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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. 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



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

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 contested 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 con-

fession 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.

Mehta countered the arguments put forth by Chidambaram's lawyers stating that everybody's 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 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.

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 (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 strategy



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

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.

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 violations in the last few days indicate that the infiltration push is likely to come in from Uri, Keran and

Gurez (north of Pir Panjal) and Naushera in south of Pir Panjal, sources said.

Cautioning that violence will be calibrated, officials said incidents will take place once restrictions on movement will be gradually removed in the Kashmir Valley. They admitted incidents will see backlash in the State and other parts of the country and security forces have to be prepared to meet with the challenge.

Meanwhile, on the efforts to take the issue to world forum, Pakistan has activated Kashmir cell in all its missions and their officials are addressing the Pakistan Diaspora in several western countries. Moreover, Pakistan has hired lobbyists to further the so-called cause of Kashmir. If violence takes place in the State, Pakistan will try to take the high moral ground claiming that situation is not under control and no longer an internal matter of India thereby necessitating international intervention, they said.

Sensex sinks 587 pts as stimulus hopes fade, ₹ crashes to 8-month low

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity markets saw a bloodbath 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.

Soon after Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian on Thursday said using taxpayers' money to bail out companies going through a "sunset" phase will create moral hazards and such a step is an anathema to the market economy, the marked tanked, triggering another round of selling in banking, auto and metal stocks.

5 workers suffocate in Gzb sewer

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



The drain hole, in which 5 workers died, now stands sealed

city, District Magistrate Ajay Shankar Pandey said.

They were employed by a private contractor, which was carrying out the project under

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.

Trump wants India to fight terrorism in Afghanistan

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, ruing that the job against the extremists is being done only by the United States some 7,000 miles away. "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.

The US President 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.

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, FEROEZPUR INUNDED
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.

RAJ THACKERAY GRILLED BY ED
Mumbai: MNS chief Raj Thackeray was on Thursday grilled by the ED in a money laundering case, after he reached the agency's office in south Mumbai with his family members in tow.

AAP vows mandir wahi banayengey

Delhi Assembly resolution pledges to rebuild Ravidas temple at the same spot

GAYATHRI MANI/SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Dalits organised a rally to protest the demolition of Sant Ravidas temple in Tughlakabad by the Delhi Development Authority on the Supreme Court order, the Delhi Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution to reconstruct the temple at the "same spot" and demanded that the Central Government to bring an ordinance to transfer the land right for Sant Ravidas temple.

The Assembly demanded that the Centre should file a review petition before the Supreme Court. The resolution moved by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal



stated, "The site was donated by the Afghan monarch Sikander Lodhi to Sant Ravidas, who is widely worshipped by the Dalit and other communities. This is a historically significant site which Sant Ravidas visited and lived for some time and forms a part of Dalit struggle for identity and rights. Demolishing this temple not only crushes the religious sentiments but also the history of Dalit struggle."

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

foreign media but not our media."

Blaming the Modi Government for perpetrating excesses on the people of the State, Azad evoked the mem-

ory 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.

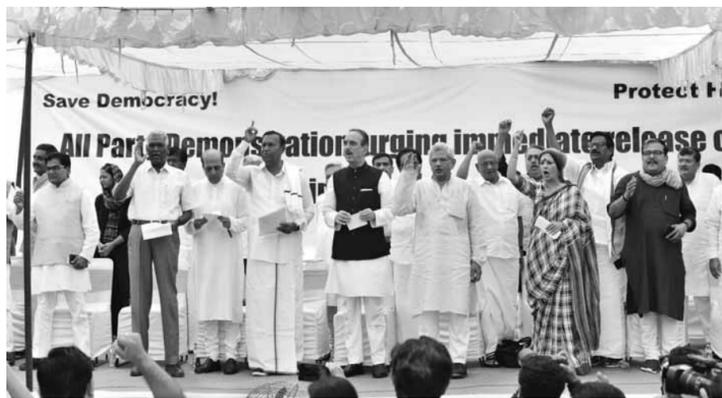
Demonising PM not going to help: Jairam

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

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

by the late PM is something that cannot be merely with slogans and pride rather it needs hard work and strong will," Sonia said.

