods. While such extreme weather-related events can be attributed to climatic factors we, too, have failed to do our bit in understanding the monsoon and finding ways to deal with its fury.

The vagaries of weather demand cooperation between States and all stakeholders, including the Jal Shakti Ministry.

Bal Govind  
Noida

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



**FIRST COLUMN**

## Against the spirit of democracy

The Government's decision to abrogate Article 370 has blighted the hope of the Kashmiri people for developing working relations with the Centre



DEEPAK JHA

If the level of democracy in a state is measured on the criteria provided by Abraham Lincoln — "Government of the people, by the people and for the people," today's Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) will score lowest or may even be disqualified to get recognition of a democratic state. Anyway it is now a Union Territory. The abrogation of Article 370 is an insidious inflexion point in India's history. The State that had already weakened by the malicious intentions of our neighbouring country, which left no stone unturned in fuelling militancy, is now jolted by some forceful decisions taken by the Government. The most diabolical among them is the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A without even taking the State's Legislative Assembly's consent. On the pretext of improving the State's economy, depriving the local people of their rights is not an economic correction but a political crime.

**Not so exclusive:** Under Article 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution, people of J&K were conferred upon with some special rights, including their choice to accept or reject the revocation of Article 370. And as per the agreement signed between Maharaja Hari Singh and the then Indian Government, the Article could be scrapped or amended only after the approval of the State's Constituent Assembly. But these special rights do not make J&K unique as similar provisions are provided to 10 more States/Union Territories of India under Article 371, which includes Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam Mizoram and Manipur. In addition to the above mentioned States that enjoy special Constitutional features, there are five more States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Odisha and Rajasthan that have demanded the special category status. Residents of other States cannot buy property in Himachal and Sikkim but usually, people of Kashmir are targeted as inequality mongers across the country.

**Blot on democracy:** Despite being a Muslim-majority State, leaders here decided to stay with India and went against the two-nation theory in 1947. Their hope got shattered when a myopic Government at the Centre scrapped their special rights without envisaging its ramifications. Articles 370 and 35A acted as a strong bonding force between the Centre and the State and it is because of this that successive Governments at the Centre could not repeal the said articles for the last 70 years now. The Government's decision has forced a group of intellectuals comprising doctors, journalists, academicians and a retired Air Vice Marshal to sign a petition condemning the revocation of Article 370.

Leaders of the ruling party, who claim that one of the purposes to withdraw Article 370 is to ensure the return of Kashmiri Pandits to their homeland, will be shocked to know that these Kashmiri Pandits, Dogras and Sikhs belong to the group of 64 members, who called this act as "unconstitutional and in violation of the historical promises." They expressed their concern and anger in the following words, "We reiterate the fact that we the people of Jammu and Kashmir were not consulted and no decision about our future, taken without our consent can be termed as legitimate. We condemn and reject this unilateral, undemocratic and unconstitutional imposition on us."

**Economically non-viable idea:** According to BJP, the foremost rationale of abrogating Article 370 is giving a boost to economic development in the Valley and promoting tourism activities in the State. They claim that Article 370 was a blockade in Kashmir's way to prosperity as industries were reluctant to invest in the region without any right to purchase property. But these are baseless claims as statistics provide somewhat a different proposition. In comparison to the national average, J&K's poverty ratio was almost half, ie, of 21.92 per cent and 10.35 per cent respectively. Additionally, on many developmental indices, J&K has surpassed even the Prime Minister's model State — Gujarat. For instance, the Infant Mortality rate in J&K was 24 per 1000 in 2016, whereas it was 30 in Gujarat.

**Democracy under siege:** Since acquiring power in politics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi always tried to resolve the Kashmir issue through fascist policies to suit his ideological origins. He did nothing except escalating terror in the Valley with his unamiable attitude and stern decisions. Soon after getting an overwhelming majority in the Lok Sabha in 2014, he turned Kashmir into a battleground. One shouldn't forget that extremism is key to Pandora's box and suppression of people can never help in placating them. People in the Valley are now feeling jilted and alienated. The abrogation of Article 370 has blighted the hope of Kashmiri people for developing working relations with the Centre.  
*(The writer is a political analyst)*

TILL TODAY, OUR NUCLEAR POLICY IS 'NO FIRST USE.' WHAT HAPPENS IN FUTURE DEPENDS ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

—UNION MINISTER  
 RAJNATH SINGH

**POINTCOUNTERPOINT**



THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS ISSUE AND CANNOT BE COMMUNICATED IN AMBIGUITY. I URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO COME CLEAR.

—CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON  
 ABHISHEK SINGHVI

# Bring transparency to the table

Extra-budgetary resources translate to about 2.3 per cent of the GDP. Had they been included, the FD for 2018-19 would have been 5.7 instead of 3.4 per cent



UTTAM GUPTA

All through its tenure beginning 2014, the Modi Government demonstrated a high degree of sensitivity to millions of poor and downtrodden and spent prodigious sums on providing basic amenities such as affordable housing, electricity, sanitation, toilets, fuel and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), health care, education etc to improve their lot.

In the last five years, it built 1.5 crore affordable housing units and nine crore toilets, gave 2.6 crore and seven crore electricity and gas connections respectively and assured free medical treatment up to Rs 500,000 that covered 10 crore families (or 50 crore people).

Under Modi 2.0, the government has vowed to build 1.9 crore houses by 2022, give 1.4 crore electricity connections and provide safe drinking water to all homes under the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan'.

It is also investing Rs 100 lakh crore in building infrastructure such as irrigation facilities, roads, national highways, expressways, railway projects, ports, airports, waterways etc that would indirectly help improve the quality of life of millions of citizens. For instance, a vast network of rural roads enables farmers to carry their produce to the market with ease and in lesser time, thereby improving price realization and augmenting income.

These are welcome measures that have helped millions extricate themselves from poverty. Indeed, this was a major factor that enabled Modi to secure a resounding mandate to be at the helm of affairs of the country for another term. But, there's a flip side to it, which relates to financing of these investments that are being done in an 'opaque' and 'non-transparent' manner.

During 2018-19, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) raised Rs 30,000 crore to finance the Union Government's rural affordable housing, sanitation and irrigation projects. The Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) and National Housing Bank (NHB) provided Rs 20,000 crore to finance affordable urban housing projects. Likewise, the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) raised Rs 19,331 crore to fund the Centre's rural electrification schemes which include free electricity connections to households.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) borrowed Rs 70,000 crore from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) to finance the shortfall in food subsidy allocation vis-à-vis the actual requirement (including loans taken during 2016-17 and 2017-18 which were not paid back despite the Centre's commitment to do so. Incidentally, the FCI's cumulative borrowing from the NSSF is around Rs 200,000 crore).

Similarly, fertiliser manufacturers borrowed Rs 33,000 crore from commercial banks under a special banking arrangement (SBA) to fund the shortfall in budget provision for fertiliser subsidy as against the actual need.

Likewise, in the case of fuel subsidy, the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) involved in marketing of LPG and kerosene, for instance Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) took loans to the tune of Rs 25,000 crore during 2018-19 to make up for unpaid dues by the Centre.

“THE CAG HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PUT IN PLACE A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR REINING IN EBRs WHICH, AMONGST OTHERS, SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE DISCLOSURE TO THE PARLIAMENT. THIS LACKLUSTRE APPROACH WON'T DO. MODI SHOULD GO FOR COMPLETELY DOING AWAY WITH THE PRACTICE OF OFF-BUDGET FINANCING”



In the infrastructure sector, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) borrowed Rs 61,000 crore for executing highways projects; Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) borrowed Rs 52,297 crore to fund implementation of railway projects and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) took a loan of Rs 97,000 crore to finance government-sector power projects.

All these loans or Extra-Budgetary Resources (EBRs), though taken by PSUs, other state agencies and fertiliser manufacturers under SBA are on behalf of the Union Government and backed by sovereign guarantee. The Union Government is solely responsible for discharging these liabilities, yet, it decides not to reflect this on its balance sheet. As such, these debts are not included in the reported Fiscal Deficit (FD).

All put together, the EBRs add up to a whopping Rs 407,628 crore that translates to about 2.3 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Had they been included, the FD for 2018-19 would have been 5.7 per cent instead of 3.4 per cent reported in the Union Budget. During 2017-18 also, according to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the FD was suppressed by 2.4 per cent, courtesy the EBRs.

Most of the off-Budget borrowings are meant for financing current consumptions like subsidies on food, fertilisers, fuel etc or investment for a better life for millions of poor families by providing them affordable housing, free electricity connections, free gas connections, toilets and so on. These expenditure or investments don't yield

any returns for the Union Government. Even spending on infrastructure fails to generate adequate revenue to fully amortise the investment, as a sizeable chunk of the services and utilities offered through these projects are underpriced. A few cases in point being, power to farmers and poor households, subsidised rail fare for passengers and toll-free roads, etc.

This inability to make even interest payments and the ever-increasing gap between available resources and actual requirement having to be met by more borrowings, leads to debt pile-up to 'unsustainable' levels. What makes the scenario appalling is that this debt is not even seen on the balance sheet of the Union Government. It seems that the Centre is sitting on an 'invisible' fiscal volcano which could erupt without any warning, and cause widespread devastation of unimaginable dimensions in the process.

A government hiding its real state of fiscal health gives wrong signals to various stakeholders, including foreign investors. It can prompt them to review their decision to invest in India (the plan to go for overseas sovereign borrowings — announced in the Union Budget for 2019-20 — could be in jeopardy). The greater damage will be inflicted by way of further postponement of long-pending reforms in crucial sectors like food, fertilisers, power, fuel etc, which otherwise have huge potential for expenditure saving.

For funding the ₹100 lakh crore investments, in infrastructure in five years, the government is banking a lot on participation of the private sector. If, the former keeps an easy option on the

table (read: EBRs by PSUs and other agencies), there would be less effort in garnering the support and involvement of the latter.

There is an urgent need for bringing about transparency in funding of welfare schemes and investment in infrastructure. All loans taken on behalf of the sovereign government, irrespective of who borrows, should appear on its books and be included in the FD. This will give a true and fair view of the Centre's finances and enable investors to make credible assessment and take informed decisions.

The government will be forced to shed populism and restrict welfare schemes only to the most deserving. It will also have to carry out long-pending reforms in key sectors such as food, fertilisers, fuel, power etc to allow for an increased role of market forces with a view to reduce cost and enhance efficiency in operations and give subsidies only via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). This, together with increasing tax collection (we are still far from realizing the full potential of the Goods and Services Tax) will help in garnering the required resources for infrastructure and welfare of the poor, even while sticking to the fiscal target.

The CAG has recommended that the government should put in place a policy framework for reining in EBRs which, amongst others, should also include disclosure to the Parliament. This lacklustre approach won't do. Modi should go for completely doing away with the practice of off-budget financing.

*(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)*

# A scribe, a poet and a towering statesman

Atal Bihari Vajpayee showed how a non-Congress government could not only rule the country but also provide a strong and stable alternative, says **SUMEET BHASIN**

Two consecutive Augusts have brought only bad news for the country, the BJP and thousands of admirers of two of the most sophisticated, refined and respected leaders of our times. One the mentee (Sushma Swaraaj) of the other, while the other being a mentor to perhaps thousands of us. On this day last year, India lost one of its most progressive prime ministers, Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the reformer in chief and the original architect of a 21st Century India. He started his career as a journalist, but destiny had other plans and he found himself in politics. As a parliamentarian, he spent decades in the Opposition, which gave him the unique opportunity to identify and, more importantly, highlight problems successive governments created since Independence.

This experience came handy once he became the Prime Minister. Even though he got the post thrice, and was destined to complete only one of those terms, still, in an era earmarked by coalition politics, he

showed how a non-Congress government could not just rule but provide a strong and stable government.

The first time he became the PM, his government lasted just 13 days and during the trust vote he shared an important flaw in India's public discourse. In his concluding speech, he asked political parties to think about the interest of people and work together in the event of fractured mandates rather than look at petty political interests. He pointed out that parties and governments would come and go but the democratic set-up must be strengthened, even as he resigned.

As no other political party managed to provide a stable government, elections were held again. This time too, the BJP emerged as the single-largest party, and he was re-elected as PM. His short 13-month stint as PM was highlighted by two major achievements. First were the Pokhran-II tests, which were successfully conducted despite international pressure. Though sanctions were imposed on

India post the tests, however, he appealed to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to invest or remit to India to help mitigate their impact. To the surprise of many, Indians settled abroad rallied to the cause and sent huge amounts of money.

The other achievement was the defeat of Pakistan during the Kargil conflict. Vajpayee became India's first serving PM to enter an active war zone as he visited soldiers in Kargil to boost their morale.

During the 1999 elections, the National Democratic Alliance, under the leadership of Vajpayee secured a sizeable number of seats and a stable government was formed. Over the course of the next five years, India saw unprecedented focus on developing a strong economy, public infrastructure and rural road networks. Be it the overhaul of the Public Distribution System or the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan, the focus was on making India a modern country. It comes as no surprise that one of the most successful disinvestment drives happened under his leadership.

In many ways, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programmes are a logical extension of NDA-I. Be it investments in infrastructure, focus on education and delivery of public goods, Modi has amplified the scale of these programmes and strengthened Vajpayee's legacy. He has re-established 'good-governance' in the country. If Vajpayee showed India that a non-Congress coalition could provide a strong government, Modi has shown that a non-Congress government can emerge with a majority on its own and help India attain newer heights.

