

**OPINION 8**  
CULLING  
CORRUPTION

**WORLD 11**  
INDIA, OTHERS WILL HAVE TO  
FIGHT AFGHAN TERROR: TRUMP

**SPORT 15**  
MESSI BACK IN  
BARCELONA TRAINING

LUCKNOW, FRIDAY AUGUST 23, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3



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## PC in CBI custody till Aug 26

Considering facts, Chidambaram's police remand justified, says court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Finance and Home Minister P Chidambaram will spend at least four days in the CBI custody. A Delhi court on Thursday allowed the CBI plea for custodial interrogation of Chidambaram in the INX Media corruption case till August 26. The agency had sought a five-day remand to unearth the larger conspiracy in the case.

Special Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar asked the CBI to conduct medical examination on Chidambaram as per the rules. The court also allowed the family members and lawyers of Chidambaram to meet him for half an hour every day during his CBI custody.

"Considering the facts and circumstances, I am of the view that police custody is justified," said the judge and remanded him in CBI's custody till August 26.

Even if Chidambaram's CBI custody ends on August 26, it will not be the end of his woes. The court could either deny him regular bail and send him to judicial custody, or the Enforcement Directorate could seek his custodial interrogation.



Senior Congress leader and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram after he was produced in a Delhi court in the INX Media case in New Delhi on Thursday

In both the cases, it will be a while before Chidambaram could earn his freedom.

The CBI sources said custodial interrogation was required as the agency gathered inputs indicating prima facie involvement of Chidambaram in other approvals by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) in which the former Finance Minister had allegedly received bribes through his

son Karti's firms. A number of Letters Rogatory (judicial requests) is pending in certain countries, CBI sources said.

Chidambaram's advocates opposed the CBI plea on the ground that all the other accused, including his son Karti, have already been granted bail in the case.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Chidambaram, argued that the

first arrest in the case was of Bhaskar Raman, chartered accountant of Karti, who is presently out on bail. Besides that, Peter and Indrani Mukherjea, also accused in the case, are out on default bail as they are in jail in connection with another matter, Sibal said.

Contending that grant of bail was a rule, he asserted that the issue before the court was of personal liberty. He also con-

tested the demand for five-day custodial interrogation of Chidambaram.

Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, representing the CBI, told the court that the agency was not extorting confession but it has the right to reach the root of the case.

Besides Sibal, senior advocate Abhishek M Singhvi appeared for Chidambaram and opposed CBI's plea saying that the former Union Minister was not a flight risk. Singhvi said that the entire CBI case was based on the statement of Indrani Mukherjea, who has turned approver in the case.

Chidambaram cannot answer what the CBI wants to hear and added that the agency cannot seek remand on the ground of evasive replies. There was no allegation of tampering of evidence by the CBI, Singhvi asserted.

Singhvi contended that police remand can only be granted in special circumstances and this was a case where there was no new development. He said the agency was asking Chidambaram only old questions since his arrest on Wednesday night.

Continued on Page 7

## Pak recruits Af ultras to spill blood in J&K

100 battle-hardened Afghan, Pashtun fighters waiting in wings to infiltrate

RAHUL DUTTA ■ NEW DELHI

In a desperate move to stoke violence in Jammu & Kashmir after the abrogation of its special status under Article 370 and to internationalise the issue, Pakistan has started recruiting battle-hardened Afghan and Pashtun fighters to create trouble in the State.

Nearly 100 of these fighters are now perched at launch pads to infiltrate into the State. At the same time, there is fear that terrorists might plan "spectacular strikes" within Kashmir and other major Indian cities.

Besides this hard intelligence input, reports also indicate that Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) has deployed a team of at least 12 terrorists to undertake cross-border raids and target security forces on the Line of Control (LoC). Pakistan's Border Action Team



A boy jumps off a boat in Dal Lake, covered with weeds for being unattended for days due to restrictions, in Srinagar on Thursday

(BAT), Afghan militants and highly trained Special Services Group (SSG) of the Pakistan Army may specially target Lipa Valley in North Kashmir.

Giving details of these latest developments across the border after the revocation of Article 370 nearly three weeks back, officials in the security establishment said on Thursday the JeM also held a meeting presided over by Rauf Asghar, brother of JeM chief Masood Azhar, in Bahawalpur on August 19 to draw the strate-

gy to engineer terrorist attacks. The meeting was also attended by launch commanders of JeM. They oversee infiltration of terrorists after the Pakistan Army gives them cover fire.

As regards to using Afghan fighters hailing from North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), officials said the ISI and the Pakistan Army resorted to it due to depleting strength of local Kashmiri terrorists.

Continued on Page 7

## Sensex sinks as stimulus hopes fade

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity markets saw a blood-bath on Thursday sinking by 587 points as the Government dashed any hope of a stimulus — something being talked about for a fortnight — to revive the sagging economy. The bears latched on to the news to go for aggressive selling, pushing the index to six-month low. The rupee also continued with its freefall, and ended at 71.81 to a dollar, hitting eight-month low.

The market has been consolidating in the range of 11900-11100 (Nifty) for the past fortnight in the hope that stimulus package was on the way. It is bizarre that all these days no Government official cared to deny media reports about possible stimulus such as withdrawal of surcharge on FIP investment and removal of minimum alternate tax (MAT) as well as a package for revival of the auto sector.

Details on Page 10

### HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Press and Offices of The Pioneer will remain closed on Friday, August 23, 2019 on account of Janmashtami.

The next issue of the newspaper will be on Sunday, August 25, 2019.

## 5 workers suffocate in Ghaziabad sewer CM announces compensation for kin

STAFF REPORTER ■ GHAZIABAD

In yet another case of criminal apathy, five sanitation workers who had entered into a sewer died after inhaling toxic gas in Nandgram locality on Thursday. The police have registered a case of negligence causing death and launched an investigation to fix responsibility. Authorities have been asked to submit a report within 15 days.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while expressing condolence over the death of the workers, announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the kin of the deceased who were identified as Damodar (40), Horil (35), Sandip (30), Shiv Kumar (32) and Vijay Kumar (40), all residents of Samastipur in Bihar.

They were working at a project, sanctioned by the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation, to connect domestic sewer lines with the main drainage system of the city, District Magistrate Ajay Shankar Pandey said.

They were employed by a private contractor, which was carrying out the project under Amrit Yojna of the civic body's water department in Krishna Colony near Nandgram area under Sihani Gate police station limits, he said.



The drain hole, in which 5 workers died, was later sealed

Around 1 pm, one of the men went inside the sewer line but did not come out. Then one by one the other four men went inside to find the rest. When none of them came out, another man went inside and saw the five men lying in an unconscious state, the official said. The contractor did not provide safety kits to the workers, the DM added.

The men were rushed to nearby Mariam Hospital, where doctors declared them brought

dead, the DM said. "Bodies of sanitation workers were taken to hospital with help of locals. A worker went unconscious after inhaling poisonous gas, after which other sanitation workers jumped to save him, however, they also lost their lives in rescue attempt," said a local resident of the area.

A case has been lodged against the contractor, EMS Infracon, and three of its engineers after the civic body filed a police complaint alleging negligence.

## Yogi reshuffles portfolios

Mahendra Singh is Jal Shakti minister, Rajendra Pratap Singh gets Rural Development

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath carried out a major reshuffle in his council of ministers while creating a new department of Jal Shakti in league with the Union government. By changing the portfolios of several senior ministers, Yogi Adityanath has sent out a clear message that he means business.

Dr Mahendra Singh, who has been elevated from minister of state with independent charge to cabinet rank, has been given the charge of the newly-created Jal Shakti department. It includes Irrigation and Namami Gange departments.

The Chief Minister has also stripped Sidharth Nath Singh and Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' of the important portfolios of Health and Stamps and Registration, respectively. It may be mentioned that the Chief Minister had recently stopped transfers in these departments.

However, no change has been made in the portfolios of the two Deputy Chief Ministers, Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dr Dinesh Sharma. Maurya will be heading the important Public Works department (PWD) along with three other departments while Dr Sharma will keep the Secondary and Higher Education portfolios along with three other departments.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will hold 37 depart-

ments including Home, Estate, Revenue, Food and Civil Supplies, Mining, Registration, Jail, Vigilance, Appointment, Information and Election.

Finance department has been given to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna, who was Parliamentary Affairs and Urban Development minister earlier. Khanna retains the Parliamentary Affairs department.

Finance Minister Rajesh Agarwal had resigned earlier on age issue.

Urban Development department has gone to Ashutosh Tandon Gopalji. He was earlier Medical Education minister Health department has been given to Jai Pratap Singh, who was earlier the Excise Minister.

Former Health Minister Sidharth Nath Singh will head the Khadi Gramodyog, Export Promotion, MSME, NRI and three other departments.

Former Test player Chetan Chauhan has been stripped of the Sports department. Upendra Tiwari will now be the Sports Minister while Chetan Chauhan will head Home Guard and Political Pension departments.

Among other ministers, Surya Pratap Shahi retains Agriculture and allied departments. Swami Prasad Maurya also retains his Labour and Employment portfolios.

Satish Mahana continues to be Industrial Development

Minister while Forest Minister Dara Singh Chauhan retains his department.

Ramapati Shastri will be Social Welfare Minister, while Brijesh Pathak retains Law department with additional charge of RES.

Laxmi Narain Chaudhry is the Animal Husbandry Minister and also in-charge of Fisheries and Dairy Development.

Shrikant Sharma also retains the Power portfolio. Rajendra Pratap Singh (Moti Singh) has been given Rural Development portfolio. Earlier, he headed the RES department.

Cooperative Minister Mukut Bihari retains his portfolio. Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi', who has been stripped of Stamp and Registration department, retains Civil Aviation department and has been given charge of Minority Welfare department.

Suresh Rana, who has been elevated as cabinet minister, retains Cane Development department. Bhupendra Singh Chaudhry is the Panchayati Raj minister. Anil Rajbhar is minister for Backward Welfare while Ram Naresh Agnihotri gets the important Excise portfolio.

The lone woman cabinet minister Kamla Rani Varun has been given Technical Education department.

Among the minister of state (independent charge) Dharam Singh Saini gets AYUSH portfolio, Swati Singh the ICDS and

Women Welfare portfolio, Neelkanth Tiwari the Tourism and Culture departments, Kapil Dev Agarwal gets Vocational and Skill Development portfolio, Satish Dwivedi the Primary Education department, Ashok Kataria the Transport portfolio, Shriram Chauhan the Horticulture and Agriculture Marketing departments, Ravindra Jaiswal the Stamp and Court Fees portfolio.

The portfolios of minister of state are: Gulabo Devi (Secondary Education), Jai Pratap Nishad (Animal Husbandry), Jai Kumar Singh (Health and Family Welfare), Ranvendra Pratap Singh (Food and Civil Supplies), Mohsin Raza (Minority Welfare), Girish Chandra Yadav (Housing and Urban Development), Baldeo Aulakh (Jal Shakti), Manohar Lal (Labour), Sandeep Singh (Finance, Medical Education), Suresh Pasi (Cane Development), Anil Sharma (Forest), Mahesh Gupta (Urban Development), Anand Swaroop Shukla (Parliamentary Affairs), Vijay Kashyap (Revenue and Flood Control), Giriraj Singh Dharmesh (Social Welfare), Lakhna Singh Rajput (Agriculture), Nilima Katiyar (Higher Education), Chaudhary Uday Bhan Singh (MSME and Khadi), Chandrika Prasad Upadhaya (PWD), Ramashankar Patel (Energy) and Ajit P Singh (Electronics).

## CAPSULE

### GOVT RELAXES LEASE RENT ON WIND POWER

New Delhi: In a bid to boost investments in wind power projects and provide clean energy at cheaper rates, the Environment Ministry on Thursday decided to relax the lease rent of ₹30,000 per mega watt charged mandatorily from wind power companies.

### PAK RELEASES WATER, FEROZEPUR INUNDATED

Chandigarh: As many as 17 villages of Punjab's border district Ferozepur were flooded after Pakistan opened headworks gates in its area on the Sutlej river, an official said on Thursday.

### CHANDRAYAAN-2 TAKES FIRST IMAGE OF MOON

Bengaluru: The first picture of Moon captured by Chandrayaan-2 satellite, currently in the lunar orbit, was released by space agency ISRO on Thursday. The picture of Moon was taken by Chandrayaan-2's Li4 Camera.



French President Emmanuel Macro welcomes Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi before a meeting at the Chateau de Chantilly, north of Paris on Thursday. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be a guest at the G7 in Biarritz.

## Release leaders detained in J&K: Opp

Cong, TMC, DMK RJD hold protest in national Capital

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition parties, including the Congress, the TMC, the DMK, the RJD, the Samajwadi Party and the National Conference staged a protest in the national Capital on Thursday seeking immediate release of political leaders put under detention in Jammu & Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370.

Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D Raja, SP leader Ramgopal Yadav, Loktantrik Janata Dal's Sharad Yadav, RJD's Manoj Jha and TMC's Dinesh Trivedi were among those who took part in the protest. Congress leader P Chidambaram's son Karti took



Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, party member Brinda Karat, CPI leader D Raja, RJD MP Manoj Jha and others during Opposition parties' protest, demanding the release of leaders detained in J&K, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Thursday

the opportunity to join the protest after his father was arrested by CBI on Wednesday night in connection with a money-laundering case.

Addressing the protest,

Azad said, "There is something grave happening in the State and the Government is hiding it from us. He also slammed the role of the country's media, saying, "It is being reported by for-

eign media but not our media." Blaming the Modi Government for perpetrating excesses on the people of the State, Azad evoked the memory of former Prime Minister

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, saying he was a thorough gentleman, a great parliamentarian and a democrat. "If Vajpayee was at the helm of affairs, this would not have happened," he added.

Yechury alleged that the Centre had manipulated the Constitution and the process had started months ago when the ruling BJP withdrew from the coalition Government, headed by Mehbooba Mufti, in Jammu & Kashmir. "All this is a part of a larger conspiracy. They want to make India a 'Hindu Rashtra' (Hindu nation) by abrogating the Constitution itself," he said.

In a resolution passed during the protest, the Opposition parties said as a consequence of abrogation of Article 370 without holding consultations with the people of Jammu & Kashmir or their representatives, an undeclared state of Emergency had come to force in the Valley.

Continued on Page 7

# Play proactive role in dev of society: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that instead of running for jobs after getting degrees, the students should play a proactive role in the development of society because they were the future of the country and their ideas could help in bringing a change in society.

Addressing the fourth convocation of Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology in Gorakhpur on Thursday, the Chief Minister said the convocation ceremony kept alive the tradition of gurukuls that motivates students to speak the truth, follow the right path and indulge in self-study.

"There is a trend among students that after completing B.Tech they opt for job. Employment is required but the students should also think about their society. It is the time for them to think about innovations that can help the society," he said.

Governor Anandiben Patel was also present at the convocation



Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the convocation of Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology in Gorakhpur on Thursday

ceremony.

Speaking about the extensive role that the engineering students can play in various fields, the

Minister said they should come forward for the successful implementation of the 'Har ghar nal' scheme that aims at supplying

potable water to every household by 2024.

"Technological institutes must also come forward to help in implementing pollution control measures and also contribute their expertise in building affordable houses for the underprivileged people," the Chief Minister said.

Referring to the importance of technology in various fields, the Chief Minister said it had helped tremendously in proper distribution of foodgrains by linking Aadhaar with ration cards and installation of e-pos machines at ration shops.

"It has also helped in checking corruption at various levels besides helping the government in saving crores of rupees. Today, people are able to buy wheat at ₹2 per kg and rice at ₹3 per kg," he said.

The Chief Minister also highlighted his fight against encephalitis. "I fought a 25-year-long battle against encephalitis. Many people have succumbed to this disease from 1977 to 2017. However, after the formation of the BJP govern-

ment in the state, we launched various awareness drives which have helped in checking the spread of encephalitis," the Chief Minister said.

Mentioning some of the welfare schemes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister said, "Since 2014, around 50 crore people have been linked to Ayushman Bharat Yojana while over 2.5 crore citizens have been given houses."

Earlier, the Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the Governor for visiting Gorakhpur for the first time and also congratulated Infosys founder NR Narayan Murthy for being conferred DSc honorary degree at the convocation.

The Chief Minister also congratulated the students who were awarded graduate and post-graduate degrees.

MMMUT Vice-Chancellor Srinivas and Principal Secretary (Technical Education) Radha Chauhan were also present on the occasion besides the staff and teachers of the university.





## VENDOR MEET '19

**30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST, 2019 | 11:00 HRS**  
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FOR REGISTRATION AND FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT

**Shri Sanjeev Garg**, Director (Nodal Officer)  
Telefax: 0522-2450189, Mob.: 9794863225  
Mail:edgamech2017@gmail.com

**Shri Shivendra Singh**, ED(OA)  
Tel: 0522-2451930

## Guv: UP varsities and colleges to adopt villages

**Gorakhpur (PTI):** Each of the Uttar Pradesh universities will soon adopt five villages each and colleges one each in the state and contribute to their development, Governor Anandiben Patel said on Thursday.

The Governor made this announcement about UP educational institutions replicating the practice prevalent in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh during her convocation address at the Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology in Gorakhpur.

"Every state university of Uttar Pradesh will soon adopt five villages each and colleges will adopt one each," said the Governor, who is also the chancellor of all universities in the state.

"The blue print detailing the activities to be performed in adopted villages will be given to vice-chancellors and when all will join hands and work in rural areas, the picture of the state will be changed in five years," she said.

"The model was adopted in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and the results are satisfactory," the Governor added.



IMA seeks withdraw of Kafeel Khan's suspension

### NOTICE

I Pooja Savita D/o Panna Lal Savita & W/o Vishnu Raman R/o 346/83, Mehdiaganj, Lucknow hereby declared that I have changed my name from Pooja Raman to Pooja Savita for all future purposes.

### NOTICE

I, Dharambir Singh Bhati S/o Shri Mool Chand Bhati Employed as Deputy General Manager Syndicate Bank at Zonal Office, Halwasiya Court, Hazratganj, Lucknow, Permanent Address 39-C, DDA Flats, Taimoor Enclave, New Friends Colony, South Delhi-110025 have changed my name from Dharambir to Dharambir Singh Bhati for all future purposes.

### सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैंने अपने पुत्र श्रीमन् ब्रजेश कुमार उर्फ मुन्ना को उसके बाल-बचन ठीक न होने के कारण अपनी चल-उबल सम्पत्ति से बेदखल कर दिया है। उसके किसी भी कृप्य का मैं व मेरा परिवार जिम्मेदार नहीं होंगे। माण्डवी पत्नी श्रीमती सुश्री, म.नं. सी-1445/5 इन्दिरा नगर, लखनऊ।

### NOTICE

JC701831X Sub AK Das S/o BC Das Vill Post Bamunia, Teh. Contai, Purba Medinipur WB informed to AMC Records that my mother name wrongly recorded as Shyamlati whereas her correct name is Snehalata Das.

### सूचना

मेरा पुत्र अरुण मिश्र (Arunav Mishra) जो रिजिस्ट्रार कार्यालय, इन्दिरा नगर, लखनऊ में कक्षा-8C में अध्ययनरत है। उसके प्रवेश फार्म में माता का नाम मधुलिका मिश्रा (Madhulika Mishra) के स्थान पर (Madhoolika Mishra) मधुलिका मिश्रा लिखलगी दस्तावेज में दर्ज किया जाये। Madhoolika Mishra D/o S.P. Mishra, 37-A, Surendra Nagar, Ismailganj, Chinihat, Lucknow. PTI



# दिव्य है कृष्ण की लीलाओं का संसार

## श्रीकृष्णोत्सव में देखें उनकी झलक इस बार

# श्रीकृष्णोत्सव 2019

23-25 अगस्त | मथुरा, उत्तर प्रदेश

# 'दही हांडी' का आयोजन

(मुम्बई से आई दही हांडी टोली द्वारा)

मुख्य अतिथि

## योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

लक्ष्मी नारायण चौधरी

मंत्री, संस्कृति एवं धर्मार्थ कार्य विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

पं. श्रीकांत शर्मा

मंत्री, ऊर्जा विभाग उत्तर प्रदेश

हेमा मालिनी

सांसद मथुरा

कारिंदा सिंह

विधायक गोवर्धन

पूरन प्रकाश

विधायक बलदेव

दिनांक: 24 अगस्त, 2019 | समय: अपराह्न 3:30 बजे | स्थान: रामलीला मैदान, मथुरा

मुख्य आकर्षण

23 अगस्त, 2019 : देश एवं प्रदेश के लगभग 1000 कलाकारों द्वारा **शोभा यात्रा** तथा विभिन्न आकर्षक सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम

24 अगस्त, 2019 : **कृष्णावतार** का प्रदर्शन | 25 अगस्त, 2019 : पद्मश्री **अनूप जलोटा** द्वारा भजन गायन







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सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

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# LIC agent's death shrouded in mystery

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Mystery has shrouded the death of a missing LIC agent whose 3-day-old body was recovered from Indira Canal in Gosainganj on Thursday. The deceased, identified as Piyush Goel (37) of Tuli Enclave in Ghazipur police station area, was reported missing from his house in Indira Nagar on August 19 night and his car was found parked on bank of Indira Dam the next day. Police said he died of drowning.

The incident exposed the laxity on the part of the Ghazipur police who, according to the family of the deceased, did not take much interest in searching for him.

As per reports, Piyush left his house on August 19 evening saying he was going to take the premium amount of a motorcycle from a client. Around 8 pm, Piyush called his wife and informed her that he would be back in few minutes.

"However, he did not return home and also stopped answering calls," his father Roshan Lal Goel said, adding a missing report was lodged the next day. "On August

20 evening, the police recovered Piyush's car on the bank of Indira Dam," his father said.

He added that he got a call from Ghazipur police and was asked to reach Gosainganj where a body was recovered. "I was asked to identify if the deceased was his son," Piyush's father said.

A police spokesman said some villagers of Sithauli Kalan spotted the body in the canal and alerted the cops. A team reached the scene and passed on the information to different police stations. The Ghazipur police responded to the information and Piyush's identity was ascertained. About autopsy report, the spokesman said the body was estimated to be three days old.

"Asphyxia caused by drowning was said to be the cause of death. The deceased had a contusion on his head but doctors did not find it a reason for his death," he said. "The doctors categorically mentioned that contusion did not cause the death of Piyush," he added.

Sources said Piyush had not given any indication that he would commit suicide when he left the house. "He called his wife who sensed no foul play as he did

# Hit-and-run case: Wanted accused nabbed; prime suspect still at large

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the police are battling their back by claiming to have arrested those involved in the Indira Nagar hit-and-run case, the prime suspect is still at large. The Indira Nagar police on Thursday said that another wanted accused in the case, Ishuwer Singh, was nabbed from Metro trisection on Picnic Spot road. "Another accused (Faiz), who is the prime suspect, is still at large," the police said. Sources said Faiz belongs to an influential family and that was why the police were giving him a long rope. "If the police have information about all the miscreants, why did they delay their arrests? The police swung into

not show any indication that he was disturbed. If he ended his life, he may have been forced to take the extreme step by someone," the sources said.

action only when the media highlighted the issue and families of the victims petitioned their case to senior officials," the source claimed.

The police suspected that the hit-and-run case was a result of longstanding hostilities the accused had with the victims. Earlier, the families had alleged that Pawan Singh (22) and Tushar Singh (23) were crushed to death following an old enmity. Their companion Himanshu Singh (24) had also sustained head injuries when a speeding SUV hit their two-wheeler near Aurobindo Park in Indira Nagar late on Wednesday night. A CCTV footage showed three youths riding a scooter in the wrong lane

without helmets. An SUV was also seen hitting the scooter after which passersby rushed the victims to a hospital.

Pawan's father Subedar Singh, who is a deputy registrar in high court, had told the police that the accident occurred around 10 pm near Aurobindo Park police outpost and the speeding SUV driver intended to kill his son others with him. Pawan's family had told the police that they suspected murder because four men, including one of their neighbours identified as Sandeep Singh, had attacked him with an iron rod following a dispute over a girl's photograph on Facebook. Police sources said Pawan had lodged an FIR against Sandeep and his supporters.

There were reports that Piyush had jumped into the canal but the cops did not expedite the search operation," some of Piyush's kin told mediapersons.

# Selfie with 'Bal Gopal' among Janmashtami highlights



Kids dressed as Lord Krishna at a school in Lucknow on the eve of Janmashtami

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Those willing to take selfies with 'Bal Gopal' can do so at Madhav temple in Daliganj where a special selfie point has been created for Janmashtami celebrations which will be held on Friday and Saturday. Krishna temples in the city will be organising bhajans and displaying tableaux depicting the birth and life of Lord Krishna. Devotees also celebrate the birth of Lord Krishna in the households at midnight. Anurag Sahu from Madhav temple said a 'dahi handi' competition will be organised as a part of the celebrations. The 'dahi handi' will be placed at a height of 25 feet and participants have been invited from various areas. For the first time, there will be 'Sufi' music for the bhajan programme at the temple.

Meanwhile, a tableau competition was organised by the temple under the banner of Shri Radha Madhav Seva Sansthan, the institution of Shri Madhav Temple, at Ramadheen Singh Girls PG College on the eve of Janmashtami. Principal Renu Singh said the aim was to highlight aspects like environmental

protection, no plastic use, hygiene awareness along with Krishna's birth, 'dahi handi', 'Kalia Nag Mardani', 'rasleela', 'Brij Holi', 'Govardhan Leela', Kansa slaughter and Gita's teachings.

Radhika Group consisting of Sveta Mishra, Sushma Kumari, Shakti Dwivedi and Naina Prajapati won the competition. Sudhish Garg from Khatu Shyam Temple said they would be organising Janmashtami celebrations on Saturday. A pandal will be decorated as a 'bhajan sandhya' will be organised from 8 pm till midnight. Bhajan singers have been called from Jaipur and flowers brought from Bengaluru. Garg said they will cut a 21-kg cake and there would be 'chhappan bhog' on the occasion. The temple will be decked up with balloons. In Ganeshganj, the Mittal family will be organising a digital tableaux, which they have been doing for the past 14 years. It will also have a tableau celebrating the abrogation of Article 370. The highlight of this tableaux will be a 20-feet 'Shivling'. The organisers said various facets of the life of Lord Krishna would be showcased.

# Gun shop owner, employee held as rifle test-firing creates panic

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Hazratganj police arrested the owner of Nanda Gun House and his employee for opening fire from the terrace of the building which house the shop. ASP (East) Suresh Chand Rawat said shop-owner Sumit Singh and his employee Sheikh were arrested under sections 188/ 286 of IPC. "We have also sent a report to the District Magistrate recommending cancellation of the gun shop's licence," he said.

As per reports, the police were informed that some men were firing in Kewal Tea lane, situated close to Hazratganj Kotwali, around 4 pm. "A heavy police force was dispatched to the scene. On investigation, we came to know that the firing was made from the house of Sumit, who owns the gun shop on the ground floor of the building. It surfaced that Sumit's employee fired four rounds to



test the rifle of a customer and it created a sensation in the locality," he said.

The ASP said the case was registered for disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant (section 188 of IPC) and for negligent conduct with respect to explosive substance (section 286 of IPC).

The incident of firing in a VVIP zone had the cops in a tense situation as senior officials called the Hazratganj police to seek details of the incident and also expressed displeasure. However, the police heaved a sigh of relief after they came to know that it was only a test-firing.

# Rain-related incidents claim 19 lives in UP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Incessant rains during the last 24 hours played havoc in the state, claiming as many as 19 human lives besides death of animals and heavy loss to properties. The officials claimed that raging waters of major rivers have disrupted normal life and all efforts are being made to extend necessary help to the victims.

"As many as 15 persons have died due to rain related incidents in different districts of the state. The figure includes three deaths in Amethi, two each in Rae Bareilly, Sonbhadra and Mirzapur and one death each in Saharanpur, Hamirpur, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur, Basti and Ayodhya," the Relief Commissioner's office revealed on Thursday. Besides the 15, four more persons died in Ballia and Bhadohi, according to reports.

While three people drowned in Ballia in separate incidents, another person was killed in Bhadohi district.

Police said in Ballia, one Ashish Verma (18) drowned in BST embankment while trying to cross flood waters

to cut fodder for animals. In another incident, one Kamlesh Kannaujia (26) drowned in Tamsa river while another youth drowned near Bansdeeh township.

In Bhadohi, a 75-year-old died after a roof collapsed at Sonachia village.

A Central Water Commission report said the Ganga was in spate at different places along its route. It was flowing just below the danger mark at Garhmukteshwar and Fatehgarh and was crossing the danger mark at Narora (Bulandshahr), Kachchla Bridge (Budaun) and Ballia.

Yamuna river at Mathura, Sharda at Barabanki were flowing above the danger mark. They were also flowing just below the danger mark at some other places, the report said.

Ganga water had entered some houses in urban areas of Ballia, forcing people to take shelter on rooftops.

Meteorological department director JP Gupta said monsoon would remain active in the state for the next four to five days though there was not much likelihood of heavy rains.

# Building material supplier thrashed by customer, aides

Lucknow (PNS): A building material supplier was thrashed for demanding payment from one of his customers and warning him of police action over his refusal in Madaon on Thursday morning. He sustained head injuries and was admitted to a hospital.

As per reports, Ganjendra Kumar of Gudamba deals in supply of building material. He had supplied goods to Nikhil Shukla of Madaon and was yet to get the payment for the same.

"I called Nikhil and he asked me to meet at a crossing in Madaon. When I reached there, Nikhil started an argument and refused to pay the money. As I warned him of police action, Nikhil blew his top and called his aides who were present at a nearby shop. They thrashed me with metal rods," Ganjendra told the police.