Without naming any particular party or name, she said today there are those who are busy inventing a new past for us, Rajiv was engaged in inventing in preparing for a new future. "To him, the past has to be understood in all its complexities to build pride, not to stoke prejudice, to strengthen social harmony, not fuel antagonism and polarize our society, a society whose heritage has been enriched by multiple streams of faiths, beliefs and culture. He was proud of our past, but, at the same time he

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 Vidyalyayas 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 NHA 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.

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 bill 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 resent the discussions in the UN Youth Climate Summit to be held on September 21 at the UN Headquarters in New York. PNS

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).

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 paediatrician 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

Chhattisgarh bags national award for outstanding work in nutrition campaign

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh has bagged national award for outstanding work in nutrition campaign. Union Ministry for Women and Child Development will felicitate the state with citation and cash reward at a function to be held at convention hall at Chanakyapuri in national capital on Friday.

Official sources informed that the Chhattisgarh state was adjudged second nationwide in two of the categories. The state bagged award in group-A Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) for regular monitoring of Anganwadi children through software. Similarly, it got second

Chhattisgarh state was adjudged second nationwide in two of the categories. The state bagged award in group-A Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) for regular monitoring of Anganwadi children through software. Similarly, it got second prize in contract education process, skill development and community activities

prize in contract education process, skill development and community activities, sources added.

Besides, Durg district was adjudged best district, Kartala (Korba), the best Block and Best Anganwadi Worker,

Mitanin, Supervisor and ANM team award was given to Batauli (Surguja) and Patan (Durg), sources informed.

Sources further informed that each of the team of Anganwadi workers, Mitanins, supervisors, ANM team will be

rewarded with cash prize of ₹2.5 Lakh.

The state which has been adjudged the second in time bound target work under group A will be rewarded with a cash prize of ₹50 Lakh, sources added.

Eyeing plump posts Congress leaders woo CM with birthday posters, hoardings

Leaders who are vying for posts in boards and corporations are competing to show their loyalty

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Despite Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had instructed that his birthday must be celebrated with simplicity, the Congress's second-rung leaders are installing hoardings and cutouts with birthday wishes to the CM in almost all the squares and busy roads across the capital city to show their loyalty towards their leader.

Most of these enthusiastic leaders are vying for lucrative posts in boards and



corporations. They are utilizing the opportunity to project themselves as being loyal to the chief minister and

so they are making all possible efforts to draw attention. Roads and major squares of the capital city are filled up

with hoardings and cutouts carrying images of Baghel put up by these "well wishers." Not a single pillar or post near CM's official residence and at party's state headquarters Rajiv Bhawan was spared from this show of loyalty.

Already it has been hinted that soon the names of chairpersons of boards and corporations would be announced and so these second rung leaders are competing with each other to show their devotion towards the CM, hoping to be get rewarded for their loyalty.

CM's 'return birthday gift' to state employees, pensioners

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on the eve of his birthday has announced additional hike in dearness allowance for state government employees and pensioners. The hike in DA will be effective from January 1, 2019.

As per the order issued, employees and pensioners will get 3 percent of DA for 7th Pay Commission from January 1, 2019 while it would be 6 percent DA for the 6th Pay Commission.

At present the employees of 7th Pay Commission were getting 9 percent and 6th Pay Commission were receiving 148 percent dearness allowance. Around 3.72 lakh employees and around 1.13 lakh pensioners will be benefited by the latest hike.

CM to launch 'Swadisht Chana' distribution scheme today

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on the occasion of his birthday on Friday will launch the 'Swadisht Chana' (chickpea) distribution scheme to be implemented in Scheduled Areas and Modified Area Development Agency (MADA) areas of the state.

The scheme will be launched by the CM at 11.00 am from his official residence in Civil Lines, Raipur.

Food and civil supplies minister Amarjeet Bhagat will preside over the launching ceremony.

Five Maoists give up arms in Bastar region

STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA/JAGDALPUR

Five Maoists, including a hardcore-ultra carrying a cash reward of ₹5 lakh on his head, gave up arms in the restive Dantewada, Jagdalpur and Narayanpur districts, police said on Thursday.