However, Vajpayee's most important legacy was in terms of his diplomatic efforts and success in stabilising South Asia. He made several efforts towards mending relations with all neighbours, including Pakistan, and even Modi, in his first term worked extensively to put in place a dialogue process. The fact that political instability in Pakistan derailed it is a separate issue, but the fact that genuine attempts were made by both will go down in history as a sincere attempt to resolve

the 70-year-long conflict. Another parallel can be drawn when one considers the Indo-US relations nurtured by Vajpayee and strengthened by Modi. The fact that these relations were nurtured by Vajpayee despite the US imposing sanctions post Pokhran-II tests reflects his pragmatic foreign policy as he reiterated that US and India were natural allies.

However, Vajpayee was beyond politics and it was perhaps his humble nature combined with classic wit that made him one of India's most adored leaders. For instance, it was very rare for him to say 'no' to matters that were brought under his consideration. His style was to ask others to think more on the subject as he navigated complex issues with ease. Throughout his career, he was known as the right man in the wrong party to which he responded by asking how could he be right if he was in the wrong party and how could the party be wrong if he was right?

A poet, at heart, I remember once we went to his place in the late

1980s as student leaders and he asked if we were hungry. We said yes and to our surprise, he cooked *khichdi* for all of us; that was his simplicity. In one interview he mentioned Chilli Chicken as his favourite food. The surprised interviewer asked him if it was the most prudent answer given that he was a Brahmin. He replied, "If we aren't honest to the people, then why are we even in politics?"

After becoming the PM, he became concerned by the number of restrictions on his personal freedom. Fond of street food, it was perhaps this that he missed the most, along with his ability to cycle with his best friend, LK Advani, riding pillion. Post 2004, he retired from active politics and was away from public life from 2008 onwards.

There are very few partnerships in politics that stand the test of time. The dynamic duo of Atal-Advani was one of those where both leaders stood side by side as they built a political movement. They both often disagreed but their political and personal equa-

tions remained separate throughout their career. Often when they disagreed during party meetings or later in Cabinet meetings, they'd meet for dinner and discuss movies. The Modi-Shah partnership is very similar to their partnership and has built upon this political movement to make it the world's largest political party.

The fact that despite Vajpayee being away from public life since 2008, last year saw an entire nation stand still and mourn the loss of the charismatic statesman, speaks volumes about the impression that he's left on all of us. A careful study of his life reveals how his politics was governed by simplicity, honesty and integrity. While it is rare to find statesmen like him, India would be lucky if more leaders take inspiration from the life and times of Vajpayee.

*(The writer is national convener of Project Samagra Atal ji, director at Public Policy Research Centre and was a member of the social media election committee for BJP in 2019 elections)*

**Business Corner**

**CTET 2019 DATES ANNOUNCED; REGISTRATION BEGINS ON AUG 19**  
New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has scheduled to conduct Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) on December 8, 2019. The test will be conducted in 20 (Twenty) languages in 110 cities all over the country. The detailed Information Bulletin containing details of examination, syllabus, languages, eligibility criteria, examination fee, examination cities and important dates will be available on CTET official website [www.ctet.nic.in](http://www.ctet.nic.in) from 19-08-2019.

**MAHESH VERMA JOINS AS NEW V-C OF IP**  
New Delhi: The renowned prosthodontist Prof. Mahesh Verma took over as the new Vice Chancellor of the IP University here today. Before joining Prof. Verma was Director of the prestigious Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Delhi. Prof. Verma turned the Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences from an ordinary dental school into a Centre of Excellence by his able guidance and administration, now deemed as the best dental school of India.



Mukesh Kumar Jain, MD & CEO, Oriental Bank of Commerce hoists the National Flag on Independence Day at the Bank's Corporate Office in Gurugram. Pioneer photo

**NHPC CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
Faridabad: NHPC Limited and a 'Mini Ratna' Category-I Enterprise of the Government of India celebrated India's 73rd Independence Day with great fervour on Thursday. Balraj Joshi, Chairman and Managing Director, NHPC unfurled National flag at NHPC Office Complex, Faridabad. Ratish Kumar, Director (Projects), Nikhil Kumar Jain, Director (Personnel), MK Mittal, Director (Finance) and Janardan Choudhary, Director (Technical) were also present on the occasion alongwith other senior NHPC officers and their family members.

**GROUP CENTRE CRPF CELEBRATES I-DAY**  
Imphal: Group Centre CRPF, Langjing, Imphal, celebrated 73rd Independence days with cheers and enthusiasm. On this auspicious occasion, GC CRPF, Langjing, Imphal organised various programmes. First of all Chief guest HK Kanaujia, DIGP, (Adm), Manipur and Nagaland Sector took guard of honour after that he hoisted National flag and Sh. I.Lokendra Singh, DIGP, GC, CRPF, GC, Imphal, all officers, salute the National Flag and sang National Anthem with the Chief Guest. HK Kanaujia read out name of CRPF bravehearts who has been awarded Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra, PPMG, PMG, Distinguish Medal and Meritorious Medal and congratulated them. The Chief Guest also congratulated to all officers SOs and Jawans

**SAIL CELEBRATES 73RD INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
New Delhi: Steel Authority of India Limited celebrated the 73rd Independence Day with elaborate celebrations across all its Plants and Units. Anil Kumar Chaudhary, Chairman SAIL hoisted the tricolor at headquarters, Lodi Road. Addressing the SAIL he said "SAIL has supplied over 500 MT steel to nation building since inception. And SAIL is proud to be the partner in building India's infrastructure. The Company is geared up to face any market volatility."

**GAIL SCRABBLE CUP TOURNAMENT BEGINS**  
New Delhi: Word enthusiasts from India and abroad will vie for top honours in the 6th GAIL Scrabble Cup 2019 to be held from 16th to 18th August, 2019 in New Delhi. Being hosted by Scrabble Association of Delhi under the aegis of Scrabble Association of India, the global body WESPA will be rating this tournament, which will see a participation from over 70 players, including most of the top 10 Indian players and other international players from South-East Asian Countries.

# PSBs told to get ideas to attain \$5 trillion economy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance ministry has asked public sector banks (PSBs) to initiate a month-long consultation process with officers starting from branch level to seek suggestions for achieving a \$5-trillion economy in five years.

The suggestions emanating from a month-long campaign beginning Saturday will be used as inputs to prepare a road map for the future growth of the banking sector.

According to a communication by the ministry to the heads of PSBs, it will be a bottom-up consultative process from the branch level onwards

which will involve discussions at the branch or regional level, state level and national level.

The consultation process is aimed at aligning the banking sector with national priorities, stimulating ideas and inculcating a sense of involvement among bankers at the branch level, it said.

The campaign envisages not only performance review but synchronisation of banking with region-specific issues and their growth potential.

It also aims to find out role of PSBs as active partners in the Indian growth story for the next five years. The country has set a goal of achieving a \$5-trillion economy by 2024-25.



It will also find solution for enhanced ease of living making banks more responsive to customers and challenges before banks and their preparedness in areas such as cybersecurity and data analytics. There will be focus on

raising credit offtake for supporting economic growth credit support to infrastructure and role of the banking sector in doubling farmers' income and water conservation.

Besides, supporting for green economy, improving education loan and other sectors such as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and exports.

In addition, there will be focus on pushing digital economy and financial inclusion, it said.

The consultative process will be divided into three stages with the first being at the branch or regional level, followed by the state level. It will

culminate with a national-level two-day brainstorming in Delhi.

The campaign comes at a time when the economy is facing headwind and it has slowed to a 5-year low of 6.8 per cent.

There are ominous signs showing that slowdown may be deep. The automobile sector is facing its worst crisis in two decades and reports suggest thousands of job losses in the auto and ancillary industry.

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

Though lending by banks to industries has shown a significant jump from 0.9 per cent in the June 2018 quarter to 6.6 per cent in the corresponding period this year, the same to job-creating MSME sector has slipped from 0.7 per cent to 0.6 per cent during the same period.

However, silver lining amid gloom is improvement in non-performing assets of the banks.

Last month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Parliament that total bad loans of commercial banks declined by ₹1.02 lakh crore to ₹9.34 lakh crore in 2018-19, on the back of steps taken by the Government.

## FM says still in talks with PMO in reviving sentiment

**Ahmedabad:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said her officials are in discussions with their counterparts in the PMO and once the talks are over government will figure out what remedial steps should be taken and announce the same.

However, she refused to say if Government is planning to come out with a stimulus package to arrest the deepening slowdown, or ruled the possibility of one either.

"Since Monday, I have met five different groups representing banks and financial institutions, SMEs, industries and automobiles and listened to their problems. We are analysing what steps should be taken now," she told reporters when asked about a revival roadmap that her ministry is planning to unveil.

"Yesterday (Thursday) we had a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the economy," the Minister added.

On a specific question whether Government will

announce a stimulus package, Sitharaman quipped: "I have not talked about any stimulus package, and whatever appearing in a section of the media is not given by me."

"Discussions are going on about what steps should be taken and we will announce them when we are ready," was all she would say.

Industry has for long been seeking some stimulus measures in the form of a GST reduction across the sectors as it not just auto sales-which had hit a 19 year low in July plunging over 31 percent, but even consumer staples are facing the heat now. The industry also wants roll-back of some budget measures like the super rich tax on FPIs.

Since the budget, the markets have tanked over 12 per cent as the minister unveiled as slew of measures that have poured cold water on sentiment, making it one of the worst post-budget losses since the economy was opened up in 1991. PTI

## Over 3K temporary jobs cut due to slowdown: Maruti Suzuki

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 3,000 temporary employees have lost jobs with the country's largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) due to the ongoing slump in the automobile industry, a top company executive has said.

MSI Chairman R C Bhargava said contracts of the temporary workers were not renewed due to the slowdown while asserting that permanent workers have not been impacted.

"This is a part of the business, when demand soars, more contract workers are hired and

reduced in case of low demand," he said while speaking to some leading private TV channels.

Bhargava was responding to a query on whether the current slump and production cuts have led to job cuts in Maruti.

"Around 3,000 temporary workers have lost jobs with Maruti Suzuki," he added.

Reiterating that automobile sector creates job in the economy —from sales, service, insurance, licensing, financing, accessories, drivers, petrol pumps, transportation — he cautioned, "fewer automobiles (sales) will impact jobs on a larger scale."

These are not even visualised. The impact is much higher, he added.

When asked if the industry has hit the rock bottom in terms of sales in July, he said revival in the sense of positive growth will start from third or fourth quarter of this fiscal, partly because of the lower base effect.

"Hopeful to see strong revival in FY 2021. By then transition to BS VI will be over," he added.

Commenting on expectations from the upcoming festive season, he said due to the good monsoon, rural sales may pick up.

## Axis Bank inks pact with CSC to boost banking facilities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Axis Bank announced signing of an agreement with CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd to enhance digital and kiosk banking facilities in many rural unbanked and under-banked areas of the country thus furthering the cause of financial inclusion to these underserved communities.

On the occasion, CEO, CSC SPV, Dinesh Tyagi said, "Association with Axis Bank would help in extending the reach of delivering financial services through CSC. This would also promote Financially Inclusive society."

"CSC e Governance Services Ltd has been instrumental in furthering government's initiative of Financial Inclusion and Axis bank would closely associate with CSC VLEs (Village Level Entrepreneur) and through them offer simplified banking solutions to the rural populace," said Pralay Mondal, ED, Retail Banking Axis Bank.

## Sebi provides clarity on mutual fund investments in short-term bank deposits

New Delhi: Mutual fund houses should ensure that banks — where a scheme has parked funds in the lender's short-term deposits — do not invest in that particular scheme, according to Sebi.

The markets watchdog has issued a clarification regarding 'parking of funds in short-term

deposits of scheduled commercial banks by mutual funds — pending deployment.

"Trustees/ asset management companies (AMCs) shall ensure that no funds of a scheme is parked in short-term deposit of a bank which has invested in that scheme," Sebi said. PTI

## Solar case: US appeals against WTO panel's ruling in favour of India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A ruling given by the WTO's dispute settlement panel on renewable energy or the solar sector in favour of India has been challenged by the US in the upper body of the World Trade Organisation.

In June, a WTO dispute resolution panel ruled in favour of India in a case against the US saying that America's domestic content requirements and subsidies provided by eight of its states in the renewable energy or the solar sector are violative of global trade norms.

## Auto players on temporary production shutdown

New Delhi: TVS group auto component maker Sundaram-Clayton Ltd (SCL) on Friday said it will be shutting its Padi factory in Tamil Nadu for two days owing to slowdown in the automotive industry, joining two-wheeler major Hero MotoCorp which also announced closure of its plants for four days.

SCL, a manufacturer and supplier of aluminium die cast products to domestic and global automotive OEMs, said it has declared August 16 and 17, 2019, as non-working days for its Padi factory. "This is due to business slowdown across sectors," Sundaram-Clayton Ltd said in a statement.

The current slowdown in

the automotive industry has forced many manufacturers and component suppliers to reduce production and plan temporary plant closures.

Earlier in the day, the country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp said its manufacturing plants have been shut for four days from August 15-18 as part of annual routine and also to adjust production in line with current market demand.

"While this has been part of the annual holiday calendar on account of Independence Day, Raksha Bandhan and the weekend, it also partly reflects the prevailing market demand scenario," Hero MotoCorp added. PTI

## Rupee settles 13 paise up at 71.14 against dollar despite outflows

Mumbai: The rupee recovered from early lows to close higher by 13 paise at 71.14 against the US currency on Friday in line with firm local equities, defying gains in the greenback overseas and foreign capital outflows.

The rupee opened on a weak note and fell to a day's low of 71.47 due to gains in the dollar and crude oil in global markets.

Foreign investors pulling out ₹1,339 crore from equities on a net basis also weighed on the local unit. PTI

However, a recovery in equity markets amid hopes of a sector-specific stimulus package by the government to arrest the slowdown in the economy helped the rupee pare losses and touch a high of 70.50 to the US dollar.

The local unit finally settled at 71.14 against the US dollar, showing a gain of 13 paise over the previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee had settled at 71.27 against the US dollar.