A police spokesman said Ganjendra sustained head injuries and was under treatment at a hospital. "The doc-

tors prepared his medical report on the basis of which a case was registered in this connection," he said, adding that a manhunt had been launched against the accused.

Meanwhile, a 22-year-old supervisor working with Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) died in a road mishap in Chinhat around 3.15 am on Thursday. He was identified as Vinay of Barabanki.

Reports said Vinay was going to Barabanki on his motorcycle. When he reached near Saraswati Hospital, some unidentified speeding vehicle knocked his bike from behind. Vinay sustained head injuries and multiple fractures. Passersby rushed him to Ram Manohar Lohiya Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. Later, the hospital sent a memo to the police informing them about the death of a mishap victim. A police team reached the scene and sent the body for autopsy.

# Hospital manager's death: Forensic report has police tied up in knots

Lucknow (PNS): The finding of the team that reconstructed the crime scene in the mysterious death of private hospital manager Vishwajeet Pundir in Gomti Nagar a month back has the police apparently tied up in knots. "The report suggests that Pundeer (31) sustained injuries when he was trying to enter his house by climbing the pointed grill fencing on the fateful day," ASP (North) Sukirti Madhav said. He said the police were examining other findings too to reach a conclusion.

Pundeer had sustained deep cut wounds in his stomach and the police had initially claimed that fell on the grill fencing from the balcony of his house. Later, the probe had revealed that the cut wounds were not as deep as they should have been if he fell from the balcony. The forensic report seems to have muddied the waters. The police had earlier claimed that Pundeer fell on the fencing from the balcony of his room on the second floor. The police had suspected that Pundeer had taken intoxicants, empty cans of which were recovered from his room. During investigation, his family had told police that a profusely bleeding Pundeer reached the room of his mother and asked for help. He was rushed him to hospital where he succumbed to injuries. The post-mortem report had ascertained excessive bleeding as the cause of death.

# LDA OSD stripped off addl charge over bungling charges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Vice-Chairman of Lucknow Development Authority PN Singh on Thursday stripped officer on special duty (OSD) Rajesh Shukla off additional charge for his alleged involvement in bungling in the allotment of flats constructed under Sulabh Awas Yojana in Gomti Nagar Extension (sector-1). He had been given additional charge as incharge of the said housing scheme.

The LDA Vice-Chairman also ordered a departmental probe against. Chief financial controller Rajeev Kumar Singh will conduct the inquiry, report of which has to be submitted within a fortnight. Senior officials said Shukla would not be given any assignment pending enquiry so that he could not use his influence in his favour.

Singh also withdrew the first-come-first-serve policy for allotment of shelters or residential plots and re-introduced the lottery system with a view to bringing transparency. The Vice-Chairman was said to be surprised over the arbitrary approach in allotment of flats and said there should be a thorough probe.

Lucknow (PNS): Leakage in piped natural gas (PNG) pipeline at a house near Lal Kothi (behind a hospital) in Gomti Nagar gave scary moments to residents on Thursday night. As officials of the gas supply company took time to respond to the situation, residents took pre-emptive measures as it was difficult for them to breathe properly.

As per reports, the leakage was spotted at the house of Shakil Jafri. The house owner dialled police control room and a team reached the scene. Investigating officer Shalini

Over eight flats in the housing towers were said to have been allotted to those favourites of the influential lobby between March 31 and June 1 this year.

This had come to fore in the third week of June when disgruntled applicants approached the LDA Vice-Chairman and made him aware about the arbitrary approach of officials in allotment of flats.

Singh immediately sought details and a preliminary investigation revealed that the deals were not fair and transparent. The Vice-Chairman informed the state government about this racket on July 31 and ordered a high-level probe.

Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, Nitin Gokarn has asked the LDA administration to submit the findings of the departmental probe to the state government first and then action would be taken after reviewing the report.

The Vice-Chairman said all the allotments made on the first-come-first-serve basis would be cancelled if the deals were found to be shady in the investigation.

# Gas leak spooks residents

Sahai said: "Shakil was backing up his car when he inadvertently ran car over the PNG pipeline after which gas started leaking from it. She said she cordoned off the area and urged people not to use the gas at their houses and also not operate mobile phones. The movement on the road was also stopped for some time. The IO said no casualty was reported in the incident and the leakage was stopped. Sources privy to the investigation said employees of the gas company reached the scene late and it delayed the rescue operation.

**State Bank of India**  
RACPC- 1st Floor, Local Head Office,  
Moti Mahal Marg, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001

**POSSESSION NOTICE (for movable property under Rule 6(1))**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the State Bank of India, RACPC under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a 13(2). The Bank issued demand notice on the date mentioned against account and stated herein after calling upon them to repay the amount, within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Property/ Vehicle described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rule on the date mentioned against the account.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India, RACPC for the amounts and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. Details of properties where possession had been taken is as follows:

Name & Address of the Borrower/ A/c No.	Description of the Movable Property Mortgaged	Amt o/s (as per u/s 13(2))	Date of Demand Notice Possession Date
Borrower:- Mr. Bikram Singh S/o Mr. Shiv Baran Singh H.No.-1/38, Sector-L, Near Rail Vihar Colony LDA, Lucknow. A/c No.- 35517982582	Vehicle Regn. No.- UP32 GV 0176 Asset/Vehicle Make- MARUTI S CROSS Engine No.- D16AA7300487 Chasis No.- MA3FNUJ1S00103333	Rs. 8,32,000/- + Interest & other expenses	05.04.2019 19.08.2019

Date: 23.08.2019 Place: Lucknow Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

**ARYAVART BANK** आर्यावर्त बैंक  
(A Joint Undertaking of Govt. of India, U.P. Govt. & Bank of India)  
Regional Office: Lucknow Aryavart Bhawan, 569/20/K/1, Sneh Nagar, V.I.P. Road, Opp. Awadh Hospital, Lucknow

**Notice Under Section-13(2) of The Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. (SARFAESI Act.)**

Authorized Officer, Aryavart Bank, Regional Office - Lucknow, has issued Demand Notice under Section-13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 through Registered/Speed post. The contents of the same are inter alia the defaults committed by you in the payment of outstanding amount including principal interest and other charges etc. The outstanding dues are mentioned here-in-below :

Name of Borrowers/Guarantors & Address & Branch	Description of Properties	Date of Notice	Amount of Notice
1. Kali Charan Yadav S/o Gulai Yadav, A-50, Ganga Vihar Colony, Chinhat Lucknow - 226028 2. Arvind Yadav S/o Kali Charan Yadav, A-50, Ganga Vihar Colony, Chinhat Lucknow - 226028 Guarantor : 1. Mr. Umesh Kumar S/o Ram Pratap Singh, Ghulam Hussain Purwa, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226010 2. Mr. Rakesh Kumar S/o Babu Lal, 252, Gulistan Colony, Chinhat, Lucknow - 226028 Branch : Chinhat Branch	Residential House Property: Plot No. 50, Khasra No. 333, Village - Chinhat, Distt- Lucknow, Area: 1800 Sq.ft., in the name of Kali Charan Yadav S/o Gulai Yadav (As per sale deed Dated 03.04.1986). Boundaries : East: Sarak, West : Arragi Deegar, North: Plot No. 26, South: Plot No. 52	31.07.2019	8,82,198.00 + Interest & other expenses
1. Surya Prakash Mishra S/o Shivdas Mishra, B-19, Shivpuri, Kalyanpur P.O. Vikasnagar, Lucknow - 226022 2. Chandra Prakash Mishra S/o Shivdas Mishra, B-19, Shivpuri, Kalyanpur P.O. Vikasnagar, Lucknow - 226022 Guarantor : 1. Mr. Shiv Das Mishra S/o Late Ram Das Mishra, B-19, Shivpuri, Kalyanpur P.O. Vikasnagar, Lucknow - 226022 2. Mr. Ram Shankar Mishra S/o Kapil Dev Mishra, B-27, Shivpuri, Kalyanpur P.O. Vikasnagar, Lucknow - 226022 3. Mr. Pawan Kumar S/o Badri Prasad, B-68, Shivpuri, Kalyanpur P.O. Vikasnagar, Lucknow - 226022 4. Mrs. Mamta Mishra D/o Shiv Das Mishra, B-19, Shivpuri, Kalyanpur P.O. Vikasnagar, Lucknow - 226022 5. Mrs. Antima D/o Shiv Das Mishra, B-19, Shivpuri, Kalyanpur P.O. Vikasnagar, Lucknow - 226022 Branch : Rakabganj Branch	Residential House Property: Plot No. 27, Kalyanpur Khasra No. 22,23,24,25,26,27 & 30 Pargana, Tehsil & District - Lucknow, Area: 1290 Sq.ft., in the name of Smt. Jarawati Devi W/o Shiv Das Mishra (As per sale deed Dated 12.03.1991). Boundaries : East: Sarak, West : Arragi Deegar, North: Plot No. 26, South: Plot No. 27 [A]	06.08.2019	9,53,216.30 + Interest & other expenses
1. Vivek Singh S/o Prem Singh, 596M/368/2, Sunder Nagar, Faridpur, Ring Road, Dubagga Lucknow - 226004 2. Rekha Singh W/o Vivek Singh, 596M/368/2, Sunder Nagar, Faridpur, Ring Road, Dubagga Lucknow - 226004 Guarantor : 1. Mr. Bablu Saxena S/o Babu Saxena, 596M/1308, New Haiderganj Campwell Road, P.O. Chowk Lucknow - 226003 2. Girish Kumar Nigam S/o Suresh Chandra Nigam, Naya Malhpur, Sunder Nagar, Ring Road, Dubagga Lucknow - 226004 Branch : Rakabganj Branch	Residential House Property: Plot No. 2, Minj of Khasra No. 368, Village - Mailhpur, Pargana Tehsil & District Lucknow, Area: 104.553 Sq.Mr. in the name of Mrs. Rekha Singh W/o Mr. Vivek Singh (As per sale deed Dated 26.09.2012). Boundaries : East: Plot No. 1, West : Arragi Deegar, North: Road 15 ft. wide, South: Plot No. 3	06.08.2019	6,29,065.60 + Interest & other expenses

Further with reasons, we believe that you are avoiding the service of said Demand Notice issued under the Act hence, we are now constrained to make this publication of demand notice, as required u/s-13(2) of said Act, the Rule-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. You are hereby called upon to pay Aryavart Bank, within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this Demand Notice with the aforesaid amount alongwith further interest, cost, incidental expenses, charges etc., failing which, we Aryavart Bank will take necessary action under the provisions of Section-13(4) of sale thereof. Further, you are prohibited u/s.-13(13) of the said Act from transferring either by way of sale/lease etc. and encumber in any other way, the aforesaid secured asset.

Date: 23.08.2019 Place: Lucknow Authorised Officer

**इलाहाबाद बैंक** ALLAHABAD BANK  
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**ZONAL OFFICE: LUCKNOW**  
2nd Floor, New Building Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001

**PREMISES REQUIRED**

Allahabad Bank Zonal Office, Lucknow invites offers for engagement of premises preferably ground floor on rent in following localities for shifting of its branch  
1. Ailiganj, Lucknow-Area-1800 Sq.ft. (Carpet Area)

The application form & other details in the matter may be obtained from Bank's, Zonal Office, 2nd Floor, New Building Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001 or can be downloaded from Bank's, website at [www.allahabadbank.in](http://www.allahabadbank.in).

Fully filled up application in prescribed format along with required information & documents are to be submitted in sealed envelope as detailed in website "AD" at Zonal Office, latest by 3.00 P.M. on 11.09.2019

Date: 22.08.2019 Zonal Head

**RESEARCH DESIGNS & STANDARDS ORGANISATION, LUCKNOW**  
E-OT Notice No. 06/2019

Executive Director / Stores on behalf of President of India invites open tender (Single Bid System) issued by this office as follows :

Sl	E-tender Number	Qty.	EMD Cost	Due Date
1	03195013	As per tender	Rs. 255970.00	19/09/2019 (Thursday)
		Description	Spares for 500 T Structure Fatigue Testing Machine	

For latest details of tender conditions and Corrigendum issued in tender, if any, please visit IREPS website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Bidders are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS. Manual offers against E-tender will not be accepted.

Executive Director/Stores/RDSO/Lucknow

## Mathura ready for grand Janmashtami celebrations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The stage is set for a grand three-day-long celebration of Krishna Janmashtami in Mathura and Vrindavan from Friday in which national and international artists will enthral those coming to this city. For the first time, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to organise Janmashtami on a grand scale for three days.

The highlight of this year's Janmashtami celebrations will be 'Dahi handi' event which will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Ramliya Grounds in Mathura on August 24. A troupe from Mumbai has been invited specially for the Dahi Handi event, a government spokesman said.

Over 1,000 international performers, Bollywood celebrities, folk artists and students will participate in the colourful cultural programmes scheduled at the venue.

Artists from across the country and abroad will take out

a 'Shobha Yatra' on the opening day (Friday). A cultural programme will also be held on the occasion, the spokesman said. On August 24, tableaux will be taken out under the 'Krishnaavatar' event. Popular musician Shankar Mahadevan is likely to perform at Ramliya Ground in Mathura on August 24. Bhajan rendition by Padmashri Anup Jalota is slated for August 25.

Bharatiya Janata Party MP from Mathura, Hema Malini, is also likely to perform during the function, the officer said.

Meanwhile, to promote tourism, 10 historical water tanks and ponds are being renovated at a cost of Rs 1,198.40 lakh in the Mathura district. Principal Secretary (Tourism) Jitendra Kumar said the renovation work would be completed by November this year. He said that 80 per cent of the work had been completed at a cost of Rs 966 lakh. He added that a sum of Rs 1,100 lakh had been released against the total cost.

## UP govt scraps family planning allowance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi may have advocated the virtues of small family and family planning from the ramparts of Red Fort in New Delhi on Independence Day, but the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, it seems, thinks otherwise for it has decided to withdraw special allowance given to government employees who voluntarily follow family planning norms.

The decision was taken by the Finance department here on Thursday. It is among five other special allowances that the government has decided to stop with immediate effect.

The allowances which have been scrapped are bilingual promotion allowance, computer operation allowance, post-graduation allowance,



cash handling allowance, project allowance (applicable only in Irrigation department) and allowance for voluntarily adopting family planning practices. In his order, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) Sanjiv Mittal has said that the government has been giving incentives in the form of encouragement allowance to many employees from time to time. After a review it has been found that these allowances are no longer relevant and should be scrapped,

he added. Many employees were getting two allowances — computer operation allowance of Rs 200 per month and family planning allowance between Rs 250 and Rs 650, depending on the pay band.

"Most surprising is the decision to scrap family planning allowance for employees as it was an incentive for encouraging small families. On one hand the Prime Minister calls those having small families as desh bhaktis, on the other, the Yogi Adityanath government has 'penalised' employees for adopting family planning methods," said Secretariat Employees Association secretary Yadendra Mishra. He said there was resentment among the employees and demanded that at least family planning allowance be restored.

## Class 10 student gang-raped, murdered

LUCKNOW (PNS): In a sudden spurt in crimes against members of the fairer sex in UP, a class 10th student was suspected to be gang-raped and murdered in Etah, another

minor girl was critically injured after a stalker tried to burn her alive in Sitapur, a 5-year-old girl was raped in Banda and a Dalit woman was harassed in Shamli.

In the first incident, Reeta (name changed), a native of Jaithra in Etah, reportedly went to her school on Wednesday morning. She was a student of class 10. When she did not return home in the afternoon, her family members launched a search for her. The school staff informed the family that the girl did not attend her classes in the morning. The family members reported the matter to the police. They disclosed that Reeta used to go to school daily with her friend but on Wednesday, as her friend was ill she went alone on bicycle.

Some villagers saw a bicycle and a school bag lying near Bamba Ki Khandi area in Jaithra and informed the police about it. Jaithra SHO Satpal Singh reached the spot and found the clothes of the girl. The clothes were torn and circumstantial evidence suggested that someone had kidnapped and raped her. As the girl had resisted, her clothes were torn.

## PMKSY to be extended to all UP dists

LUCKNOW (PNS): The Yogi Adityanath government has announced that the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna (PMKSY) will be implemented in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh to ensure water harvesting and also increasing the productivity of farmers.

Horticulture Minister Dara Singh Chauhan said the state government was providing 35 per cent subsidy in addition to the prescribed subsidy on drip irrigation system, sprinklers and other latest techniques of irrigation under the PMKSY.

"Small and marginal farmers are given 90 per cent of the cost of these units in the form of subsidy, and 80 per cent in the case of other farmers. The subsidy is transferred directly to the bank account of farmers under the government's direct benefit transfer (DBT) policy," he said.

The minister disclosed that the state level approval committee has signed contracts with 68 firms providing drip and sprinkler irrigation systems, for a period of five years. "Farmers are free to deal with any of these firms and

take advantage of the scheme," he said. The government said that farmers covered by the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme (PM-CIS) should avail the benefit if required. Under the scheme, crops of 25.60 lakh farmers on 23.70 lakh hectare land were insured in the Kharif season in 2017. Out of these farmers, 4.01 lakh were paid Rs 244.75 crore as compensation.

Likewise, in the Rabi season of 2017-18, crops of 28.13 lakh farmers on 23.07 lakh hectare land were insured under the scheme, out of

which 1.79 lakh farmers were paid Rs 119.85 crore as compensation.

In the same way, crops on 26.87 lakh hectare land were insured by 31.47 lakh farmers in 2018-19 under the scheme and out of them, 5.58 lakh farmers were paid Rs 419.54 crore as compensation.

"In the Rabi 2018-19 season, crops on 24.22 lakh hectares of land were insured by 29.69 lakh farmers under the scheme and 0.38 lakh farmers were paid Rs 18.11 crore as compensation," the minister said.

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE  
Name of the work : "Dry Docking/Repairs of Pilot Launch ML Biju Pattnaik, Survey Launch ML Laxmi, Pollution Control Vessel ML Kaili, Mooring Launches ML Chandni & ML Charchika and Repairs to slipway Cradle of Paradip Port Trust".  
Estimated cost put to tender : Rs.1,01,67,430/-  
Last date & time of submission of tender through online bidding is 15:00 hours on 12.08.2019. For details, please log on to the Website : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>  
Dy. Conservator  
PPT/PR/288/19-20 Dt. 23.08.2019

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
No. TD/TM/GEN(Vol-II)/19/2015 dtd. 20.08.2019  
CORRIGENDUM-I dtd. 20.08.2019 to e-TCN No. TD/TM/GEN-225(Vol-III)/19/2047 dtd. 13.08.2019 for "Allotment of 02 (two) nos. of Manual Iron Ore / Iron Ore Pellet Plots". Refer our website for details of Corrigendum-1 published <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>  
TRAFFIC MANAGER  
PPT/PR/287/19-20 Dt. 23.08.2019

**उत्तर प्रदेश ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
सूचना इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा संख्या 49-विभाग/गोष्ठा/2019-20 जो कि पूर्व निर्धारित दिनांक में किसी अपरिहार्य कारणों से परिवर्तन होने के कारण अब दिनांक 03.09.2019 को 16.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 04.09.2019 को 12.30 बजे खोली जायेगी। ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेगी। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारंपरिक मण्डल-अयम, उत्तर प्रदेश ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड का सं 111 से 114, भूलाल पारंपरिक मण्डल, विद्युत खण्ड-1। गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। पत्रांक 1619, दिनांक 22.08.19 "राष्ट्रहित में विजली बचाये"

**उत्तर प्रदेश ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
सूचना इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा संख्या 280-विभाग/गोष्ठा/2019-20 जो कि पूर्व निर्धारित दिनांक में किसी अपरिहार्य कारणों से परिवर्तन होने के कारण अब दिनांक 03.09.2019 को 16.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 04.09.2019 को 13.00 बजे खोली जायेगी। ई-टेंडरिंग निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेगी। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारंपरिक मण्डल-अयम, उत्तर प्रदेश ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड का सं 111 से 114, भूलाल पारंपरिक मण्डल, विद्युत खण्ड-1। गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। पत्रांक 1620, दिनांक 22.08.19 "राष्ट्रहित में विजली बचाये"

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice  
On behalf of the President of India, acting through Chief Administrative Officer/Con, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following E-Works Tenders:-  
S. No.:1, E-Tender No.: DYCE1 BSB-2019-18 Dated 20-09-2019, Name of work: Linking of BG Track, Carting of P.Way material, Spreading of ballast & other miscellaneous track works between Aunrihar (Incl.) to Dobhi (Incl.) in Aunrihar-Jaunpur section of Varanasi division of North Eastern Railway in connection with Aunrihar-Jaunpur doubling project. Approximate value: ₹ 5,66,21,119.86 Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹ 4,33,100/-, Cost of Tender Form (Rs.): ₹ 10,00/-, Completion Period: 06 (Six) Months.  
● Bidding Start Date: 02-09-2019.  
● Last date of submission of above E-Tender on 16-09-2019 upto 14:30 Hrs. ● Date of opening of above E-Tender on 16-09-2019 from 14:30 hrs. ● Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions is available on website: <https://tenders.gov.in>  
● In case any disparity arises between Hindi and English version of tender notice, English version will hold good and will be followed.  
Shri Rakesh Ranjan, Dy.CE/Con/1/BSB, Mob. No.: 9794845247  
Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/1/CPRO/W-182 Varanasi  
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 9794845247  
Do not smoke Bid/Cigarrette in train.

## CITY BRIEFS



**CONSULTATIVE PROCESS**  
Bank of Baroda convened the state-level consultative process under the aegis of SLBC at Lucknow, Jaipur and Ahmedabad in a bid to review internal performance, reinforce alignment with national agenda and contribute to the strengthening of the macro economy. These state level

consultations were part of the stage-2 deliberations following the two-day consultative intra-bank workshops held on August 17 and 18 involving all branches of PSBs at the regional level which led to generation of a number of implementable and innovative suggestions on how PSBs in general can improve their performance.

## DEBT RELIEF CAMP

The zonal office of Bank of Baroda organised a debt relief camp at Baroda House in Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, on Thursday. Sanction letters were distributed to the borrowers under the One-Time Settlement Scheme by the MD



& CEO of the bank PS Jayakumar. As many as 2,205 accounts of Rs. 48.17 crore were settled.

## WORKSHOP

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised a workshop on

Goods and Services Tax (GST) at PHD House on Thursday. The welcome address was delivered by Anuradha Goel, resident director of PHD Chamber, UP Chapter. She elaborated the role of the Chamber working at the grass-root level to create awareness related to various aspects for industries and start-ups in the state and also asserted that GST was a ground-breaking reform for Indian economy's indirect tax regime. She added that the basic idea of this taxation reform was to create a single, cooperative and undivided Indian market to make the economy stronger and powerful.

**उत्तर प्रदेश ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
सूचना इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा संख्या 56 से 59 तथा 71/विभाग/गोष्ठा/2019-20, के सम्बन्ध में निम्न शर्तें पत्र जारी किया जाता है। निविदा संख्या 56 से 59 तथा 71/विभाग/गोष्ठा/2019-20 को सुलने की तिथि विस्तारित कर दी गयी है, अब यह निविदाएं क्रमशः दिनांक 30.08.2019 को 14.00 बजे तक अपलोड एवं स्वीकार की जायेगी एवं दिनांक 30.08.2019 को 15.00 बजे सर्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा की अन्य नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेगी। निविदा के अन्य विवरण [www.etenderup.nic.in](http://www.etenderup.nic.in) पर देखे जा सकते हैं। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारंपरिक मण्डल-अयम, उत्तर प्रदेश ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड का सं 111 से 114, भूलाल पारंपरिक मण्डल, विद्युत खण्ड-1। गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। पत्रांक 1619, दिनांक 22.08.19 "राष्ट्रहित में विजली बचाये"

**U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.**  
Short term E-Tender Notice  
No. 10/ETDR/2019-20 Sealed e-tenders in two separate parts on prescribed tender forms are hereby invited from the experienced Firms/contractors in this office as well as on U.P. Govt. website [www.etenderup.nic.in](http://www.etenderup.nic.in) for execution of Punctured Disc Replacement and Jumper lightning of 220 KV Unchahar-Raebareilly Transmission Line Under ETD. Raebareilly. Earnest money Rs. 1,000/- Cost of Tender document Rs. 118/- (Non-refundable including GST). Sale of Tender Document up to 13:00 on 11.09.2019 submission of tender up to 17:00 on 11.09.2019. Receipt of tender hard copy (if any) up to 13:00 on 12.09.2019. Opening of Tender Bid Part-I at 15:30 on 12.09.2019. For receipt of tender document and earnest money said amount is to be deposited through RTGS in the current account (Punjab National Bank, Civil Line Raebareilly, A/C No. 465500580000018, IFSC Code: PUNB0465500) to the undersigned in official capacity. Part-1 of the tender will contain the RTGS receipt of earnest money deposit, Photocopies of GST Registration, PAN, Income Tax Clearance Certificate. Proper experience for execution of similar works in UPPTCL and part II will contain rates, terms and conditions and other relevant details. Opening date of Part 2 Shall be intimated on e-website. In case of holiday/under-signment is out of station on notified opening day, the tender will be opened on the next working day. Under signed reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. Executive Engineer Electricity Transmission Division, Raebareilly No. 642 Date 21-8-2019 "SAVE ELECTRICITY FOR NATION"

## SCHOOLSCAN



**ODYSSEY INT'L**  
The second day of the four-day international English literary festival 'Odyssey International-2019', organised by City Montessori School, Rajajipuram Campus I, was informative and entertaining at the same time. Approximately 500 participants from South Africa, Nepal and various states of India showcased their skills in choreography, debate, cartoon making, painting, movie making, talent show and other contests.



Tiny-tots of Euro Kids, Him Estate, celebrated Krishna Janmashtami on Thursday. For the occasion, the children dressed up as Krishna and Radha.

## Phase-2 counselling for vacant MEd seats

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow University's Admission coordinator Anil Mishra said that after phase-1 of the online off-campus counselling which comprised allotment, fee deposit as well as upgradation, there are still some seats vacant in MEd programmes. For these seats, one more chance will be given to the candidates interested in resubmitting their choices. Mishra said the candidates eligible to participate in the phase 2 of counselling included those who registered for the process but were not allotted any seat in phase 1,

those whose name are in the overall merit list but could not participate in the phase-1 counselling, those who were allotted the seats but were unable to deposit the fees.

He said there would be no fee applicable if the candidates were registered in phase-1. "The candidates who did not participate in the phase-1 counselling will have to pay Rs 3200. The candidates will have to login on the admission website using their credentials and re-submit their choices in the remaining seats. The remaining procedure will be the same as declared earlier," Mishra said.

## Office of the Cantonment Board

64, Subhas Chandra Bose Marg, Cantt Kanpur -208004

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

SI No.	NIT	Name of Contract	Tender Document Fee	Estimate Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Last Date & Time for submission of original EMD, tender cost receipt	Last Date & time of submission online bids	Time and date of opening of online technical bid	Time and date of opening of online Financial bid
1	CBK/SS-1353/1	Supply of Conservancy Staff "100 Nos. Safai Karamchari" for One Year, extendable upto 02 year on contractual basis.	5,000/-	2,00,00,000/-	4,00,000/-	24 Hours before the opening of technical bid	13-09-2019	14.09.2019	Will be intimated online while uploading technical evaluation report

Interested bidders shall register themselves with the e-tendering portal of Central Government and submit their bid online after logging into their accounts registered with website <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> (organization Dir. Gen. Defence Estate, HQ.). Interested bidders may also visit the website of Cantonment Board Kanpur ([www.cbkanpur.org.in](http://www.cbkanpur.org.in)) for further details. Bidders are requested to browse through these website regularly as any further amendments/corrigendum will be published in these website only.

(Arvind Kumar Dwivedi)  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Kanpur Cantt.

**उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य विद्युत उत्पादन सेवा आयोग**  
उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य विद्युत उत्पादन निगम लिमिटेड  
(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का उपक्रम) कक्ष संख्या 1025, 10वीं तल, शक्ति भवन विस्तार, 14-अशोक मार्ग, लखनऊ-226001 CIN: U40101UP1980SG005065  
सूचना  
अन्तिम परीक्षा परिणाम (विज्ञापन सं-यू-36/यूपीआरवीयूसए/2019)  
उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य विद्युत उत्पादन निगम लिमिटेड हेतु विज्ञापन संख्या यू-36/यूपीआरवीयूसए/2019 के अन्तर्गत सौधो भर्ती के चिकित्सा अधिकारी (पुरुष/महिला) सामान्य एवं आकरिमिक ड्यूटी पद पर चयन हेतु दिनांक 08.08.2019 को आयोजित Walk in interview के आधार पर अन्तिम रूप से चयनित अभ्यर्थियों का परीक्षा परिणाम घोषित किया जाता है, जिसे निगम वेबसाइट [www.uprvnl.org](http://www.uprvnl.org) पर देखा जा सकता है।  
पत्रांक: 236-उपनि/उपनि/विज्ञापन/यू-36/यूपीआरवीयूसए/2019 दिनांक 22 अगस्त, 2019  
"राष्ट्रहित में विजली बचाये"

**अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, रायपुर (ए.ग.)**  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur (C.G.)  
Tatibandh, G.E. Road, Raipur-492 099 (CG) ([www.aiimsraipur.edu.in](http://www.aiimsraipur.edu.in))  
No. AIIMS-RRP/Rect. & Advt. Cell/2019/1815, Date: 21-08-2019  
E-TENDER CALL NOTICE  
Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur Chhattisgarh, Govt. invites e-tender for following:  
Tender Title EMD Published on CPPPI Pre-bid Closing  
Cost Website date date  
One Year Rate Contract for Alcohol Based Hand Rub for IPD/OPD Services at AIIMS Raipur ₹ 2,51,000.00 19-08-2019 26-08-2019 11-09-2019  
at 3:30 PM at 06:00 PM  
The details terms & conditions are available on the website- [www.aiimsraipur.edu.in](http://www.aiimsraipur.edu.in) and CPP Portal [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)  
Stores Officer, AIIMS Raipur

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
PARADIP PORT - 754 142, ODISHA (INDIA) SAGARMALA  
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT  
No.AD/RSC-I-212/2019(Pt.)/2725 Dated 19.08.2019  
ADVERTISEMENT  
Engagement of Advisor (Legal) at Paradip Port Trust on Contractual Basis  
The details of qualification, age, experience, other conditions etc. are available at Paradip Port Trust website : [www.paradipport.gov.in](http://www.paradipport.gov.in). Interested and willing persons may forward their Curriculum vitae, indicating their qualifications, experience, etc. at Office of the Chairman, Paradip Port Trust, Po-Paradip Port, Dist-Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754142, on 31.08.2019 by 05:00 PM.  
PPT/PR/290/19-20 Dt.23.08.2019 Sr. Dy. Secretary

## DHFL DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

National Office: DHFL House, 8th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra East-400 051  
Branch Office : DHFL, Dreams Mall, First Floor, L.B.S.Marg, Bhandup (West), Mumbai - 400078

### DEMAND NOTICE

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

Loan Agreement No./Name of the Borrower/Co Borrower/Guarantor	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date	Description of secured asset (Immovable property)
(LC No. 0000265 of Lucknow Branch) Mohammad Zia Ur Rahman (Borrower) Moammad Mohibullah (Co Borrower 1)	27-03-2019 ₹ 480376 /- (₹ Four Lakh Eighty Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Six) NPA (01-02-2019)	H. No. 162/206-Ga Astabal Aminabad Charbagh, Lucknow-226018
(LC No. 00001158 of Ghaziabad Branch) Saurabh Srivastava (Borrower) Shivangi Srivastava (Co Borrower 1)	29-01-2019 ₹ 3468201 /- (₹ Thirty Four Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Two Hundred One) NPA (01-06-2015)	Flat No. B-201, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Officer City 2 Raj Nagar Ext, Ghaziabad, -201011
(LC No. 00000819 of Noida Branch) Ocean Apartments Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Rishi Gupta (Co Borrower 1) Rohit Gupta (Co Borrower 2) Deepa Gupta (Guarantor 1) Vimla Gupta (Guarantor 2)	26-07-2019 ₹ 2468687 /- (₹ Twenty Four Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven) NPA (01-01-2019)	Space No. S-5, St. Plot C-8 Shalimar Garden Extra-2 Sahibabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201001
(LC No. 00000895 of Noida Branch) Lokesh Kumar (Borrower) Naresh Kumar (Co Borrower 1) Dhanshchand Sharma (Co Borrower 2) Balesh Kumar (Guarantor 1) Rameshwar Dayal Sharma (Guarantor 2) Manish Sharma (Guarantor 3)	26-07-2019 ₹ 4901113 /- (₹ Forty Nine Lakh One Thousand One Hundred Thirteen) NPA (01-03-2019)	Plot No. III- A-60 Nehru Nagar Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201010
(LC No. 00001494 of Lucknow Branch) Rohtas Projects Limited (Borrower) Paresh Rastogi (Co Borrower 1) Pankaj Rastogi (Co Borrower 2) Piyush Rastogi (Guarantor 1)	26-07-2019 ₹ 48233474 /- (₹ Four Crore Eighty Two Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Four) NPA (01-08-2018)	Ground Floor, Rohtas Residential Arcade Plot No. T C G-4/4, Vibhuti Khand Gomti Nagar Lucknow Uttar Pradesh 226006
(LC No. 00001493 of Lucknow Branch) Karunesh Kumar Shukla (Borrower) Meenakshi Shukla (Co Borrower 1)	26-07-2019 ₹ 46348746 /- (₹ Four Crore Sixty Three Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Six) NPA (01-11-2018)	Land Part Of Khasra No.511, Naubasta Kalan, Off Deva Road At Project Site Of 'तेह-टेह' Distt Lucknow Uttar Pradesh 226001
(LC No. 00041399 of Noida-sector 2 Branch) Ram Ratan Mukhiya (Borrower) Mukkun Devi (Co Borrower 1)	27-12-2018 ₹ 4828119 /- (₹ Four Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Nineteen) NPA (01-11-2018)	Flat No. 243 C Second Floor Block S K Sharmik Kunj Sector 66, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar-201301
(LC No. 00001792 of Lucknow Branch) Sunil Kumar Mall (Borrower) Mrs Pooja (Co Borrower 1)	26-07-2019 ₹ 1320780 /- (₹ Thirteen Lakh Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty) NPA (01-04-2018)	Plot No. 14 Khasra No. 322 Village Juggaur Paragna Tehsil Lucknow Uttar Pradesh 226001
(LC No. 00002794 of Dehradun Branch) Anil Singh (Borrower) Pinky (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2019 ₹ 1893422 /- (₹ Eighteen Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Two) NPA (01-03-2019)	Khasra No 399 Wake Dara Milikna Bairon Dar Abadi Kashmiri Garden Colony Saharanpur-247001
(LC No. 00000096 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Ambay Dewaters Systems (Borrower) Sachchu Lal Yadav (Co Borrower 1) Aman Yadav (Co Borrower 2) Geeta Devi (Guarantor 1)	31-07-2019 ₹ 15936687 /- (₹ One Crore Fifty Nine Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven) NPA (01-02-2019)	House No.- 2688 Sector-5 Rajender Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201010
(LC No. 00000423 of Kanpur Branch) Ronny Bruce (Borrower) Shruvi Bruce (Co Borrower 1) Lalita Bruce (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2019 ₹ 1218252 /- (₹ Twelve Lakh Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Two) NPA (01-04-2019)	Plot No 73 Arazi No 1874/1 Dehli Sujapur, Kanpur Rural-208021
(LC No. 00002722 of Lucknow Branch) Vijay Shankar Dwivedi (Borrower) Neetu Singh (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2019 ₹ 1025703 /- (₹ Ten Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Three) NPA (01-04-2019)	Plot No 15 Part Of Khasra No 1581 Aurangabad Khasa Ward Raja Biji Pali, Lucknow-226020
(LC No. 00001340 of Noida Branch) Fortek Bio Sciences P Ltd (Borrower) Paresh Rastogi (Co Borrower 1) Deepak Rastogi (Co Borrower 2) Pankaj Rastogi (Guarantor 1) Piyush Rastogi (Guarantor 2)	26-07-2019 ₹ 30303016 /- (₹ Three Crore Three Lakh Three Thousand Sixteen) NPA (01-08-2018)	Flat No. D-201, D-1201 And D-1501 Rohtas Residential Tower, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar Lucknow Uttar Pradesh 226010
(LC No. 00000634 of Kanpur Branch) Ronny Bruce (Borrower) Shruvi Bruce (Co Borrower 1) Lalita Bruce (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2019 ₹ 488701 /- (₹ Four Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred One) NPA (01-04-2019)	Plot No 73 Part Of Arazi No 1874 / 1 Sanigawan Road Mauja Daheli Sujapur, Kanpur Rural-208021
(LC No. 00003783 of Dehradun Branch) Amit Kumar (Borrower) Poonam Devi (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2019 ₹ 1058737 /- (₹ Ten Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Seven) NPA (01-03-2019)	Khasra No 91 Vill Panjora Bairon Pragna, Saharanpur-247001

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

Place : Uttar Pradesh  
Date : 23.08.2019  
Sd/-  
(Authorised Officer)  
Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

# Demonising PM not going to help: Jairam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when the Congress is speaking with a forked tongue on the Government's move to abrogate the special status to Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370, there came a new one on Thursday as senior leader and former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh sought his party to introspect and see reason why Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance model was not a "complete negative story".

Not recognising his work and demonising him all the time is not going to help, said Ramesh adding it is time we recognise Modi's work and what he did between 2014 and 2019 due to which he was voted back to power by over "30 per cent of the electorate".

Crisis-hit Congress, which remained headless for two and a half months following its president Rahul Gandhi's resignation owning up for the party's Lok Sabha debacle, has been speaking in different voices on the issue of Article 370 with its young turks backing the Modi Government's move. In the Lok Sabha elections, the Congress had run a very personalized campaign against Modi and sought to demolish his model of administration and governance.



Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Polit Bureau member Brinda Karat, CPI leader D Raja, RJD MP Manoj Jha and others during Opposition parties protest, demanding the release of leaders detained in J&K, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Thursday

"We talked about farmers' distress throughout our entire campaign, people realise there was farmers' distress but they did not hold Modi responsible for it. You saw what happened in the elections result thereafter. We have to understand what made him respectable," he said.

The BJP got 37.4 per cent of votes in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and the NDA, as a whole, secured nearly 45 per cent of votes.

"Let me tell you it is not a

completely negative story when it comes to economics of the governance, the politics of the governance is completely different," he said, adding "the social relations that have been created out of his governance model is also completely different".

To prove his point, Ramesh gave the example of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUJ) and how successful it turned out for Modi. "In 2019, all of us in the political discourse made fun of one or two of his pro-

grammes, but it has turned out in all electoral studies that the PMUJ is one single program which has been able to connect him with crores and crores of women and given him the political traction which he didn't have in 2014," he pointed out.

"Now if we are going to run this down and say this is all hocus pocus and say these are wrong numbers, we are not going to confront this guy," he cautioned.

Ramesh made the remarks while launching a book,

"Malevolent Republic: A Short History of the New India" written by Kapil Satish Komireddi, a political analyst.

"He (Modi) talks in a language that connects him with the people. Unless we recognize that he is doing things which people recognise and which have not been done in the past, we are not going to be able to confront this guy," said the Congress leader.

"Also, if you are going to demonize him all the time, you are not going to be able to confront him," warned the former Union minister, who held the portfolios of Rural Development, and Drinking Water and Sanitation in the Manmohan Singh government.

Ramesh, however, sought to clarify that he is not asking anyone to praise or applaud the prime minister, but only wants the political class to at least recognise the traits he has brought to the governance -- particularly the "economics of governance".

Stating that something happened in the last decade, which catapulted Modi from a "non-entity in national politics" in the 2009 general elections to someone who won elections back to back, Ramesh said people of the country -- right or wrong -- are not relating "current distress to his presence".

# Sonia: Unity can be maintained by celebrating India's diversity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday said that former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi also got a massive poll mandate in 1984 but he did not use it to create an atmosphere of fear or to threaten people, in an indirect attack on the Modi Government.

Addressing an event marking Rajiv Gandhi's 75th birth anniversary, Sonia said that her husband gave the message that unity can be maintained by celebrating India's diversity.

Sonia said the former Prime Minister's 75th birth anniversary is not a ritual being marked by the Congress, but an occasion to reaffirm its resolve to uphold the values that inspired him. Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary is an occasion to resolve to stand up and confront forces determined to destroy the values that inspired him, she said in the presence of former PM Manmohan Singh, senior party leaders including Rahul Gandhi.

"Rajiv Gandhi never posed a threat to democracy, he never suppressed public opinion. His ethics and honesty always inspired him. The work done



Congress president Sonia Gandhi speaks during the 75th birth anniversary celebrations of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi on Thursday

held a firm conviction that India has to be a modern Nation," said Sonia.

She recalled how a section accused him of being elitist but it was he who crafted the new education policy in 1986 through which he looked upon rural India especially children and got a chain of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in every single district.

"His political adversaries accused him of being out of touch with reality with his fixation for computers. Yet it is this magnificent obsession with technology and modernity that has made millions of youth in our country ready to tackle the challenges of the digital era. I believe that his strategic reasons laid the foundations for prosperity of our country in the coming century," Sonia said.

On the occasion she also asserted that electoral ups and downs are inevitable and challenges facing the Congress are formidable, but it must continue with its ideological struggle against divisive forces. Sonia recently took over as the party's interim President following her son Rahul Gandhi stepping down as party chief owing the dismal performance in Lok Sabha this year.

# United to protect corruption, Naqvi takes jibe at Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday attacked the Congress for supporting P Chidambaram, arrested in the INX Media case, saying it has "united to protect corruption" and that a court's decision to send him to four-day CBI custody shows a "prima facie case of corruption".

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Prakash Javadekar also rejected the Congress accusation that the action against the former finance minister is "political

vendetta". "In fact, justice is happening," he said.

"The CBI court's decision to send him in remand makes it clear that it is a corruption case. There is a prima facie case and that is why the court has remanded him to the probe agency's custody. Therefore, the Congress accusation that it is political vendetta is wrong. In fact, justice is happening," Javadekar told PTI.

With top Congress leaders, including Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, strongly defending Chidambaram and accusing

the Union government of political vendetta, Javadekar hit back at the opposition party.

The Congress has united to protect corruption. It is synonymous with corruption. When in power, it looted the country left right and centre," he said, and described the INX Media case as a "scam of massive corruption".

He referred to several alleged scams, including those involving coal block allocations, 2G spectrum and the Commonwealth Games, to say the Congress' rule during 2004-14 was "synonymous" with corruption. He also

spoke of "Jeeja ji scam", an apparent reference to controversial land deals involving Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's brother-in-law Robert Vadra.

Rejecting the Congress' allegation that the government was behind the action of investigation agencies, he said the matter should be left to investigation agencies and courts.

Another BJP leader and Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Thursday that the opposition party was trying to convert corruption into revolution.

# Govt to relax lease rent of wind power projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry has decided to do away with the mandatory charging of lease rent of ₹30,000 per MW from wind power projects, a move aimed to boost the sector as well as bring it at par with the solar and hydroelectric power projects to attract investments.

In a review meeting held here on Thursday, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said the move will boost the investment in wind power projects and will help in

providing wind power at cheaper rate.

Currently, to establish wind power project over forest land, the existing procedure requires payment of mandatory charges for compensatory afforestation and Net Present value (NPV). In addition to mandatory charges, the wind power companies had to pay additional lease rent of 30,000 per MW.

"The Government envisages to meet maximum energy requirement by tapping renewable energy resources and, to achieve the target of clean

energy in a time bound manner, various policies and regulations are being constantly updated," the Minister added.

This additional cost is not mandatory for other renewable energy projects such as solar power and hydel-electric projects. Additional cost for generation of clean energy through wind power, in turn escalate the per unit cost of power at consumer level, added a senior official from the Ministry.

The government has set an ambitious target of having 175 GW of clean energy capacity by

2022, including 100 GW solar and 60 GW of wind energy.

Also, "promotions of such projects also strengthen government's commitments towards international agreements, and one of the national commitments pledged in Paris in 2015 was to have 40 per cent of the power from renewable resources by 2030.

"It is noteworthy that currently India has over achieved the target and is well on track to ensure that more than 50 per cent of our installed capacity will come from renewable by 2030," said the official.

# Hindus kept worshipping at disputed site in Ayodhya: Litigant to apex court

HE ALSO SAID THAT BABRI MASJID WAS BUILT AFTER DEMOLISHING RAM TEMPLE

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Babri Masjid was built after demolishing a Ram temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya and Hindus kept worshipping there without giving up its possession, a Hindu litigant Thursday told the Supreme Court, while seeking enforcement of right to worship there.

Devotee Gopal Singh Visharad, who filed the lawsuit in the lower court in 1950 seeking right to pray, died in 1986 and is now represented by his son Rajendra Singh.

The five judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi heard the arguments on the 10th day in the

decades-old politically sensitive land dispute.

"The mosque was built after demolishing the Ram temple, and despite that Hindus continued worshipping there and did not give up possession...Moreover, Muslims were never in possession of the site," senior advocate Ranjit Kumar told the bench which also comprised Justices SA Bobde, DY Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and SA Nazeer.

"I am making my submissions with reference to Parasaran's and Vaidyanathan's submissions (both lawyers represented the deity) that the place is itself a divine site and that I being the worshipper, my right to worship, which is a civil right, should not be curtailed," he said.

Referring to records, the senior lawyer said magistrate Markandey Singh on December 29, 1949 had initiated proceedings to attach the disputed structure under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) following communal disturbances.

The magistrate had sought responses from Hindu and Muslim parties in support of their claim and counter claim over the property.

Twenty affidavits were filed in 1950 by persons from both sides before the magistrate and they are also part of the judicial records of the Allahabad High Court.

"Filing affidavits, per se, is not enough to prove them. The deponents will have to appear to prove them... No court can say that the facts of these affidavits are proved," the bench said.

These affidavits were filed in 1950 and the trial on lawsuits took place "much much later", the lawyer said.

The high court did not accept the affidavits saying that the deponents were not available for cross examination, he said, adding that they are part of the judicial records and be accepted by the apex court as the magistrate had verified the statements and identity of the deponents (makers of the affidavits).

# Salem-Chennai road project is of national importance: NHA to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Highways Authority of India (NHA) told the Supreme Court Thursday that the Rs 10,000 crore Salem-Chennai 8-lane green corridor road project is of "national importance" and the Madras High Court had erred in quashing the land acquisition process.

The ambitious 277.3-km greenfield project connecting Salem and Chennai under the central government's 'Bharatmala Pariyojana' scheme aims to cut travel time between the two cities by half, to about two hours and 15 minutes.

The NHAI told a bench headed by Justice N V Ramana that the high court had held that environmental clearance (EC) was mandatory for the project.

"The reasons given by the high court (in the judgement) are factually incorrect," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the NHA, told the bench which also comprised

Justices M M Shantanagoudar and Ajay Rastogi.

Mehta said the high court erred in saying that grant of prior environmental clearance was necessary for the project.

"If we have to take environmental clearance first and then go for land acquisition then it will be like putting the cart before the horse," Mehta told the bench.

He said there was no dispute on the fact that EC is required before commencement of construction work for the project.

One of the advocates, appearing for the farmers who had moved the high court challenging land acquisition proceedings, told the bench that initially the project was for connecting Chennai and Madurai but later it was changed to Salem-Chennai.

The bench told Mehta that he should give a flow chart referring to legal questions as well as the factual matrix of the case.

# MINIMISING FELLING OF TREES ALONG PATHANKOT TO KULLU

# MoEF's empowered group grants approval to road widening project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Regional Empowered Committee (REC), formed by the Environment Ministry, has granted approval to a road widening project from Pathankot to Kullu on the condition that it will involve minimum felling of trees. As per the project proponent, the road widening work involves felling of 1,537 trees.

The REC granted the Stage-I approval to the project, asking the State Public Works Department (PWD), the proposer, to deposit with it the Net Present Value of the forest land being diverted for non-forestry purpose. The project requires diversion of 7.67 hectare of protected forest land, the panel noted.

Legal status of the forest land will remain unchanged. Efforts should be made to fell minimum number of trees. The trees should be felled under strict supervision of the state forest department," the REC said, adding that no damage should be done to the



adjoining forest land. Clearance under the Forest Conservation (FC) Act, is granted in two stages.

While in Stage-I, the proposal is agreed to in-principle in which usually compensatory afforestation, funds for raising compensatory afforestation thereof, realisation of Net Present Value (NPV) of forest are stipulated and after receipt of compliance report from the state government in respect of the stipulated conditions, formal approval under the FC Act is issued.

The in-principle agreement and formal approval under the FC Act are com-

monly referred to as stage-I and stage-II approval under the FC Act respectively.

"The User Agency (PWD) shall raise strip plantation on both sides and central verge of the road at the project cost with maintenance of seven to ten years," the panel directed while approving the project.

The PWD, in its proposal, had submitted that the proposed alignment does not pass through any national park or wildlife sanctuary and involves felling of 1,537 trees. It said that compensatory afforestation has been proposed at 15.34 ha in Pathankot.

# Plea filed in SC challenging constitutional validity of UAPA



Argues that it infringed upon the fundamental rights of citizens

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A plea was filed in the Supreme Court on Thursday challenging the constitutional validity of the amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) on the ground that these infringed upon the fundamental rights of citizens.

The plea for amendments to the UAPA was passed by Parliament on August 2 and it received the President's ascent

on August 9. The amended Act allows the Centre to designate individuals as terrorists and seize their properties.

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 also provides for putting a travel ban on such individuals once they are declared as terrorists. The petition has been filed by the Association for Protection of Civil Rights (APCR), an NGO, which said the amendments infringed upon the fundamental right to reputation and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution, without substantive and procedural due process.

# ED attaches properties of fraudster booked under anti-money laundering law

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has attached properties worth over ₹19 lakh of a man booked under the anti-money laundering law for allegedly duping people by promising them secure admission in an Uttarakhand medical college.

Rohit Singh Chauhan is being probed for cheating people to the tune of ₹1.29 crore by dishonestly inducing them in getting admission in post-graduation courses under the management quota in HIHT Medical College, Dehradun, an official said.

The properties attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) are a 0.138-hectare plot valued at ₹4.83 lakh and a flat in New Delhi worth ₹14.69 lakh.

The plot is in the name of Chauhan and his father and the plot, in addition to the two, is in the name of his mother, the official said.

The ED had initiated the probe on the basis of an FIR and chargesheet filed by Uttarakhand police against Chauhan and other accused in the case.

Chauhan played an active role in duping the complainants and collected funds from them. He transferred the money to his and his family members' account and utilised it for personal use, the official said.

Chauhan and his associates fraudulently collected ₹1.29 crore from the complainants in cash and through banking channels and credited them into the account of a company he was a director of, he said.

# WTI conservationist felicitated at Geneva

New Delhi : Conservationist Vivek Menon, head of Delhi-based Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) has been awarded the prestigious Clark R Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award-2019 recently by Ivonne Higuero, secretary general of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) at Geneva where the eighteenth meeting of Conference of Parties to CITES is currently being held. PNS

# FOUNDER CEO OF C-5 FOUNDATION AMONG 100 'GREEN TICKET' RECIPIENTS

New Delhi: Trivandrum-based climate activist and founder CEO of the C-5 Foundation (Change Can Change Climate Change) PR Vishnu is among the 100 'green ticket' recipients chosen by the United Nations from around the world who will represent the discussions in the UN Youth Climate Summit to be held on September 21 at the UN Headquarters in New York. PNS

# RAGGING INCIDENT AT SAIFAI MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

# MCI raps varsity administration

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Medical Council of India (MCI) has taken exception to the alleged mass ragging at Saifai Medical University in Etawah asking it why it should not be fined and declared ineligible for new admissions for a minimum period of one year.

"Why exemplary fine of Rs 1 Lakh for each incident of ragging, that of 150X1 Lakh, that is equal to Rs 150 Lakhs be not imposed upon the institute," asked the Board of Governors in Supersession of Medical Council of India (MCI BoG).

Stating that the incident brings out the "complete failure of the College authorities in addressing the menace of ragging," the MCI has given the university 24 hours to reply in the matter.

It also asked why the senior

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking revocation of an order suspending Uttar Pradesh-based pediatrician Kafeel Khan, an alleged accused in the death of infants at the BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur in 2017.

batches admitted to MBBS course be not suspended from attending classes for a minimum period of one month.

According to reports, several first-year students of the university were made to parade on the campus with their heads tonsured. A purported video clip on social media showed the students in white coats walking in a single file, bowing their tonsured heads and also making 'salaam' gestures. Another clip showed them in rows.

# Apex court refers decision on Oxytocin to larger bench

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday referred to its larger bench the question whether it would be in public interest to restrict manufacture of life-saving drug, Oxytocin, for domestic use to a single public sector undertaking. PTI

# Book on PM Modi released

New Delhi: A book on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 'The Modi Dynamic', written by Sanju Verma, has been released by Blue Rose Publishers. The first part of the book contains many interesting topic like how demonetization unearthed black money and how it was a game changer. The second part of the book exposes the weaknesses of "Gathbandhan politics and failure of 'Raebareli-Amethi' model. PNS

# Democracy in bad shape, Mamata on PC's arrest

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee broke her silence on Thursday linking the arrest of senior Congress leader P Chidambaram to the "sagging democratic culture" and the "suffocating political climate" in the country.

Speaking to reporters, the Chief Minister said, "I will not say much about the legality of the matter as I am not the right person to do that but I am certainly concerned about the process of arresting such a senior politician ... the way he was arrested," reminding, "he was the former Finance Minister and Home Minister of India and a senior parliamentarian" who deserved a dignified treatment.

The high drama around Chidambaram's arrest was not worth it, the Chief Minister said, adding, "the way his matter was handled was sad and bad. It was really very bad and made me extremely sad."

All the pillars of Indian democracy were under attack under the present Government, Banerjee said reminding how the "Indian democracy is in a bad shape. It is literally crying in the wilderness."



Incidentally, a number of Trinamool Congress leaders, including Ministers and MPs, were facing corruption charges and were being investigated by the central investigating agencies like the CBI and ED.

Condemning the way the former Union Minister was arrested, another Trinamool leader and Minister Firhad Hakim said "this Government will not allow the Opposition to thrive in India. They have decided to put all the dissenting voices behind the bars."

Attacking the Narendra Modi Government for taking the entire Opposition hostage, Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said "there is a deep-rooted conspiracy behind Chidambaram's

arrest. He is the person who has been challenging the Government's policies at various forums including parliament. He was exposing the Government through his columns in various Indian and foreign journals which they are finding difficult to counter, and so they have silenced him by putting him behind the bar."

Chowdhury also said that "the country is heading towards political insolvency and big economic slowdown against which this Government has no answer. In order to turn the people's attention from these burning issues they are creating new political drama ... but the Congress will take the issue to the people of India and fight it tooth and nail."

# CBI scaling walls of Chidambaram's home an insult to India: Stalin

Chennai: DMK president MK Stalin on Thursday lashed out at CBI officials for scaling the walls of Congress leader P Chidambaram's bungalow at Delhi on Wednesday to gain entry, saying he considered it as an "insult to India."

Stalin, whose DMK is an ally of the Congress, backed Chidambaram, reiterating his charge of "political vendetta" behind the former Union Minister's arrest.

"I saw on TV, the CBI officers scaling the walls (at Chidambaram's Delhi residence). I consider it as an insult to India. It is condemnable," he told reporters here.

On Wednesday, a CBI team had first knocked at the gates of Chidambaram's Jor Bagh residence to gain entry, but finding no response, had scaled the nearly five-ft high walls to get inside. Once three officers reached inside, they opened the gates to allow entry to other team members waiting outside.

Responding to a query on CBI's handling of the entire Chidambaram episode, Stalin recalled that he had already

dubbed it as "political vendetta" on Wednesday.

He said Chidambaram had appeared before the agencies concerned earlier when summoned by them in connection with the case.

Stalin also pointed out that the Supreme Court has decided to hear on Friday the Congress leader's petition, seeking a stay of the Delhi High Court order that had dismissed his anticipatory bail plea. "His arrest which has happened in the meantime has an intention of political vendetta," Stalin added.

Referring to the protest in Delhi over the Kashmir issue on Thursday, he said the struggle "led by the DMK" and attended by various political parties, including Congress, TMC, CPI(M) and NC, was a "success."

Restoration of normalcy in Jammu & Kashmir post abrogation of Art 370 of the Constitution, resumption of telecommunication services in the Valley and immediate release of all political leaders detained were the key demands made at the protest in the national capital, Stalin said. PTI

# Yediyurappa to meet BJP top leadership on portfolio allocation

Bengaluru: Having a tightrope to walk by pacifying disgruntled MLAs who missed out on Cabinet berth, coupled with allocation of portfolios to new Ministers, Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Thursday decided to consult BJP central leadership to deal with the situation.

Some disqualified former legislators of the Congress and JD(S) who helped bring down the coalition Government headed by HD Kumaraswamy reportedly are piling pressure on Yediyurappa, seeking their pound of flesh and plum portfolios.

"Today evening I will go to Delhi and meet our national President Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will come back tomorrow evening or the day after morning," Yediyurappa said.

Asked whether the allocation of portfolios would take place after his return from Delhi, Yediyurappa said: "Today we will discuss and take a decision."

More than three weeks after he was sworn in as the Chief Minister, Yediyurappa expanded his cabinet last Tuesday, inducting 17 Ministers.

Though the expansion brought an end to the nearly month long wait for the cabinet to take shape, it led to some heartburn in a section of the party as several MLAs continued to make no secret of their displeasure after missing the bus.

With several MLAs openly expressing displeasure over being left out, Yediyurappa has been making attempts to douse the embers, by reaching out to them.

The Chief Minister on Thursday too tried to pacify miffed legislators including

Sullia MLA Angara S, even as the Bunt community threatened protest citing lack of representation in the ministry, and Bovi community members staged protest in front of his residence seeking induction of a minister from their community.

Even as attempts are on to pacify sulking MLAs, a phone conversation between eight time Hukkeri MLA Umesh Katti, around whom several disgruntled MLAs are reportedly rallying, with Congress legislator party leader Siddaramaiah led to speculation about the former's next political move.

Speaking to a news channel Katti confirmed his talk with Siddaramaiah last night, but ruled out joining the Congress and clarified that he was with BJP.

"He (Siddaramaiah) called

me last night and addressed me as minister, I told him I'm not minister to which he said he was aware of it and hence called.

He is my good friend... I may meet whenever we are both are in Bengaluru. But, I'm not joining Congress leaving BJP, I'm 100 per cent in BJP," he added.

Yediyurappa has kept 16 ministerial posts vacant to accommodate some more BJP members and from among those 17 disqualified former legislators who helped him come to power.

However, the disqualified MLAs seeking plum portfolios is said to be causing delay in the allocation of portfolios for the new ministers, despite rooms being allotted to them at Vidhana Soudha, the state secretariat.

# Assam man held for threatening to kill Indian cricket players

Mumbai: The Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) of Maharashtra Police has arrested a man from Assam for allegedly threatening to kill Indian cricket players, an official said on Thursday.

Braja Mohan Das (19), resident of Shantipur in Morigaon district, was arrested by a team of ATS with the help of Assam police on Tuesday, the official said.

Das allegedly sent an e-mail to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on August 16, threatening to kill Indian cricket players, he said. The Mumbai ATS started probe as the cricket body has its headquarters in the city. The ATS registered a case under IPC section 506 (criminal intimidation).