"Mehttar Koram alias Ronda a resident of Dhaudai police station under Narayanpur district handed over his 12-bore gun to police. He was President of Maoist Jantana Sarkar, active in Bayanar area committee and carried a reward of ₹5 lakh on his head," a police official from Narayanpur informed.



Ronda was involved in over a dozen of encounters between Maoists and police force. He was also wanted in connection with the murder of a villager at Kanhargaoon in 2016.

In a different incident, Manju Mandavi and Sonaru Poyam who were members of Maoist LOS active in Odisha gave up arms before Bastar police.

According to police they

were involved in various Maoist attacks in which 25 police personnel were killed and 7 sustained serious injuries.

In Dantewada, two Maoists carrying cash reward of ₹1 lakh on their heads gave up arms before the SP Dantewada.

Sannu Kunjam was a Maoist Janmilita Commander and Budhram Mandavi was Maoist DAKMS (Dandkaranya Kisan Adivasi Majdor Sangh) member. They were active in Ganglur region and were wanted in connection with incidents like attack on police party, planting IEDs and similar other subversive activities.

FIRs against Abhishek not politics of vengeance: Cong

Rajnandgaon police resisters multiple FIRs against Abhishek, sitting Mayor Madhusudan Yadav and others

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

State Congress has sharply reacted to the attempt by former Chief Minister Raman Singh to defend his son Abhishek Singh against whom multiple FIRs were lodged and clarified that the action against the former MP was not a politics of vengeance.

Multiple FIRs were registered against the former MP, sitting Mayor Madhusudan Yadav and others at four police stations in Rajnandgaon district on Thursday.

The FIRs were lodged in alleged involvement of Abhishek and sitting Mayor Madhusudan Yadav in a chit fund scam.

In a statement, Congress's

state spokesperson Dhananjay Singh Thakur said if FIR against Abhishek was a politics of vengeance then what was it when Baghel was booked and jailed just for waving a CD (allegedly containing video of a former minister in a compromising situation).

Earlier too FIR against Abhishek and Yadav were registered in Surguja region but since there is a Supreme Court order against taking any coercive action, the arrest of Abhishek has been kept on hold.

Now as fresh FIRs have been registered in Rajnandgaon the accused have to again apply for interim bail in local court once again.



Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel took part at an all-India-level programme to commemorate the 75th birth anniversary of late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi on Thursday.

Family friend mastermind of kidnapping 5-yr-old boy

STAFF REPORTER ■ DURG

Five persons including a woman were arrested in connection with the abduction of five-year-old Maulik Sahu, who was kidnapped on August 20 while he was on his way to school at Dhanora.

"One of the close family friends of victim's father was the mastermind in the kidnapping episode. They have been sent to jail," Superintendent of Police (SP) Durg Prakhar Pandey said.

The prime accused, identified as Rajkumar Sahu (31), who lived near the victim's house was a good friend of Chandrashekhar Sahu - victim's father, police said.

"Few days back Chandrashekhar had sold his ancestral land for about ₹1.20 crore. Rajkumar was aware of the fact," the SP said.

Rukendra Sinha of Somna, his wife Babita Sinha, Hemu Sahu of Dhanora and Kundan of Rajnandgaon too have been arrested in this connection, police said.

Rajkumar had hatched the plan about a month back and Hemu was constantly keeping eye on Maulik's movement, the SP revealed.

On August 20 Rukendra Sinha along with Rajkumar and Hemu snatched Maulik from the school van at Dhanora. Kundan joined

them in between while they were headed towards Rukendra's house at Somna.

After Kundan joined the party, Rajkumar, left the group and rushed back to Dhanora. The boy was then dropped at Rukendra's house where his wife Babita was waiting to take care of the abducted child, police revealed.

Chandrashekhar Sahu without knowing that his "friend" was the mastermind behind the kidnapping called Rajkumar to inform about the abduction of his son.

Pretending innocent Rajkumar even accompanied Chandrashekhar to Padmnabhpur police outpost to lodge complaint about the

abduction. Police said Rajkumar went to the police outpost to avoid any suspicion and keep tab on the police's movement.

However, due to deployment of security personnel who sealed all the exit routes, the accused decided to release the child and they dropped him near Somna police station around 1.30 am, police said.