The forex market was closed on Thursday for the Independence Day. On a weekly basis, the

rupee lost 36 paise primarily due to heavy losses on Tuesday due to trade war concerns.

Forex traders said Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking stock of the economy helped boost investor sentiments. Modi on Thursday comprehensively reviewed the state of the economy with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman amid a slowdown in various sectors.

There are expectations that the government would come out with sector-specific stimulus sometime soon.

Meanwhile, the 10-year government bond yield was at 6.54 per cent on Friday. PTI

**UJVN LTD.**  
H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones : 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax : 0135- 2763507  
CIN No.-U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com).

**Tender Notice**  
Tender No.04 & 05/EE(Pathri)/2019-20

The office of Executive Engineer (M&G), Pathri Power House, Bahadradab, Hardwar, invites sealed Tenders from the experienced Firms for the following supply / works:-

**NIT No. 04** - Hiring of one no. School Bus (26 seater) & one no. Non AC diesel vehicle (9 seater) for Power House

**NIT No. 05** - Annual Agreement for cleaning of offices / club & other places.

1. App. value: Rs. 15,73,461/- (GST extra) & Rs. 5,01,522/- (GST extra) respectively.

2. Earnest Money: Rs. 47,250/- & Rs. 15,050/- respectively.

3. Cost of Tender: Rs. 1180/- & Rs. 590/- respectively.

4. Last date for downloading of tender documents : 07.09.2019 up to 14.00 Hrs.

5. Last date for submission of tenders : 07.09.2019 up to 16.00 Hrs.

6. Date of opening of Tenders : 09.09.2019 at 11.00 Hrs.

For Eligibility Criteria and fuller and further details kindly visit our website. These tenders are available on our website [www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com) with the facility to download the tender documents.

Letter No. 436 Dated 16.08.2019 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that this person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 55 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Hospital Uniform, he was Admit in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi on 26.07.2019 and during the treatment doctors declared him dead on 07.08.2019 at 1.09 am.

In this regard a DD No. 08A, dated 26.07.2019 has been lodged at P.S. RK Puram, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO  
P.S. RK Puram, New Delhi  
DP/7022/SW/19 Ph.: 011-26185222, 7065036222

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Sajjya**, D/o Achat Ali, R/o WZ-135/48, Khyala Village, Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped since Dated 30.07.2019. In this regard a FIR No. 232/19, u/s 363 IPC, zip net no. MWDK1120190163, Dated 31.07.2019 has been registered at Police Station — Khyala, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Age:** 13 years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 4'5", **Face:** Oval, **Build:** Thin, **Clothing:** Wearing blue colour Suit & Salwar and Chappal in feet.

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

SHO  
P.S. Khyala, Delhi  
DP/8365/WD/19 Ph.: 011-28335696, 28335686

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo) namely : **Rajni W/o : Sonu**, R/o **N-5, Raghbir Nagar, Delhi**, Age : **26 Years**, has been reported missing since 03.08.2019 at 12:00 Noon from her house, vide DD Entry No. 58-A dated 04.08.2019 lodged at Police Station Khyala, Delhi.

Her physical description is as under:-

**Complexion :** Fair, **Height :** 5'2", **Face :** Round, **Physique/Build :** Strong, **Clothing :** Blue Colour Gown, Cream Colour Pajama and Sleeper in Feet.

Any person having any information/clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Khyala, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.nic.in), website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax : 011-24368639

SHO  
P.S. Khyala, Delhi  
DP/8368/WD/19 Ph. No. 011-28335696, 28335686

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo) namely **Mukesh Kumar Verma**, S/o Shri Rameshwar, R/o Flat No. 1096, LIG Flats, Sector-29, Rohini, Delhi has been missing from the area of P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi since 18.07.2019. In this regard D.D. No. 26-A, Dated 25.07.2019 has been lodged at Police Station — Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. His physical description is as under:- **Age:** 50 years, **Complexion:** Sallow, **Height:** 5'7", **Face:** Round, **Build:** medium, **Clothing:** Wearing green colour shirt and white colour pant.

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

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-24368639 P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi  
Ph.No.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
DP/490/ON/19 Ph.: 011-27821047, 27822207

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Jitender @ Sonu**, S/o Jag Ram, R/o: Village: Javasa, P.S. Khan Pur, Distt: Bulandshahar, UP has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 14/16 u/s 323/341/34 IPC**, registered at P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Jitender @ Sonu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Jitender @ Sonu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in this case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Jitender @ Sonu** accused of **FIR No. 14/16 u/s 323/341/34 IPC**, is required to appear before this Court to answer said complaint on or before **19.09.2019**.

By Order  
Sh. Fahad Uddin,  
Metropolitan Magistrate,  
Room No. 180, 1st Floor,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi  
DP/6502/CD/19

## SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Kavita**, D/o Nandan Muhiya @ Nandu, R/o: H.No.-429, Near Dairy, Village Sungarpur, Delhi, **Age:** 14 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Black Colour Kurta & Red Salwar and Hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing from the area of P.S. Alipur since 15.07.2019. In this regard a case **vides FIR No. 259/19 U/s 363 IPC**, dated **21.07.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Alipur, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-24368639 P.S. Alipur, Delhi  
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641  
DP/482/ON/19 Ph.: 011-27202290, 27202265

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Kulvinder Singh Sidhu** S/o Sohan Singh R/o Village Gulabgarh, Bathinda, Punjab has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 204/19 u/s 420/406/34 IPC** P.S. Janakpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Kulvinder Singh Sidhu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Kulvinder Singh Sidhu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Kulvinder Singh Sidhu** accused of **FIR No. 204/19 u/s 420/406/34 IPC** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.09.2019**.

By Order : Sh. Deepak Vats,  
Metropolitan Magistrate,  
Room No. 9, Ground Floor, Dwarka Distt. Court,  
Sector-10, Dwarka, Delhi  
DP/8373/WD/19

Sensex and Nifty edge higher on stimulus talks, post weekly loss

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmarks Sensex and Nifty pared early losses to settle marginally higher on Friday as participants took heart from the government considering measures to aid the ailing economy and the global markets showing some resilience.

Flipping between losses and gains for a better part of the session, the 30-share Sensex settled 38.80 points, or 0.10 per cent, higher at 37,350.33. It hit an intra-day high of 37,444.45 and a low of 36,974.41.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 18.40 points, or 0.17 per cent, to close at 11,047.80. During the day, it swung between a high of 11,068.65 and low of 10,924.30.

During the holidays-curtailed week, the Sensex lost 231.58 points, or 0.60 per cent, while the NSE Nifty gave up 61.85 points, or 0.55 per cent. On a weekly basis, both indices have posted five losses in six weeks.

Indian equity markets were closed on Monday and Thursday for public holiday.

Concerns over economic slowdown, weak earnings and global trade volatility have been weighing on investor sentiment, experts said.

Stocks of banking and auto

Gold climbs ₹475 on jewellers' buying

New Delhi (PTI): Gold prices on Friday surged ₹475 to ₹38,420 per 10 gram at the bullion market here on fresh buying from jewellers, according to the All-India Sarafa Association.

Tracking gold, silver also gained ₹378 to ₹44,688 per kg on increased offtake by industrial units and coin makers. Pick-up in demand from local jewellers at the domestic spot market led to the rise in gold prices, analysts said. They, however, added that the weak global trend restricted the gains.

In the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 purity on Friday surged ₹475 each to ₹38,420 and ₹38,250 per 10 gram, respectively. Sovereign gold held flat at ₹28,700 per eight grams. Silver ready rose ₹378 to ₹44,688 per kg, while weekly-based delivery advanced by ₹594 to ₹43,824 per kg. Silver coins were in good demand and traded higher by ₹1,000 at ₹90,000 for buying and ₹91,000 for selling of 100 pieces.

sectors got a boost amid buzz that the Centre will come out with stimulus measures to help revive consumer spending in various sectors.

In view of fast-spreading slowdown in key sectors, the Indian government on Thursday reviewed the state of the economy.

Riding on news about possible stimulus measures, auto counters rose as much as 2.74 per cent on the BSE.

Among the auto companies, Maruti was the biggest gainer, followed by Hero Motocorp, Bajaj Auto, Mahindra and Mahindra and Tata Motors.

Yes Bank topped the list of banking sector gainers as also the Sensex chart with 3.79 per

Equities in Europe were trading on a positive note in their respective early sessions.

Elsewhere in Asia, Shanghai Composite Index, Hang Seng and Nikkei ended in the green, while Kospi settled lower. However, Asian equities logged losses on a weekly basis.

Meanwhile, China hinting plans to take measures to spur economic growth helped revive investor sentiment globally.

Sanjeev Zarbade, VP PGC Research, Kotak Securities, said, "Global markets are seen ending in the red for the week on lingering concerns of trade war. This is taking a toll on the global investor confidence. Easing of bond yields are pointing towards slowdown in global economy. Indian markets also ended lower this week on disappointing earnings and selling by foreign investors."

India's economic growth has slowed to 6.8 per cent in 2018-19 — the slowest pace since 2014-15. Consumer confidence is waning and foreign direct investment has plateaued. International trade and currency war is further aggravating the problem.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee appreciated by 13 paise to 71.14 against the US dollar.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.89 per cent to USD 59.33 per barrel.

Jet Airways quarterly results delayed amid 'complexities of issues'

New Delhi (PTI): With the "complexities of issues" being faced by Jet Airways, financial results for the June quarter are yet to be finalised and the process is taking time, according to a communication.

The affairs of Jet Airways, which closed down its operations on April 17, are now being managed by resolution professional Ashish Chhawchharia under the insolvency law.

In the communication to the exchanges, Chhawchharia said that prior to the commencement of the resolution process, directors, chief executive officer, chief financial officer, company secretary and other top management personnel had resigned from the company. "Further, the access to data was not available until mid-July. Pending book closure process, financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2019, have not been prepared/finalised till date..." he noted.

He also said the requirement under Regulation 33 of Sebi LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) cannot be compiled with within the prescribed timelines.

One of the requirements is that listed companies have to report their financial results within a specified time frame from the end of a particular quarter.

Fitch Ratings raises Reliance outlook to positive

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings on Friday praised the outlook on Reliance Industries (RIL) to positive from stable due to the company's potential to further leverage following its announcement to eliminate its net debt by March 2021.

In a statement, Fitch said it is revising "the outlook on RIL's Long-Term Local-Currency issuer default rating (IDR) to Positive from Stable and has affirmed the rating at 'BBB'."

"At the same time, the agency has affirmed the Long-Term Foreign-Currency IDR at 'BBB-' with a Stable Outlook, as RIL's Foreign-Currency IDR is capped by India's (BBB-/Stable) Country Ceiling of 'BBB-'" the statement said.

The revision in the outlook follows RIL announcing plans to sell a 20 per cent stake in its oil-to-chemical division to Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco).

This provides RIL potential to "further leverage" after eliminating its net debt by the financial year 2020-21.

"We forecast its adjusted net debt/EBITDAR to reach 1.5x over the next 18 to 24 months," Fitch said.

The rating affirmation reflected RIL's strong business profile — a large-scale refinery

with a capacity of around 1.2 million barrels a day and dominant market position in petrochemicals.

"The company has completed capex to increase its downstream integration, which has improved feedstock flexibility," the rating agency said adding it expects RIL's digital-services business, Jio, to continue its strong growth.

Jio has achieved a leading position in its wireless subscriber base, though it is still evolving, as reflected in the recent spinoff of its tower and fibre assets to investment trusts and plans to roll out a fiber-to-the-home business.

"RIL's financial profile is also likely to improve, supported by strong operating cash flow from its expanded petrochemical and refining business. Capex should moderate from FY20, with free cash flow turning positive in FY21," it added.

Fitch said RIL's capex is expected to fall following the completion of most planned projects in its various business segments.

The company's expansion of its fiber business is likely to be the major capex driver over the medium term, along with its investment in the domestic upstream business of around USD 5 billion in a joint venture with BP plc over the next two

to three years.

Free cash flow (FCF) should turn positive by FY21, driven by robust operating cash flow from its refining, petrochemical and digital-services business along with lower capex, it said.

"We expect the digital-services business to turn FCF positive in FY22, hence it will no longer be a drag on RIL's overall cash flow profile. This should see lower net debt and net leverage, as measured by net adjusted debt/EBITDAR, should improve to around 1.7x by FY21, from 2.5x in FY19, without factoring in the proposed investment from Saudi Aramco," it said.

RIL has entered a non-binding letter of intent with Saudi Aramco to sell a 20 per cent stake in its oil-to-chemical division based on a USD 75 billion enterprise value for the division. Earlier, RIL agreed to form a joint venture with BP where the British firm will invest Rs 7,200 crore for a 49 per cent stake in fuel retail network and aviation fuel business.

RIL has also entered into an agreement with Canada's Brookfield Infrastructure Partners L P for an investment of ₹25,200 crore in Jio's Tower Infrastructure Trust (Reliance Jio Infratel Pvt Ltd).

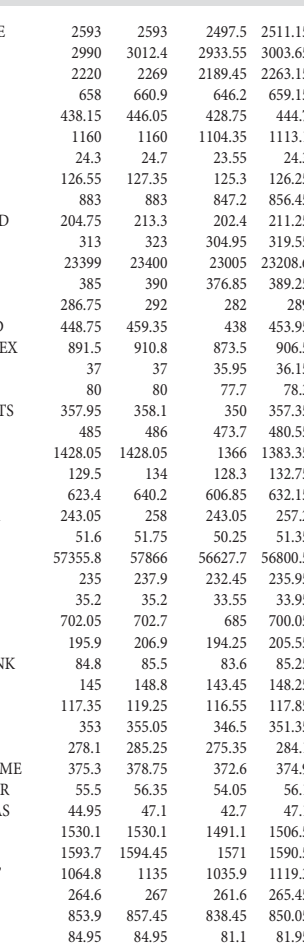
NIFTY 50

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

BSE 500

Table with columns: Script, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists 500 stocks and their performance metrics.