The investigating agency traced the IP address from which the email had been sent to Das, and arrested him.

The ATS obtained his transit remand after producing him before a local court in Assam and brought him here.

Probe revealed that he had sent the same threatening mail to cricket boards of some other countries too.

The Mazgaon court here sent him in ATS custody till Monday, the official said, adding that further probe was on. PTI



Indian Air Force personnel who were involved in humanitarian and relief missions stand for a photograph at the headquarters of the South Western Air Command (SWAC) in Gandhinagar on Thursday

# Disbelief grips Chidambaram supporters in Sivaganga

Sivaganga (TN): A sense of disbelief and outrage was palpable among supporters of Congress leader P Chidambaram in and around his native village of Karaikudi in Sivaganga district over his arrest, even as a section of people expressed indifference and some outrightly opposed him.

The former Finance Minister was arrested by the CBI on Wednesday night from his residence in Delhi in connection with INX media corruption case.

In the sleepy hamlet of Kandanur, about 10 km from Karaikudi, though life appeared to go on as usual, the arrest of Chidambaram set tongues wag-

ging. Expressing disbelief, V Nelliyan told PTI "this is nothing but an act of political vendetta." Condemning the arrest, the young man, before proceeding to a protest demonstration held by Congress against the Centre, said the only hope was the judiciary.

"The vindictive action has incensed the common man," he claimed, adding that the courts would render justice and the BJP-led government would be exposed for targeting "an honest gentleman."

Similar was the response from a couple of others, including Rajaratnam and Avudayappan, who also lauded

the senior leader for maintaining "poise and cool" despite the government "perusing vindictive politics."

Congress functionary E M S Abhimanyu of nearby Tirupattur said this is a "brutal murder of democracy," adding the arrest was shocking.

"Iakiya Natarajan, a long-time associate of Chidambaram here expressed disbelief and shock over the former minister's arrest. "He is a respected Parliamentarian and a former Minister. What is the tearing urgency to arrest him by scaling the walls of his house? I just cannot believe that this can happen to him. I am shocked and outraged," he said.

G Vimal, who runs a construction material retail outlet in downtown Karaikudi said "Chidambaram is not a resident of our place. He is usually either in Chennai or Delhi. Only some party workers are agitated here and not the general public."

The trader alleged that the former Minister visited Karaikudi or Sivaganga only during elections.

A couple of men in the periphery of the very quiet Managiri, where the stately bungalow of Chidambaram is located though eager to know about the INX case declined to offer comments.

Sivaganga is the native constituency which Chidambaram

# BJP clocks 77 lakh membership in WB

Surpasses its 60L members target

Kolkata: Buoyed by its stupendous performance in the last Lok Sabha polls, the West Bengal BJP has clocked a record membership of 77 lakhs in the State, party leaders claimed on Thursday.

The Bengal BJP has surpassed the target set by the central leadership to enroll 60 lakhs members when the countrywide membership drive began on July 6, according to the party sources. "As per the latest data, the membership drive has been immensely successful in Bengal. The central leadership initially had set a target of 50 lakhs for Bengal, later it was increased to 60 lakhs. "But we have surpassed



that target too and with the membership drive closing on August 20, we have now 77 lakhs members across the State. It is indeed an achievement," BJP national secretary Rahul Sinha told reporters.

It is a massive jump from the membership campaign that was done a few years back when the party had managed to enroll 42 lakh members in its fold, he said.

Sinha said although the membership drive has closed in other parts of the country, but in a few states such as West Bengal, which are priority states for BJP, the exercise will continue till December this year. PTI

# MNS chief grilled by ED in money laundering case

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

MNS chief Raj Thackeray was grilled for more than eight hours by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials about his financial involvement in M/s Kohinoor CTNL which is being investigated for alleged irregularities in the IL&FS's loans-cum-investments case.

Raj, whose questioning by the ED officials began around 12 noon and continued till well past 8 pm, emerged out of the ED office at around 8.15 pm.

Raj, who looked a bit tired, waved once at the crowd gathered there and stepped inside his car without interacting with anybody and drove to his "Krishna Kunj" residence located near Shivaji Park at Dadar in north-central

Mumbai. When Raj returned to his residence at around 9 pm, a huge crowd had gathered there to greet him.

Given that he had also only co-operated but also spent quite some time with the investigating officials, official sources said that he would not be returning to ED office for further questioning on Friday.

The MNS chief, who had left from his Shivaji Park residence at 10.30 am along with his wife Sharmila, daughter Urvashi and son Amit, appeared before the ED officials an hour later.

Raj was responding to summons issued to him last week in connection with the investments that he had made in M/s Kohinoor CTNL, a company funded by former Maharashtra CM Manohar Joshi's son Unmesh Joshi. The

ED is investigating the alleged irregularities in the IL&FS's loans and investments worth over ₹860 crore in M/s Kohinoor CTNL. M/s Kohinoor CTNL has been under ED scanner for being a prominent defaulter of IL&FS, amounting to an estimated ₹135 crore.

Unmesh along with son along with IL&FS and Raj Thackeray-owned Matoshree Construction had in 2005 jointly had made a bid and bought for the NTPC's Kohinoor Mill's 4.8-acre property for ₹421 crore. In 2008, the IL&FS reneged from the deal and surrendered its shares for only ₹90 crore, as against an investment of ₹225 crore made in M/s Kohinoor CTNL. Following the IL & FS's exit, Raj also exited from the venture after selling his shares.

# Co-op Bank scam: HC orders FIR against Ajit Pawar, 70 others

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court directed police to register FIR against NCP leader Ajit Pawar and over 70 others in the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank scam on Thursday, observing that they seemed to have "complete knowledge" that their actions would cause a huge loss to the

bank. The court asked Mumbai police's Economic Offences Wing to register an FIR against the accused within five days. Prima facie there was "credible evidence" against the accused, it added. Pawar, PWP leader Jayant Patil and several former direc-

tors of the bank are accused of violating banking and RBI regulations while disbursing loans to sugar mills at very low rates and selling off assets of defaulter businesses at throw-away prices. Such sale of assets, disbursement of cheap loans and a failure to ensure repayment resulted in losses of

over Rs 1,000 crore to the bank between 2007 and 2011, it is alleged.

The accused also forged records and fudged figures to show the bank was making profits, it is alleged.

Pawar was a director of the bank during the relevant period. PTI

Inquiries by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and a charge sheet filed by a quasi-judicial inquiry commission under the Maharashtra Cooperative Societies Act had blamed Pawar and other accused for the bank's losses. PTI

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-Tender Notice	
Sr.DCM/NR/LKO acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites following E-Tenders closing date 11.09.2019 15:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc., are not allowed.	
NIT No.	C/113-Car Parking/RBL/18/SS Dated : 22.08.2019
Name of Work	Car Parking at Raebareilly Station over Lucknow Division for a period of three (03) years (A category).
Reserve Price (for first year)	Rs. 3,69,818/- (Rs. Three Lac Sixty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eighteen only)
Earnest Money	Rs.22,200/- (Rs. Twenty Two Thousand Two Hundred only)
Completion Period	03 years
Bidding Start Date	21.08.2019
Tender Closing Date and Time	11.09.2019 at 15:00 hrs.
Tender Opening Date and Time	11.09.2019 at 15:30 hrs.
Website	www.ireps.gov.in
Cost of Tender document form	Rs. 2,360/- (Rs. Two Thousand Three Hundred Sixty only) inclusive of GST @ 18%
Eligibility criteria	As detailed in Tender Document
Note:- "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of offers. Even sub-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void." 27/1719	
Serving Customers With A Smile	

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, DIVISION-FARRUKHABAD						
E-Tender Notice (Third Call)						
No.: 1430/R.E.D./Tender Notice/2019-20			Date : 19.08.2019			
1. The Executive Engineer, UP RED, Division-Farrukhabad on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved contractors registered with UP. RED, Class as the case may be.						
क्र. सं.	जनपद का नाम	कार्य का नाम	आंकलित धनराशि (लाख में)	बरोहर धनराशि (₹0 में)	निविदा मूल्य (₹0 में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (वर्ष) श्रद्धु सम्मिलित करते हुए)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
योजना-विधायक निधि वर्ष 2018-19।						
1	फर्रुखाबाद	श्री श्री एकेडमी लोहिया फार्म हाउस गंगा दरवाजा माधवपुर बड़पुर फर्रुखाबाद में दो शिक्षण कक्ष एवं बरामदे का निर्माण।	8.93	20000.00	2000+ GST	छ. माह
3- Date of Availability of bid documents on website : 27.08.2019 to 03.09.2019.						
4- Last date/time for receipt of bids through e-procurement : 03.09.2019 up to 12.00 Noon.						
5- Date for opening of Technical bids through e-procurement : 03.09.2019 at 12:30 PM.						
6- The employer has right to issue addendum/corrigendum as per on line which will not be published in any news paper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit e-tender portal regularly. For further details please log on <a href="http://tender.up.nic.in">http://tender.up.nic.in</a> and download the bid document.						
U.P.: 143127, Date : 21.08.2019 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट <a href="http://www.up.gov.nic.in">www.up.gov.nic.in</a> पर उपलब्ध है।						Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Department Division-Farrukhabad

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA					
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement					
Identification No. SEPHC-BHPT- 2 of 2019-20/ Dt. 17.08.2019					
e-Procurement Notice					
Name of the Work	Supply, Installation & Testing of House Service Connection to the Consumers of Different ULBs under PH Division, Bhanwanipatna				
Total No. Of works	2 (Two)				
Estimated Cost	Approx. Rs 90.00 lakhs to 106.00 lakhs				
Class of Contactor	B & A Class				
Period of Completion	3 Calendar Months				
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification	No. of works	Availability of Tender Online from Bidding	Date & time of opening of Bid	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, P.H. Circle, Bhanwanipatna	SEPHCBHPT-02 of 2019.20	02 (Two)	26.08.2019	12.09.2019	17.09.2019
For details can be seen from the Government website <a href="http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in">www.tendersorissa.gov.in</a>					
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, P.H. Circle, Bhanwanipatna					
13055/11/0002/1920					

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES			
ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110 608			
Admission Notice No. 67/2019			
AIIMS-DM/M.Ch/MD (Hospital Administration) & Fellowship Programme			
JANUARY, 2020 SESSION			
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites Online applications for Entrance Examination leading to admission in Post-Doctoral [DM/M.Ch.(3 years)/MD (Hospital Administrations) & Fellowship Programme] of AIIMS, New Delhi for January, 2020 session.			
Online Registration for applications			
Course	Institutions	Opens on	Closes on
DM/M.Ch.(3 years)&MD (Hospital Administration)	AIIMS-New Delhi and other AIIMS	03.09.2019	23.09.2019 at 5:00 PM
Fellowship Programme	AIIMS-New Delhi only	11.09.2019	01.10.2019 at 5:00 PM
Date of Entrance Examination			
Course	Date of Exams.	Duration of Exam.	Exam Centre
DM/M.Ch.(3 years)& MD (Hospital Administration)	03.11.2019 (Sunday)	10.00 AM to 11:30 AM	4 Metro cities in India (Delhi/NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai)
Fellowship Programme	09.11.2019 (Saturday)	10.00 AM to 11:00 AM	Delhi/NCR
Important For Prospectus, detailed information etc. please visit the website <a href="http://www.aiimsexams.org">www.aiimsexams.org</a> . All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website.			
ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS)			
davp 17112/11/0041/1920			

# Restrictions eased in most Kashmir areas

Market still shut and mobile services suspended

**Srinagar:** Restrictions were eased in most areas of Kashmir with barricades being lifted and the movement of people and traffic increasing gradually, but markets remained shut and mobile and internet services suspended for the 18th day on Thursday.

Officials said the situation was peaceful and no untoward incident was reported from anywhere in the Kashmir Valley on Wednesday.

In view of the improving situation, the movement of people and traffic was slowly increasing in the city and other district headquarters of the Valley, they said.

Public transport stayed off the roads, but a few inter-dis-



A boy jumps from a boat in the waters of Dal Lake, covered with weeds for being unattended for days due to restrictions, in Srinagar on Thursday

trict cabs and auto-rickshaws were seen plying in some areas.

The attendance of teachers in schools up to middle class-level and employees in government offices was also improving. However, most students

stayed away due to the prevailing situation, they added. The Government ordered the reopening of primary schools across the Valley from Monday and middle schools from Wednesday.

The officials said restrictions have been eased in several areas of Kashmir, including in most parts of Srinagar.

Barricades have been removed from uptown and civil lines areas of the city as

well as from most areas in other districts. However, the deployment of security forces continues to avoid any law and order problems, they said.

The officials said markets were shut in most places in the Valley, as they have been since August 5 when the Centre revoked Jammu & Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and bifurcated the state into two Union territories — Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh. Shops and other business establishments remain shut though there is no strike call by any separatist group or other organisation.

Mobile services and internet remain suspended, the officials said, adding that landline telephone services have been restored at most places.

However, they continue to be suspended in several areas, including in Srinagar's commercial hub of Lal Chowk and Press Enclave.

PTI

# 700 eminent Kashmiri Pandits support Centre's decision on Article 370: Panun Kashmir

**Jammu:** Convener of Panun Kashmir, an organisation advocating the cause of displaced Kashmiri Pandits, Agnishekhar released a memorandum on Thursday in support of the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 and said that over 700 eminent Kashmiri Pandits have endorsed it.

He claimed that all Kashmiri Pandits are on one page in support of the Centre scrapping provisions of Article 370 "to pave the way for a new dawn of free environment in Jammu & Kashmir".

"Over 700 top Kashmiri Pandits, including Padma Shri awardees, vice-chancellors, academicians and doctors, across the world have signed a memorandum in support of the abrogation of provisions of

Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu & Kashmir," Agnishekhar told reporters here.

He said that Panun Kashmir was battling strongly for a Union Territory for the Kashmiri Pandits... And the demand has been finally met.

"It was an outcome of the struggle of Panun Kashmir for last 30 years. We welcome the decision of the Central government," Agnishekhar said.

Panun Kashmir Chairman Ajay Chhurgoo said that some Kashmiri Pandits, giving statements opposing the decision of the government of India do not represent Kashmiri Pandits at all.

"We condemn them... They do not represent any of Kashmiri Pandit organisation," he said.

# AMU student arrested over Modi poster on Facebook



**Aligarh (UP):** An Aligarh Muslim University student was arrested after his Facebook page showed an objectionable poster on Prime Minister Narendra Modi carried recently by anti-India protesters in London, police said.

Mohammad Zaid Rashid (20), admitted at the university's off-campus centre in Bihar's Kishanganj this year, was here when he downloaded a picture from the protests over the scrapping of the special status for Jammu & Kashmir.

Some former AMU students complained online to the police after Rashid's post surfaced on social media.

In their complaint on Tuesday they alleged that the poster had been put up on the AMU campus here, but the local police and the AMU authorities found that this was not correct.

They traced the local address of the youth, a resident of the city's Hamdard Nagar.

AMU spokesman Shafiq Kidwai said the incident was wrongly linked to the campus in Aligarh.

"We found that the youth had just been admitted to the off-campus centre in Bihar. We promptly traced him to his residence and filed an FIR," he told reporters.

"We will take further appropriate action in this matter after the investigation is complete," he said. Senior Superintendent of Police Akash Kulhari said a case under the IT Act and for promoting social discord has been filed against Rashid.

# ISRO releases first Moon image captured by Chandrayaan-2

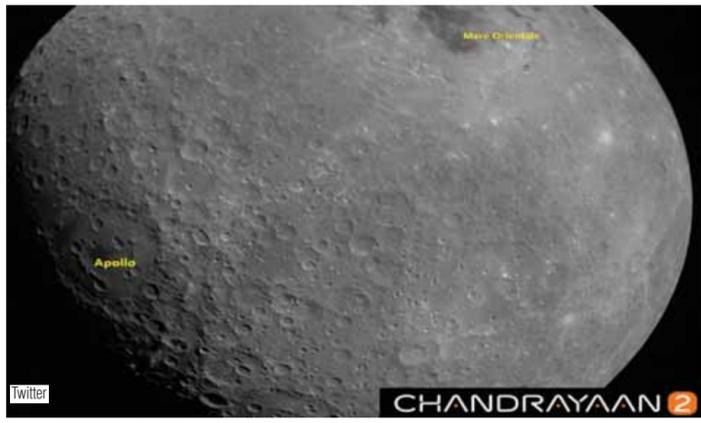
**Bengaluru:** The first picture of Moon captured by India's Chandrayaan-2 satellite, currently in the lunar orbit, was released by space agency ISRO on Thursday.

The picture of Moon was taken by Chandrayaan-2's L14 Camera from an altitude of about 2,650 km from the lunar surface on August 21, the city-headquarters Indian Space Research Organisation said.

"Take a look at the first Moon image captured by #Chandrayaan2 #VikramLander taken at a height of about 2,650 km from Lunar surface on August 21, 2019. Mare Orientale basin and Apollo craters are identified in the picture," ISRO tweeted along with the picture.

The space agency had on August 4 released a first set of images of the earth captured by Chandrayaan-2 satellite.

ISRO had on Wednesday performed second lunar bound orbit maneuver for Chandrayaan-2 and said all spacecraft parameters are normal. There will be three more orbit manoeuvres before the lander's separation from the Orbiter on September 2 and eventual soft landing in the south polar region of the Moon, planned on September 7. India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV MkIII-M1, had successfully launched the 3,840-kg Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into the earth's orbit on July 22.



Twitter

### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DCM/NR/LKO acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites following E-Tenders closing date **11-09-2019 15:00**. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. **Manual offers are not allowed against this tender**, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

N.I.T. No.	C/113-Cycle Stand & Car Parking/PLP18/SS Dated 22-08-2019
Name of work	Cycle Stand & Car parking at Phulpur of Lucknow Division for a period of three (03) years ('B' category).
Reserve Price (for first year)	Rs. 4,70,359/- (Rs. Four Lac Seventy Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Nine only)
Earnest Money	Rs. 2,84,000/- (Rs. Two Lac Eighty Four Thousand only)
Completion Period	03 years
Bidding Start Date	21-08-2019
Tender Closing Date and Time	11-09-2019 at 15:00 hrs.
Tender Opening Date and Time	11-09-2019 at 15:30 hrs.
Website	www.ireps.gov.in
Cost of Tender document form	Rs. 3,540/- (Rs. Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty only) inclusive of GST @18%
Eligibility Criteria	As detailed in Tender Document

Note:- No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of offers. Even suo-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void.

2718/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

#### PC IN CBI...

Mehta countered the arguments put forth by Chidambaram's lawyers stating that everybody was equal before the court. Mehta said certain facts about the case cannot be narrated in an open court and also opposed the plea that Chidambaram be allowed to argue for himself, saying he has able lawyers representing him. Mehta, during his initial arguments, said that Chidambaram entered into a criminal conspiracy with others in the scam. "He is not cooperating in the investigation," Mehta said. Chidambaram has been evasive in replies and grave offence was committed, he further said, adding it is a serious and monumental case of money laundering. He also said Chidambaram's custodial interrogation was necessary to unearth the "quid pro quo and larger conspiracy" and he is required to be confronted with documents. Opposing CBI's arguments, Sibal contended that what the agency has said should not be taken as "gospel truth". Sibal said Chidambaram was asked 12 questions and he had already answered six of them previously. Investigators don't know what to ask and they don't have questions ready with them, Sibal told the court.

After his arrest on Wednesday night, Chidambaram was interrogated only on Thursday morning at 11 am, he said.

During the arguments, Chidambaram said he has not slept for last 24 hours. Sibal further argued that CBI could have written a letter to Chidambaram for producing the documents alleged to be in his possession and the agency

### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DCM/NR/LKO acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites following E-Tenders closing date **20.09.2019, 15:00**. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. **Manual offers are not allowed against this tender**, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

N.I.T. No.	C/189-01/2019-20/LKO/DK Dt. 22.08.2019
Name of work	Mechanized cleaning work at Lucknow Railway Station.
Approximate Cost	Rs. 24,87,85,275/- (Rupees Twenty four crore eighty seven lakh eighty five thousand two hundred seventy five thousand)
Earnest Money	Rs. 13,93,900/- (Rupees Thirteen lakh ninety three thousand nine hundred only).
Completion Period	Four Years (1460) days
Tender Closing Date and Time	20.09.2019, 15:00 hrs.
Tender opening date and Time	20.09.2019, 15:30 hrs.
Website	www.ireps.gov.in
Cost of Tender document form	Rs. 11,800/- (Including 18% GST) per tender form
Eligibility criteria	As detailed in Tender Document

Note:- No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of offers. Even suo-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void.

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

cannot say he was evasive during the investigation. Contending that what has been stated in the CBI case diary was not the truth, Sibal said it cannot be considered as evidence. Mehta, during his arguments, placed the Delhi High Court's judgement dismissing Chidambaram's anticipatory bail plea and also referred to the observations made in it. He said chargesheet has not been filed in the case yet and the case is at pre-chargesheet stage, therefore, "we need material which Chidambaram is holding". "Effective investigation is possible only in custodial interrogation," he argued. Mehta contended that serious, active and informed role of the accused is made out and money trail is made out and has to be probed. Chidambaram's custodial interrogation is required to get answer of certain questions for effective probe, he said. Soon after entering the courtroom at Rouse Avenue, 73-year-old Chidambaram was seen having discussion with his party leaders and senior advocates Sibal, Singhvi and Vivek Tankha. Chidambaram's family members, including his wife Nalini and son Karti, were also present in the court during the hearing. The CBI had registered an FIR on May 15, 2017, alleging irregularities in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance granted to the INX Media group for receiving overseas funds of Rs 305 crore in 2007 during Chidambaram's tenure as the Finance Minister. Following the CBI case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had registered a money laundering case in 2018 in this connection. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court sent Chidambaram's plea challenging the Delhi High Court verdict dismissing his anticipatory bail plea in the case for hearing before a Bench headed by Justice R Banumathi.

### Section 1 Office of the Superintending Engineer Rural Engineering Department Circle-Azamgarh

Address:- 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Mandaleey vikas Bhawan, Sidhari-Azamgarh, Pincode-276001

#### E-Procurement Notice(Short Term) 4<sup>th</sup> call

Letter NO: 733/RED/CI/Azm/Tender/File No-10/ST/2019-20/dated: 17-08-2019

1. THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE AZAMGARH on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through e-tendering system from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B, and C as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works.

S. N.	Name of District/Contiguency	Name of work	Total estimated cost (in Lakh)	Bid security (EMD) in Lakh	Period of completion including rainy season
1	Azamgarh/Phoolpur/Powai	Construction of Interlocking Block Pavement From Prajapati Basti to House of Kripa Shankar Paney At Village- Gaddopur.	46.31	0.93	Eight Months

3. Cost of Each Bid documents (Including GST) Rs. :- 2714.00  
4. Date of availability of Bid documents on website :- 27.08.2019  
5. Last Date/Time for receipt of bid through e-procurement : 02-09-2019 up to 12:00 Noon  
6. Date of opening of bids through e-procurement : 02-09-2019 at 12:30 pm.  
7. The Employer has right to issue addendum/condition as per ITB clause-10 on-line which will not be published in any news paper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit e-tender portal regularly. For further details please log on to <https://etender.up.nic.in> and download the bid document.

(Er. V.K. Singh Gaur)  
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
CIRCLE AZAMGARH  
For and On behalf of Governor of UP

UP : 143100 Date 21.8.2019  
बिज्ञान वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

#### PAK RECRUITS...

Sustained operations have seen the leadership of nearly all local terrorists neutralised and the shelf-life of local militants now ranges from three days to four months. In this backdrop, Pakistan is determined to raise the violence level by pushing in Afghan fighters, they said adding a recruitment drive to rope them in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK). Moreover, the proscribed JeM last week conducted a sort of refresher course in Mansera in Pakistan to motivate the terrorists to wage war against India, officials said.

Moreover, the firing pattern as part of ceasefire viola-

# ACTIVIST BLAMES MAHA GOVT Flood lines of river Panchganga 'redefined' to provide benefits to construction sector

**Pune:** An activist from Pune has blamed the Maharashtra Government for the recent deluge in Kolhapur, alleging that flood lines of the Panchganga river there were "redefined" to provide benefits to the construction sector.

Hundreds of villages in Kolhapur and neighbouring Sangli were flooded after heavy rains earlier this month. While 55 people died in flood and rain-related incidents, lakhs were evacuated in these western Maharashtra districts.

Environmentalist Sarang Yadwadkar, who claimed to have accessed some documents through RTI, said around 500 hectares land along the Panchganga river, which should have been in the flood-affected area (prohibited zone), was marked as residential zone in Kolhapur's development plan (DP) by "redefining" the flood lines. There are two types of flood lines - blue for the flood level that occurs once in 25 years and the red for that happens once in 100 years, he said.

"The irrigation department issued a circular in 1989 to mark the flood lines for all rivers in Maharashtra, but it was ignored. Instead of the flood lines, flood levels (general level of a particular flood) were marked and these levels were later superimposed on the DP maps of Kolhapur," he claimed. In one of the cases in 2015, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) issued directives to the irrigation department to mark both the flood lines over rivers across the state, the activist claimed.

"The irrigation department started the survey work in 2017 and by 2018 it identified the flood lines (considering water flow at 2.14 lakh cusec for blue line and 3.22 lakh cusec for red line) for the Panchganga river and submitted it to the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay," he said.

He said the IIT Bombay also verified the report and stated that the flood lines were correct.

But, when the Kolhapur chapter of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers

Association of India (CREDAI) came to know about it, it found around 500 hectares land going below the blue line and by default becoming a 'no development' zone, Yadwadkar said.

The CREDAI, Kolhapur, in October 2018 wrote a letter to the chief minister, stating that the work of demarcation of flood lines is done by a private agency, Yadwadkar said.

"It also stated that the 1989 flood-level is marked on the DP and as the flood that year was the largest, it was pointless to mark new flood lines. It stated that new flood lines will create confusion and unrest among people," he said.

He said the CREDAI also stated in its letter that colonies and apartments were developed on most of the portion falling under the new flood lines.

### उत्तर प्रदेश कर्मचारी कल्याण निगम

742, जवाहर भवन, लखनऊ

संख्या: 1460WB/वर्तीस-2019 लखनऊ दिनांक: 22.08.2019

#### विज्ञापित

उ०प्र० राज्य कर्मचारी कल्याण निगम द्वारा खरीफ विपणन वर्ष 2019-20 के लिए उ०प्र० के विभिन्न जनपदों में हेक्टर्स/परिचलन ठेकेदारों का पंजीकरण किया जाना है। इसका ठेकेदार पंजीकरण हेतु दिनांक 24.08.2019 से आवेदन प्रस्तुतिका निगम मुख्यालय में रु० 11800.00 (रु० एक हजार एक सौ अस्सी मात्र) जमा कर प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। सम्पूर्ण औपचारिकताओं सहित पूर्णरूप से भरे हुए आवेदन-पत्र दिनांक 20.09.2019 तक पंजीकरण शुल्क रु० 10000.00 (रु० दस हजार मात्र) सहित अपराह्न 03:00 बजे तक निगम मुख्यालय पर स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। निगम मुख्यालय में पंजीकृत हेक्टर्स/परिचलन ठेकेदार जिले स्तर पर उक्त से सम्बन्धित ई-टेंडर प्रक्रिया में भाग लेने के पात्र हो सकेंगे।

अधिकाारी निदेशक

### NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

Office of The Sr. DMM/North Central Railway, Allahabad

No.-Sr. DMM/ALD/2019 Dated: 08.08.2019

#### E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 08/2019

The complete details of the Stores tender issued from the office of Sr. DMM/North Central Railway/Allahabad are uploaded on IREPS portal ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)) E-tender notice for Stores tenders will not be published in the newspapers by the office of Sr. DMM/North Central Railway/Allahabad any more. Firm's desirous to participate in the tenders of this office may visit IREPS portal ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)) regularly after registering themselves on IREPS portal and submit their e-bids on this portal only.

Sr. DMM/North Central Railway/ Allahabad

North central railway @CPRONCR 1196/19(K)

### NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

#### E-Tender Notice

Dated: 19.08.2019

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W), Allahabad, North Central Railway, Allahabad invites Open E-TENDER in prescribed forms from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned works up to 15.00 hrs. of Date of opening of tender:

S. N.	E-Tender No.	Name of Work	Bidding System	Approx. Cost (₹)	Earnest Money(₹)
1	NCR-M-ALD-BT-12-19	Road transportation of coach Bogie with wheel set from Sick line ALD to different C & W workshop and Overhauled Coach Bogie with wheel set from different C & W workshop to Sick line ALD for three year.	Two packet system	30902452.8	304500/-
2	NCR-M-ALD-ROC-20-19	Refurbishment of Coach No. NC 181991 LOMS of ALD Division.	Single packet system	4081784.36	81600/-

**Cost of Tender Form:** ₹10000/- for S.N. 1 and ₹3000/- for S.N. 2 **Period of work:** 03 years for S.N. 1 and 06 Months for S.N. 2 **Date of publishing on IREPS website:** 28.08.2019 for S.N. 1 and 28.08.2019 for S.N. 2 **Date of Opening of Tender:** 19.09.2019 for S.N. 1 and 17.09.2019 for S.N. 2 **Similar work definition for minimum Eligibility Criteria:** "Transportation of trolley with wheel sets/wheel sets/Railway material for Indian Railway OR Transportation of heavy material for large reputed industrial houses preferably in Automobiles/Engineering/Airlines sector." for S.N. 1 and NA for S.N. 2 **Note:-** 1. The complete information along with tender booklet of above E-Tenders will be available/uploaded since Date of publishing on IREPS website and shall be remained on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in), upto 15:00 hrs. On the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. This tender notice have been uploaded on [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in). 6. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of e-Tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. **For S.N. 1-** MSEs registered with District Industries Centres, Khadi and village industries commission, Khadi and Village Industries Board, Coir Board, National small Industries Corporation, Directorate of Handicraft and Handloom, any other body specified by Ministry of MSME or Startups as Recognized by department of Industrial policy & Promotion for items tendered shall be exempted from payment of minimum EMD detailed in the bid and shall be supplied such tender document free of cost on confirmation (Xerox copy) of their evidence to this effect. **For S.N. 2-** Any firm recognized by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) as 'startups' shall be exempted from payment of earnest money deposit detailed above. 7. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 8. On line E-tender can be submitted upto 15.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening.