Rajkumar was arrested based on the evidences, CCTV footages and technical inputs received during the course of investigation, police said. During interrogation he spilled the beans which led to the arrest of other accomplices.

Assessment Centre founded to provide equal learning opportunities

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

An Assessment Centre has been set up in the state under the SCERT to standardize teaching practices and assessments, and to monitor learning outcome from school to state level.

The centre will be made the axis of curriculum reform in a bid to improve the quality of education across the state in an equitable manner.

The ministry of human resources development has sanctioned ₹48 crore for the functioning of this centre.

This initiative is a first of its kind in the country and will help the government of Chhattisgarh to develop its education map of learning levels in the state and to use assessments as a diagnostic and pedagogy tool to improve learning levels.

Normally no state conducts student assessments till grade VIII as standardized or full cohort assessments. Centralized tests such as this state-level assessment (SLA) will standardize evaluation process. The design for the SLA was finalized in a workshop held by the Department of School Education at SCERT from 10-11 January this year. 200 people from schools, DIETS, cluster, block, SCERT, Samgra Shiksha and 20 partnering organisations and consultants were present in that workshop.

The Assessment Centre was launched on August 19 with a 4-day orientation workshop involving 100 stakeholders selected from the state by Principal Secretary Education Gaurav Dwivedi, Mission Director Samagra Shiksha P. Dayanand and Director SCERT, Shri Saurabh



Kumar, Joint Secretary Sunita Jain, Additional Director SCERT.

"Every child in the state should have equal opportunities for learning with access to the best resources. These opportunities should not be limited to schools in the urban areas only but should reach rural and remote regions too. Although emphasis is being given on learning outcomes by academic institutions, but there is a gap between policy and practice," Dwivedi said explaining the objective of the centre.

"Therefore, till the time this gap is not filled, the difference is not overcome, students will miss out on the right to quality education which supports learning with understanding and not rote learning. In the coming days our assessment centre will develop common standards which will also align teacher training material, study

material, classroom practice and assessments for better educational outcomes in the state," he added.

The centre will standardize teaching practice at a classroom level, including lesson plans, teaching strategies, competency based learning outcomes framework, evaluation from formative and summative assessments.

Question papers, training programmes will also be designed and delivered keeping in mind the classroom need and challenges, report cards, assessment schedules and research.

In this regard, a workshop was organised which was attended by participants who will manage and drive activities of the centre.

Already under the SLA, 1.2cr assessments papers of 30 lakhs students from 38000 schools were analyzed with analytics and technology tools.

Temple demolition: Day after violent protest, security upped



Police personnel keep vigil near the Ravidas temple site

■ Around six Govt vehicles were set on fire by the mob
■ The protesters were forced to recede after 29 rounds of tear gas shelling
■ Around 96 protesters were arrested by the police

"They had vandalised a police bike in front of us and also broke several car glasses. They were also using wooden battens and whatever was coming in their way," said Hari Om, a shopkeeper in the area adding that the crowd dispersed in the residential colonies after police team arrived here.

OKHLA ESTATE ROAD
 "After the group of protesters entered the area we had already locked ourself inside our houses. The crowd here broke several cars parked on main road and in residential area," said Atul Kashyap, a resident. "When the mob had passed away from the area we came out of house and saw several vehicles were damaged by the mob," said Abdul, who runs a biryani shop and is resident of the area.

"If they were protesting why did they vandalise so many vehicles. They could have raised their demand in a peaceful manner not by disturbing peace and people in the area. Now we have a fear of this mob coming again," said Tushar, a resident.

TIMELINE
 On Wednesday, around 4 pm, a group of Dalit activists

who had gathered at the Ramlila Maidan began marching towards Tughlaqabad.

"To maintain law and order situation in the area police had already deployed heavy force in the area but around 4,000/5,000 agitators broke the barricades. When police dissuaded the protesters, they dispersed but gathered again in small numbers near Nizamuddin," said a senior police official.

"Police had set up barricades near Ashram Chowk and then at Maa Anand Mayi

Marg to stop them from reaching the site of the demolished Ravidas temple. However, they mixed among the locals to avoid being stopped by the police," said the senior police official.

Around 6 pm, the main drama began when protesters broke one layer of barricade after another when police tried to stop them from getting close to the temple that was demolished 10 days ago.