BULLION | Last 7 Days



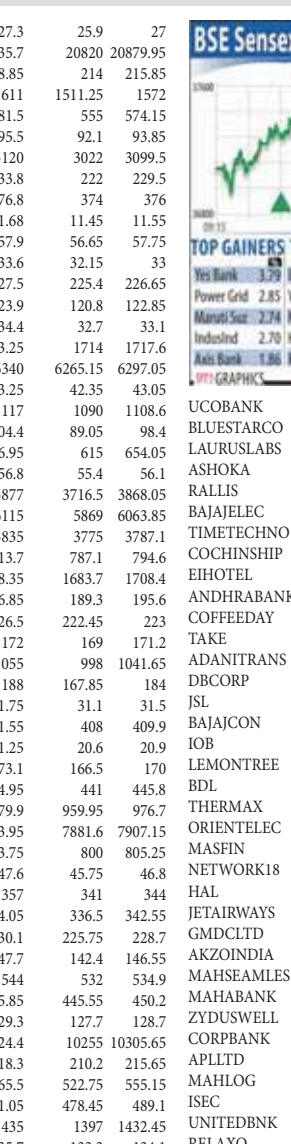
TOP GAINERS

Table listing top performing stocks with columns: Stock Name, Gain %.

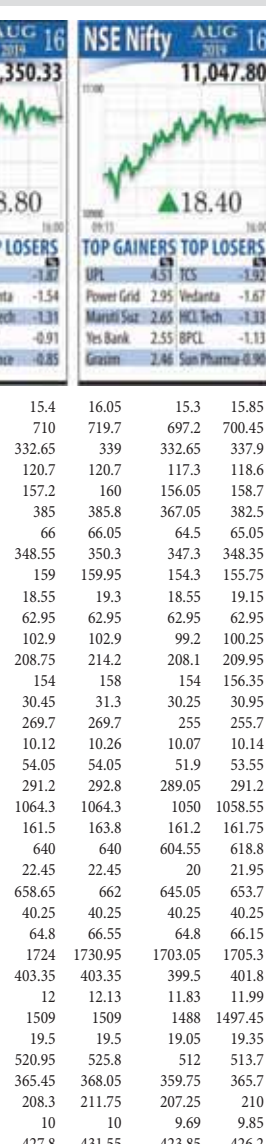
TOP LOSERS

Table listing underperforming stocks with columns: Stock Name, Loss %.

NSE Nifty



BSE Sensex



NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, HIGH, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists 50 stocks and their performance metrics.

Table with columns: Script, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists 500 stocks and their performance metrics.

Table with columns: MUTHOOTFIN, HAVELLS, HINDZINC, etc. Lists various stocks and their performance metrics.

Table with columns: CONCOR, GUGAS, ATUL, RAMCOCEM, etc. Lists various stocks and their performance metrics.

Table with columns: JISLJALEQS, CGPOWER, INPCALAB, etc. Lists various stocks and their performance metrics.

Table with columns: JYOTHYLIA, JYOTHYLIA, MAXINDIA, etc. Lists various stocks and their performance metrics.

Table with columns: ERIS, ALLCARGO, ELGIEQUIP, etc. Lists various stocks and their performance metrics.

Karachi: A brother of Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Haibatullah was among five people killed when a powerful bomb ripped through a mosque inside a seminary during Friday prayers in Pakistan's troubled Balochistan province, Taliban sources said.

Kinshasa (Congo): Congo's year-long Ebola outbreak has spread to a new province, with two cases, including one death, confirmed in South Kivu, according to the Government Health Ministry. Two new patients tested positive in the Mwenga area of South Kivu, adding to North Kivu and Ituri provinces where there are confirmed cases of the disease, according to the Health Ministry.

Yaounde: Nine Chinese and eight Ukrainian seamen were abducted on Thursday when two merchant vessels came under attack in Cameroonian waters, sources said on Friday.

Washington: July 2019 was the hottest month ever recorded globally, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Nashville: Tennessee executed its third inmate in the electric chair since November, killing a man on Thursday who maintained that he didn't stab a mother and her 15-year-old daughter to death in 1986.

# Gas masks, hard hats at HK's protest pop-up store

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Lee Ching-hei runs a pop-up store in Hong Kong but instead of offering the latest food trends or fashion must-haves he sells another highly sought-after commodity: protest supplies.

Helmets, goggles and gas masks are bestsellers at "National Calamity Hardware", which has held two pop-up sessions in the districts of Mong Kok and Tai Po -- both major hotspots during Hong Kong's two months of huge, sometimes violent, pro-democracy protests.

"We sold 50-60 sets of gas masks in the first hour of business, so we're sold out now," the 33-year-old businessman said while fitting a customer for a helmet ahead of a planned protest in Hong Kong's Tai Po neighbourhood. Lee said he had been an avid collector of gas masks -- dubbed pig snouts in Cantonese -- even before the protests began.

"So I had a really large number of 3M masks saved up," he said, referring to the most popular brand among protesters as his shop bustled with customers.

Hong Kong's protesters have been gearing up with increasingly protective equipment as clashes become more violent.

While millions have hit the streets for peaceful rallies, a minority of hardcore demonstrators have used bricks, Molotov cocktails and slingshots after police began routinely using tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse crowds.

The demonstrations started as rallies against a controversial bill that would allow extraditions to mainland China, but have since morphed into a call for greater democratic reform in the semi-autonomous city.

Now in their 10th week, the protests have seen violence escalate on both sides.

Earlier this week, Hong Kong police fired tear gas inside enclosed subway stations



Pro-democracy protesters gather to participate in a rally organised by higher education students in Chater Garden in Hong Kong on Friday

and rubber bullets at close range as colleagues baton-charged protesters down some station escalators.

One woman suffered a horrendous eye wound last weekend -- something demonstrators have blamed on a bean-bag round -- and dozens have been hospitalised with serious injuries.

The police have also reported casualties. In clashes last weekend, an officer sustained burns to his legs from a Molotov cocktail.

Lee said he sells supplies at a big discount to students, nearly 90 per cent off, portraying his involvement as both a business opportunity and also a way to help young people.

## Hong Kong protesters face crucial weekend test after airport setback

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement faces a major test this weekend as it tries to muster another huge crowd following criticism over a recent violent airport protest and as concerns mount over Beijing's next move.

Ten weeks of protests have plunged the international finance hub into crisis with the communist mainland taking an increasingly hardline tone, including labelling the more violent protester actions "terrorist-like".

Chinese state media have put out images of military personnel and armoured person-

nel carriers across the border in Shenzhen, while the United States has warned Beijing against sending in troops, a move many analysts say would be a reputational and economic disaster for China.

The nationalistic Global Times newspaper said there would not be a repeat of the Tiananmen Square crackdown, in which hundreds -- or even thousands -- are believed to have been killed, if Beijing moves to quash the protests.

"The incident in Hong Kong won't be a repeat of the June 4th political incident in 1989," it said, insisting the country now had more sophisticated approaches.

## Hong Kong cuts taxes to shore up economy amid protests

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong's government announced tax cuts and higher social spending Thursday to reverse a deepening economic slump aggravated by anti-government protests and the US-Chinese tariff war.

The territory's financial secretary, Paul Chan, cut this year's official growth forecast to 0 to 1 per cent, which could be the worst performance since 2009 during the global financial crisis. The previous forecast was 2 per cent to 3 per cent.

Hurt by the plunge in US-Chinese trade, growth already was declining before anti-government protests erupted this year over a proposed extradition law and other grievances.

"The recent social incidents have hit the retail trade, restaurants and tourism, adding a further blow to an already-weak economy," said a statement issued by Chan's agency.

It also cited the impact of slowing trade in Asia, global financial market volatility and the risk of disorder as Britain leaves the European Union.

The measures announced Thursday will "provide impetus for our economy" and "help cushion the enterprises and people of Hong Kong against challenges," the statement said.

## Israel says it will let in barred US lawmaker for 'humanitarian' visit

AFP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel is to allow a visit by barred US congresswoman Rashida Tlaib who is of Palestinian origin on "humanitarian" grounds, the interior ministry announced on Friday.

It said Interior Minister Aryeh Deri decided to allow Tlaib to make a "humanitarian visit to her grandmother" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank after the lawmaker had sent him a written pledge "to respect conditions imposed by Israel". Tlaib had "promised not to promote the cause of the boycott of Israel during her stay", in a letter to Deri sent overnight, the ministry said in a statement.

Israeli media published the letter reading: "I would like to request admittance to Israel in order to visit my relatives, and specifically my grandmother, who is in her 90s..."

"This could be my last opportunity to see her. I will respect any restrictions and will not promote boycotts against Israel during my visit."

On Thursday, Israel announced it would bar a planned visit by Tlaib and fel-



US congresswoman Rashida Tlaib

low Muslim congresswoman Ilhan Omar over their support of a boycott of the Jewish state for its treatment of the Palestinians.

Israeli officials had, however, said they would consider a separate humanitarian request from Tlaib to visit her family, a trip for which she would have to pass through Israel. The decision to bar the congresswoman, although encouraged by President Donald Trump, drew sharp criticism in the United States from several allies of Israel, including top Democratic lawmakers, presidential hopefuls and influential pro-Israel lobby AIPAC.

## China doing very poorly as a result of trade war: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said that China is doing very poorly as a result of the trade war and the "longer it goes on, the stronger we get".

Asserting that the United States is "having a very good discussion" on a trade deal with China, Trump told reporters at the Morristown airport in New Jersey that he will speak with Chinese President Xi Jinping "very soon".

On the protests in Hong Kong which have been going

on since early June, the US president said that Xi can "humanely" solve the problem so that "everybody is happy".

"I think the longer the trade war goes on, the weaker China gets and the stronger we get. We're taking in massive amounts of money. Billions and billions of dollars. And I think the longer it goes, the stronger we get. I have a feeling it's going to go fairly short," he said on Thursday.

As a result of the trade war, China is doing very poorly, Trump said.

## Sinking city: Jakarta on brink of disaster

AFP ■ JAKARTA

Time is running out for Jakarta. One of the fastest-sinking cities on earth, environmental experts warn that one third of it could be submerged by 2050 if current rates continue.

Decades of uncontrolled and excessive depletion of groundwater reserves, rising sea-levels, and increasingly volatile weather patterns mean swathes of it have already started to disappear. Existing environmental measures have had little impact, so authorities are

taking drastic action: the nation will have a new capital.

Its location could be announced imminently, according to local reports.

"The capital of our country will move to the island of Borneo," Indonesian leader Joko Widodo said on Twitter.

Relocating the country's administrative and political heart may be an act of national preservation, but it effectively sounds the death-knell for Jakarta where many of the city's 10 million residents have little means of escape.

## Imran discusses Kashmir with Trump

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday discussed the Kashmir issue with US President Donald Trump over phone, as the UN Security Council held a closed door meeting to discuss India revoking the special status of Jammu & Kashmir.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said Khan took the US President "into confidence" regarding the UN Security Council meeting at the UN headquarters.

## Myanmar, B'desh schedule Rohingya repatriation

AP ■ BANGKOK

Myanmar and Bangladesh will soon make a second attempt to start repatriating Rohingya Muslims, 700,000 of whom fled a security crackdown in Myanmar almost two years ago, officials from the two countries and the United Nations said on Friday.

Myanmar Government spokesman Zaw Htay, speaking in his country's capital, Naypyitaw, said the parties concerned had agreed that the process would begin next Thursday.

## 'Explosive' situation on migrant rescue boat in limbo off Italy

AFP ■ ROME

The captain of a Spanish charity ship carrying 134 rescued migrants warned Friday of the "explosive" situation on board the vessel anchored within swimming distance of Italy's Lampedusa island but forbidden to approach.

Italy has evacuated a handful of medical cases from the Open Arms but far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini has been refusing to

allow the vessel to dock despite a European deal to take in those remaining.

The captain of the ship operated by Proactiva Open Arms, Marc Reig, said that those on board, rescued after leaving chaos-stricken Libya, were "broken psychologically".

"Every second that passes, the bomb ticks a second closer. Either someone cuts the red cable and defuses this bomb now, or the Open Arms will explode," he told Spain's TVE television.

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM CORRIGENDUM					
SR. NO.	LETTER/ MEMO. No. & DATE	NAME OF DEPT/ BOARD/ CORP/ AUTH	OLD REFERENCE E/ NI/ TENDER NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE DEPT/ BOARD CORP/ AUTH
1	Ch-48/XEN DD-III/B-603 d. 09.08.2019	UHBVN	NIT-259 P&D/2019 (B-603)	Corrigendum-II Date of closing of E-tender: 21.08.19 (17:00 Hrs) Date of opening of Part-I: 22.08.19 (12:00 Hrs)	www.uhbvn.org.in

Chief Engineer/ P.D.&C. UHBVN, Panchkula

### Govt. of Bihar

**BIHAR STATE POWER TRANSMISSION CO. LTD., PATNA**  
(Regd. Office - Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna)  
(Mob. No- 7763817721, Email ID - cetransom.bsptcl@gmail.com)  
(TIN VAT No - 1011257007, TIN CST No - 10011146136  
CIN - U40102BR2012SGC018889)  
(Department of O&M of BSPTCL)  
1<sup>st</sup> Tender Extension Notice for  
NIT No.- 30/PR/BSPTCL/2019 (PR No.- 04716)

Due date for opening of Online tenders for NIT No. 30/PR/BSPTCL/2019:- Design, Manufacture, testing, supply & delivery of 33KV, 1600A, 25KA, C2-M2 Class Vacuum Circuit Breaker with support structures, marshaling boxes, terminal connectors (suitable for ACSR Moose) etc:-100 Sets

Date of request of Tender is 27.08.2019 (up to 03:00 P.M.)  
Date of submission of Tender is 27.08.2019 (up to 04:00 P.M.)  
Date of opening of Technical & Commercial Part-I is 28.08.2019 (at 04.00 P.M.)