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North central railway [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @CPRONCR

## Trumping logic

The US President's attempt to buy Greenland and call off his Danish visit for being rebuffed is outrageous



US President Donald Trump has got away with making bewildering, puzzling and impossible statements by virtue of the high office he holds, giving his administration officials heartburn whether to treat them as an American sitcom joke or interpret them as layered diplomacy. For they simply cannot leave the words hanging there, especially when they impact relations between nations. Now that the world's most important man has escalated an international spat, by calling off his trip to Denmark

because its Prime Minister rejected his idea to buy Greenland as an absurdity, eggs are splattered all over their faces. One, Denmark is well within its rights to decide on Greenland, its semi-autonomous Arctic island with a 50,000 plus population, and air views on its territorial sovereignty whenever anybody tries to belittle it. And Trump is trying to grab it by standards of a defunct barter economy, proposing an outright land deal. But to be told off by the US President, who impetuously threatens a hitback with comments like "nasty" and "You don't talk to the United States that way, at least under me," can assume serious proportions, considering that Trump has not only upended conventions but has also followed through with his absurd statements with a fair bit of doggedness and whimsy. This has surprised Denmark all the more because it is a key partner in the North Atlantic alliance, and was among the first countries to pledge military support in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 40 Danish troops died in Helmand province, fighting alongside American and British soldiers. So it certainly doesn't deserve this blow-off.

Of course, the world's largest island comes with its strategic value in the Arctic region. Global warming and melting ice caps are making Greenland more accessible for harnessing potential oil and mineral resources. All the big powers — Russia, China, the US, Canada — are in a tussle to stake their claim on Arctic lands, hoping to own and leverage future riches. But would the US go so far with its Nordic conquest as to sink its perennial allies like the Titanic? Of course, the *Washington Post* reported that Trump had been peddling the idea for weeks and had "even discussed taking over Denmark's annual \$600 million subsidy to Greenland in perpetuity, and possibly tossing in an additional large payment to sweeten the deal." Considering that the US already has a military base in Denmark, one fails to understand the urgency of land acquisition. For by cancelling his trip, he has upset the royal household, which had formally invited Trump. He has also upset climatologists and scientists who say Greenland's massive ice sheet has seen one of its biggest melts on record this summer and economic exploitation would only worsen the scenario. Though this may not break down the cordial relations with the US yet, its Prime Minister assuring continuity despite the cancellation of Trump's visit, Danes have been put off by what they call a "farfetched" and "grotesque" behaviour. Some observers have also speculated that Trump was looking for a pretext to call off his visit considering his predecessor Barack Obama was also scheduled to visit the country and enjoys more popularity and the former didn't want to appear dwarfed by comparison. But to go so far out, no matter what the strategic or personal intent, only makes the US fall from grace globally and its allies question the price of loyalty. For long, the US has been perceived as a global bully, can it afford to be more obnoxious now? Most importantly, nobody thought that Greenlanders should be asked what they want considering many wonder if Trump indeed remembered the location of Greenland from his geography lessons.

## Saving the economy

Scapegoats for the economic contagion will be found, but that there is a problem remains a fact



To be fair to Indian policy-makers, it is true that the economic slowdown is impacting countries across the world, and they could potentially use that as a crutch to explain away India's current problems. That would be wrong, because while global issues do impact India, particularly Indian exports, the fact is that the Indian economy is more self-contained than most people imagine. Besides many of our problems have been created by a combination of poor policy, poor implementation

and poor management. It is also true that a lot of the current trouble with reduced credit offtake can be traced back to the profligacy of banks during the UPA era, with politically connected people getting loans at extremely favourable terms. However, the task of fixing the mess has meant that the banks are now at the other extreme and routinely turn down loan requests even to viable corporations and entrepreneurs as well as private individuals. Yes, the fiasco of demonetisation and the chaotic implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) have a role to play in the situation that India finds herself in, but it is the extreme reticence of banks to lend money that is causing the contagion to worsen. Banks are rightly scared, and they will need assurance from the Government and the bureaucracy that they will not be punished for business failures. Now the RBI Governor's statement that our service sector is sluggish and the trough is a combination of multiple factors only deepens the sense of foreboding.

A lot of reassurance will need to come from smart policy makers, and there is seemingly a lack of smartness when it comes to economic and industrial policy. Half-baked ideas, such as the talk of abolishing income tax, a wet dream of certain 'economists' are being talked about. On the other hand, half-baked ideas such as additional surcharges on income tax for high income earners became a reality in the budget but papers lack details on having sums unaccounted for. The Economic Survey in parts reads like a theological text rather than what it was meant to be. The Government really needs to bring in some proper experts, even if those people might be opposed to some of the policies followed by the Government in other areas. There is no doubt that the Indian economy is a challenge, we have a lot of poor people and they have to be taken care of. However, the best way to do that is to ensure employment and grow the economy so that incomes rise across the board and social sector spending can also improve. It is a challenge that requires the cumulative brainpower of thousands of economists, statisticians and social scientists. The alacrity with which this government is dealing with national security issues is welcome but frankly it needs to show that concern for a sputtering economy and the fallout of lower growth, or perish the thought, a recession, could be more severe than any of us can imagine.

# Culling corruption

While this issue is huge, it is not insurmountable. We can at least start adopting a different approach to tackle it by bringing about behavioural change



AJOY KUMAR

India's reputation as one of the world's most corrupt bureaucracies is well-documented. On the Corruption Perceptions Index, India ranks 78th and this outlook is with merit and cause. What is surprising, however, is that the civil services examination and the post of a civil servant are still one that attracts great attention and fanfare. Any aspirant, who "cracks" the examination, is treated with great respect. This is, perhaps, why lakhs of young aspirants spend days together, working towards the goal of being part of the Indian bureaucracy.

A large number of these students are from prestigious institutes like the Indian Institute of Technology and various National Law Schools, among others. As a former civil servant, I find that this desire to join the civil services, surprisingly, has not dwindled. A few pessimists would say that these young aspirants join the bureaucracy to extract their pound of flesh. As Theodore Roosevelt said, "A man who has never gone to school may steal a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad." But levity aside, I think this is unduly harsh and frankly not true. In fact, as is true in most avenues of life, corruption in the Indian bureaucracy, too, follows the Pareto principle (also known as the 80/20 rule) that is 80 per cent of all corruption in the bureaucracy is carried out by 20 per cent of the people. The problem is to identify and punish this 20 per cent, which is bringing the entire country and the service immense shame and disrepute.

Corruption has no rigid definition, but the most common academic connotation, which defines it as "the misuse of public office for private gain", seems to be the most appropriate. While most times the media appears to cover the "headline" scandals and/or instances of corruption — ie, the kind of scams that attract most eyeballs — rarely do we realise just what the magnitude of everyday corruption is in our country. Transparency International estimates that Indians end up paying bribes of over ₹21,000 crore (approx \$3.5 billion) every year to access Government services. Therefore, there are different types of corruption, which differ from service to service. MR Venkatesh, a Chartered Accountant-turned lawyer, said it best in these lines, "IAS officers are after the rich people, IRS officers are after the middle class and IPS officers are after the poor. This is the new *varnashrama* created by the bureaucracy." While this looks like oversimplifying a complex issue, the crux of the problem does ring true.

So what are the causes of corruption? There are a number of people who have endlessly theorised on the reasons why the Indian bureaucracy suffers from corruption. One such reason is the country's complex legal and regulatory framework. India remains an extremely difficult place to do business. To set up or operate any business here, an entrepreneur or businessman has to jump through various



hoops and then hope to gain favour from the relevant bureaucrat even before starting his/her business. It is, therefore, no coincidence that India's low ranking on the Corruption Perceptions Index corresponds with its low position in the World Bank's indicators for doing business.

Just to give an idea about the ease of doing business in India, according to a World Bank survey, the act of obtaining a single construction permit in India involves 27 discrete procedures, takes 162 days and costs 46 per cent of the total outlay to a construction firm building a warehouse. The keyword here is "discretion." The minute it is brought in, the corrupt official gets an opportunity to make a quick buck.

Another reason as to why corruption persists in our country is the lack of respect towards entrepreneurs and businessmen. While we often get to hear praises about a Narayana Murthy or an Azim Premji, these examples are an exception rather than the norm. This because we, as Indians, have been encouraged to treat a business as an entity that makes money by stealing someone else's buck. This is why any new business is looked at with suspicion first and then with admiration. While the conduct of some Indian promoters does

indicate that there is some truth to this perception, our lack of openness and admiration towards entrepreneurs does the country more harm than good.

So what can be done? We need to change our attitudes towards businesses. There is no denying the fact that there should be a strict framework within which all businesses flourish. However, a strict framework does not necessarily mean that any new business ought to be treated with contempt. For example, it is important that every business operates within the realm of the law and obtains all relevant approvals. However, bureaucrats must not be given any reason to place more hurdles in helping them establish a business than those that are already present. It is evident that this Government needs cash and, therefore, is on a tax collection spree. However, in the long-run, it is impossible for any Government to collect taxes if it continues to act in a targeted and adversarial manner. It is, therefore, crucial for the Government to intimate and drive home the point to bureaucrats that their role is to facilitate the lives of honest citizens rather than acting as impediments.

Another way to mitigate the effects of corruption is to improve information dissemination

and use technology. While the former is crucial and must be encouraged with zeal, the latter must be approached with greater care in a country like India where technology is really only to the benefit of a few rather than most. The best example of how this can provide benefit is the recent change in the law which allows drivers to carry scanned copies of their driving licences and RCs. Most people, however, have not heard about this change in the rules.

I have personally heard of many stories of traffic cops taking bribes from unassuming drivers merely because they tell them that they are required to carry physical copies of their documents. In such a case if people are informed about the change in rules and technology is used meaningfully, instances of bribes will automatically be reduced.

While the problem of corruption is huge, we can at least start adopting a different approach to tackle it. Bringing about a change in mindset will be of great help. This should be coupled with other innovative solutions. With these changes, I think, we will find that the problem of corruption is not as insurmountable as we think.

(The writer is former president of Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee)

ANOTHER WAY TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION IS TO IMPROVE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND USE TECHNOLOGY. WHILE THE FORMER IS CRUCIAL AND MUST BE ENCOURAGED, THE LATTER MUST BE APPROACHED WITH GREATER CARE

## SOUNDBITE

Sometimes the process is incorrect. I am not talking about the legality. The way his (Chidambaram's) matter has been handled is depressing.



West Bengal Chief Minister —Mamata Banerjee

You get this feeling of doubt, that do you remember even to act? I was also going through that stage. Not a very good frame of mind.



Actor —Suniel Shetty

Countries like India, Iran, Russia and Turkey would have to fight against terrorists in Afghanistan at some point of time.



US President —Donald Trump

He (Modi) talks in a language that connects him with the people. If you are going to demonise him all the time, you are not going to be able to confront him.



Congress leader —Jairam Ramesh

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Save the forests

Sir — It is a matter of concern that there has been a 83 per cent increase in forest fires in the Amazon rainforest area in Brazil. Conservationists have blamed Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro for its plight, saying that he encouraged loggers and farmers to clear the land. Bolsonaro on the other hand has blamed non-governmental organisations, saying that they may have set the fires to embarrass his Government after it's decision to cut funding for them. Ironically, Bolsonaro has no evidence to support his claim.

Spread across millions of hectares in multiple countries, the Amazon basin not only hosts massive sinks of carbon that helps bring down the pace of global warming but is also home to three million species. The situation today is depressing. First and foremost, the Brazilian Government must realise the need to protect the forests. The international community must put diplomatic pressure on Brazil to convince it on the need to protect the forests and also help it seek higher funds.

Tanisha Shrivastava  
Ujjain

### Idea of India needs fresh outlook

This refers to the article, "Reunification of India a necessity" (August 21) by Markandey Katju. The learned writer has put forth a very noble idea, the successful implementation and sustainability of which will be a boon for the entire sub-continent. However, a look back into the history of Partition of India will reveal that ground realities are different and do not offer much hope on the lines of Vietnam or Germany or Italy where, unlike India's religious bigotry, differences were political in nature. In this connection, I would like to make two points.

First, noting the facts of history and the extent of communal discord in the country during the last 70 years, it will be incorrect to put the blame of India's Partition entirely on the British. At best, it can be said that the British took advantage of communal discord. In this connection, it would be worthwhile to recollect what Mahatma Gandhi had said during a prayer meet on the day the vital decision of Partition was taken. He said: "It is no use blaming the Viceroy for Partition. Look to yourselves and in your hearts for an explanation of what has happened." Second, it will also be worth recalling that the seeds of Two-Nation Theory were sown in the 19th Century. Ironically, after the formation of the Indian National Congress (INC), the queering pitch for Independence raised alarm bells in the minds of Muslims



at the prospect of being ruled by the Hindu majority. It is, thus, a deep-rooted problem which requires extraordinary efforts in cleansing the heart and mind. We would, therefore, do well to accept the reality and create an atmosphere of open heartedness where grievances are brought out in the open and healed forever so that the noble idea of unification of India can be achieved. Sadly, this has not happened so far and things have remained camouflaged in political language and interference.

BP Srivastava  
Noida

### Damage already done

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Chidambaram in a spot" (August 22). After a day-long drama, P Chidambaram did

show up for a surprise Press conference at the Congress headquarters, but by then, the damage had been done. During the Press conference, he claimed that no formal chargesheet was filed against him in the INX

Media case and that there was no question of him evading the law.

Had Chidambaram said the same thing after the Delhi High Court rejected his bail plea, he would have done much good not

only to himself but also to his party. The Congress leadership, too, had been crying hoarse, terming the action taken against Chidambaram a "political witch hunt" but the High Court has sound evidence against him. The case against him appears to be water-tight. All eyes are now on the courts. Only time will uncover the truth but certainly, the Congress has further lost credibility among the masses.

Jai Prakash Gupta  
Ambala Cantt

### Clarity needed

Sir — This refers to the article, "Upping deterrence ante?" (August 22) by Vivek Mishra. The Government must come clear if it is contemplating a change in its 'No First Use' policy to checkmate Pakistan or is this just another exercise to make the people believe that it can go to any extent to protect the nation's interests? This issue demands wider debate and discussion.

Karthik  
Via email

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Disable the plastic bomb

An awareness campaign in regional languages, riding on social media platforms, must be undertaken by the Centre and pushed down to the panchayat level



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

**M**ariam, an orphaned, baby dugong died somewhere in Thai waters this week. While she lived, 'Sleepyhead', so fondly nicknamed by the social media, ensured engaging moments for millions of her fans. Sadly, Mariam's life story ended tragically with her demise due to intestinal blockage caused by plastic waste. The little marine creature's suffering once again put the spotlight on the grave issue of plastic debris polluting our oceans.

A ticking bomb, that will inevitably lead to our destruction, microplastics, particles that are smaller than five millimeters, are making their way into our food and drinking water, yet, very little prevents us from asking the vegetable vendor for a plastic carry bag.

Let's take a look at some eye-popping statistics in order to understand the magnitude of the problem that we, with our callous attitude towards the environment, have created.

It is estimated that an average Indian ingests around five grams of microplastic every week, the equivalent of a credit card. A study conducted a few years ago by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) found that major Indian cities generate nearly 4,100 tons of plastic waste daily, which for the whole country translates to nearly 30,000 tons per day, out of which Delhi tops the chart at nearly 700 tons of plastic waste generated daily.

According to estimates, nearly 90 per cent of this untreated and non-recyclable plastic ends up in the soil, forests, mountains, landfills and oceans, harming humans and unsuspecting birds, marine creatures, cows and other animals.

Given the detrimental impact of plastic waste on human lives, particularly children, our oceans and the planet at large, it is commendable that a clarion call to defuse this bomb has come from Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself. Modi, during his Independence Day address urged citizens to eliminate single-use plastic and use cloth and jute bags instead. He asked for the first big step in this direction to be taken from October 2, 2019, to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Thankfully, many government agencies and large private sector players have taken cognizance and have started taking steps to reduce or eliminate plastic under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy approach. While the Parliament has banned use of non-reusable plastic items within the complex, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) a subsidiary of the Indian Railways, has also banned plastic use from October 2. It has issued a circular which prevents vendors from using plastic carry bags and will ensure the return of plastic drinking water bottles by passengers. Encouragingly, some private firms like Mahindra and Hindustan Lever have also announced plastic reduction measures.

On the policy-making front, the CPCB is slated to submit a consolidated report on the use and management of plastic waste, after it gets data from State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs). The recommendations the CPCB will make are likely to bring in more norms on top of the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018.

However, good intentions and new guidelines are not enough to tackle this menace. There are a couple of measures that need to be implemented without any compromise to ensure compliance.

A mass awareness campaign in regional languages, riding on all social media platforms, needs to be undertaken by the central government and pushed right to the municipal and village panchayat level. Only mass campaigns on the lines of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan will create awareness at the grassroots and prevent indiscriminate and irresponsible plastic use. A key issue which needs urgent attention is coordination between the CPCB and SPCBs. Most often, like other areas of Federal Vs State policy overlaps, we find SPCBs passing "Shut with Immediate Effect" kind of orders that are not in line with Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018.

A nodal ministry, looking into plastic waste management rules and their implementation, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) should urgently set up a national-level co-ordination task force comprising state and CPCB representatives. There should be significant private sector and civil society representation as well. This body should be given targets to reduce plastic waste and co-ordinate on key matters between the Centre and states. In the absence of such a body, interpretation of key laws remains ambiguous and lands in No Man's Zone. This leads to non-compliance and missed targets. Finally, citizens need to get religious about plastic waste management. The festive season is approaching and tons of plastic will be used, that will most likely end up in the nearest water body. A conscious, collective effort has to be made by all to cut down plastic use. In fact, a zero plastic festival would be a welcome idea this season.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

**POINTCOUNTERPOINT**

**HE (CHIDAMBARAM) WAS BEING TARGETTED. SINCE TRUTH IS INCONVENIENT TO COWARDS, HE IS BEING SHAMEFULLY HUNTED DOWN.**

—CONGRESS LEADER  
**PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA**



**PRIYANKA SHOULD BE TAKING CARE OF HER HUSBAND ROBERT VADRA. THERE ARE SEVERAL CASES AGAINST HIM.**

—DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER OF UTTAR PRADESH  
**KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA**

# Breaking barriers

Vatsalya, an initiative to improve the health and nutritional status of women and children, was undertaken in 22 villages in Amreli's Rajula Block



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

**T**he small boat at Gujarat's bustling Pipavav Port bobs up and down as it waits to ferry passengers to Shiyal Bet Island barely 600 metres away. It's a rainy morning and the waters of the Arabian Sea are beginning to turn choppy. Fifty-year-old Dakuben jumps onto the boat with ease, having undertaken the 12-minute journey innumerable times to visit her daughter in Shiyal Bet. However, this time, her visit is mired in sorrow as she is going to mourn the death of her newborn granddaughter.

Gujarat's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is 30 deaths per 1,000 live births and the state ranked tenth in the country according to the NITI Aayog's 2016 IMR report. According to statistics 69 per cent of infant deaths in Gujarat were neonatal, higher than the national average of 67.60 per cent.

Anaemia is one of the major factors responsible for the rising neonatal, infant and maternal mortality in Gujarat, especially among rural women. According to the fourth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) conducted in 2014-15, 54.9 per cent women in the age group of 14-49 years are anaemic and 51.3 per cent of pregnant women have anaemia.

The NFHS-4 placed Gujarat among the top 15 states with the highest incidence of anaemia as the percentage of anaemic women there was higher than the national average of 53 per cent.

The survey revealed that lack of education played a major role and anaemia was particularly high among illiterate women due to lack of awareness about health-related issues.

At 31.2 per cent, Shiyal Bet's literacy rates are much lower than the state's 78.3 per cent (2011 census). With the island's female literacy rate being just 15.48 per cent, it's no surprise that awareness about anaemia and other health issues is low.

In order to change this scenario, Vatsalya, an initiative to improve the health and nutritional status of women, children, and adolescents was undertaken in Shiyal Bet and 21 villages with similar poor health and development indicators in Rajula Block in Amreli district. Launched in 2016 by the Centre for Health Education, Training, Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA), a not-for-profit organisation, the three-year programme has been able to bring down undernutrition, improve antenatal and postnatal care and ensure safe motherhood.

It has also been able to break myths related to early breastfeeding, promote healthy feeding practices, timely immunization and increase access to basic health services.

The intervention, supported by Gujarat Pipavav Port Limited (GPPL) APM Terminals under their corporate social responsibility initiative, used a multi-pronged strategy including games, Q&A sessions and street theatre to engage the community. Sustained efforts, coupled with community participation helped to bring down the number of children suffering from undernutrition from 30 per cent in 2016 to 14 per cent in 2019. The number of children who attained normal body mass index also rose.

The intervention marked up registration of pregnancies by almost 42 per cent and increased the number of women receiving antenatal care, tetanus injections and folic acid tablets. A rise in institutional deliveries by 9.42 per cent was also seen at the end of the three years.



**THE MONTHLY VATSALYA SAMWADES PROVED TO BE A GOOD MOVE AS THEY HELPED BREAK THE ICE ON MANY UNCOMFORTABLE ISSUES LIKE THE TRADITION OF EARLY MARRIAGE, MENSTRUATION AND FAMILY PLANNING IN ALL 22 VILLAGES. BESIDES EXPLAINING THE CONSEQUENCES OF EARLY MARRIAGE ON THE HEALTH OF ADOLESCENTS, THE IMPORTANCE OF ANTENATAL CARE AND POSTNATAL CARE VISITS FOR PREGNANT AND LACTATING WOMEN WERE DISCUSSED. ALSO ADDRESSED WERE MYTHS RELATED TO EARLY AND EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING**



"We are committed to bringing change in the lives of marginalised communities. Therefore, empowering them with factual information and linking them to government schemes and programmes was imperative. This intervention was more challenging because we had to work in difficult-to-reach villages like Shiyal Bet and with migrating populations and communities that were isolated and neglected. But we were able to make a difference in their lives thanks to our dedicated field team, and our partnership with the community, frontline health workers and panchayat leaders," said Pallavi Patel, Director, CHETNA.

A key to this success was the strategy to train women from the community as Vatsalya mitras (friends). This gave the community a sense of ownership and led to increased participation. So when Shantuben Chauhan became a trained Vatsalya mitra, she used her influence as an anganwadi worker (AWW) to reach out to pregnant and lactating women. Chauhan, an AWW for the last 15 years, is a popular face in Shiyal Bet. With both her marital and natal home being in Shiyal Bet, Chauhan was able to mobilise the community very effectively.

However, when the CHETNA team first visited Shiyal Bet, they found that although Chauhan was articulate and good at her work as an AWW, she, like most of the others, believed in many myths related to reproductive and sexual health. One of the biggest misconceptions she had was related to menstruation. Not only was it a taboo subject, but neither she nor her three daughters practiced menstrual hygiene. Considering that only 54 per cent of rural women use a hygienic method of menstrual protection (NFHS-4), this was not surprising.

The fact that women with at least 12 years of schooling were more than twice as likely to be using a hygienic method (79 per cent) as against women with no schooling (34 per cent) meant that Chauhan who is uneducated, didn't get access to information which could help her practice menstrual hygiene.

So the first step was to demystify menstruation. The team knew that once they were able to get Chauhan on board then she would get the others. "I was ashamed to discuss this issue. The training helped me understand why I should not be ashamed and why menstrual hygiene is important. I used the scientific information to convince other women and adolescents during Vatsalya samwads (dialogue)," recalled Chauhan.

For Vatsalya mitra Vandaben Goswami, the training cured her of the belief that she was 'impure' during her periods and going to the temple or kitchen was wrong. "After I became better informed, I no longer forced my daughters to follow these customs. I used my own example to convince other women and girls," contended Goswami.

The monthly Vatsalya samwads proved to be a good move as they helped break the ice on many 'uncomfortable' issues like the tradition of early marriage and family planning in all 22 villages. Besides explaining the consequences of early marriage on the health of adolescents, the importance of antenatal care and postnatal care visits for pregnant and lactating women were discussed. Also addressed were myths related to early and exclusive breastfeeding. According to NFHS-4, just 50 per cent women in Gujarat start breastfeeding in the first hour of life as recommended by the World Health Organisation, thus depriving

newborns of the highly nutritious first milk, colostrums, and the antibodies it contains. In fact, about one in five children who were ever breastfed were given something other than breast milk during the first three days.

Raziben's three children were among them. She had followed the custom of feeding her children goat's milk or hot water mixed with jaggery immediately after birth. It was only after attending the Vatsalya samwads that she understood why this was not healthy for the newborn. This helped her initiate early breastfeeding for her fourth child born last year. Inspired by this, her friend and neighbour Manjuben also breastfed her daughter within 24 hours of her birth in June this year. In fact, there was an 22 per cent increase in early breastfeeding by the end of the project.

A big factor in the improving health and nutrition indicators was the partnership with local leaders and panchayats. Leaders like Gangabhai, the sarpanch of Kundaliya Village, played an active role in mobilizing the community and promoting awareness.

"There has been a big change in my village after CHETNA began their work. The AWWs have become more informed and active. More women are attending the monthly Mamta Divas. Earlier only 7-8 women had health cards, now 60 of them have cards. I also pay visits to support and motivate them," he said.

While the success has been encouraging, challenges remain. Considering the entrenched patriarchy and caste barriers in Gujarat, sustaining behavioural change requires greater investment of time and resources. Only then, will no one be left behind.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

# In denial of converging global crises

Artificial Intelligence and climate emergency are the two biggest threats facing economies today. We know a good deal about both but not enough to be confident about our choices — and besides, they may well mutate and head off in unforeseen directions



GWYNNE DYER

**M**aybe we can get through the climate crisis without a global catastrophe, although that door is closing fast. And maybe we can cope with the huge loss of jobs caused by the revolution in robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) without a social and political calamity. But can we do both at the same time?

We should know how to deal with the AI revolution because we have been down this road before. It's a bit different this time, of course, in the sense that the original industrial revolution in 1780-1850 created as many new jobs (in manufacturing) as it destroyed (in cottage industries and skilled trades).

The AI revolution, by contrast, is

not producing nearly enough replacement jobs but it is making us much wealthier. The value of manufactured goods doubled in the United States (US) in the past 30 years even as the number of good industrial jobs fell by a third (eight million jobs gone). Maybe we could use that extra wealth to ease the transition to a job-scarce future. The climate emergency is unlike any challenge we have faced before. Surmounting it would require an unprecedented level of global cooperation and very big changes in how people consume and behave, neither of which human beings have historically been good at.

These two crises are already interacting. The erosion of middle-class jobs and the stagnation (or worse) of real wage levels generates resentment and anger among the victims and is already creating populist, authoritarian regimes throughout the world. These regimes despise international cooperation and often deny climate change as well (Trump in the US, Bolsonaro in Brazil).

And there is a recession coming. Maybe not this year, although almost



all the storm signals are flying: Stock markets spooked, a rush into gold, nine major economies already in recession or on the verge of one, an "inverted yield curve" on bonds and trade wars spreading. Even US President Donald Trump is worried, which is why he postponed the harsher American trade tariffs against China, which were due next month.

Economists have predicted nine of the past five recessions as they say in the trade, so I'm not calling the turn on this one. But a recession is overdue and a lot of the damage done by the

Great Recession of 2008 has still not been repaired. Interest rates are still very low, so the banks have little room to cut rates and soften the next one. When it arrives, it could be a doozy.

So what can we do about all this? The first thing is to recognise that we cannot plot a course that takes us from here and now, through all the changes and past all the unpleasant surprises to ultimate safety, maybe 50 years from now.

We can plan how to get through the next five years and we should be thinking hard about what will be need-

ed later on. But we can't steer a safe and steady course to the year 2070 any more than intelligent decision-makers in 1790 could have planned how to get through to 1840 without too much upheaval. They might have seen steam engines but they would have had no idea what a railroad was.

We are in the same position as those people with regard to both AI and the global environmental emergency (which extends far beyond "climate change", although that is at its heart). We know a good deal about both issues but not enough to be confident about our choices — and besides, they may well mutate and head off in unforeseen directions as the crises deepen.

But there are two big things we can do right now. We need to stop the slide into populist and increasingly authoritarian Governments (because we are not going to stop the spread of AI). And we have to win ourselves more time to get our greenhouse gas emissions under control (because we are certainly going to go through 450 parts per million of carbon dioxide equivalent, which would give us +2°C

higher average global temperature).

The best bet for getting our politics back on track is a guaranteed minimum income, high enough to keep everybody comfortable — whether they are working or not. That is well within the reach of any developed country's economy and has the added benefit of putting enough money into people's pockets to save everybody's business model.

And the best way to win more time on the climate front is to start geo-engineering (direct intervention in the atmosphere to hold the global temperature down) as soon as we get anywhere near +2°C. To be ready then, we need to be doing open-air testing on a small scale now. There will be howls of protest from the right about a guaranteed minimum income and from the greener parts of the left about geo-engineering. However, both will probably be indispensable if we want to get through these huge changes without mass casualties or even civilisational collapse.