The protesters approached the site, which had been cordoned off by the Delhi Police.

However, several police officials were also asked to call in their teams and more than 600 policemen covered the area in the next one hour. A four layer barricade was set up by the police, two of which were broken by the protesters.

The protesters started pelting stones at the police teams as soon as police tried to stop them. Around 7 pm, police started using tear gas shells but the stone pelting continued.

The protesters smashed the windshields and window panes of more than 20 cars

parked along the road. Seeing the agitated crowd, the locals started to run haywire to save their lives. A few residents even opened the gates of their houses for the locals.

"Around six Government vehicles were set on fire by the mob. Several other vehicles on roads and residential areas were also damaged by the mob," said a police official. The protesters were forced to recede after 29 rounds of tear gas shelling. Around 96 protesters were arrested by the police.

Ravan among 96 sent to judicial custody for rioting

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Thursday sent Chandrashekhar Azad alias Ravan, the Bhim Army chief, along with 95 other protesters, to judicial custody after they were arrested following charges of rioting, attempt to murder and unlawful Assembly.

Azad and other protesters were detained on Wednesday night from Tughlaqabad area after they had staged a violent protest by Dalits against the demolition of a Ravidas temple turned violent, prompting police to resort to "mild lathicharge" and use tear gas shells to disperse the mob.

After the mob took a violent turn around six police personnel were injured while 15 protesters also sustained minor

injuries.

"Station House Officer (SHO) of Jaitpur police station, Anand Prakash, Head Constable Narendra and Sub Inspector Jitender sustained severe injuries after they were attacked with a sharp edged weapon. They were discharged after a treatment at the hospital," said a senior police official.

"Police have also recovered several wooden sticks (lathis) and iron rods from the spot, where most of the rioters were detained. Crime team also inspected the spot," said the senior police official.

"Police on Wednesday night registered a First Information Report (FIR) under sections 143/147/148/149/186/353/332/308/323/435/437/120B/34 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) at

Govindpuri police station," said Chinmoy Biswal, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South-East district.

"Police teams and CRP have been deployed near the site as a precautionary measure," the DCP added.

Meanwhile, condemning the incident, an umbrella body of Dalit groups, which protested the demolition of a Ravidas temple in Ramlila Maidan in Central Delhi said that the march to the disputed site in the area on Wednesday evening was a personal decision of a few people.

Ashok Bharti, the convener of the Akhil Bhartiya Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas Mandir Sanyukt Sanrakshan Samiti said that those who marched to the site of the temple, had gone themselves.

"No directions were issued by Samiti regarding the march towards site. People had gone on the site on their own will. We condemn the violence, but people should know it was the police that used force against the protesters first," he claimed.

Bharti said the protesters had resolved to install a statue of Sant Ravidas at the site of the temple demolished by the Delhi Development Authority on August 10 on the orders of the Supreme Court.

"We will do it sooner or later, but in a peaceful manner. Some people become emotional Wednesday evening and the protest took a violent turn. It was a one-day protest at the Ramlila Maidan and people, who had come from various states, are now returning to their homes," said Bharti.

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

A day after protest over demolition of Ravidas temple turned violent on Wednesday, Tughlaqabad in South east Delhi on Thursday limped back to normalcy as the Delhi Police deployed a strong posse of armed police personnel in Govindpuri, Alaknanda and Tughlaqabad to keep troublemakers at bay.

"Police keeping a tight vigil on each and every activity in the area. Around 60 CRP personnel along with police have been deployed on the temple site. Further pickets have been also installed at various points as a precautionary measure," said

Chinmoy Biswal, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South-East district.

Earlier, police had installed a board at the temple site which says, "This land belongs to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) according to a Supreme Court order. Occupying it is a punishable offence."

However, a group of people, after being denied entry to the temple site went on rampage and clashed with residents, passersby and Delhi Police personnel on Wednesday night.

RESIDENTS SPEAK
 "There has been a heavy police deployment since

Wednesday morning as the temple site is on walking distance from here. At 6 pm police official came to us and asked us to close shops as soon as possible," said Kamal Gupta, who is running a sweet shop in Tughlaqabad Extension for the last 10 years.