- Eligibility Criteria Tender documents, etc are available in downloadable from at websites <http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>
  - "Bid Processing Fee is mandatory to be paid through online mode i.e. Internet Payment Gateway (Credit/Debit Card), Net Banking, NEFT/RTGS".
  - "Bid along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-payment portal [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) before the date & time specified in the NIT. The department doesn't take responsibility for the delay/ Non submission of Tender/ Non Reconciliation of online Payment caused due to Non-availability of Internet Connection, Network Traffic/ Holidays or any other reason".
  - The Cost of EMD may be paid through either Online or Offline mode. In case, Cost of EMD is opted to be paid through Offline mode, Bank Guarantee/Demand Draft for EMD in favor of "Accounts Officer, BSPTCL, Patna" must be submitted to Chief Engineer, O&M, BSPTCL, Vidyut Bhawan, Patna positively up to 16:00 Hrs. of 27/08/2019 failing which the tender shall be summarily rejected. For online submissions of Cost of EMD, bidder shall submit details of intimation to this Office by 16:00 Hrs. of 27/08/2019.
- For further details please visit website [www.prbbihar.gov.in](http://www.prbbihar.gov.in)

Chief Engineer (Trans. O&M)

PR. No. 06306 (Ni.Ni) 2019-20

भ्रष्टाचार से संबंधित शिकायत 0612-2217048 पर करें।

## SEARCH FOR KIDNEPPING



Aman Kumar

General public is here by informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: Aman Kumar S/o Brijesh Kumar R/o H. No. D-348, Gali No. 3, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 11.07.2019 from the area of P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi in this regard a DD No. 28-A dated 16.07.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, Age: 22 years, Height: 5'6" ft., Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Wearing: Black Colour T-Shirt & Blue Colour Pant and Red Colour Shoes in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. No: 011-27811415  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph. No: 7065036327  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No: 7065036327  
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/506/ON/19

## PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE



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

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Nidhi Garg, Vikas Garg LBDEL0001803519	SH House No- 207 First Floor, Block-H, Sector- GM P-16, Shastri Nagar Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 13-Aug-2019	30-Aug-2011 Rs. 29,06,179/-	Delhi

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

Date : 17-08-2019  
Place: Delhi/ NCR  
Sd/- Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

## GURUGRAM METROPOLITAN CITY BUS LIMITED

Bus Depot, Kadipur Chowk, Sec-10, Gurugram 122001  
CIN: U60300HR2017SGC070649 website: [www.gmcb.in](http://www.gmcb.in)

Advertisement Rights and Maintenance Obligations of Bus Queue Shelter Clusters comprising 221 Bus Queue Shelters in Gurugram Metropolitan Area  
E-Tender Notice Ref No. GM/CBL/ARMO/BQS/2019/3

Gurugram Metropolitan City Bus Limited (GM/CBL) invites online Applications, from suitable entities in accordance with Request for Qualification (RFQ) Document for Advertisement Rights and Maintenance Obligations of Bus Queue Shelter Clusters comprising 221 Bus Queue Shelters in Gurugram Metropolitan Area ("Project") through e-auction.

E - Service Fee (Rs.)	Date of Issue of RFQ	Last date of receiving queries	Date of Pre Application Meeting	Last date for upload of final RFQ	Last date of submission of application	Opening of Submission
For Document Vetting 1000/-	For e-auction 500/-	August 14, 2019	August 16, 2019	August 24, 2019	September 06, 2019	September 07, 2019

- The process will identify Eligible Bidders for participation in the e-auction for advertisement Rights and Maintenance Obligations of BQS Clusters in Gurugram Metropolitan Area.
- The RFQ documents shall be available on [www.gmcb.in](http://www.gmcb.in) as well as on <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>. Possession of Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and registration of the Bidder on the portal <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> is a prerequisite for e-tendering. Kindly contact o/o <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> as per the details given in the RFQ document.
- For any other query, please contact Joint Chief Financial Officer, GM/CBL at [Jtcfogmcbi.gmda@gov.in](mailto:Jtcfogmcbi.gmda@gov.in)
- For further details, visit website <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> and [www.gmcb.in](http://www.gmcb.in)
- All subsequent, notification changes and amendments would be posted only on the following websites: [www.gmcb.in](http://www.gmcb.in) and <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>.

Sd/-  
For & on behalf of Chief Executive Officer,  
Gurugram Metropolitan City Bus Limited

## ZARA Aavaas

Re-Draw of Lots

This is to inform that our Affordable Housing Project "Zara Aavaas" to be developed by Perfect Buildwell (P) Ltd. in Sector 104, Dwarka Expressway, Gurgaon under Haryana Govt. (License No. 12 of 2014, dated 10.06.14) AHP-2013 Policy, we are holding RE-DRAW OF LOTS for the allotment of 23 no. of Apartments under the supervision of committee constituted as per Govt. norms.

Date of Re-Draw of Lots : 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2019  
Time : 1.00 PM  
Venue : Club Florence, Sector-56, E-Block, Sushant Lok-2, Gurugram-122002

All applicants are invited for RE-DRAW OF APARTMENTS.

**Perfect Buildwell (P) Ltd.**  
Regd. Office: D-64, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024  
Branch Office: 2nd Floor, E-597, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048

Call: 40641100-88, +91-9990031994

E-mail: [info@perfectbuildwell.com](mailto:info@perfectbuildwell.com), Website: [www.zaragroup.in](http://www.zaragroup.in)

SHORT CIRCUITS

ARJUN KAPOOR

I have grown-up being a cinephile and a binge-watcher seeking good content to learn and enjoy. I have always recommended them to my friends. I treat my social media followers as my family and I wanted to start a digital property through which I would jam with them more intimately and share my recommendations.

R MADHAVAN

*Yemmadhamum Samadham* (I respect each religion as my own) I hope that my son follows that too. I have prayed at every Darga, Gurudwara and Church, I have had the good fortune to visit when a temple was not around. They have shown me utmost love and respect knowing that I am a Hindu. How can I not reciprocate that?

SANYA MALHOTRA

When I heard the story of *Badhaai Ho*, I knew it would be a very special film because the subject was different. This was one of those films where I took no time to say 'yes.' The amount of appreciation we have got from the audience and critics is unimaginable. That is why the National Award win is gratifying. I had the same feeling while *Dangal* too.

SHEKHAR KAPUR

Thank you PM Narendra Modi for putting water issues in the forefront. And emphasising that each one of us must resolve water. That drop of water you see dripping from your tap is not yours. It's a common resource that belongs to everyone. When you waste that drop of water, you are depriving others too.

SHARMAN JOSHI

We have put a lot of efforts into making this film (*Mission Manga*) and we always hoped the audience would love it, because we loved it while making it. The reaction has been overwhelming so far and it's only been one day. We're thrilled with the response and we hope people will remember this film for long.

ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES

An affair with saree

Designer ANAVILA MISRA says that her biggest inspiration has come from the hand embroidery that her grandmother had expertised in. She wanted to look exactly like her mother did in ethnic wear. By TEAM VIVA



banned says it all. How people consume fashion indicates how people are consuming other things in their life too. I see so many young people working on sustainable products thinking of environment. A very good example from India is of the guy who is working with cork rather than leather to create bags. It is impacting our lives all around.

**Fashion runs in cycles. Do you think that saree is gaining popularity because of movements like the hundred saree pact?**

I see social media taking this all across. Movements like this have very strong impact on making the fabric popular right now.

**The sarees by Anavila can be immediately spotted. What would you attribute it to?**

The first thing is our material which has not changed over eight years of working in the industry. We keep our sensibility alive while creating our collection. The easiness and comfort with which our styling is done sets us apart.

**Statement blouses and experimentation with drapes is something that's trending. How do you cater to that?**

For me, it's all about simple minimalistic sarees from my very first show in 2014. The fabric should be beautiful and the texture should be nice. Sarees must give a message that they are comfortable everyday wear. Our styling ideas come from the rural India because they wear sarees 24\*7 and have adapted it so beautifully.

**Why did you decide to come on board with the etsy design awards?**

My first interaction with etsy was when they were launching it in India. They conducted an event in Delhi and invited me. That's when I got to know about what they do. Their thought of building it across India fascinated me. There were so many women and artisans who work from home and don't have a platform to sell their products. They give them education and help them create that window. I completely got hold of that idea. So I thought of helping and partnering with them. They have reached quite far and have tried to connect to the villages also.

**What are your future plans as a brand?**

I keep thinking about the different products we can offer for a sustainable lifestyle. I always have a meaningful collaboration with the artisans and women. I want to find sustainable materials and take more and more people on board. We want to make a community which can help each other grow.

**How has fashion consumption changed over the years?**

In India, fashion was created through local tailors in small towns, who crafted personalised styles. As industrialisation and foreign brands paved their way to the country, we started looking towards fast fashion in the market. The young consumers were largely attracted. However, over the last few years, with the garment industry creating awareness, their is more thought into what we leave behind as a brand. The fashion industry is showing the sustainable way to the consumers. We are the ones sitting close to craft clusters and natural materials. It is our duty to create fashion, which is classic, sustainable and doesn't die with any season, especially handcrafted things and textiles. Things are rapidly changing, creating classic wardrobes and working towards thoughtful consumption is the new trend.

**How have you evolved as a designer?**

As the brand became popular, it started living as a natural textile. Since our essence is sarees, which are worn occasionally and daily as well, it helped me grow in all aspects. I have recreated the thought of wearing a saree and being comfortable in it. I have grown with the creation and with the innovation of linen as a textile.

**When and how did your love affair with the saree start?**

I have always been fond of sarees. I still remember wearing a saree on teacher's day when I was in sixth standard. My love for the fabric initiated from my mother as she used to wear it very often. I wanted to grow up and look exactly like her. She was my inspiration. During my college days, I wore a saree, which I painted myself. I thought of making a career in it, when I started working with the Ministry of Textiles and understood what textile actually means and what goes behind into its making.

**As your upbringing was in Karnal, how far did that influence your design sensibilities?**

It completely affected my design sensibilities. As a small town girl, I was away from the entire fashion industry. Whenever I would go to Delhi with my sister, I mostly used to buy textiles or go to a local tailors and get clothes stitched as per my wish. The only influence that time was magazine, television and my grandmother. She used to do embroidery and hand paintings. Looking at all of that, I fell in love with handcrafted things. That is what the narrative of my brand is.

**You wore a hand-painted saree to your interview in NIFT. Did you plan of owning a saree brand when you joined NIFT?**

I joined NIFT with the intention of understanding fashion. Working with saree was nowhere in my mind. I was



inclined towards home textiles. But when you start studying and knowing about a certain subject, it develops your understanding of it. I did not end up here strategically. Things just unfolded the way it was meant to be.

**A lot of celebrities are wearing and**

**adorning different brands? Do you see it as an advantage or a hindrance?**

It works for your advantage because the celebrities have a lot of influence on young minds. Young girls try to imitate celebrities and look up to them. Even for me, to see what is happening in the fash-

CONVERSATION 25 MINUTES

A FIERCE CHARACTER

Actress CARLA GUGINO says that while there are great positive women characters but female villains still have a long way to go. By TEAM VIVA



ent. But for some reason, it's just a very natural thing and we really love and enjoy it. We trust each other so much and I think it's great as well as important in terms of creativity."

The actress listens to different playlist with each character. What songs might be on her list for *Jett*, which also recently premiered on Star World? She tells us some, "I can give you a couple. *Walk a Mile* by Holly Golightly, *Easy Money* by Karen



Anne." Carla's *Haunting of Hill House* is the scariest of all. She tells us that she know so many people who already knew what's going to happen in the series still they preferred to watch it during the day time. So is the series coming back with new and scarier episodes? She says, "Yes. It is an anthology so it will be a different story. But you will see some actors return-

Life is a full circle: Tahir

Tahir Raj Bhasin has always been regarded as an actor to watch out for. He debuted as a villain in *Mardaani*. In his next, he will be seen playing a sports champion in Nitesh Tiwari's *Chhichhore*. The actor moved to the IIT Bombay and stayed with students before the shoot of the film began.

Nitesh had graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) in 1996 with a Bachelor's degree in Metallurgy and Material Science engineering. *Chhichhore* is inspired from his life and times at the college. The film is about the campus life in the engineering college. Tahir wanted to study and soak in college life and see inter-personal dynamics of various hostels from close quarters before he started filming.

Tahir says, "I moved to IIT Bombay to spend a week at the hostel before the filming began. I internalise every role that I do and immerse myself with the setting and the character that I have at hand. I worked out at the same gym as the students and ate in the canteens to get an actual feel of how their campus life is. I studied the young students closely and observed the dynamics between hostels. Moving to the campus made me ready for the role. I am hoping that the audience will connect with my character."

The actor also reveals that living and shooting in IIT was uncanny for him. "Mood Indigo, the IIT cultural festival is coincidentally also where I performed theatre for the first time as part of my college theatre group. This was the place



where the germ of becoming an actor was set for me. Life is a full circle. The end of one journey is the beginning of the next," he says and adds, "What's further uncanny is that my opening scene in the film is also shot in the same

corridor where I lived in for the theatre. What are the chances! I think I was destined to do this role and revisit the campus that I so fondly remember. *Chhichhore* will always be one of the most cherished films of my career."