(The writer's new book is *Growing Pains, the Future of Democracy and Work*)



**FOREIGN EYE**



**ON GREENLAND**

As the seriousness of the climate crisis becomes more obvious, so does the fact that it can only be solved by coordinated international action, while competing nationalisms can only exacerbate it and make the easily foreseeable end worse for all competitors. A rules-based international order is the counsel of enlightened self-interest, not idealism. But today the most powerful nation is in the hands of a man who can recognise neither his own nor anyone else's legitimate self-interest.

(The Guardian editorial)

Sensex sinks 587 pts as stimulus hopes dim; Yes Bank dives 14 pc

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity markets closed deep in the red on Thursday after top government officials virtually ruled out a stimulus package for slowdown-hit sectors, triggering another round of selling in banking, auto and metal stocks.

A weakening rupee, which hit its lowest level in eight months, and lackluster global cues further weighed on investor sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex sank 587.44 points, or 1.59%, to finish at 36,472.93.

The broader NSE Nifty slumped 177.35 points, or 1.62%, to 10,741.35. Both the key indices closed lower for the third straight session.

Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian on Thursday said using taxpayers' money to bail out companies going through a 'sunset' phase would create moral hazards and such a step was an anathema to the market economy.

Power Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg also said low interest rates and availability of credit to private sector were better tools than a fiscal stimulus.

The comments have dashed hopes of some sort of a stimulus package from the government to boost growth and revive

GOLD CONTINUES BULL RUN

New Delhi (PTI): Continuing the record-setting trend, gold price on Thursday hit a new high of ₹38,970 per 10 gram by gaining ₹150 in the national capital, according to the All-India Sarafa Association, mainly on account of a weaker rupee and safe-haven buying from investors due to weak equity market.

Gold prices have been hitting a fresh high everyday since Tuesday. Silver advanced by ₹60 to ₹45,100 per kg on increased offtake by industrial units and coin makers.

flagging consumer sentiment, analysts said. Yes Bank was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack, plummeting 13.91%, followed by Vedanta, Bajaj Finance and Tata Motors, which declined up to 7.76%.

ONGC, SBI, Hero MotoCorp, ICICI Bank, Tata Steel, HDFC twins and RIL also closed with losses.

Tech Mahindra, TCS, HUL and HCL Tech were the only gainers, spurring up to 1.57%.

"Benchmark indices continue to remain weak with rupee hitting fresh lows and lack of news on the economic stimulus by the government... Investor sentiment was further dampened by statement made by Chief Economic Advisor that Indian economy doesn't need fiscal stimulus to tackle slowdown."

"Besides policy uncertainty on the domestic front, weak

Power Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg said reduction in interest rates and availability of credit to private sector are better tools than a fiscal stimulus. Garg, who was Finance Secretary till last month, also said the first quarter GDP number are likely to be lower than the same period last fiscal.

Meanwhile, BSE rearty index was the biggest sectoral loser, cracking 6.01%, followed by metal, finance, oil and gas, bank and energy.

IT index was the sole gainer, rising 0.30%, buoyed by a weak rupee.

The broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices followed the benchmarks, closing up to 2.19% lower.

Globally, markets were jittery ahead of comments from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, US.

Elsewhere in Asia, Shanghai Composite Index and Nikkei ended on a positive note, while Hang Seng and Kospi settled in the red. Equities in Europe were trading lower in their respective early sessions.

The Indian rupee depreciated 33 paise to 71.88 against the US dollar intra-day. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.65% to USD 60.69 per barrel.

NITI Aayog for extraordinary steps to deal with slowdown

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Government think tank NITI Aayog on Thursday made a case for extraordinary steps to deal with the unprecedented stress in the financial sector which has resulted in an economic slowdown in the country.

The government needs to take steps which eliminate apprehension from the minds of private sector players and encourage them to step up investments, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said. He also said private investments will drive India out of the middle income trap.

Termining the stress in the financial sector as unprecedented, he said nobody had faced this sort of situation in the last 70 years where entire financial system was under threat.

"Nobody is trusting anybody else... within the private sector nobody is ready to lend, everyone is sitting on cash... you may have to take steps which are extraordinary," he said at an event here.

Elaborating further, Kumar said some of the steps had already been announced in the Union Budget to address stress in the financial sector and give a push to economic growth which hit a 5-year low of 6.8 per cent in 2018-19.

Commerce min to soon come out with new foreign trade policy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry will soon come out with a new foreign trade policy, which provides guideline and incentives for increasing exports, for the next five financial years 2020-25, an official said.

The ministry is giving final touches to the new policy as the validity for the old one will end on March 31, 2020.

"We have taken views of all stakeholders. The new policy is likely to be announced by September-end or early-October," the official said.

The new policy would focus on simplifying procedures for exporters and importers besides providing incentives to boost outbound shipments.

The ministry's arm, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), is formulating the policy.

At present, tax benefits are provided under merchandise export from India scheme (MEIS) for goods and services export from India scheme (SEIS).

In the new policy, changes are expected in the incentives given to goods as the current export promotion schemes are challenged by the US in the dispute resolution mechanism of the World Trade

Organisation (WTO).

In this backdrop, the government is recasting the incentives to make them compliant with global trade rules, being formulated by Geneva-based WTO, a 164 member Geneva-based multilateral body.

The Commerce Ministry has also floated a cabinet note for a new export incentives scheme — Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) — that would be compliant with the WTO norms.

The RoSCTL scheme is available for exports of garments and made-ups. It would now be proposed to extend it to all exports in a phased manner.

The new scheme would replace the existing MEIS, which was challenged by the US last year in the WTO. It would ensure refund of all un-rebated central and state levies and taxes imposed on inputs that are consumed in exports of all sectors.

Major un-rebated levies are state VAT/central excise duty on fuel used in transportation, captive power, farm sector; mandi tax; duty of electricity; stamp duty on export documents, purchases from unregistered dealers; embedded CGST and compensation cess coal used in the

production of electricity.

Exporters are demanding incentives based on research and development, and product-specific clusters under the new policy.

Ludhiana-based Hand Tools Association President SC Ralhan said the new policy should have provisions for refund of indirect taxes like on oil and power, and state levies such as mandi tax.

"Sectors like engineering should be promoted as they create huge number of jobs. There should be relaxation for obtaining licence under Export Promotion Capital Goods for modernisation of industry," Ralhan said.

Assistant professor and expert on agriculture economics Chirala Shankar Rao has said the policy should look at ways to promote agri exports as it holds huge opportunities.

During April-July 2019-20, the country's exports dipped 0.37 per cent to USD 107.41 billion.

Since 2011-12, India's exports have been hovering at around USD 300 billion. During 2018-19, overseas shipments grew 9 per cent to USD 331 billion.

The government is targeting to increase the exports to USD one trillion in the coming years.

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRIP, OPEN, High, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 Nifty stocks with their respective prices and changes.

BSE 500

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# Nirav Modi's remand extended till Sept 19

PTI ■ LONDON

Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, wanted in India in connection with the nearly USD 2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money laundering case, appeared before a UK court on Thursday via videolink from his London prison and was further remanded in judicial custody till September 19.

The routine "call-over" hearing in the 48-year-old's extradition case at Westminster Magistrates' Court was presided over by Judge Tan Ikram, who told Modi that his trial dates would be confirmed at the next call-over hearing on September 19, when he will again appear via videolink.

"No progress today, I'm afraid," Judge Ikram said, as he

gave directions for the court clerk to seek a confirmation of the proposed five-day extradition trial dates starting May 11, 2020.

There is also likely to be a case management hearing in the case ahead of the trial in February next year.

Modi, who was dressed in a track suit, appeared in a sombre mood during the very brief hearing.

He has been lodged at Wandsworth prison in south-west London since his arrest in March on an extradition warrant executed by Scotland Yard on charges brought by the Indian government, being represented by the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

Chief Magistrate Emma Arbuthnot presided over the last remand hearing in July at Westminster Magistrates'

Court via videolink from the prison where Modi is being held, during which she had indicated that the dates for an estimated five-day trial would be mutually agreed by both sides soon.

As per the timelines discussed during the brief hearing, the judge said she expected to receive all the evidence and skeleton argument bundles in the case by April 8, with a five-day hearing then expected to be slotted in May next year. Under UK law, Modi is expected to be produced before the court within a 28-day period.

Since his arrest, Modi has attempted to get bail but it has been rejected multiple times, the fourth and final time being by the UK High Court in June.

In her judgment handed

down at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Justice Ingrid Simler had concluded there were "substantial grounds" to believe that Modi would fail to surrender as he does possess the means to "abscond".

Reiterating similar concerns as those previously raised by Westminster Magistrates' Court during earlier bail attempts, Judge Simler ruled that after considering all the material "carefully", she had found strong evidence to suggest there had been interference with witnesses and destruction of evidence in the case and concluded it can still occur.

"The applicant has access to considerable financial resources, supported by an increased [bail bond security] offer of GBP 2 million," the

judge noted.

The High Court judge stressed that while it was not for her to take a "definitive view" on the evidence, she had proceeded on the basis that the government of India has acted in good faith in what is "undoubtedly" a serious case and a "sophisticated international conspiracy" to defraud, together with money laundering. Modi was arrested by uniformed Scotland Yard officers on an extradition warrant on March 19 and has been in prison since.

During subsequent hearings, Westminster Magistrates' Court was told that Modi was the "principal beneficiary" of the fraudulent issuance of letters of undertaking (LoUs) as part of a conspiracy to defraud PNB and then laundering the proceeds of crime.

# Nepal, India special focus on connectivity, economic ties

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Nepalese counterpart Pradeep Gyawali have reviewed bilateral ties with special focus on connectivity and economic partnership, officials said here on Thursday.

The two leaders also discussed matters related to cooperation in international, regional and sub-regional fora at the 5th Nepal-India Joint Commission meeting, which concluded here on Wednesday, a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nepal said.

"The fifth Meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations with specific focus on the areas of connectivity and economic partnership, trade and transit, power and water resources, culture and education," it said.

The two ministers emphasised on enhancing cooperation in tourism sector, particularly in the context of Visit Nepal Year 2020 that aims to

attract two million visitors, the statement said.

Established in 1987, the Nepal-India Joint Commission meetings are being held alternately in Nepal and India. The last meeting of the Commission was held in New Delhi in October 2016.

During the meeting, views were also exchanged on the review of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 and submission of report of the Eminent Persons Group on Nepal-India Relations, the statement said.

"The Joint Commission expressed happiness at the progress made in the bilateral projects, such as Motihari-Amlekhgunj Petroleum Products Pipeline, four segments of Hulaki Roads, and post-earthquake reconstruction of private housing in Nuwakot and Gorkha districts which have been completed," it said.

Both the sides also expressed satisfaction over the progress made in the Jayanagar-Janakpur and Jobani-Biratnagar sections of

the cross-border railway projects and the Integrated Check Post in Biratnagar.

"The Joint Commission also noted with satisfaction the progress made in three new areas agreed during the visit of Prime Minister Oli to India in April 2018, namely, Raxaul-Kathmandu Electrified Rail Line, Inland Waterways and New Partnership in Agriculture," the statement said.

The two sides also agreed to an early conclusion of the review of treaties and agreements related to the trade, transit and rail services. They also agreed to continue upgrading and maintenance of infrastructure and logistic facilities at major border crossing-points for facilitating trade and transit between the two countries.

Noting that inundation is a serious problem for people living in border areas, the Joint Commission underlined the need to address inundation issues mainly due to the inadequate drainage provision that obstructs the natural flow of water in border areas.

# India, others will have to fight Afghan terror: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Countries like India, Iran, Russia and Turkey would have to fight against terrorists in Afghanistan at some point of time, President Donald Trump has said, ruling that the job against the extremists is being done only by the United States some 7,000 miles away.

Trump said on Wednesday that other nations currently are making very less efforts against the terrorists in Afghanistan.

"At a certain point Russia, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Turkey they are going to have to fight their battles too. We wiped out the caliphate 100 per cent. I did it in record time but at a certain point all of these other countries where ISIS is around they have been decimated by the way, badly decimated," Trump told reporters at the White House while responding to a question on the reemergence of ISIS in Afghanistan.

"All of these countries are going to have to fight them because do we want to stay there for another 19 years? I don't think so. So, at a certain



point other countries and that includes Russia and it includes Iran and Turkey and Iraq and Afghanistan and Pakistan and India," he said.

Trump's comments came a day after he indicated that the US forces will not completely withdraw from the war-torn Afghanistan and America will

have "somebody there" to make sure that Taliban does not regain control.

Trump said that the US was fighting the terrorists in Afghanistan despite being 7,000 miles away while India and Pakistan were not doing so even after being next door.

"Look, India is right there.

They are not fighting it. We are fighting it. Pakistan is right next door. They are fighting it very little. Very, very little. It's not fair. The United States is 7,000 miles away," Trump said.

Trump said that the US under him has decimated ISIS.

"We haven't been hearing much about ISIS. We took the

caliphate 100 per cent. When I took it at 98 per cent I said all right, maybe we go home now, let these other countries in. Everyone went crazy. They said do 100 per cent. They said it was going to take a year. It took me a month and they are gone," he said.

Asserting that the caliphate is gone, he said the US is holding thousands of ISIS fighters right now and Europe has to take them.

And if Europe doesn't take them, Trump said, he will have no choice but to release them into the countries from which they came which is Germany and France.

"We beat them. We captured them. We've got thousands of them and now as usual our allies say, no, we don't want them even though they came from France and Germany and other places. So we're going to tell them and we have already told them take these prisoners that we've captured because the United States is not going to put them in Guantanamo for the next 50 years and pay for it," Trump said.

# US seeks balancing act in South Asia over Kashmir: Report

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US is seeking a balancing act in South Asia after India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and divided it into two Union Territories, according to a congressional report which said President Donald Trump's offer to "mediate" on the issue may have contributed to the timing of New Delhi's moves.

According to the latest Congressional Research Service (CRS) report - which runs into over 15 pages - the longstanding US position on Kashmir is that the territory's status should be settled through negotiations between India and Pakistan while taking into consideration the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

"The United States seeks to balance pursuit of a broad US-India partnership while upholding human rights protections, as well as maintaining cooperative relations with Pakistan," the report said.

The Trump administration has called for peace and respect for human rights in the region. With key US diplomatic posts vacant, some observers worry that the US capacity is thin, and the US president Trump's July offer to "mediate" on Kashmir may have contributed to the timing of New Delhi's moves, it said.

The CRS reports are not considered as an official position of the US Congress. Notably the CRS has come out with a report on Kashmir after 17 years, reflecting the interest among lawmakers about the issue after the recent development.

"India's August actions sparked international controversy as 'unilateral' changes of J&K's status that could harm regional stability," CRS said.

A copy of the report "Kashmir: Background, Recent Developments, and US Policy" dated August 16 was obtained by PTI on Wednesday.

"Increased separatist militancy on Kashmir may also undermine the ongoing Afghan peace negotiations, which the Pakistani government facilitates," the CRS said, adding that New Delhi's process also raised serious constitutional questions and - given heavy-handed security measures in J&K - elicited more intense criticisms of India on human rights grounds.

Observing that there are international concerns about potential for increased civil unrest and violence in the Kashmir Valley, and the cascade effect this could have on regional stability, the report said that the Trump Administration has limited its public statements to calls for

maintaining peace and stability, and respecting human rights.

The UN Security Council likewise calls for restraint by all parties: an "informal" August UNSC 16 meeting resulted in no ensuing official UN statement, it said.

The CRS said that New Delhi's August moves have enraged Pakistan's leaders and elicited concerns about further escalation between South Asia's two nuclear-armed powers, which nearly came to war after a February 2019 suicide bombing in the Kashmir Valley and retaliatory Indian airstrikes.

The CRS said developments in Kashmir in 2019 raise five possible questions for the Congress like "Do India's actions changing the status of its J&K state negatively affect regional stability? If so, what leverage does the United States have and what US policies might best address potential instability?" "Is there any diplomatic or other role for the US government to play in managing India-Pakistan conflict or facilitating a renewal of their bilateral dialogue?"

"To what extent does increased instability in Kashmir influence dynamics in Afghanistan? Will Islamabad's cooperation with Washington on Afghan reconciliation be reduced?"

# US to hold key talks with India

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US and India will hold two key meetings this week, including an interseasonal of the 2+2 Dialogue, to discuss ways to advance cooperation on critical diplomatic and security priorities and building on the shared vision for the Indo-Pacific region.

The US will host the interseasonal meeting of the US-India 2+2 Dialogue in California on Thursday. The meeting is aimed at strengthening the strategic partnership, the State Department said Wednesday.

"During the interseasonal, the two sides will discuss ways to advance cooperation on critical diplomatic and security priorities, including our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific region, and review preparations for the next 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue," the State Department said.

The American delegation will be led jointly by the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Affairs Randall

Schraver.

There was no information on who will lead the Indian delegation.

Meanwhile, on Friday, during the fourth US-India Maritime Security Dialogue, the two sides will exchange views on maritime developments in the Indo-Pacific region and consider steps to further strengthen bilateral maritime security cooperation, the official US statement said.

The US has been pushing for a broader role by India in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region.

India, the US and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military maneuvering in the region.

Both the 2+2 interseasonal meeting and Maritime Security Dialogue will be held at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey in California, it said. The interactions will lay the ground work for the visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh to the US later this fall.

# Israel strikes Hamas base

AFP ■ GAZA CITY

Israeli forces bombed Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip overnight in retaliation for Palestinian rocket attacks, the military said Thursday.

Hamas launched two rockets at Israel late Wednesday - bringing to six the number of strikes from Gaza in less than a week - the army said, adding that they caused no casualties or damage.

In retaliation, the army said it "struck a number of military targets in a Hamas naval facility in the northern Gaza Strip".

A Palestinian security source told AFP a naval base west of Gaza City had been "targeted several times" by Israeli aircraft.

The source said aircraft had also targeted "three sites in the central Gaza Strip and in Khan Yunis" in the south.

He reported no casualties.

There have been a series of deadly incidents along the Gaza border since the start of the month.

On Sunday, the three Palestinians were killed by Israeli soldiers in the northern Gaza Strip.

# Beijing hits back at Trudeau for vow to stand up to China

AFP ■ BEIJING

Beijing on Thursday accused Ottawa of worsening bilateral relations after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau vowed to stand up to China amid deepening diplomatic and trade disputes.

The two countries have been locked in a feud since last December, when Canada detained top Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou and - in apparent retaliation - China detained two Canadian nationals over espionage-linked accusations.

On Wednesday, Trudeau pushed back against Beijing in a speech that promised to "always defend Canadians and Canadian interests" and to not "back down".

"At present, China-Canadian relations are facing serious difficulties," said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang.

"The responsibility lies entirely on the Canadian side,"

he told reporters at a press briefing in Beijing.

"We urge the Canadian side to reflect on its mistakes," Geng said, adding that Canada should "immediately" release Meng.

He also called on Canada to refrain from making "irresponsible remarks" about Hong Kong, which has been plunged into weeks of unrest by pro-democracy demonstrations.

Beijing had warned Canada on Sunday to stop meddling in Hong Kong affairs after Ottawa and the European Union issued a joint statement in support of protesters' "fundamental right of assembly".

Canadians are one of the largest expatriate groups in Hong Kong, numbering 300,000, according to Canadian government figures.

Relations between Canada and China tumbled over the arrest of Meng on a US extradition request related to alleged Iran sanctions.

# Russia sends 'Fedor' its first humanoid robot into space

AFP ■ MOSCOW

Russia on Thursday launched an unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot that will spend 10 days learning to assist astronauts on the International Space Station.

Named Fedor, for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research with identification number Skybot F850, the robot is the first ever sent up by Russia.

Fedor blasted off in a Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft at 6:38 am Moscow time (0338 GMT) from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The Soyuz is set to dock with the space station on Saturday and stay till September 7.

Soyuz ships are normally

manned on such trips, but on Thursday no humans are travelling in order to test a new emergency rescue system.

Instead of cosmonauts, Fedor was strapped into a specially adapted pilot's seat, with a small Russian flag in his hand.

"Let's go. Let's go," the robot was heard as saying during launch, apparently repeating the famous phrase by first man in space Yuri Gagarin.

The silvery anthropomorphic robot stands 1.80 metres (5 foot 11 inches) tall and weighs 160 kilograms (353 pounds).

Fedor has Instagram and Twitter accounts that describe it as learning new skills such as opening a bottle of water. In the station, it will

trial those manual skills in very low gravity.

"That's connecting and disconnecting electric cables, using standard items from a screwdriver and a spanner to a fire extinguisher," the Russian space agency's director for prospective programmes and science, Alexander Bloshenko, said in televised comments ahead of the launch.

"The first stage of in-flight experiments went according to the flight plan," the robot's account tweeted after reaching orbit.

Fedor copies human movements, a key skill that allows it to remotely help astronauts or even people on Earth carry out tasks while they are strapped into an exoskeleton.



Such robots will eventually carry out dangerous operations such as space walks, Bloshenko told RIA Novosti state news agency.

On the website of one of the state backers of the project, the Foundation of Advanced Research Projects, Fedor is described as potentially useful on Earth for working in high radiation environments, de-mining and tricky rescue missions.

On board, the robot will perform tasks supervised by Russian cosmonaut Alexander Skvortsov, who joined the ISS last month, and will wear an exoskeleton in a series of experiments scheduled for later this month.

Space agency chief Dmitry Rogozin showed pictures of the

robot to President Vladimir Putin this month, saying it will be "an assistant to the crew".

"In the future we plan that this machine will also help us conquer deep space," he added.

Fedor is not the first robot to go into space. In 2011, NASA sent up Robonaut 2, a humanoid robot developed with General Motors and a similar aim of working in high-risk environments.

It was flown back to Earth in 2018 after experiencing technical problems.

In 2013, Japan sent up a small robot called Kirobo along with the ISS's first Japanese space commander. Developed with Toyota, it was able to hold conversations - albeit only in Japanese.

# Second day of Italy crisis talks after PM resigns

AFP ■ ROME

Italy's president began a second day of talks Thursday aimed at solving the political crisis shaking the country after the disintegration of the populist government.

President Sergio Mattarella was set to meet all the main parties, including the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S) and far-right League, after the breakdown of their dysfunctional coalition.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte resigned Tuesday after months of alliance sniping and a bid by League leader and Interior Minister Matteo Salvini to force a snap election, just 14 months after coming to power.

The nationalist, populist government's demonisation of migrants, promoted by Salvini in particular, and attempts to flout EU budget rules had angered many European leaders.

Mattarella met the leaders of both houses of parliament on Wednesday and has been trying to find a way forward.

Talks kicked off Thursday with the small far-right Brothers of Italy (Fratelli d'Italia) party, which could

ally with Salvini's League, a long-time ally, if the country goes to the polls.

The formation of a new coalition, a short-term technocratic government or an early election — more than three years ahead of schedule — are the main options.

"The only way to have a stable government is to go to the polls. It's the only option which respects Italy, its interests, its people and its constitution," Brothers of Italy leader Giorgia Meloni told the press after meeting Mattarella.

The president is determined any political wrangling to form a new government be quick and wants a concrete plan in place by Monday, a source close to him was reported as saying by the Repubblica daily.

A proposed alliance between M5S and opposition centre-left Democratic Party (PD) — previously almost unthinkable — appears to be gaining traction, with PD leader Nicola Zingaretti saying he is ready to make a deal.

The PD and M5S have been at each other's throats for years — but an alliance would see Salvini kicked out of government, a powerful motive for



Forza Italia party leader Silvio Berlusconi leaves after meeting Italian President Sergio Mattarella, in Rome on Thursday. President Sergio Mattarella continued receiving political leaders Thursday, to explore if a solid majority with staying power exists in Parliament for a new government that could win the required confidence vote AP

compromise.

Zingaretti has said the party would back an M5S

coalition dependent on five conditions, including a radical shift in Italy's zero-tolerance

policy on migrants crossing the Mediterranean.

He later told "La 7" televi-

sion he was also against the idea of Conte staying on as prime minister.

M5S would like Conte to remain in place but did not give much away, saying it would "wait for the end of consultations".

The parties were also considering a female PM, according to media reports, which would be a first for Italy.

In a bid to get a PD-M5S alliance off the ground, former PD premier Matteo Renzi has said he will not participate.

Many in the anti-establishment party view him as elitist. Salvini, who is also deputy prime minister, on Wednesday said: "No matter which government emerges, its goals will be against the League."

The end of the unstable coalition government in the eurozone's third-largest economy has so far been welcomed by the markets, with a sharp rise in the Milan stock market on Wednesday.

The country's debt ratio — 132 per cent of gross domestic product — is the second-highest in the eurozone after Greece, and youth unemployment is currently above 30 per cent.

Governments have consistently struggled to bring down debt levels and unemployment. "Italy's disharmonious

political backdrop and the country's budgetary challenges extend well before the sovereign debt crisis," said Rabobank analyst Jane Foley.

Rome needs to approve a budget in the next few months or potentially face an automatic rise in value-added tax that would hit the least well-off Italian families the hardest and likely plunge the country into recession.

"(The crisis) arrives at a critical juncture for Europe amid the risk of recession in Germany and the formation of the new European Commission, and could contribute to deteriorate significantly the confidence on the eurozone," said Andrea Montanino, chief economist at the General Confederation of Italian Industry. After last year's election it took months of wrangling before a government was formed.

Mattarella has made it clear he wants talks to conclude quickly but splits within the PD and M5S, as well as sharp policy differences, could complicate coalition efforts.

A PD-M5S tie-up would realistically also need support from smaller parties to be an effective government.

## Danish ex-PM attacks Trump for comments on defence spending

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Former Danish prime minister on Thursday lashed out at US President Donald Trump for his tweet about military spending, saying defense willingness is not just about the amount of money spent.

Lars Loekke Rasmussen's comment is the latest in an escalating spat between the US and Denmark after Trump scrapped a visit to the country, saying current Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen was "nasty" when she rejected his idea of buying Greenland as an absurdity. Loekke Rasmussen, who led the country until June, tweeted Thursday to Trump: "We have had (proportionally) exactly the same numbers of casualties in Afghanistan as US. We always stands firm and ready." Trump, who has urged NATO members to do more to meet the alliance's goal of committing 2 per cent of gross domestic product to defense, earlier tweeted that "Denmark is only at 1.35%".

"We will not accept that our defence willingness is only about percentages," Loekke Rasmussen tweeted. "I told you at the NATO Summit in Brussels last year."



Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen makes a comment about US President's cancellation of his scheduled State Visit in front of the State Department in Copenhagen on Wednesday

In January, Denmark agreed to increase its long-term defense spending after a coalition in Parliament agreed to add 1.5 billion kroner (USD 223 million) to the already agreed-upon defense budget for 2023, which would put defense spending at 1.5 per cent of gross domestic product for that year. The US spends about 3.4 of its GDP on defence.

Trump abruptly cancelled his planned September 2-3 visit to Denmark on Tuesday,

after Frederiksen had called Trump's idea to buy Greenland "an absurd discussion".

Trump said her comment "was nasty. I thought it was an inappropriate statement. All she had to say was say, 'No, we wouldn't be interested.'" Frederiksen said the US remains one of Denmark's close allies. The political brouhaha over the world's largest island comes from its strategic location in the Arctic. Global warming is making Greenland

more accessible to potential oil and mineral resources. Russia, China, the US, Canada and other countries are racing to stake as strong a claim as they can to Arctic lands, hoping they will yield future riches.

Frederiksen has said Denmark doesn't own Greenland which belongs to its people. It is part of the Danish realm along with the Faeroe Islands, another semi-autonomous territory, and has its own government and parliament, the 31-seat Inatsisartut.

The scarcely populated island which is four times zones behind Copenhagen, became a Danish colony in 1775 and remained that way until 1953, when Denmark revised its constitution and made the island a province.

In 1979, Greenland and its 56,000 residents who are mainly indigenous Inuits, got extensive home rule but Denmark still handles its foreign and defence policies, as well as currency issues.

Denmark which considers Greenland as an equal partner, pays annual subsidies of 4.5 billion kroner (USD 670 million) to Greenland whose economy otherwise depends of fisheries and related industries.

## Macron expected to rebuff Johnson during Brexit talks in Paris

AP ■ PARIS

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson heads to Paris on Thursday for talks with French President Emmanuel Macron who is expected to rebuff his last-ditch efforts to renegotiate the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

Macron, who has said previously he is happy to be the "bad guy" on Brexit, roundly rejected Johnson's calls to scrap a key plank of a deal negotiated between the EU and former British premier Theresa May. "Renegotiation on the terms currently proposed by the British is not an option that exists, and that has always been made clear by (EU) President Tusk," Macron told reporters on Wednesday evening. At stake is the so-called "backstop", an arrangement guaranteeing that border checks will not return between EU member Ireland and Northern Ireland which is part of Britain.

Johnson considers the backstop to be "anti-democratic" and an affront to British sovereignty because it will require London to keep its regulations aligned with the EU during a transition exit period. The EU argues this is necessary to avoid the re-emergence of border checkpoints which could lead to a return of fighting on the divided island where anti-British violence has claimed thousands of lives.



The Paris visit is the second leg of Johnson's first foreign trip since he became prime minister a month ago.

On Wednesday, he told German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin that the backstop has "grave defects for a sovereign, democratic country like the UK" and insisted the provision "has to go". Merkel appeared to offer a

glimmer of hope by saying Britain should try to find a breakthrough to the issue over the next month.

In the search for a solution, "we have said we would probably find it in the next two years, but maybe we can do it in the next 30 days, why not? Then we are one step further in the right direction," she said.

Johnson told Merkel he welcomed the "very blistering timetable of 30 days," adding that "I'm more than happy with that".

The remarks fit a pattern in which Merkel has often been

more conciliatory in public about Brexit than Macron, whose abrasive remarks have sometimes caused anger in London.