"We were pulling down shutters of our shops when suddenly around 6.50 pm several people came and started pelting stones at our shops and vehicles standing on roadside. Seeing the situation we also locked up ourselves including few customers in the shop till 9 pm, They even broke the CCTV camera installed in front of my shop," said Gupta.

Pioneer photo

Water level of river Yamuna recorded below danger mark



Water level of Yamuna receded further on Thursday and that could be below the Lothian Bridge which was closed for traffic a few days back. Traffic has been allowed on this bridge

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The water level receded further on Thursday and was recorded below the danger mark. Residents, who shifted to temporary makeshift tents after their houses flooded, started returning back.

According to report, the level of Yamuna water at Railway Bridge was 206.60 metres at 10 am. It is expected to recede further, a senior Government official said.

The water level of Yamuna reached the highest level of

206.60 metres on Wednesday morning. The river started receding from afternoon and flowed at 206.44 metres at 6 pm. It had crossed the danger mark of 205.33 metres on Monday.

Around 23,000 affected people have been evacuated from the flood-plains to safer places. Over 18,000 of them were accommodated in more than 2700 relief tents set up by the Delhi Government agencies.

Some tents remained vacant as many residents at the Yamuna Khadar didn't vacate

their shanties. Earlier on Wednesday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met people affected by the flood and said the Government will ensure that there is no shortage of relief materials.

The river flows through six districts of Delhi whose low-lying areas are prone to flooding. The administration has deployed 30 boats to prevent accidental drowning. In 1978, the water in the river rose to its highest-ever level of 207.49 metres, causing a devastating flood in the national Capital.

LoP Gupta terms Kejriwal statement in Assembly on Ravidas temple impractical

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Reacting to the statement of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sant Ravidas Temple in the Assembly on Thursday, Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta said the Chief Minister has taken an irresponsible and impractical stand by rejecting his proposal to remove the land of temple from the forest category.

Gupta said Kejriwal wants the matter should remain entangled in the Courts forever. "The Chief Minister is



putting obstacles in the way to solution. I was marshaled out of the Assembly along with MLA O P Sharma after suggesting the solution on this matter after discussion with the Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar," he said.

Addressing the House, Gupta suggested that the most appropriate and simple solution is to remove the temple land from the category of forest land. "It is the responsibility of the Delhi Government to do so," he said.

He said he had discussed the matter with Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar. He assured that if the Delhi Government removes forest tag from the temple land, Union Government will leave no stone unturned in making the place as grand as envisioned by the devotees of Sant Ravi Dass. The Delhi Government should take initiative and the BJP Government will discharge its responsibility of constructing grand memorial to the great saint.

MLA Dutt tears off shirt to protest against demolition

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Ambedkar Nagar MLA Ajay Dutt tore open his shirt outside the Delhi Assembly on Thursday to protest against the recent demolition of a Ravidas temple. "If the BJP people don't want to let us live then they should hit us with sticks," the AAP MLA said.

The Ravidas temple was demolished by the DDA earlier this month on the orders of the Supreme Court.

Dalit protesters, who had taken to the streets to protest the demolition of the temple on Wednesday had brought traffic movement in several parts of Delhi to a standstill. The protesters asked the central government to rebuild the temple. The protest had turned violent on Wednesday night, leaving several people, including policemen, injured.



AAP MLA Ajay Dutt with Deputy Speaker Rakhi Bidlan and other MLAs inside Delhi Assembly premises after he tore his shirt to protest against demolition of Ravidas Temple in Tughlaqabad

Govt misleading over CCTV: Tiwari

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Termining the claim of installing 2, 80,000 CCTV cameras across the national Capital false, the Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP) Delhi unit president Manoj Tiwari criticised Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, saying the Government is misleading people at the cost of the public exchequer. "The amount being spent on advertisements is the money recovered as taxes from the people of Delhi. The reality is that CCTV cameras have not been installed in entire Delhi. Nobody can find these cameras in any area and wherever the cameras have been installed, they are either out of order or no arrangement has been made for their proper maintenance," he said.

Justice Sunil Gaur, who paved way for PC's arrest, retires as Delhi HC judge

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Justice Sunil Gaur, who paved the way for former finance minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram's arrest in the INX Media case by dismissing his anticipatory bail plea, retired as a Delhi High Court judge on Thursday.