FOOD 'O' CLOCK 45 MINUTES

# A FRENCH HONOUR

Chef PRIYAM CHATTERJEE aspires to serve the Indian Prime Minister and the French President one day. He makes sure he takes the local vendors into account while curating his special menus or even blending Bengali cuisine with other European styles. By TEAM VIVA



Like America, chefs could be India's new rockstars too. And not a cliché this time. Serving food to the beat of a meticulously sourced soundtrack is a trend on the rise. And one such chef is Priyam Chatterjee who is also the first Indian chef to have been conferred with the honour of *Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricole*. The honour comes in recognition of his contribution to reinventing the gastronomic scene in the Indian capital. Also a musician and an artist, Chatterjee has been recognised for his masterful plating and his eclectic cooking styles. His creative dishes draw upon his Bengali roots, the French influence in his life and his love for music and art.

As he reinvents the Bengali cuisine by blending it with French and European cuisine styles, he tells us why. "I figured out that the Bengali cuisine, being one of the most elegant and subtle, is also very underrated. The regional cuisine was dying. The younger generations do not want to eat what we have cherished and grown up with. But we can try to keep the cuisine very much alive if we gave it a fresh perspective and vision by keeping the taste authentic but changing its complete look," says the chef, who feels that his training with the experts of French cuisine has helped him in achieving this. And this is why he could transform the "quintessential Bengali dishes" into what could be called the "modern" Bengali cuisine.

Sharing some anecdotes from his life, he talks about he shaped his food logic while growing up. Chatterjee calls himself fortunate and blessed to be born into a family of exceptional cooks and serious gourmands. And he has built his cuisine philosophy based on nostalgia, history and memories. "I am a Bengali and food is holy in my bloodline. My father was a very passionate man and I learnt procuring vegetables and fishes from him even though I have had very less time to spend with him," he says and adds that his mother had brought her cooking heritage from Bangladesh and his



aunts, too, were "cooking up a storm." However, Chatterjee owes the latter part of him becoming a professional cook completely to France, where he realised his "depth of passion" for the cuisine.

The chef, who has a cellular approach when it comes to sourcing his ingredients. He says, "I follow a very organic way. From visiting my suppliers and building a strong relationship with them to presenting my

menu ideas with them and letting them decide what they have in store for me. I figure out what best can be made available in the season and then work on the menu." He invites all his vendors once in two months and

makes them eat what they cooked at the restaurant as "it's important for me to make them realise what we do with all the amazing products that they source for me."

It is commonly said that if a chef is not travelling, he is probably not experimenting. So how is it that he adapts his dishes to local ingredients while travelling? However, he says that while he is travelling, he only eats and tastes new dishes, making sure he emphasises on just that. "I try my level best to not eat fancy and only eat at traditional households where grand mothers are still cooking. I even try out street food or local joints thriving on history of their food culture. It opens up enormous doors of creativity and inspiration for me. I can then merge the subtleties with the blessing of complex and mega Indian spices and layers of aroma and flavours," he adds.

Recalling one of his experiences in Ko Samui, Thailand, he says that their use of "absolutely" fresh produce and keeping it the way it is made the dishes super super tasty, which really impressed him. He is also a huge fan of South India, especially the "Andhra cuisine." He says, "Their flavours are a gift to the world. I also find Gujarati cuisine one of the most delicate and complex ones to enjoy eating. It's an art that shows how simple elements can be transformed into amazing food."

For him, there is no particular cuisine in the world which perfectly balances sensory and nutritional elements. "I think every cuisine has its own balance. It's not the cuisine that brings out the nutritional value but the product. Neo-Indian, Nordic and Neo-French cuisines are very ingredient-specific and minimalistic in their approach. But they are complex and packed with real flavours. Thus I thrive to cook those types of food with a little more oomph!" says he.

Talking about the honour he has received on behalf of the President of the French Republic by the Ambassador of France to India, Alexandre Ziegler, he tells us how he will initiate more such gastronomic practices and make contributions to the industry. He aspires to cook the country's Prime Minister as well as the French President. "And strengthen the ties of the two unique cultures not just by diplomatic relationships but also through food and love. It will thus spread awareness and inspire other aspiring chefs to learn the craft religiously so that one day, even they could make their country proud and serve its leaders," says the chef, who has been the head chef at Rooh (group of Indian chef Suján Sarkar) and Qla in the city.



Aditya Narayan

## 'Disagree with contract system of music labels'

Singer and television host Aditya Narayan, who is mostly hosting TV shows than singing, says he is not okay with the contract system that music labels force upon singers. Adding that he wants to build his career as an independent musician, Aditya said doing television shows and acting help him take a step forward in that direction.

"From the time corporatisation happened (in the music industry), music labels have started signing contracts with singers. They want artists to serve them. They cut a certain percentage from our live gigs and assignments. I am not okay with that system," Aditya said.

"I am a singer and a musician at heart, and music is in my soul, but we live in a different era -- way different from what my father and the earlier generation of singers lived in -- whether it is Shreya Ghoshal, Sonu Nigam, Sunidhi Chauhan, Papa (Udit Narayan) and his contemporaries, they were friends and lived like a family," said Aditya, whose father has been a 90s and 2000s sensation.

"They (the earlier singers) would collaborate with music directors and experience success and failure together. Those things are over now," added the youngster who started

singing from his childhood along with his father.

As a child artiste, he lent his voice for numerous hits including the title songs of *Rangela* (1995) and *Akele Hum Akele Tum* (1995), besides the number *Chhota Bachcha Jaan Ke in Masoom* (1996). He has also appeared as a child actor *Rangela*, *Pardes* (1997), *Jab Pyaar Kisise Hota Hai* (1998).

In 2007, Aditya started hosting the musical talent hunt show, *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Challenge*.

Given the situation in the music industry, Aditya claims that he has decided to make money through anchoring game shows, reality shows, and live gigs, along with singing.

"To fight a system so strong, I need to have money and backing to put out songs independently. So I am hosting television shows and live gigs. I am really fortunate to be one of the highest-paid TV entertainers. For me, independent music means a group of artists writing, composing and performing a song by themselves without the control of a music label," said the singer, who is appearing on the Colors TV show *Khatra Khatra Khatra*.

"I want to usher change, and I know I have to work tirelessly for that," Aditya concluded. —IANS

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

# A bold figure

Actress and producer KELLY REILLY says that the fact that *Britannia* created a world which respected women and their intuition made the show a very powerful one. By TEAM VIVA

**Tell us about your character Kerra?**

She is the daughter of Pellenor, the king of Cantii. They are at war with the Regni while Kerra is at war with her father. She is a woman of her own mind. She doesn't like to be used as some kind of pawn in a scenario she doesn't agree with. There was a wedding before the series starts that was supposed to unite the two clans, but it doesn't end well. She's quite a bold figure to play. But it taught me something about who she is, somebody who does not steer too far from what she believes in. She is fiercely opposed to her father. Therefore, when we meet her, she is not in his favour.

**Where do you think she gets her inner strength from?**

We live in much softer times. I just think of these people as indigenous tribes. So there's no pre-Freud analysis — people were just surviving. They lived short lives and were ruled by the gods. Their lives were part of a bigger picture. But Kerra's mother was part Roman from the first invasion. So the gods prophesied about Kerra when she was a young girl, that she was going to be killed as a sacrifice to the gods. And her father, King Pellenor agreed to it. So she has never forgiven him. She is fiercely angry with him that he killed her mother. I think she draws from that an attitude to do the right thing. She thinks her father sold his soul to the Druids, who she also hates.

**What is Kerra's relationship with the gods?**

She definitely believes in the god. I don't think there's anybody in this world



who doesn't believe in him. It's really the fabric of their lives. What she doesn't believe in is the Druids. She even though thinks that they think they are gods themselves, but in fact, she says, 'You're human. You're not the wind, you're not the earthquakes, you're not the trees, you're a damn human. And I'm a human.' She doesn't buy the hypocrisy and their need for power. She's very sceptical of them as one would be if they took the one



thing from your life that mattered.

**The time of Britannia is famous in folklore for having strong, warrior women, of which Kerra might be an example. Is that what first interested you in the project?**

Yes. I'm always fascinated with this thing with strong female characters. I might not necessarily be interested in them I'm not even interested necessarily in the weak ones. I'm more often interested in fully-rounded characters. So often women can be just one thing in dramas. I like a character who can be vulnerable and strong but is complicated and complex and is a real human being, regardless of her feminine self. The fact that this was a world that respected women and their intuition, could be considered as powerful and not a misogynistic world. There was a sacredness to the Earth, which was feminine. So I have a passion for this time in history. I find it fascinating that she's trying to survive and do the right thing. In a way, she comes from

quite a male-dominated society. It's all about getting things done and to get things done she takes things into her own hands.

**Were you familiar with the history of Britannia before joining the cast?**

As far as mythology is concerned, I wouldn't say I was an expert. I'm somebody who would drive down to the West Country and see Stonehenge, go and be in that space and wonder about those people and times. They seem to have been tuned into something else. The Druids, the *Pagans*, it's certainly something that I am interested in. So to be involved in a drama that lives in that world, is really exciting for me.

**Given her heritage, what does Kerra go through when the Romans return?**

What we realise about Kerra is her fundamental reason for being, which is the survival of her people. So in that way, she is her father's daughter. She will sacrifice anything for that, including herself

and the love of her father. She thinks her father is blind and is ruling just to be in the favour of the Druids. Whereas, she wants to do the right thing for her people, land and her tribe. So when the Romans come, she feels there's no way they can conquer this. They know what Rome is and they come with their armies. So while King Pellenor's attitude is 'Head back to Rome,' Kerra's attitude is, 'Well, we need to talk to them, we need to have a conversation first'.

**What was it like to be involved in the stunts?**

Kerra is tough. She builds this kind of fortress around herself. And she is also physically abled as she is a great horsewoman and has had to protect herself. So I had to do a couple of scenes where she's killing off her enemies. And I had never done anything like that before in a job and it was a lot of fun to play that part of her, which goes like 'Do not mess with me.' All of the characters have this. There is no one who can be called as weak. They're

all survivors and strong fighters.

**It's a show of many conflicts...**

Yes, emotional conflict. Who am I? What am I going to do now? There are times that we're doing this and it feels so big. It's quite biblical in a way. We were shooting the Amber Palace scene, which looks like Stonehenge and we had 300 extras dancing and playing drums and a smoke machine going under a full moon. I just thought to myself, 'This thing has some magic'.

**What was the Amber Palace scene like?**

Working with Mackenzie, he was channelling something playing Veran. He's extremely powerful for such a slim guy and he inhabits Veran with this madness and brilliance. He's so innovative and inventive. And he's really an exciting person to act with. But we all got tripped up with the tribe make-up and that was really fun. It's proper dressing-up. I love acting because you can feel like you can sort of time travel. Not that I'm actually there, but in my imagination, I can just drop in. And we felt like there was something really powerful going on. We did the whole sequence in one go. It was almost like theatre. And then when I get into that head space it's like we're actually there. I hope that actually comes through when people watch it. I hope they get that experience.

**What else do you think people will enjoy about the show?**

One of the things I am taken with is that it feels very exciting. It feels very alive, and relevant, weirdly, to the time in which we live. There's not really anything safe about this place or these people. We don't know what's going to happen. Anything can happen. There's a real modern-feeling attitude. All of the characters are very well-rounded. There's no one which is good or bad. Everyone has a lot of different colours and there's a real earthiness to it, which I really like. This is the reality of the Earth. And I love that about it. It's a huge cast with a lot of storylines and of conflict, which makes it a great drama. (The show is live on SonyLIV.)

# Fedex departs from Cincinnati

Russian qualifier Rublev upsets Federer in 61 minutes; Djoker advances into quarters



Andrey Rublev, left, hugs Roger Federer after beating Swiss star at Western and Southern Open tournament in Cincinnati on Thursday

## Setback not a problem

AFP ■ CINCINNATI

Roger Federer remains determined to enter the US Open on full throttle despite taking a 6-3, 6-4 third-round loss to Andrey Rublev at the ATP Cincinnati Masters.

The 70th-ranked Russian qualifier was still in awe after knocking off the seven-time tournament winner in 61 minutes — the quickest loss for the 38-year-old Swiss since 2003 in Sydney when he fell after 54 minutes.

But with the wisdom gained from nearly two decades on tour, the 20-time Grand Slam winner was hardly at panic stations after the

surprise defeat.

"It's very important for me that I'm injury-free and I'm feeling good," he said. "Regardless of what the outcome of this week, I'm happy I came here, had good practice sessions."

Federer said that discussion with his team will determine his schedule for the rest of this week and next, with the final Grand Slam of the season starting a week from Monday.

"I'll have a few more days off now, I'm sure, before the US Open," he said. "I worked very hard coming into Cincinnati in that little season we had since Wimbledon."

"I'm going to train — exactly what I need to do for the Open — and that's it. It's fairly simple, keep it simple, but I've got to work hard."



Andy Murray, left, practices as his coach Jamie Delgado watches him

## Murray to skip US Open doubles

AFP ■ CINCINNATI

Andy Murray is to skip the US Open later this month where he was scheduled to play doubles so as to get more singles matches under his belt, the former world number one old the BBC.

The 32-year-old Scotsman lost in straight sets to old foe Richard Gasquet earlier this week in Cincinnati in what was his first competitive singles match since undergoing 'life-changing surgery' on a hip in January.

The three-time Grand Slam champion has been playing plenty of doubles — he won the Queen's title with Feliciano Lopez on his return to the circuit in June — but said he had decided to give it a miss at the US Open which gets underway on August 26.

"I'm not going to play doubles at the US Open," Murray told BBC Sport.

"My goal is to get back playing at the level that I want to on the singles court, and I've decided that I need to focus all my energies on that right now."