"There is not the width of cigarette paper between Paris and Berlin on these issues," a Macron aide said on Wednesday on condition of anonymity.

Macron risked further irritating Johnson, whom he described in 2017 as having "no strategic vision", with a series of bruising remarks during his lengthy press conference on Wednesday evening.

## Iran's Prez says 'talks useless' with US

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's president struck a muscular tone on dealings with the US, saying Thursday that "talks are useless" as Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers crumbles further.

President Hassan Rouhani made the comment in a speech in Tehran during the unveiling of the Bavar-373, a long-range surface-to-air missile system that he described as an improvement to the Russian S-300. "Now that our enemies do not accept logic, we cannot respond with logic," Rouhani said in the televised speech.

He added: "When the enemy launches a missile against us, we cannot give a speech and say: 'Mr. Rocket,

please do not hit our country and our innocent people. Rocket-launching sir, if you can please hit a button and self-destruct the missile in the air."

On Wednesday, Iran's state TV reported that the Bavar-373 is able to recognize up to 100 targets at a same time and confront them with six different weapons.

Since 1992, Iran has developed a homegrown defense industry that has produced light and heavy weapons ranging from mortars and torpedoes to tanks and submarines.

The US re-imposed sanctions on Iran after the Trump administration pulled out of the nuclear deal over concerns about Iran's missile program and regional influence.

## Kosovo parliament dissolved

AFP ■ PRISTINA

Kosovo MPs voted on Thursday to dissolve parliament and trigger early elections, a shake-up that will add new delays to the deadlocked dialogue with former foe Serbia.

The vote comes after outgoing premier Ramush Haradinaj, a former commander of ethnic Albanian rebels who battled Serbia in the late 1990s, stepped down in July after he was summoned to a special court in The Hague, which is investigating crimes from that era.

Since his resignation, parties have agitated for a snap poll, with some already kicking off unofficial campaigning and talking about possible alliances.

"The parliament decided to dissolve the sixth legislature of

the assembly," speaker Kadri Veseli said after 89 lawmakers in the 120-member body voted in favour of the motion.

There were 106 MPs present for the vote.

The president will now be required to schedule an election with 45 days.

The political jostling comes as Kosovo is at an impasse with Serbia, which still rejects the former province's independence declaration in 2008.

While most of the Western world recognises Kosovo, Serbia and its allies China and Russia do not, effectively shutting it out of the UN.

New elections will put the EU-led talks on hold for longer, with a planned summit in September likely to be postponed.

After Kosovo's last parliamentary election in 2017, it took several months to form a

government.

Earlier this week Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said he expects negotiations to only resume "in early December, at best" because of Kosovo's possible election.

A new government could, however, offer an opening if it were to revoke the 100 percent tariff on Serbian goods that Haradinaj put in place last November.

That move enraged Belgrade and brought the talks to a grinding halt.

Haradinaj has refused to bend to heavy pressure from the EU and US to lift the trade barrier, which Serbia says is a requisite for returning to the table.

Political analyst Arton Muhaxhiri says he expects the Serbia dialogue to be at the forefront of any new government formation.

## No Rohingya turn up for repatriation to Myanmar

AFP ■ TEKNAF (BANGLADESH)

A fresh push to repatriate Rohingya refugees to Myanmar fall flat on Thursday, with no one turning up to hop on five buses and 10 trucks laid on by Bangladesh.

Members of the Muslim minority, 740,000 of whom fled a military offensive in 2017, are refusing to return without guarantees for their safety and a promise that they will at last be given citizenship by Myanmar.

"The Myanmar government raped us, and killed us. So we need security. Without security we will never go

back," Rohingya leader Nosima said in a statement.

"We need a real guarantee of citizenship, security and promise of original homelands," said Mohammad Islam, a Rohingya from Camp 26, one of a string of sites in southeast Bangladesh that are home to around a million people.

"So we must talk with the Myanmar government about this before repatriation."

The vehicles provided to transport the first batch out of 3,450 earmarked for return turned up at 9:00 am (0300 GMT) at the camp in Teknaf.

But more than six hours

later none had showed up and the vehicles departed empty. Officials said they would return on Friday.

"We've interviewed 295 families. But nobody has yet shown any interest to repatriate," Bangladesh Refugee Commissioner Mohammad Abul Kalam told reporters.

He said officials would continue to interview families.

The Rohingya are not recognised as an official minority by the Myanmar government, which considers them Bengali interlopers despite many families having lived in the country for generations.

## Jailed art dealer Subhash Kapoor charged in US with looting artifacts

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Jailed art dealer Subhash Kapoor has been charged by prosecutors in Manhattan with stealing and possessing millions of dollars worth of artifacts, with officials at the Metropolitan Museum of Art now looking into whether the looted antiquities sold by Kapoor have ended up in its collection.

Kapoor was arrested by Interpol in Germany in 2011 and is in jail in India. Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance's office

filed a criminal complaint last month against Kapoor and several others. The complaint charges Kapoor with 86 counts of criminal possession of stolen property, grand larceny and scheme to defraud for possessing artifacts worth millions of dollars.

A report in The New York Times said officials of the Indian government and the Metropolitan Museum of Art are discussing whether several of the prized antiquities that the museum began acquiring three decades ago were the result of looting by Kapoor.

The report said that since 1990, the museum acquired about 15 antiquities that passed through Kapoor's hands during a period in which "his smuggling ring was active and he routinely sold or donated rare and costly artifacts to at least a dozen American museums."

The discussions among officials in India and the US are part of a major push by New Delhi to recover some of the tens of thousands of sacred idols and ancient relics that have been looted and sold over the last few decades by smugglers and temple raiders, the

NYT report said.

It added that the first set of antiquities sourced from Kapoor to arrive at the Metropolitan Museum were first-century terra-cotta rattles in the shape of Yaksha, a nature spirit. The last Kapoor-related piece to enter the collection, an 11th-century celestial dancer carved from sandstone, came in 2015.

"Each of the 15 objects was either gifted or sold to the Met (museum) by Kapoor or obtained from collectors who had acquired them from the art dealer or his New York gallery

'Art of the Past' on Madison Avenue," it said.

Officials at the Met museum have begun a thorough review of the antiquities that track back to Kapoor. "As we have since learned of the multiple law enforcement actions, and in the spirit of our enhanced procedures over recent years, we are now seeking to identify additional provenance information," the museum said in a statement to The Times.

The report said Indian officials appreciated the Met's move to review the collection

that could have been sourced from Kapoor.

"It is a good initiative," D M Dimri, a spokesman for the Archaeological Survey of India, said of the Met's effort. "We hope other museums will follow suit too and verify the source of their acquisitions in case they have our stolen antiquities." Indian officials have said their discussions with the Met about artifacts from Kapoor began last year. The Met's curator for South and Southeast Asian art, John Guy, had visited the country last August, returning two antiquities that

the Met had on its own determined were likely looted from the country. However neither of those items — an eighth-century sculpture of the Goddess Durga slaying a buffalo-headed demon, and a third-century limestone bust of a man's head — appeared to have any connection with Kapoor.

Leading city-based cultural organization The Asia Society is also studying the provenance of at least one item — a 12th-century copper-alloy statue of the deity Shiva dancing in the center of a spoked

circle — that Indian officials believe was looted, the report said, adding that it does not have a lineage that tracks to Kapoor. "In the past, the institution has supported the return of objects that were found to have been acquired illegally," Asia Society's executive vice president Tom Nagorski said. "In this particular case, we are taking active steps to investigate and determine the validity of the claim."

UNESCO estimates that more than 50,000 idols, icons, artifacts and antiquities have been stolen from India.

TAPPA explores and blends the flavours in dishes to offer something familiar while extending food boundaries, says DHRUVIKA BHANOT

# Five point dimsums



The essence of Tappa lies in the name itself, which implies to bounce back. It also makes one reminiscent of a game from childhood days. And in the array of dishes that gracefully crowd the menu, the knowledge of a well-travelled chef is present but so is the taste of the food we had as children.

While there was a separate 'bloggers menu' which catalogued the dishes that the chefs were most proud of, we oscillated between that and the à la carte menu to diversify the dinner as well as to have panoramic view of the delicacies that are prepared at the restaurant. Six months went in curating the menu which reflected in the most enticing array of dishes. I had never felt as blown away, figuratively speaking.

One of the best things, apart from the food, which will shortly be on the receiving end of my evaluation, were the chefs who were more eager than ever to describe the menu to us, and acquainted us with the fusion dishes, an amiable mix of the Indian and international flavours.

I have seldom had the experience of what people quote as bad service and my luck seemed to be on my side this time around too the flawless service meant that the record remained unscathed. A pleasant smile and an incredibly hospitable attitude made our evening more special, a little corny but the truth nonetheless.

Before our ordered dishes were brought, chef Parul served us amuse bouche, which I have only ever heard Monica Geller rave about, in a little wooden box. It had the flavour of the

Indian *chat* put on a tart and it was in that moment that I knew that this dinner would soar past any expectations that I harboured. And close behind were our dim sums. The chef who makes the dim sums has about 17 years of experience and it showed in the variety that he showcased.

The cream cheese, water chestnut and chilli oil dim sums were suggestive of a cheesy encounter but it's not it. Instead of the chewy cheese the soft skin of the dough was filled with warm cream cheese which completely melts in the mouth, and I say it without an ounce of exaggeration. They were served with chilli oil, so the spiciness is not too far behind the warmth of the cheese.

There was five spice chicken dimsums but if you are looking for an 'authentic' Chinese flavour from this dish, it is not the one for you. But then, that's exactly the aim of the chefs. The five spices used were not just Chinese but also Indian where the kick of the latter flavour was quite prominent. It was interesting to know that the blend was made by the chef himself rather than being a store-bought concoction which many rely on. You will taste the Indian-ness as well as the Chinese-ness in the dim sums.

One of my most favourite dishes of the night, undoubtedly, were the dim sums, had I sat there longer, I would have waxed poetry of how soft and appetising they were, delicately wrapped, and the chopsticks dug in the skin of the dim sums so deliciously. I could feel the softness even before they had the opportunity to sit on my tongue.



Chillas were up next, and as chef Parul shared with us, they were a product of endless trials and errors. Initially, *chillas* were planned like soft crepes but the chef did not want to design and make something borne out of imitation.

We chose goat cheese *chilla*, it was crispy and you might get a feel of a *dosa*, but this was not quite that. It was made from sprouted wheat flour and though different from the *besan* ones that are made at home, it still hits a nerve there. It was made in vinegar and enveloped capicum, spinach goat cheese and beet root, which gave it a slight pungent taste. And though the chef had warned that it would be spicy, it had a balanced flavour. It was a different experience altogether. While I did not find any flavour amiss, the *chilla* gave me flashbacks of the beet root and kale salad I had at La Roca.

I have said it before, most of my excursions at restaurants are incomplete without pizza. And what is different about Tappa's menu is that instead of the classic round style, they offer *pide* which is a rich bread from Turkey. And from the plethora of options, we picked *Chauka* which was a

remained after the incredible service were given for the style of serving.

The green chutney, tangy in taste and spicy in flavour, complemented the *dosa* exceedingly well. The spiciness sits on the tongue, but that's what makes it good. The flavour isn't passable, rather it was impressive and establishes its taste well enough. Definitely a must try.

I ordered three things for mains of which *Dosa a la Tappa* was also one along with *Kladi Kulcha* and Manglore fried chicken. Each stuffed *kulcha* on the menu had a different preparation, different style and the taste of a different city all together.

The chicken was marinated in Manglorean flavours, deep fried and was topped with lemon yogurt on top with some jalapenos and chillis. The chicken was tender, super soft. If I would call something that is absolutely flavourful, it would be this dish.

I was a little perplexed when it came to dessert but sided with dark chocolate and litchi fudge. A great judgement on my part. The fudge was buried under a thick spread of meringue, and pieces of litchi coated in dark chocolate served with a scoop of ice-cream. If I think hard enough, I might still be able to taste the fudge.

Tappa also offers in-house ice cream and the special of the evening was bourbon and fig. The bitter taste of the bourbon found a truce with the sweetness of the ice cream, I couldn't hold myself it was such a delight. This restaurant has engraved itself on my recommendation list.

## CHEF TALK

# A disruptive fusion

As chef OSCAR BALCON goes against convention by pairing Italian cuisine with whisky rather than wine, he says that food connoisseurs should always be open-minded to give space to culinary adventures. By TEAM VIVA

When you decide to indulge in authentic Italian cuisine, you have to pair wine with it. And it cannot be just 'any' wine. The idea is that the flavour of your drink should match the intensity of the meal's sauce. However, ever heard of authentic Italian meal being paired with whisky?

Angad Singh Gandhi, Glenfiddich brand ambassador, celebrated the disruptive fusion of a fine single-malt whisky with modern Italian cuisine, prepared by Artusi Ristorante chef Oscar Balcon. The idea was to create an "unusual pairing for today's consumers," who are looking for experiences that are extraordinary, and such practices also pave a way for experimentation for both consumers and chefs.

Here's a take of chef Balcon who has carefully handcrafted the four-course dinner, which married the flavours of the versatile Glenfiddich's 12-year-old, 15-year-old and 18-year-old variants.

**Tell us about the special four-course menu.**

The menu includes a journey that takes us through different time and places. Just like fine whisky, it has firm roots in traditional methods, a foundation that is built on the quality of natural ingredients. But at the same time, it has a bright-eyed glance of contemporary possibilities. It is a menu that showcases how wide-ranging the pairing options in Italian cuisine truly are.

**How did you curate it? What inspired this special menu?**

At the Artusi Ristorante, our culinary inspiration is always the traditional cuisine of the Emilia Romagna region in Northern Italy as it has a rich and incredible quality of natural products. But this time we chose to look beyond the borders and the quality of some of the finest whiskies from Scotland, such as Glenfiddich, fascinated me and inspired this spirit-paired dinner.

Just like fine wine, the tasting notes of fine whisky also



cuisine is the one that perfectly balances the nutrition and sensuous elements.

**How do you source your ingredients?**

Mostly from Italy but also other great sources of top-notch ingredients globally. Also, from the small farmers in India who are growing and creating a market for high-end specialist produce, when in season.

**European and Italian cuisines are known to be blended or tasted with wine. But here, you have blended your menu with whisky. Why? What was the idea behind it. Did it turn out to be as amazing as the regular menu tasted with wine?**

Wine is the traditional pairing beverage for a fine Italian meal and I believe that will never change. However, every now and then, I think we should be open-minded enough for culinary adventures. And, more often than not, we end up with a positive surprise and great memories, much like the innovative partnership with Glenfiddich.

**How do you think such experiments can help bring a change in the way people look at the Italian cuisine?**

Like often in life, an individual act rarely propels a long-lasting change, yet we know that repeated adventures are the spice of life and as humans, we become richer with each new one. So, I would say, it's a toast to breaking barriers and to new and exciting discoveries.

guide us in understanding its aroma, taste and finish. Hence, we will deduct that smoky elements that pair well with grilled meats, while more mellow, round and sweetish notes might make a match with the dessert. And thus, layer by layer, we have curated a menu that marries cheese, vegetables, home-made pasta and flaming desserts with the corresponding notes of peat, smoke or round honey. We were indeed very pleased with the resulting symphony.

**What has shaped your food logic while growing up? Any anecdotes to share...**

Family, traditions and good fortune. My food logic has been shaped with the fortune to be living in the vortex of the "age of great food" (nowadays, you can get great food anywhere in the world) and the good fortune to have had the possibility to experience the best dishes both in my home country as well as with extensive travels and living all over the world.

**Which cuisine in the world would you say comes closest to the perfect sensory and nutritional balance?**

Apart from our own, perhaps the traditional Japanese

## gorge us

Hilton Garden Inn organises Janmashtami special dinner buffet. It offers authentic dishes from the streets of Mathura and Vrindavan and an array of delicacies like *Mathura ke pede*, *Sandesh*, *Hing dhaniya ke chatpate aloo*, *Aloo akhrot ki tikki*, *Methi paneer*, *Coconut laddoo* and many more. **Date:** August 24 **Time:** 7 pm onwards **Price:** ₹1,500 **Venue:** Hilton Garden Inn, New Saket.



Smaaash presents the *Kulcha* and *Kebab* fest that brings together a diverse range of delicacies. They have come up with delicious variants like *Murgh tikka*, *Gilafi* chicken, *Afghani* lolipop with *Bheega kulchas* for the non-vegetarians and *Paneer tikka*, *Veg gilafi kebab* and *Hara bhara kebab* with *Bheega kulchas* for vegetarians. **Date:** Till September 16 **Time:** 2 pm to 11 pm **Venue:** Available at all outlets.



Pullman hotel hosts the Turkish food festival, in which a special menu has been curated by its expert chefs, Ibrahim Yaman and Abdullah Olgun from Swissotel Istanbul. The menu offers local favourites of Turkey such as *Adana kebab*, *Purslane* with yoghurt, *Muhammara*, *Haydari* and more. **Date:** Till September 1 **Time:** 7 pm onwards **Venue:** Pluck, Pullman Aerocity.

Soy Soi offers an aromatic and flavourful range of dimsums from Green curry to Prawn *hargau*. Devour chilli *hoisin* and Korean fried chicken baos, tantalising soups and salads to dynamic sushi, *sashimi* and *nigiris*. **Date:** Till September **Price:** ₹2,000 (plus taxes) **Venue:** Ardee mall, Gurugram.

Nueva offers Peruvian and modern cuisine, tender and juicy Creole-style pork belly, Prawns *pintxo* with cilantro infusion, *Filo* pastry pizza. Devour burritos, Charcoal burger *la hamburguesa* and their signature Nueva-style tacos. **Date:** Till August **Time:** 11.30 pm to 12 am **Price:** ₹3,000 (plus taxes) **Venue:** Sangam courtyard, RK Puram.



## RECIPES



### GULAAB PAAN KI KHEER

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Milk full cream: 1 ltr
- Basmati rice: 100 gm
- Green cardamom: 10 gm
- Cashewnut broken: 20 gm
- Almond: 10 gm
- Chironji: 10 gm
- Pista: 10 gm
- Beetle leaf: 5
- Rose petal: as per requirement
- Gulkand: 50 gm
- Sugar: 100 gm
- Paan leaves: 2

#### METHOD

- Boil milk and keep stirring. Then add cardamom.
- Soak rice for half an hour and add rice in the boiled milk.
- Keep stirring till rice is cooked and has thickened.
- Add cashewnut, *kishmish*, *chironji*, sugar and then stir. Keep aside to cool.
- Add puree of *gulkand* and shredded *paan* patta.
- Garnish with rose petals and *paan* leaves.
- Serve chilled.

Courtesy: Chef Shivanda Kain from Jaypee Green Golf and Spa Resort.

### STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Boneless chicken breasts: 5-6
- Spinach: 2 bunches
- Italian seasoning: 3-4 tsp
- Mayonnaise: 3-4 tsp
- Cream cheese: 4 ounces
- Grated parmesan cheese: 2 cup
- Garlic powder: ¼ tsp
- Oregano: 1 tsp
- Paprika: 1-2 tsp
- Salt and pepper
- Olive oil: 4-5 tsp

#### METHOD



- Preheat the oven to 190 degree celsius.
- Wash the spinach leaves and boil them. Chop them into fine and small pieces.
- Take a deep bowl, add spinach, cream cheese, grated parmesan, mayonnaise and mix all them all together.
- Take chicken breasts on a

parchment paper then to the cutting board and make pockets on each with a sharp knife. Make sure you don't make a hole.

- Season each breast with Italian seasoning, salt and pepper.
- Stuff each chicken breast with the spinach mixture and lock the edge with the help of toothpick.
- Sprinkle with some more salt, pepper, paprika, garlic powder and oregano. Dizzle with olive oil and bake for 25-30 minutes until chicken is well cooked.
- Garnish with parsley leaves.

Courtesy: Chef Sahaurya Veer Kapoor at Cafe Hawker's, CP.

### KUKAD SINGH TALLI

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- To soak:**
  - Tandoori chicken: 700-800 gm
  - Beer: 1 lit
  - Garlic clove: 5 to 6
  - Cinnamon stick: 2 inch
  - Black pepper whole: 10 to 15
- For marination:**
  - Hung curd: 300 gm
  - Degi mirch: 20 gm
  - Garam masala: 5 gm
  - Mustard oil: 50 ml
  - Tandoori chicken masala: 10 gm



- Black salt: 5 gm
- Lemon juice: 5 ml
- Whisky: 20 ml

#### METHOD

- Clean the whole chicken. Then

deep cut the chicken and put it in a bowl with beer. Add clove, garlic, black pepper in the bowl and leave it over night.

- Mix all the ingredients in a big mixing bowl.
  - Take out the chicken from the bowl and marinate it. Keep aside for another few hours.
  - Now roast the chicken in *tandoor* or pre-heated oven or barbecue grill, basting it with butter.
  - Serve hot with mint chutney, green chilli and onion.
- Courtesy: Corporate Chef, Sanjay Singh Yadav at Vapour Bar Exchange.

Trend Blazer

Chitrangda to make her digital debut

Actress **CHITRANGDA SINGH** is all set to make her digital debut as an actress and a producer, with a musical drama web series. The shoot of the series begins at the end of the year.

"I will be starting to shoot for a web series at the end of the year or the beginning of next year. I am excited because I was waiting to do something interesting. It's been a long time since I have acted in a project," said Chitrangda.

The actress was last seen onscreen in *Baazaar*. She played Saif Ali Khan's wife in the film.



The War team tried to create a visual spectacle for the trailer

launch but no matter how big the plans were, the event was not able to match the scale of the film. An event for a film like this needs to be at par with what we are promising to the audience. It's impossible to create it from an event viewpoint. So we have scrapped the idea of the launch.

—Sidharth Anand

National Award-winning actor **AKSHAY KUMAR** has made it to the fourth position on the Forbes magazine's Worlds Highest-Paid Actors of 2019 list, beating Hollywood stars like **Bradley Cooper, Adam Sandler** and **Will Smith**. Akshay has raked in \$65 million (approximately ₹467 crore).



The actor, has been on a roll in Bollywood, with almost all his recent films crossing the ₹100-crore mark. Between 2018 and 2019, Akshay was seen in films such as *Pad Man, Gold, 2.0, Kesari* and *Mission Mangal*.

Kim poses with her four kids



**KIM KARDASHIAN** took to Instagram to share her first-ever picture with all four of her kids in Bahamas.

In the pic, Kim is on the beach with her junior quartet of North West, Saint West, Chicago West and Psalm West. The group makes for a great photo-op.

"I thought taking a pic with three kids was hard but OMG this is almost impossible!" Kim captioned the snapshot.

In the picture Kim's swimsuit is colour-coordinated with that of her daughters, Chicago and North. They are all turned up for beach action in silver swimsuits, while sons Psalm and Saint wore shorts.

Did you know *dabu* or *daboo* is an ancient mud resist hand block printing technique from Rajasthan? The practice almost died in the last century but was revived and is a flourishing business today. Day two of the Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festive 2019, saw designer Alka Sharma with her sustainable label of Udaipur, Aavaran. She presented her collection *Miniature Moon*, which has been done by the same old-age *dabu* technique. It has been embraced for printing intricate motifs on the finest natural fabrics like *mushru, mulberry silk* and *chanderi*. Delicate and ethnic embroidery like *pit-tan* have been used for embellishing the clothes. Regalia inspired silhouettes have been blended with modern designs to create this timeless and aesthetic collection.

The contemporary clothing label specialises in *dabu* mud resist, hand dyed and block printed apparel. The fabrics were eco-friendly, organic and natural, which were in perfect sync with the brand's ethics of sustainability.

The process of *dabu* printing is quite complicated, involving many workers and multiple stages of printing, washing and dyeing. First, the plain fabric received from the mills is carefully washed to remove any impurities which may interfere with the dyeing process. Then, designs are meticulously and painstakingly hand printed on to the fabric using blocks which are dipped into fast dyes. The next and crucial step involves the use of the mud resist which makes this print so unique. Ingredients like mud, gum, lime and waste wheat chaff are combined to make the 'dhabu' or mud resist paste which is then patted over certain parts of the design. The paste is dried with sprinkled sawdust. This covering essentially protects these parts of the fabric from the dye used later on, creating a unique and colorful effect.

After this process of printing, the fabric is spread out in the sun where it completely dries out. It is then dipped into a vat of dye, dried again and finally given a thorough washing to remove the paste and any excess dye. The dyes used are typically



REMAIN A CLASSIC

The Lakme Fashion Week has seen designers use forgotten techniques while extending their frontiers further



natural vegetable dyes and pastes. Thus the unprotected parts of the fabric catch the colour while the *dhabu* covered bits remain plain. The fabric may be dyed more than once in different colors to give each part of the design a different hue.

Speaking about her debut at the fashion week, Alka said, "The label was launched to sustain and revive the ancient, traditional craft of *dabu* print and provide economic empowerment to the indigenous craftsmen of the region. The designs are very similar to the motifs used in all traditional Rajasthani textiles, since the 'blocks' used for printing are common to most of these techniques. They tend to be nature inspired designs of plants, birds, flowers, fruits as well as artistic ethnic motifs."

Actresses Mrunal Thakur walked the ramp for Aavaran. She said, "I am

excited to be walking the ramp for Aavaran. This is truly thrilling as it will be a debut for us both at the week."

Designer Amit Aggarwal on Wednesday launched his luxury pret collection, *Flux*, with cricketer Hardik Pandya and actress Lisa Haydon walking on the ramp as showstoppers. Aggarwal, who is known for engineering recycled products in the garments he designs, has this time tied up with R-Elan — Reliance Industries' textile arm — to create the grandeur pieces in fluid, free flowing fabrics.

The designer used recycled polymer strips to add structure to the gowns, dresses and skirts that comprised the collection. Sheer wraps, exaggerated sleeves, power shoulders and billowing skirts were the highlight of the show. There was the use of techniques like *plisse*, fine draping and three-dimensional embroidery that added texture of

the pieces. Use of electric colours, shiny metallic shades of silver, blue, purple and green, hues of emerald, petrol, neutrals like gold, blush and ivory made the collection pop up.

Speaking about his collection, Aggarwal said, "The entire collection is about free flow. The fabric had a such a large plethora of different colourations... It never really stopped inspiring me. Going ahead and creating 100 more looks."

Haydon, who wore a purple drape gown said, "I really admire what Amit does. And especially this collection. It's a great play of contrasts, structures. Each time a model walked the ramp wearing one of his pieces, I felt like 'Oh my gosh, I want to wear that. And that's always a great sign, it means this is an excellent collection.'"

—With inputs from agencies

'I don't want to lose my rawness'

Actress **RAGINI KHANNA** tells **SAKSHI SHARMA** that her role in *Posham Pa* made her inhabit a scary headspace which grossed her out and intrigued her in equal measure



Imagine yourself in a situation where your mother forces you to become a murderer and you can only survive by hunting food like animals and eating it from dustbins.

When *Sasural Genda Phool* fame Ragini Khanna heard the script of her short film, *Posham Pa*, it fired a million questions in her head and caught her attention like nothing else had before. She knew that it was going to be one of her most challenging roles but was sure of doing it as she wanted the audience to see her in characters with different shades and break her established image of a happy bubbly girl next door.

When asked as to what appealed her the most? She said, "The script. As I read it, it generated a lot of emotions in me which I can't even express in words. I was grossed, I was intrigued, I was curious that how can something so dark be true?"

*Posham Pa* is a psychological thriller inspired by true events. It talks about a disturbed mother who forces her daughter to be a part of heinous crimes and murders which in turn leads them to be charged with death penalty. The film, naturally, forces one to think.

Ragini feels that the film plunges you into such depths that you start questioning everything. She was impressed by simplistic storytelling which sends a deep message. Ragini said, "I always wanted to work with Sumon Mukhopadhyay Sir (director). He has done films that have redefined various conventions. In this film, it is pure and honest story telling. The truth is kept intact and very little is left to imagination. The way he has retained the authenticity of characters was on point." The actress is happy with the creative liberty the film offered. She shared that during the shoots everyone was on the same page in terms of creativity and there was a smooth exchange of ideas. You subconsciously unite when your cause is bigger and you have a similar motive, the universe just conspires to bring you together. "That's what happened with this film,

we shared an unsaid bonding which was magical. This translated on camera beautifully as it sensitive and catches your aura and energy," she added. This helps the film to connect closely to the audience and impact deeply," she explained.

Talking about her character in the film, Shikha Deshpande, Ragini shared, "My journey is from an infant to a 30-32 year old. I have played a street child who is raised with no sense of societal boundaries. She is raised like an animal at the cost of her relationships and is willing to go to any extent for her survival." She questioned, "How can someone have an animalistic motivation towards their choices? It is extremely scary." But, the other side of Shikha is that she is an extremely intelligent girl with a brilliant mind. If she had been raised as a child and not animal, things would have been different. It's all about how you nurture. Ragini shared that the writers wanted to point out the concept of nature versus nurture. Giving birth to a child is very different from raising him/her. The former is a natural process but the latter is a life long commitment. Upbringing and education empowers you as it gives you a sense of right and wrong. The dark role

that the film offered made it challenging for the actor to get into the skin of the character. Ragini said, "While playing this role I developed an unsaid bonding with Shikha. In the process of trying to understand what she has gone through I experienced immense pain as it was difficult for me to analyse my own behaviour. Half the time I was shocked by my own acts. I had mood swings, I set without reason." She talked about a scene of the film where she says, 'Maine kachre ki peti mei se khaana nikaal ke khaaya,' which involved a lot of self-pity. She also tried to justify herself that 'I am so because of what I am going through and not by choice.' Ragini further shared that the role made her inhabit a scary headspace and she wanted to let go of this character very soon as it was troubling her. "When I was traveling for the shoot on the second day, I felt Shikha in my skin. I was so grossed by that because I am raised on a moral conditioning which doesn't belong to the value structure Shikha comes from," she added.