He had also passed an order clearing the decks for prosecution of top Congress leaders, including Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, in the National Herald case.

Justice Gaur was elevated to the high court in April 2008. He was designated as a permanent judge on April 11, 2012. During his tenure, he heard several other high profile cases.



Justice Sunil Gaur of Delhi High Court who retired on Thursday

court, but was put on hold by the Supreme Court in April this year. The matter is still pending in the apex court.

Justice Gaur also dealt with some issues arising out of corruption cases, including the money laundering case against controversial meat exporter Moin Qureshi.

Denying anticipatory bail to Chidambaram in the INX Media case on Tuesday, the 62-year-old judge had described him as the "kingpin".

The Congress leader, who was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday night, moved the Supreme Court against the order. The apex court will hear Chidambaram's plea on Friday.

Cong walks out from HP Assembly over PC's arrest

PNS ■ SHIMLA

The opposition Congress on Thursday walked out from the Himachal Pradesh Assembly, protesting the arrest of former finance minister P Chidambaram.

Congress MLAs led by Leader of Opposition Mukesh Agnihotri raised slogans before staging the walkout.

Agnihotri rose from his seat soon after the Question Hour at noon and stated that Chidambaram's arrest was a "murder of democracy". However, Speaker Rajiv Bindal stopped him from raising the issue, stating no notice for discussion was given.

Soon after Congress MLAs started raising slogans "Modi Sarkar Murdabad". Countering them, BJP MLAs raised slogans like "Chor Machaye Shor."

Subsequently Congress MLAs staged a walkout from the House.

Condemning the walkout by the Congress, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said the Centre had nothing to do with Chidambaram's arrest and that he had been arrested after rejection of his bail plea by the high court.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH, SECTOR 19, ATAL NAGAR, RAIPUR

Notice Inviting

No.PHQ/Sec-10/Prove-2/3904/19 Raipur, Dated: 16/08/2019

Sealed tenders are being invited by the Director General of police, chhattisgarh on behalf of Governor of chhattisgarh from Original equipment manufacturer (OEM) or Authorised by manufacturer for the following item.

| No | Name of Item | Qty | Specification | EMD in Rs |
|----|---------------|-----|---|--------------|
| 1 | Safety Jacket | 500 | High Visibility Safety Jacket Made Of 65% polyester and 35% Cotton (In-2 Inch Reflective-photoluminescent Reflective Tape- The Center Strip Will Be Reflective and Both Side Edges Will photoluminescent) (1 Vertical-Horizontal) With Test Report EN 20471 For Center Reflective Strip heart transfer. Type: Front Open V-Neck. Material: 180 GSM (65% polyester+35% Cotton) | Rs. 12,000/- |

The cost of the tender document, State Govt. Challan of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two thousand only) amount to be deposited in the Head of A/C-0055-Police-800-other receipt or shall be in the form of D.D. of State Bank of India/ scheduled Bank (other than cooperative Bank) payable at Raipur in favour of A.I.G., Accounts, Police headquarters, Naya Raipur. Tender Fee is nonrefundable and cannot be exempted in any condition. The tender document may be obtained from the following address:

Spl. Director General of police (P&P) Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Atal Nagar Raipur Pin:-492002, Phone & Fax : 0771-2431210, 2229622

The tender offer in the prescribed tender form along with all the relevant documents sealed and completed in all the respect must be submitted as per the schedule below.

SCHEDULE FOR TENDER

| A | Address for submission of tender document | Police headquarters, Sector 19, Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh |
|---|--|--|
| B | Last Date and time for receipt of tender | 11/09/2019 till 03.00 pm |
| D | Place, Time and Date of opening Technical Bid :- | Police headquarters Sector 19, Naya Raipur, C.G. 11/09/2019 at 4.00 pm |
| E | Place, Time and Date of opening Financial Bid :- | Shall be intimated later. |
| F | Date till which the Bid to remain valid | 120 days from the scheduled date of submission of the Bid. |

Notes:-

- In case of tender opening date being declared as holiday, tenders will be opened on next working day.
- Tender documents can be downloaded from our website www.cgpolice.gov.in and at the time of submission of assistant tender fee 2000/- will be paid in the form of DD or on the account of Assistant Inspector General of Police (Accounts), Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Naya Raipur
- Modification/Amendments/corrigendum, if any shall not be Advertised in the news paper but shall be published in the aforesaid web site only.