"The US Open, doubles and mixed, can be another couple of weeks that you are

slowing things down. "Because I want matches, and that's what I need right now."

The two-time Olympic singles champion took up a wild card entry for Winston-Salem singles next week and then might compete at a Challenger tournament.

There is a Challenger event at Newhaven, Connecticut, in the second week of the US Open.

"I've hardly played the last couple of years and, having discussed with my team, after this week I think doubles is done for me for the time being," he said. Along with Spanish veteran Lopez he will play his brother Jamie and partner Neil Skupski in the quarter-finals at Cincinnati on Friday, his last doubles appearance, at least for now.

"I need to focus my mind on getting matches on the singles court. There aren't many tournaments between now and the end of the year."

Murray said he would make up his mind about his immediate programme after reviewing how he performs next week at Winston-Salem.

### BARTY EYES NO 1

Women's top seed Ashleigh Barty held off Anett Kontaveit as the Estonian served for victory before the top seed scraped a 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 triumph into the WTA event quarter-finals.

The win keeps the Australian in the chase for a possible return to the WTA number one ranking, which she lost to Naomi Osaka on Monday. Barty needs to reach Sunday's final in order to regain the ranking summit.

Barty, who earlier eliminated five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova, will play Friday against Maria Sakkari of Greece, a 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-4 winner over ninth seed Aryna Sabalenka.

Osaka advanced 7-6 (7/3), 5-7, 6-2 over Hsieh Su-Wei, who defeated Osaka this year in Miami. Osaka, current holder of the US and Australian Open titles, is playing the event for the first time after failing to qualify on her only previous attempt in 2016. 2017 US Open finalist Madison Keys sent Wimbledon champion Simona Halep out 6-1, 3-6, 7-5. Halep, last year's Cincinnati runner-up, will go to the US Open with just three post-Wimbledon competitive matches. Double Grand Slam champion Svetlana Kuznetsova beat 2017 US Open winner Sloane Stephens 6-1, 6-2. Venus Williams won three matches in a row for the first time since March as she defeated Donna Vekic 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.



AFP ■ CINCINNATI

Quarter Finals - Session 2  
Live from 4:30am IST  
SONY ESPN NETWORK

World number one Novak Djokovic has a remarkably clear road to the ATP Cincinnati Masters final after producing an efficient victory on Thursday while third seed Roger Federer crashed out of the US Open tuneup event.

Djokovic was never in danger in his 6-3, 6-4 triumph over 53rd-ranked Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta, whom he finished off in 90 minutes.

Federer fell in a first-time meeting with Russian Andrey Rublev, who posted a 6-3, 6-4 upset.

Defending champion Djokovic will continue his quest in a Friday quarter-final, taking on France's Lucas Pouille, a 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 6-2 winner

qualifier who missed months last season with injury, was shell-shocked at his win over the 20-time Grand Slam champion.

"It's an amazing feeling when you play such a legend as Roger," he said. "At least 99 percent of the crowd was supporting him."

"Today I was just trying to do my best. I told myself I need to play every point to the end. No matter what the situation, I kept fighting."

Swiss third seed Federer went down to the world number 70 in barely an hour, losing for only the 10th time here after winning 47 matches. This was Rublev's second top-five win in a month after beating Dominic Thiem in Hamburg on his way to the final.

Rublev, a 21-year-old Russian

# Man City seek Spurs revenge



Liverpool teammates celebrate after winning Super Cup match against Chelsea

AFP ■ LONDON

Man City vs Spurs  
Live from 10:00pm IST  
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

Manchester City will seek revenge against Tottenham today for their dramatic Champions League exit last season as Liverpool and Manchester United also look to build on impressive Premier League starts this weekend.

City completed the first ever domestic treble of trophies in England last season, but fell short once more in the Champions League as Tottenham progressed from their quarter-final tie on away goals.

VAR disallowed Raheem Sterling's strike deep into stoppage time of a thrilling second leg 4-3 win for the English champions in April, robbing Sterling of his hat-trick on the night and City a place in the last four.

Yet, Sterling has started the new campaign as he finished the last, scoring a hat-trick on the opening weekend as City thrashed West Ham 5-0 to already move to the top of the table.

Tottenham were also victorious against Aston Villa, but needed to come from behind and two goals in the final five minutes from Harry Kane to secure a 3-1 win over promoted Aston Villa. Kane has warned that Spurs cannot fall behind so

early in the campaign if they want to maintain a title challenge.

Liverpool will hope to have forged ahead by the time City and Spurs kick-off at the Etihad when they travel to a Southampton side reeling from a disappointing 3-0 defeat at Burnley to start the season.

### LAMPARD COMES HOME

Chelsea were the only member of the 'big six' to get off to a losing start as the Blues were humbled

Chelsea's all-time top goalscorer is still assured of a hero's welcome for his first home game as manager against Leicester at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

But he badly needs a win to quieten the doubters over Chelsea's decision to hand a club legend with just one year's managerial experience such a high-profile job.

### TRUE TEST FOR NEW UTD

After the negativity that greeted Manchester United securing just three new signings in the transfer window, the comprehensive margin of victory over Chelsea was the perfect tonic for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Harry Maguire, Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Daniel James all made a big impact as United registered just their second clean sheet at home in the Premier League under the Norwegian, while James came off the bench to score the final goal.

However, a Monday night trip to Wolves will be another tough test of United's ambitions this season.

Solskjaer's men lost on both visits to Molineux last season.

# Indian men face Malaysia, Eves up against Japan

PTI ■ TOKYO

The Indian men's hockey team will open its campaign against nemesis Malaysia while their female counterpart will take on hosts Japan in the Olympic Test event here today.

Both the Indian teams have secured their places in the FIH Olympic Qualifiers, to be held later this year, by winning their respective FIH Series Finals.

Being world No 5 and the top-ranked side in the tournament among men, India start as favourites against world No 12 Malaysia.

The Indians have rested seniors like skipper Manpreet Singh and goalkeeper P R Sreejesh, opting to test some young players.

In Manpreet's absence, draftflicker Harmanpreet Singh will lead the side while striker



Indian goalkeeper Savita attempts to save a shot during women's game

Mandeep Singh will be his deputy.

Malaysia have time and again showed their capability by

upsetting big teams like India at the continental level.

But, in their last outing at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup ear-

lier this year, India defeated Malaysia 4-2.

Overall, India boast a formidable record against Malaysia. In the last 10 meetings between the two Asian rivals, India have won six, while Malaysia only managed three victories.

"We are looking forward to our first match against Malaysia. We have had some good tough training sessions in both brand new stadiums. Historically, we have had some grand battles against Malaysia and I don't see Saturday being any different," India's chief coach Graham Reid said.

After Malaysia, the Indian men will play world No 8 New Zealand on Sunday and world No 16 Japan in their last round-robin match.

Meanwhile, the 10th-ranked Indian women's team will have a relatively easy opener against

Japan. Then, Indian women will face their toughest test in world No 2 Australia, before facing world No 11 China.

The Indian women will take heart from the fact that they beat Japan 3-1 in the final match of the FIH Series Finals in Hiroshima this year.

But Japan hold a slight edge over Indian women in the last 10 meetings between the two teams. While Japan have managed four victories, India have won three with three matches ending in draws.

"We are looking forward to a good start at the Olympic Test Event. This is a great opportunity for us to play against strong teams, and it will give us the chance to see where we need to improve ahead of the crucial FIH Olympic Qualifiers later this year," Indian women's team's chief coach Sjoerd Marjine said.

# Atletico dreaming of La Liga glory

AFP ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid began the summer by losing six of their best players but are ending it with greater belief than ever they can beat Real Madrid and Barcelona to the La Liga title, thanks in part to the exhilarating form of new striker Joao Felix.

Diego Simeone was tasked with his biggest rebuild since taking charge in 2011 after an exodus that not only drained his team of talent, including star man Antoine Griezmann, but caused many to wonder if the team could ever be the same again.

They lost four defenders, with full-backs Filipe Luis and Juanfran going to Brazil with Flamengo and Sao Paulo, captain Diego Godin moving to Inter Milan, and young gem Lucas Hernandez snapped up by Bayern Munich.

They also lost their defensive midfielder Rodri to Manchester City after just a year at the club, while the spat between Atleti and Barca over Griezmann's messy departure left a bad taste in the mouth.

Few would expect Griezmann and the 75 million euro (\$84 million) Frenkie de Jong not to make Barca even stronger, an ominous prospect given



Atletico Madrid players train at Wanda Metropolitan ahead of La Liga clash against Getafe

they won La Liga by 11 points only three months ago, but Atletico look best-placed to capitalise should they falter.

Forward Felix is at the heart of the optimism following his arrival for 120 million euros, erasing the pain of the Frenchman's exit even before a competitive ball has been kicked.

The 19-year-old has dazzled during pre-season, his most impressive outing

coming against Juventus and his fellow Portuguese Cristiano Ronaldo on Saturday, when he scored one and set up the other in a 2-1 win in Stockholm.

**REAL QUESTIONS REMAIN**  
Mario Hermoso, Kieran Trippier and Renan Lodi all appear excellent defensive additions while Marcos Llorente from Real Madrid should prove a shrewd replacement for silky Rodri.

Atletico finished 12 points ahead of Real last season and a series of bad summer displays from Zinedine Zidane's side inspire little confidence despite the arrival of Eden Hazard.

Zidane was frustrated in his bid to bring in Paul Pogba, while sidelined players Gareth Bale and James Rodriguez remain in the squad.

Real reject Julen Lopetegui will be hoping for more patience at Sevilla, where a frantic transfer window has seen 12 players arrive, including Dutch international striker Luuk de Jong, and 11 depart.

De Jong will be tasked with filling the void left by Pablo Sarabia, who left for Paris Saint-Germain, and Wissam Ben Yedder, who has joined Monaco. Challenging Sevilla for the top four will be Valencia, who have endured a similarly chaotic summer amid tensions.

Real Betis are among those also hoping to challenge for Champions League football, bolstered by the arrivals of Borja Iglesias, who scored 17 goals for Espanyol last term, and Nabil Fekir from Lyon.

Getafe, who finished fifth last season, have held on to their coach Jose Bordalas as well as key players. However both they and Espanyol will both have the Europa League to contend with, while Athletic Bilbao will not.

# Shastri reappointed as Indian head coach

Shastri, who had the public backing of captain Virat Kohli, has been reappointed for a two-year period, ending with the 2021 T20 World Cup in India.

He pipped former New Zealand coach Mike Hesson, Australian Tom Moody and former India teammates Robin Singh and Lalchand Rajput to the post.

The candidates were primarily marked on five aspects — coaching philosophy, experience, achievements, communication and knowledge of modern tools.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Ravi Shastri was on Friday reappointed head coach of the Indian men's team by the Kapil Dev-led Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which unanimously felt that the incumbent's "communication skills and understanding of team issues" stood out.

Shastri, who had the public backing of captain Virat Kohli even before the short-listing was initiated, has been reappointed for a two-year period, ending with the 2021 T20 World Cup in India.

"We have unanimously decided to appoint Ravi Shastri as the (head) coach of the Indian cricket team as you all were expecting," CAC head Kapil Dev told media-persons after the completion of the candidates' interviews that took place through the day.

The three-member CAC also comprised former India coach Anshuman Gaekwad and ex-women's captain Shantha Rangaswamy.

This will be Shastri's fourth stint with the national team, having served briefly as the Cricket



Ravi Shastri bowls during India's practice session

Ravi Shastri/Twitter

Manager (2007 tour of Bangladesh), Team Director (2014-2016) and head coach (2017-2019).

Shastri pipped former New Zealand coach Mike Hesson, Australian Tom Moody and former India teammates Robin Singh and Lalchand Rajput to the post.

Former West Indies and Afghanistan coach Phil Simmons pulled out of the race, citing personal reasons.

While Robin, Rajput and Hesson gave in-person presentations, Moody spoke to the panel over Skype from Australia.

"After doing all (interviews), Tom Moody was third after our marking and Mike (Hesson), an intelligent, young boy from New Zealand was a close second. It was a very close," the former India captain said, implying that Lalchand

was a very close race, I can tell you. I am not going to get into the details as to how much was the difference but it was a very small number (margin)," said Kapil.

In fact, the 1983 World Cup winning captain said that for him, his former teammate Shastri's "communication skill" was one of the highlights during his presentation.

INDIA UNDER RAVI SHASTRI						
Format	P	W	L	N/R	T	Success%
Test matches	21	11	7	3	-	59.52
One-Day matches	60	43	15	-	2	73.33
Twenty-20s	34	22	11	1	-	66.17
Total	115	76	33	4	2	68.69

Faisal Features



Chairman of BCCI Advisory Committee Kapil Dev flanked by members Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy address a press conference to announce the selection of head coach AP

Rajput and Robin Singh were far behind in the race.

The candidates were primarily marked on five aspects — coaching philosophy, experience, achievements, communication and knowledge of modern tools.

A "very good" had a 20-mark weightage while good carried 15. Average was 10 and poor was five.

"Everyone of us gave marks and honestly we never discussed which one of us gave how many marks. When we calculated, it was a very close race, I can tell you. I am not going to get into the details as to how much was the difference but it was a very small number (margin)," said Kapil.

In fact, the 1983 World Cup winning captain said that for him, his former teammate Shastri's "communication skill" was one of the highlights during his presentation.

"I felt his (Shastri) communi-

cation skill was better and she (pointing at Shantha) might have felt something else. We were given a marksheet and we filled it up without discussing with each other," he said.

Gaekwad felt that Shastri was "well versed with the Indian cricket system, and knew the boys and their problems well being the current coach."

Once Kohli openly backed Shastri's candidature at the pre-departure media conference before the ongoing West Indies tour, it was expected that the former India captain would be a favourite to retain the position.