In recent times we have seen that more and more films are inspired by true events. Ragini's last one, *Gurgaon*, was also one such. She said, "We live in a fast mov-

ing world where something is always happening somewhere. This is enhancing real story telling. However, there are also stories which the human mind has not experienced and are a fragment of the directors' imagination."

Short films have a very limited time frame to leave the audience with thought-provoking ideas but they are still gaining attention in today's scenario. "They require a low attention span as it is only asking for 20 minutes from you. A three-hour film or series is a long commitment while short films are quick," said she. This digital era has paved the way for newer platforms and opportunities. Ragini feels that it is giving her the opportunity to play negative roles which she is not sure would have been possible in television. It is a blessing for her as she feels it provides her the chance to explore herself as an artist. She also emphasised on the responsibility attached to digital content in the past three to four years. Ragini said, "There is a lot of good work happening. We are directly competing with the international content." With this increasing competition the content is getting better and everything with higher accessibility.

Talking about her journey she shared that her mind has expanded with it she has led and the people she has been with. "The more I get enriched with life's experiences, the better my art will be. It will have far more depth and intensity. But at the same time I don't want to lose my unabashed rawness and candidness," she added.

(The film is streaming on Zee5.)



Ayushmann's fan in frenzy

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana is riding high on a success of all his films. The actor who won a National Award, (Best Actor) for *Anhadhun*, was celebrating the success of the film at a party when, in a surprising event, he came across a fan who had gatecrashed the party.

The fun fact about this whole event was that, the fan was dressed in a cotton yellow saree, imitating Ayushmann from the poster of his forthcoming film *Dream Girl*, and she stormed through the venue holding his *pallu*, eager to meet his favourite superstar. Ayushmann, who is known to be very cordial and loving towards his fan, thanked him and took pictures with the fan.

Right after the trailer was released, it became the top trending video on YouTube and garnered over 15 million views in less than 24 hours. Audience all across the country and the world are appreciating the actor and lauding him for his unique choices and him being at the helm of changing the course of Indian cinema by putting content based films on the top.

Fans have been going berserk over the trailer so much so that they have been trying to call Pooja aka the dream girl on the number given at the end of the trailer.

The poster of *Dreamgirl* has the star looking quirky in a cotton saree and sitting on a rickshaw. Nushrat Bharucha is the lead actress paired alongside the actor with Vijay Raaz, Manjot Singh, Annu Kapoor and Rajesh Sharma among others in the cast. Directed by Raaj Shandilya, produced by Ekta Kapoor, Shobha Kapoor and Aashish Singh, the film is set to release on September 13.

# Griezmann could be key against Betis

## Neymar future remains up in air



Antoine Griezmann celebrates after scoring his maiden goal for Barcelona during pre-season friendly game against Inter Milan

AFP ■ BARCELONA

If Lionel Messi listens to Real Betis and sits out another match, Barcelona will likely have to rely on Antoine Griezmann to finally get some points on the board.

Betis, which visits the Camp Nou on Sunday, responded to a tweet by Barcelona that Messi was back to practicing with the team for the first time since being injured in the preseason by saying: "Don't rush, Leo. No need for you to force it!" Barcelona couldn't make up for

Messi's absence last weekend when its attack was held scoreless in a 1-0 loss at Athletic Bilbao.

That was the first time the two-time defending champions had lost a Spanish league opener in a decade. And after both Real Madrid and Atlético Madrid won, the pressure is on.

Barcelona acquired Griezmann after triggering the 120 million euro (\$133 million) buyout clause in his contract with rival Atlético. The France forward was supposed to be the fourth piece to an already world class attack featuring Messi,

Luis Suárez and Ousmane Dembele. But Griezmann may be left with all the scoring responsibility in his competitive home debut.

Messi strained his right calf in the team's first practice of the season on August 5 and hasn't played since. Although it is possible he will be back to face Betis, Suárez won't be after he injured a right leg muscle in the first half at Bilbao. Dembele has also been ruled out for several weeks with a left thigh injury.

Philippe Coutinho, who could have helped out as an attacking

player, is no longer with the team after being loaned out to Bayern Munich this week. Malcom, a Brazilian forward who played sparingly for Barcelona last season, was sold to Zenit St Petersburg.

Griezmann had a lackluster match at Bilbao. His only goal scoring chance at San Mames Stadium came in the final minutes with a header.

The Frenchman, however, is used to carrying a team on his back.

Griezmann was a consistent scorer for Atlético, tallying more than 20 goals a season for five con-

## Messi back in Barca training

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Lionel Messi gave Barcelona a timely boost on Wednesday by returning to training with the rest of the squad after a calf injury.

Messi trained alone in the morning before joining his teammates in the afternoon, increasing hopes that Barca's captain could play a role against Real Betis in La Liga on Sunday.

He strained his calf on August 5 in his first training session back following the Copa America and subsequently missed the club's pre-season.

It would be a surprise if Messi started at Camp Nou, but Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde will be eager to have his star available again, particularly after his team suffered a surprise 1-0 defeat by Athletic Bilbao in their opening league game last weekend.

Messi's absence has been compounded by injuries to other strikers.

Luis Suarez is expected to be out for around a month after hobbling off with a calf problem against Bilbao. Ousmane Dembele injured his hamstring and will need five weeks to recover.

Antoine Griezmann, the 120



Lionel Messi trains during Barca practice session on Wednesday

million summer signing from Atletico Madrid, is the only fully-fit forward, with Rafinha and 21-year-old Carles Perez possible options to play behind him.

The shortage up front has intensified speculation that Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar could return to Barcelona before the transfer window closes in Spain on September 2.

PSG sporting director Leonardo admitted earlier this month that the club were in "advanced negotiations" to sell Neymar but a deal is yet to be agreed with Barca, who have already spent around 250 million euros this summer.

Neymar remains no closer to getting his desired move away from Paris Saint-Germain amid reports on Thursday the French club have rejected an offer from Real Madrid of 100 million euros (\$111 million) plus players.

French sports daily *L'Equipe* said Real had offered cash plus Gareth Bale, James Rodriguez and goalkeeper Keylor Navas, but PSG turned it down because "the overall value of the offer did not match their expectations".

Paris paid 222 million euros to sign Neymar from Barcelona two years ago and their sporting director Leonardo is understood to be determined to only sell the forward for a deal considered to be of the same value.

Real have spent the summer trying to offload Bale, while James is unwanted after returning from a loan at Bayern Munich and Navas is no longer the club's first-choice goalkeeper.

Meanwhile, Barcelona remain hopeful of bringing Neymar back to the Camp Nou, but Catalan daily *Sport* claims an attempt to sign the player on loan with an obligation to buy for 160 million euros at the end of the season has been firmly rejected in Paris.

*Sport* claims Barcelona feel "it is very clear that PSG are trying to prevent the Brazilian from returning to the Camp Nou in any scenario".

PSG had previously reportedly turned down an offer from Barcelona of 40 million euros plus Philippe Coutinho and Ivan Rakitic. Coutinho has since joined Bayern on loan.

Juventus are also believed to have stated an interest in signing the 27-year-old, who has not featured in any of PSG's matches so far this season having been frozen out amid the uncertainty over his future.

The transfer window closes in France, Spain and Italy on September 2, meaning time is fast running out for a deal to be done.



## LOCAL EVENTS

### VINAY'S HAT-TRICK IN NER WIN

Vinay Shukla scored a hat-trick in the first fifteen minutes of the match to give NER a thumping 15-1 win over Chowk Stadium in Lucknow Hockey League at Mohd Shahid Stadium on Thursday. Ishiyaq Ahmed struck thrice while Faiz Alam, Mohd Hanef, Rais Ahmed and Dharendra Diwedi scored braces. In another match, Northern Railway beat Sports College 'C' 3-2.

### SAHARA ESTATES ENTER SEMIS

Sahara Estates crushed LDA FC 9-1 to enter the semi-final of the 2nd Major Durga Mall Memorial District Football Open Chess Championship at D A V College. Tanishq Gupta finished second while Vamsi Krishna settled for third place. Principal DAV Inter College Naerndra Dev gave away the prizes.

### PRITHVI EMERGES CHAMP

Prithvi Singh of Study Hall emerged winner in the class 12th category of the 7th Jai Shankar Tiwari Memorial Inter-School Chess Championship at D A V College. Tanishq Gupta finished second while Vamsi Krishna settled for third place. Principal DAV Inter College Naerndra Dev gave away the prizes.

### MARTIN CUP

DPS, Eldeco blanked Green Public School in a league match of the 6th Martin Cup at La Martiniere ground on Thursday. Samarth struck twice in the 15th and 25th minute while Chandani netted one in the 35th minute. In other matches, LMC 'B' defeated Siddharth Public School 3-0 while APS and LMC 'A' won their respective match against Ram Swaroop and DPS, Shaheed Path.

### BAREILLY BEAT LUCKNOW

Bareilly Zone beat Lucknow Zone Blue by 47 runs in the Under-16 Inter-Zonal trial match at Ekana stadium on Thursday.

**BRIEF SCORES:**  
Bareilly Zone: 112 (Shubham Mishra 35, Siddharth Narayan 26, Abhijeet Gangwar 15; Yogesh Kumar 17/5, Divyansh Pandey 28/2)

**Lucknow Zone Blue:** 65 (Navratan Rajput 18, Varun Pratap 13, Prince Maurya 11; Madhav Gupta 4/3, Shubham Mishra 3/2, Abhishek Pal 15/2, Saurav Patel 16/2).

## Henry desires to succeed as manager

AFP ■ LONDON

France football legend Thierry Henry is keen for another chance to prove he can be a successful manager despite his unhappy brief tenure at Ligue 1 side Monaco.

The 42-year-old — Arsenal's record goalscorer — told the *Daily Telegraph* that although his phone did not ring for four months following his sacking, things have picked up since then and he has received five offers.

Henry's dream return last October to manage Monaco, the club where he established his reputation as a top class striker, turned into a nightmare. Having been part of Belgium manager Roberto Martinez's backroom team at the World Cup — where they reached the semi-finals — he lasted just over 100 days after only four league wins.

"Call me crazy if you want, but I love football and I believe

I can be a successful coach," he said. "I'm not thinking about the pain, I'm not thinking about failure. I don't like easy."

"I like to lead and it's on me to make it happen. The same when I joined Arsenal as a player, the same when I went to Belgium with Roberto. It's an evolution."

Henry, who was a member of the France squads that won both the 1998 World Cup and the Euro 2000 title, said although he has been contacted over jobs, he has yet to find the right fit. "My phone didn't ring for four months after I left Monaco and then all of a sudden I got five calls," he said.

"Some were not what I was looking for and some were as a number two."

"I won't do a number two job because I want to be a number one." Henry says it is frustrating having to wait around for another opportunity but he is convinced football coaching is where his future lies.

# Messi 'made me better player': Cristiano

AFP ■ TURIN

Cristiano Ronaldo admitted on Wednesday his long-time rivalry with Lionel Messi has made him "a better player" and that he enjoys a "healthy" rivalry with the Argentine great.

However, Portuguese star Ronaldo, whose influence at Real Madrid mirrored that of Messi at Barcelona before he left for Juventus, admitted that the pair have never socialised together.

"I really admire the career he has had and from his side, he has already talked of the disappointment when I left Spain because it was a rivalry that he appreciated," Ronaldo told *TVI* in Portugal.

"It's a good rivalry but it's not unique — Michael Jordan had rivalries in basketball, there was Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost in Formula 1. The thing they all had in common is that they were healthy rivalries."

Ronaldo and Messi have won the coveted Ballon d'Or five times each, a factor that helps each player flourish.

"I have no doubt that Messi has made me a better player and vice-versa. When I am win-



ning trophies it must sting him and it's the same for me when he wins," he said.

"I have an excellent professional relationship because we have been sharing the same moments for 15 years."

He added: "We've never had dinner together but I don't see why we can't in the future. I don't see a problem with that."

# Coutinho will not start against Schalke: Kovac

AFP ■ MUNICH

Brazilian star midfielder Philippe Coutinho will not make his first Bundesliga start when Bayern Munich travel to Schalke on Saturday, said coach Niko Kovac on Thursday.

Coutinho, 27, has been the talk of Germany since joining Bayern on a one-year loan deal from Barcelona earlier this week.

Yet at a press conference on Thursday, Kovac confirmed the Brazilian would begin his first game as a Bayern player on the bench.

"He is not quite at the level of fitness he needs to play for 90 minutes," said Kovac.

"He has said that himself, and we don't want to take any risks. He has only been training for the last two weeks, so he needs to catch up," he added, but confirmed Coutinho would be in the matchday squad.



**He is not quite at the level of fitness he needs to play for 90 minutes. He has said that himself, and we don't want to take any risks — NIKO KOVAC**

"I know a lot of people want us to play him straight away, but everything has to be right."

Kovac said Bayern's other new attacking signing, Croatia winger Ivan Perisic, could make the starting eleven against Schalke.

"Ivan is much further along, he started training at the same time as we did, and played several games for Inter Milan in pre-season," he said.

Bayern are under pressure to pick up three points against David Wagner's Schalke side, having been held to a draw in their opening Bundesliga game against Hertha Berlin last week.

# Novak, Osaka take US Open top seeds



AFP ■ NEW YORK

World number ones and defending champions Novak Djokovic and Naomi Osaka were named as top seeds for the US Open on Wednesday.

Djokovic, who will be chasing a 17th Grand Slam singles title in New York next week, heads the men's field with Spain's Rafael Nadal seeded second.

Former world number one Roger Federer, seeking a 21st Grand Slam crown, is seeded third for the tour-

nament. The draw for the men's and women's singles takes place on Thursday.

In the women's draw, Osaka is ranked number one while 2018 runner-up Serena Williams is seeded eighth.

Japanese ace Osaka won her first Grand Slam title in a controversial final victory over Williams last year and then followed it up with her second Slam at the Australian Open in January. The two other reigning Grand

## Ankita out of qualifiers

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India's top women's singles player Ankita Raina crashed out of the women's singles US Open qualifying event after a hard fought three-set loss to Czech Republic's Denisa Allertova.

The world No 194 went down 7-6(5), 4-6, 2-6 to her Czech rival in a match that lasted two hours and 17 minutes, on Wednesday night.

Ankita won the first set in a tie-breaker but failed to keep her momentum as Allertova broke the Indian to take the second set comfortably.

In the decider, Ankita was broken again as she conceded the match. Sumit Nagal is the only Indian left in the qualifiers. He is scheduled to play Peter Polansky of Canada in the second round of the qualifiers.

Slam champions are seeded in the top four, with Australia's French Open champion Ashleigh Barty seeded second and Romania's Wimbledon champion Simona Halep seeded fourth.

Former world number one Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic is seeded third in the women's draw.

# Praneeth enter World C'ship quarters, Prannoy loses

PTI ■ BASEL

India's B Sai Praneeth dished out a superlative performance to stun world No 8 Anthony Sinisuka Ginting and progress to the quarter-finals but H S Prannoy's fight ended with a narrow loss at the BWF World Championships here on Thursday.

World No 19 Praneeth, who had reached the finals at Swiss Open this year, took just 42 minutes to dispatch sixth seeded Anthony of Indonesia 21-19, 21-13 to set up a likely clash with another Indonesian Jonatan Christie, seeded fourth and the reigning Asian Games champion.

Earlier, Prannoy showed glimpsed of brilliance, especially in the opening game, but couldn't stop World No 1 Kento Momota from registering a 21-19, 21-12 win, his fifth victory over the Indian in as many encounters.

In the opening game, Praneeth quickly erased a 0-3 deficit to move to a 8-5 deficit. The Indian, who has had success against Anthony at the 2017 World Championship, kept his stronghold to enter the break with a 11-8 advantage.

In the second game, Praneeth zoomed to 6-2 but Anthony made his

way to manage a 11-8 lead at the breather. After the break, the Indian reeled off six straight points to make it 14-12. He kept marching ahead as Anthony crumbled.

Earlier, Momota dominated the proceedings initially against Prannoy as he moved from a 8-4 lead to grab a 11-7 advantage at the break.

Prannoy started putting pressure on his rival after the breather with an attacking game to claw back at 12-12 and kept snapping at Momota's heels.

At one stage, after the end of the 57-shot rally, an exhausted Prannoy was left prostrated on the floor following a perfect net return from the World No 1. The point gave Momota a two-point cushion at 19-17.

But the Indian stuck to his guns and a precise straight smash helped him to level at 19-19.

Momota, however, upped the pace to grab the game point with a return on the backline and then sealed it with a powerful smash.

After the change of sides, Momota once again found his way out of tricky situations to run up a lead of 11-5 at the break. Prannoy tried his best but Momota ensured he had the last laugh as he converted soon after gaining nine match points.

# Roach, Gabriel jolt India early

## Windies pacers exploit friendly conditions as India struggle at 68-3 in 1st session

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

Opener KL Rahul put up a gritty fight with a circumspect Ajinkya Rahane as India partially recovered from a top-order collapse to reach 68 for 3 at lunch on the opening day of the first World Championship Test match against the West Indies.

Rahul, who had a wretched 18 months in the red-ball format, before this Test match, was composed during his unbeaten 37 after India were reduced to 25 for 3 inside the first eight overs on a track that offered bounce and lateral movement for new ball bowlers Kumar Roach (2/12 in 6 overs) and Shannon Gabriel (1/26 in 7 overs).

Mayank Agarwal (5), the ever-dependable Cheteshwar Pujara (2) and skipper Virat Kohli (9) were back in the pavilion in the first hour after Jason Holder put the visitors in on a bouncy track.

Rahul (37 batting, 73 balls) and vice-captain Rahane (10 batting, 43 balls) added 42 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket and stemmed the rot going into the lunch break after 24 overs were bowled during the opening session.

Agarwal got one from Roach, which held its line and the opener didn't fully commit forward with resultant nick being gobbled by Shai Hope behind the stumps.

The dogged Pujara didn't last long as he got a delivery from Roach that moved a shade away after pitching with India's No. 3 lunging forward. The edge was taken low down by Hope.

Skipper Kohli relishes such adverse situations and tough conditions but it wasn't his day despite a promising start that included a drive past point and another past mid-on.

However, Gabriel's ball, one



Mayank Agarwal looks down after being dismissed by Kumar Roach, right, during day 1 of the first Test in North Sound



India's captain Virat Kohli plays a shot during day one of the first Test

**MAYANK AGARWAL (5), THE EVER-DEPENDABLE CHETESHWAR PUJARA (2) AND SKIPPER VIRAT KOHLI (9) WERE BACK IN THE PAVILION IN THE FIRST HOUR AFTER JASON HOLDER PUT THE VISITORS IN ON A BOUNCY TRACK**

that climbed on him from short of length, saw Kohli fend awkwardly, only to be caught at gully by debutant Shamarr Brooks.

At 25 for 3, it could have been worse but a determined Rahul put his head down and left a lot of deliveries outside off-stump as Rahane also

defended dourly at the other end, waiting for Roach and Gabriel's first spell to end.

It was only when back-up pacer Miguel Cummins came into operation that Rahul collected three of his four boundaries -- a cut and a couple of off-drives.

Not for once did Rahul look comfortable during the first session and both his boundaries were freak ones. The first was a thickish outside edge that bounced short of second slip before going for four runs. The second was a pull-shot and he wasn't entirely in control. However, the best part was that he hung in there.

### KEEMO PAUL RULED OUT

All-rounder Kemmo Paul has been ruled out of the first Test against India due to an ankle injury and pacer Miguel Cummins was named as his replacement by Cricket West Indies.

Paul was ruled out due to an injury in his left ankle and will remain in Antigua to continue his rehabilitation.

"With Keemo ruled out for this match, it's good to have someone with Miguel's quality back in the squad, as he brings experience to the team," Windies interim head coach Floyd Reifer said in a statement.

Cummins had made his Test debut against India three years ago and took a career best 6 for 48 in the second innings of the second match of the four-Test series.

"Watching him in the last A Team series against India A and the training sessions his lengths have improved. He's a very hard worker and a wicket-taker. I'm sure, if given the opportunity to play, he will make a valuable contribution in our bid to win this series," he added.

The first Test beginning on Thursday marks the start of the ICC World Test Championship for both teams. In this series, each team can earn 60 points for a win or 20 points for a draw.



## Richards see same passion in Kohli

IAN S ■ NORTH SOUND

Virat Kohli had a fan boy moment ahead of the first Test as he got an opportunity to interview legendary cricketer Vivian Richards, whom the Indian skipper has always idol-worshipped.

Kohli quizzed Viv Richards on how he dealt with the fastest of bowlers of his time without even wearing a helmet or a guard. He introduced the Caribbean master as "the greatest inspiration to all of us batsmen".

"Whenever I have seen videos of you walking out, you're in a hat, no helmets back then. Even when there were, after a point you chose not to. Because it was something that made you feel like you had the belief and you are chewing gum."

"I know the pitches were not as prepared or as covered back then. What was it like? What went through your head walking out knowing that you don't have a lot of protection. There is no restriction on bouncers and then you go out and dominate like that."

"What did you feel from the time you left the changing room till you got to the pitch. What was the mindset?" Kohli asked.

"I believed I am the man," said Richards. "It may sound arrogant but I always felt that I was involved in a game that I knew. I would back myself every time."

"You have to back yourself to get hurt, to take the knocks. But the helmet — I tried, I am not going to lie and tell you. But, it felt a little uncomfortable. So I felt my cap, my maroon cap which was given to me. I felt so proud with that."

"My mindset was that if I am good enough to be here, if I get hurt it's God's will. I will survive," the 67-year-old replied.

Kohli also shared his experience of facing fast bowlers: "I feel like it's better to get hit early on and get to know the feeling than always feeling like you might get hit."

"So, I prefer actually getting hit early on and really hard so it motivates me even further not allow that to happen again, just that pain to go through your body and be like — okay enough, it's not happening again."

Richards further said that getting hit was a part of cricket.

"Because to be fair while batting you are going to get hurt. It depends on how you come back from this knocks. In the old days, before these little guards (chest guards) around your ribs, you take it there and that's when you feel it. You take a count but then that's part and parcel of the sport," Richards opined.

Kohli also quizzed him about the challenges Richards faced that made him believe in himself. The former Windies skipper said: "I always felt I was good enough to be competing and I wanted to express myself in the best way that I can."

"I see that little similarity in you and that same passion in you," said Richards as Kohli had his moment. "There are times when folks would look at us and say, 'Wow why are they so angry?'"

Richards, who retired from the sport in 1991 had earlier hailed Kohli's batting skills and had said that the Indian skipper's batting style reminded him of his own days.

# 'Hesson almost beat Shastri to India coach job'

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Moments after Ravi Shastri was re-appointed as the head coach of the Indian team till 2021, Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) chief Kapil Dev had said 'as all of you were expecting' Shastri is the number one candidate for the job. But it has now come to the fore that Kiwi Mike Hesson had almost topped Shastri.

Speaking about it, a senior BCCI functionary said that it was a close call between Shastri and Hesson and New Zealand's track record under the Kiwi from 2012 till 2018 had almost sealed the deal for the former Kings XI Punjab coach.

"It was not a walk in the park for Shastri as some of you seem to believe. Hesson was really close to getting the go-ahead. It is there for all to see how the New Zealand team



improved by leaps and bounds under him across all formats.

"From being the perennial surprise package in big-ticket events, they had become a champion side under him and

that is something that really impressed the CAC.

"Under his coaching, the Kiwis reached their first-ever World Cup final in 2015. While he did resign in 2018, the Kiwis

playing their second final on the trot in 2019 also had a lot to do with what Hesson brought to the table.

His strategizing with the senior members in the team

can't be discounted," the functionary explained.

Asked what then turned the table back in Shastri's favour, considering that the CAC made it clear that skipper Virat Kohli wasn't consulted before taking the call, the functionary said it was Shastri's experience as a player on the international stage.

"The CAC felt that Shastri's proven record as a player was one area that needed to be given due recognition as one's own stature might become an area of concern when handling a team which has big names."

"Hesson hadn't played enough cricket himself and as we know started coaching in his early twenties. Shastri on the other hand played 80 Test matches and 150 ODIs. That is something that went against the for Kiwi coach," the functionary said.



## Vikram Rathour replaces Bangar as batting coach

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former opener Vikram Rathour will be replacing Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach while Bharath Arun and R Sridhar were expectedly retained as bowling and fielding coaches respectively.

The senior national selection committee headed by MSK Prasad has recommended three names each for all the support staff positions and the top names in each category will be appointed after the formalities with regards to Conflict of Interest declaration is complete.

The 50-year-old Rathour, has played 6 Tests and 7 ODIs in 1996 without much success but was a domestic heavyweight for Punjab. He till few years back (2016) was a senior national selector under Sandeep Patil's chairmanship.

He had earlier applied for NCA batting consultant and U-19 batting coach's position but his application was put on hold as his brother-in-law Ashish Kapoor is the chairman of U-19 selection committee.

"Vikram Rathour has got enough experience and we are convinced with his skill sets (as a coach). We will ask him to declare if he has any conflict," BCCI CEO Rahul Johri told reporters.

As per the recommendations of the selection committee, current incumbent Sanjay Bangar came second while former England batsman Mark Ramprakash was third.

"The team management had their own views but looking ahead, we felt there should be some freshness in the support staff," Johri said.

Former Mumbai Indians physio Nitin Patel, who was part of the support staff during the 2011 campaign, is back while Englishman Luke Woodhouse was appointed as the strength and conditioning (trainer) coach.

The other notable candidate to lose his job was incumbent administrative manager Sunil Subramanian, who was removed for his alleged misbehaviour with top diplomats of the Indian government during the ongoing tour of West Indies. Subramanian was replaced by Girish Dongre.

# Karunaratne stands tall on rain-hit day



AFP ■ COLOMBO

Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne helped Sri Lanka to 85 for two at stumps on a rain-hit day one of the second Test against New Zealand in Colombo on Thursday.

Only 36.3 overs were possible after rain washed out the first session and bad light ended play for the day with Karunaratne unbeaten on 49.

Karunaratne, fresh from a match-winning century in the first Test in Galle last week last week, hit six boundaries during his 100-ball stay in overcast conditions.

Former captain Angelo Mathews was giving Karunaratne company in the middle to remain unbeaten on nought after facing 14

deliveries. New Zealand all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme, who made the XI in place of Mitchell Santner, said the match was "evenly poised".

"There's a bit of more bounce on this track than what we encountered in Galle and that's nice," he said after play ended.

"If we can get a couple of early wickets on Friday morning that will be nice."

Karunaratne batted with positive intent despite losing opening partner Lahiru Thirimanne and Kusal Mendis either side of tea.

Thirimanne never looked comfortable and his 59-minute stay at the wicket produced just two runs.

His misery ended when he pushed a William Somerville delivery and was caught at extra cover by skipper Kane Williamson. He had been earlier dropped by wicketkeeper BJ Watling off Somerville.

Mendis looked good as he reached 32 with four fours and put on 50 runs with Karunaratne to steady the batting.

De Grandhomme got Mendis caught behind on a seaming delivery outside the off stump and Watling gloved the catch.

The hosts only need a draw to clinch the two-match series.

The entire opening session and another hour was lost due to persistent rain and the toss took place at 1:10 pm (0740 GMT). The afternoon session went uninterrupted but play was again delayed by 28 minutes after tea due to rain.

After 7.3 overs in the evening session, play was called off due to bad light.

# Harris, Khawaja fall amid showers

AFP ■ LEEDS

Marcus Harris and Usman Khawaja both fell cheaply before Australia reached 54-2 at tea on Thursday's rain-marred opening day of the third Ashes Test against England at Headingley.

Only 18 overs in an original day's allocation of 90 had been bowled when bad light forced an early tea, with David Warner 26 not out — his first double-figure score in five innings this series — and Marnus Labuschagne seven not out.

Rain had previously stopped play at 2.45 pm (1345 GMT) after delaying the scheduled start by more than an hour.

And there was further frustration for both England and a crowd who had waited patiently to watch cricket when, after play resumed, only 3.1 more overs were possible before the umpires suspended play for bad light even though the floodlights were on full blast.

After a grinning Warner and Labuschagne sprinted off the field, umpires Chris Gaffaney and Joel Wilson were booed as they returned to the pavilion.

Wilson was later seen having an animated conversation on the dressing room balcony with several England players and backroom staff.

England, looking to level the five-match series at 1-1, had seen captain Joe Root win the toss in the hope of making the most of overcast, bowler-friendly conditions.

Australia had dropped opener Cameron Bancroft, who had made just 44 runs in four innings, and brought in Harris to partner Warner at the top of the order after England had enjoyed the bet-



ter of a rain-affected draw in the second Test at Lord's.

Both left-handed batsmen struggled against England's new-ball attack of Stuart Broad and Jofra Archer.

The experienced Warner was repeatedly beaten by Broad juggling the ball off a length, while the express Archer, in his second Test, went past Harris's outside edge.

Archer, bowling from around the wicket, squared him up with an 87.3 mph delivery that saw Harris get a thin edge through to wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow — like Root appearing on his home ground.

Moments after Harris had fallen for eight, with Australia 12-1 off four overs, the umpires took the players off the field because of rain.

It took Warner 14 balls to get off the

mark as he continued to struggle, although Broad may have bowled a fraction too short with several deliveries beating the outside edge without really challenging the batsmen.

But he did take a wicket when Usman Khawaja, the third left-hander in Australia's top three, made thin contact with an intended leg glance and was caught behind as he too fell for eight.

England, however, had to review New Zealand official Gaffaney's original not out decision before reducing Australia to 25-2.

For Australia, fast bowler James Pattinson came in for paceman Peter Siddle.

England were unchanged after opener Jason Roy was passed fit having been hit on the head batting in the nets on Tuesday.