However, Kapil reiterated that the committee never sought the Indian skipper's opinion.

"Certainly not (sought Kohli's opinion). Agar unko puchte toh puree team ko puchte (If we would have asked Kohli, then we would have taken the opinion of the

whole team)."

Among all the candidates, Shastri's record was unmatched as the team reached the No 1 ranking in Test matches under his guidance and won a series in Australia for the first time in 71 years.

Since he came back in July, 2017 replacing Anil Kumble, whose differences with Kohli came out in the open, Shastri's coaching record has been phenomenal.

India have won 11 out of 21 Tests, 43 out of 60 ODIs and 25 T20 Internationals out of 36 on his watch.

"If somebody knows players well and can communicate well, he has an advantage," Gaekwad said about Shastri's candidature.

Kapil, however, clarified that their committee is not aware of the terms of appointment and Shastri's remuneration.

He also stated that their terms of reference, while conducting the interviews, was not based on their previous performance but on the "presentations" given and what the coaches felt about the way forward for Indian cricket.

Gaekwad also insisted that the process was "completely transparent."

Kapil refused to divulge the details of Shastri's presentation, which was made over a video call from Antigua and was the last of the day.

"That's confidential. He gave a presentation of what he achieved in the last two years and how the team can improve further. He sought more time from the board to make this team stronger in the days to come."

"All of them gave presentations on what's the way forward and we weighed it along with the past performances and that swung it in Ravi Shastri's favour," Shantha Rangaswamy gave the concluding reply.



Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane PTI/File Picture

## Rahane, Pujara, Bumrah ready for game time

PTI ■ COOLIDGE

Test specialists Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane along with a well-rested Jasprit Bumrah will be aiming for some quality game time when India take on West Indies Cricket Board XI in a three-day warm-up game starting today ahead of two-match series.

With skipper Virat Kohli sustaining a right thumb injury during the third ODI, the team management would like to exercise precaution and may be rest their best player before World Test championship opener.

Kohli has been in phenomenal form and has led India from the front in the limited-overs series. After scoring 106 runs in the three T20s, Kohli garnered 234 runs, including two centuries, in the two ODIs while the first one-dayer was called off due to rains.

After whitewashing West Indies 3-0 in the T20 International series, India continued their winning spree and pocketed the three-match ODI rubber 2-0. A win in the Test series starting August 22 will be the first time that India would have won across all formats on Caribbean soil.

For one of India's batting mainstays in longest format, Pujara will be playing a competitive red ball game after a good six months having last appeared in the Ranji Trophy final for Saurashtra a good six months back.

Rahane, skipper Virat Kohli's deputy in this format, didn't exactly set the English County on fire scoring only 307 runs in seven games with a hundred and a fifty and sub-par average of 23.61.

Rahane has had a prolonged bad patch in Tests also and this tour will be crucial for the Mumbaier and a good hit in the warm-up is the kind of start he would be looking at.

Bumrah, who had a strenuous six months till World Cup has now freshened up and the practice game would be more about hitting the straps and getting some rhythm back after a month-long rest.

The practice game will give a chance for the players who are already here in the West Indies to shift from limited overs to five-day format and from white-ball to red-ball cricket.

On the batting front, Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant would desperately look for runs after a below-par limited overs leg. Rishabh for one would be more keen on a hit as his understudy Wriddhiman Saha has already hit two half centuries in the A games and is no doubt considered a far better keeper.

Mayank Agarwal is certain to open in the Tests but it will be a toss up between Hanuma Vihari (originally a middleorder batsman) and KL Rahul, who has not been in best of forms in this format.

Pacers Umesh Yadav and Ishant Sharma too would look to impress the team management with a fine show in the practice game ahead of the two Tests.

India's spin department is expected to be led by the duo of off-spinner Ashwin and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja.

Since it will not be an official first-class game, all the batsmen in the Indian squad are likely to spend some time in the middle to have a feel of the red ball. All the bowlers likewise will also roll their arms to get used to the longer format.

## Watling puts Black Caps in front

AFP ■ GALLE

A fighting half-century by wicketkeeper-batsman BJ Watling helped New Zealand to take a lead of 177 at stumps on day three in the first Test match against Sri Lanka in Galle on Friday.

New Zealand, who trailed Sri Lanka by 18 runs in the first innings, finished on 195 for seven and a target around 200 could prove tricky for the hosts.

Spinners have long ruled the roost at Galle and towards the tail end of the game they tend to become even more threatening.

The highest successful run chase in here is 99 by Sri Lanka against Pakistan in 2014 and armed with a three-pronged spin attack, New Zealand should be already feeling comfortable.

It was a thrilling day's Test match with both teams fighting tooth and nail for the initiative and at stumps on day three New Zealand emerged on top thanks to the efforts of Watling, who



Tim Southee congratulates BJ Watling for scoring a half century AP

finished unbeaten on 63.

New Zealand had slumped to 25 for three losing top batsmen Ross Taylor (3) and Kane Williamson (4) cheaply and at 124 for six with only a lead of 106 runs and four wickets remaining, they were playing catch up.

But Watling found an ideal partner in Tim Southee as the

pair shared a 54-run stand to turn the game in New Zealand's favour.

Sri Lanka were sloppy on the field with Southee dropped three times. Lasith Embuldeniya provided the much-needed breakthrough when Southee gave him the charge and was stumped by Niroshan Dickwella. He made 23. It was Embuldeniya's fourth wicket in the innings.

Watling who has six Test hundreds and posted a career best unbeaten 142 against Sri Lanka was again being a thorn in their flesh with an unbeaten 63 that came off 138 balls with five fours.

Earlier, after resuming on 227 for seven, Niroshan Dickwella top scored for Sri Lanka with 61 as they went onto post 267. Dickwella and Suranga Lakmal were involved in a crucial 81 run stand for the eighth wicket that enabled them to take a lead. Lakmal made 40.

## Bajrang nominated for Khel Ratna

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asian and Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist wrestler Bajrang Punia was on Friday nominated for the country's highest sporting honour — the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, a year after he threatened to move court for not getting his due.

His name was finalised by a 12-member selection committee on the opening day of a two-day meeting. The panel comprises the likes of Bhaichung Bhutia and M C Mary Kom among others and is headed by Justice (Retd) Mukundakam Sharma.

"Bajrang has been nominated for the Khel Ratna award. His name was a unanimous choice," a source said.

The source also said that the panel may add another athlete for the top honours on Saturday besides finalising the names for the Arjuna and Dronacharya awards.

Bajrang had threatened to move court after he was snubbed for the Khel Ratna award last year despite being a Gold-medallist in both the Asian and Commonwealth Games.

always been on my performance and not awards. But the recognition does come your way when you do well," Bajrang said from Georgia, where he is training for the World Championships.

"I had the achievements to deserve this award. I have always said that awards should go to the most deserving ones."

Punia is a two-time medallist at the world championships and a strong medal hope for India at next year's Tokyo Olympics.

While Bajrang won a Bronze in 60kg in 2013 World Championships, he bettered his feat last year by bagging a Silver in the 65kg category.

He welcomed the recognition, but Bajrang said he doesn't consider it a motivation ahead of the World Championships to be held from September 14 to 22 at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

"My focus has always been on preparing for the big stage but yes, recognition makes you happy. It is certainly a good news weeks before the World Championship," he said.

"I don't need motivation from outside, I am motivated to do well at the World Championships in Kazakhstan. It (award) does not make any difference to my preparations. Putting on quality performance is my focus and it will remain."

Bajrang is only the fourth wrestler to be finalised for the Khel Ratna award after Sushil Kumar, Yogeshwar Dutt and Sakshi Malik.

## Archer strikes as Aussies slump

AFP ■ LONDON

England fast bowler Jofra Archer marked his Test debut with a wicket as Australia suffered a top-order collapse before rain cut short play at Lord's on Friday.

Australia lost three wickets for 11 runs en route to slumping to 80-4 when rain forced an early lunch on the third day of the second Test.

That left Australia 178 runs behind England's first-innings 258.

The 24.1 overs that took place in the morning session represented the only action on Friday, with persistent rain leading the umpires to eventually abandon play for the day at 5:22 pm local time (16:22 GMT) in a match where Wednesday's scheduled first day had already been washed out without a ball bowled.

Archer, on the ground where he bowled the Super Over that saw England seal a World Cup final win over New Zealand last month, had five figures of one wicket for 18 runs in 13 overs.

Stuart Broad led the way with 2-26 in 13 overs, while fellow seamer Chris Woakes chipped in with 1-27 in nine.

But Australia star batsman Steve Smith was still there on 13 not out, with



Jofra Archer celebrates after taking the wicket of Cameron Bancroft on day three of the 2nd Ashes Test AP

Matthew Wade unbeaten on nought.

"LONG WAY TO GO" Broad insisted there was still enough time left in the game to force a win.

"There's certainly hope for both sides," he told reporters. "This pitch has got 10 good balls in it in each day. I think we'll get 98 overs in the next two days, so I think there is chance of a result."

Meanwhile former Australia captain Steve Waugh, a mentor to the current squad, said: "There is a long way to go in the game... We're still 178 behind. That's our first tar-

get. "If we can get there and get some more runs after that, we believe we're in with a chance. We're a long way away from that."

"Both sides, I think, will be confident they can force a victory but there is a lot of work to be done."

Khawaja struck two offside fours in as many balls when first-change Woakes dropped short.

But England altered the momentum with two wickets for no runs in four balls as Australia's 60-1 became 60-3.

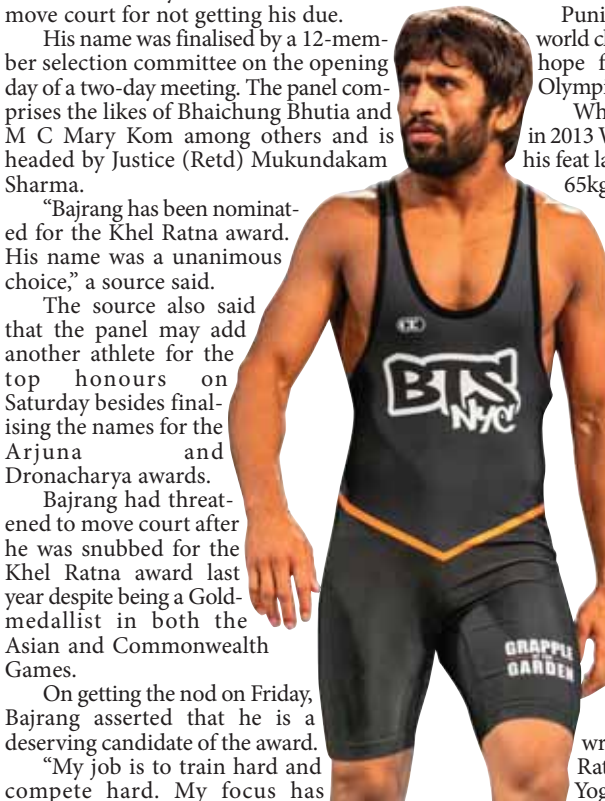
There were some boos as Smith, fresh from twin hundreds at Edgbaston in

his comeback Test following a 12-month ball-tampering ban, came into bat.

He could only watch as Woakes, with England at last bowling over the wicket to Khawaja, induced an outside edge to wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow that saw the left-hander caught for 36.

Australia were 71-4 when Broad had Travis Head lbw for seven following an England reply.

All-round Ben Stokes thought he had Edgbaston century-maker Wade lbw for a duck but the batsman's review revealed the ball had pitched outside leg stump.



## Sindhu working on fitness, defence for World C'ship Gold

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic Silver medallist P V Sindhu said on Friday that she has been working on improving her fitness and defence in search of an elusive Gold in the showpiece World Championships next week.

Sindhu has been the most consistent performer in the World Championships in the last few years with two Silver and as many Bronze medals but a Gold has still eluded her.

The 24-year-old Indian ace will once again be the biggest hope as she spearheads the country's challenge at the World Championship which begins in Basel, Switzerland on August 19.

She lost to Nozomi Okuhara of Japan and Carolina Marin of Spain respectively in the summit clash of the last two editions of the World Championships in 2017 and 2018.

Asked if she is hoping to



PV Sindhu attempts to return a shot during Indian Open tournament PTI/File Photo

make it third time lucky, Sindhu replied: "Well, I have trained hard and I hope I can do well. I have to perform well but there is no pressure."

"I been working on my

Sindhu said.

"It is important to know which strokes to play at the right time, sometimes you can get tired and you can go blank but as a player you need to know which strokes to play in tough situations," she said.

Japan's Akane Yamaguchi was the one player who stopped Sindhu twice with an aggressive game plan in the last two tournaments of the year in Indonesia and Japan.

Asked if the new World No 1 Yamaguchi will be the biggest threat to her World Championships Gold hope, Sindhu said: "I don't think so. I played well against her in Indonesia but she was good. She was attacking well and she is also a rally player."

"I was not surprised by her aggression. I was ready but it happens, may be had I won the first game, things could have been different," Sindhu said.

Sindhu, who has been seeded fifth, received a bye in

the first round and will open her campaign against either Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po or Bulgaria's Linda Zetchiri. If she wins, Sindhu is likely to meet Beiwen Zhang of USA in the third round while Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying is likely to wait for her at the quarterfinals.

"At World Championships, it will not be easy from the first round itself. If you see the draw, I am playing a Chinese Taipei player and then Beiwen Wang, she is not an easy players and if I can win, I will be against Tai Tzu Ying in quarters. I have to focus on each match, because you never know."

Since claiming the World Tour Finals in December last year, Sindhu has not been able to win another title this year. Two semifinals finishes at India Open and Singapore Open are all she had to show before she produced a superlative display to finish runners-up at Indonesia Open last month.