D.I.G. of Police (F&P) For-Director General of Police G-72600/3 Ryp/Dtd 22.8.19 Police headquarters, Naya Raipur Atal Nagar (C.G.)

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर मण्डल क्रमांक 2 (छत्तीसगढ़)

ई-प्रोक्वरेमेंट निविदा सूचना "प्रथम आमंत्रण"

दिनांक 19.08.2019

निम्नांकित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा डी श्रेणी एवं अधिक श्रेणी के टेकेदारों हेतु आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 09.09.2019 है।

| एन.आई.टी. क्र./ निविदा क्र. | कार्य का नाम | कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में) |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| NIT NO. 134 Tender No. 54955 | कुरुद अनुविभाग के अंतर्गत राज्य मार्ग एवं ग्रामीण मार्गों में बी.टी. पंच रिपेयर का कार्य। | ₹.131.74 लाख |
| NIT NO. 135 Tender No. 54956 | कुरुद अनुविभाग के अंतर्गत जिला मार्गों में बी.टी. पंच रिपेयर का कार्य। | ₹.168.22 लाख |
| NIT NO. 136 Tender No. 54957 | वार्षिक संभारण अंतर्गत उपसंभाग क्रमांक-2 महासमुद्र के विभिन्न ग्रामीण मार्गों में बी.टी. पंच मरम्मत का कार्य। | ₹.47.36 लाख |
| NIT NO. 137 Tender No. 54958 | उपसंभाग क्रमांक-2 देवभाग के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों पर डब्लू. बी.एम. डब्ल्यू. एम.ए. एवं बी.टी. पंच रिपेयर का कार्य। | ₹.110.77 लाख |
| NIT NO. 138 Tender No. 54959 | पिथौरा उपसंभाग के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मुख्य जिला मार्गों एवं ग्रामीण मार्गों पर बी.टी. पंच मरम्मत का कार्य। | ₹.38.61 लाख |
| NIT NO. 139 Tender No. 54960 | पिथौरा उपसंभाग के अंतर्गत विभिन्न राज्य मार्गों एवं मुख्य जिला मार्गों पर बी.टी. पंच मरम्मत का कार्य। | ₹.77.23 लाख |
| NIT NO. 140 Tender No. 54961 | सरायपाली उपसंभाग के अंतर्गत मुख्य जिला मार्गों पर बी.टी. पंच मरम्मत का कार्य। | ₹.88.04 लाख |
| NIT NO. 141 Tender No. 54962 | सरायपाली उपसंभाग के अंतर्गत विभिन्न ग्रामीण मार्गों पर बी.टी. पंच मरम्मत का कार्य। | ₹.37.11 लाख |

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा को सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विवक्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वरेमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> अथवा विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

G- 72688/4 Ryp/Dtd 22.8.19

Credible Chhattisgarh विश्वसनीय छत्तीसगढ़

अधीक्षण अभियंता, लो.नि.वि. रायपुर मण्डल क्र. 2 (छ.ग.)
आपको धीं चाह, हमने बनाई राह

Macron, Johnson set for bruising Brexit talks

AFP ■ 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



French President Emmanuel Macron talks to Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson during their meeting at the Elysee Palace on Thursday

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.

More evidence of deadlock on Thursday would raise the chances of a "no deal" Brexit, which France now sees as the most likely scenario despite the expectation that it will wreak economic damage on Britain and the EU.

"The EU and member states need to take the possibility of a 'no deal' outcome much more seriously than before," a senior EU official told reporters in Brussels on Thursday on condition of anonymity. 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".

'Seriously looking' to end birthright citizenship: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has threatened to end what he called the "ridiculous" US policy of birthright citizenship, which gives citizenship automatically to those born in America, as he sought ways to check illegal immigration.

"We're looking at that very seriously, birthright citizenship. It's frankly ridiculous," Trump said Wednesday outside the White House while responding to a question on the birthright citizenship, which grants automatic citizenship to those born in the US.

His comments echoes his administration's previous vow to unilaterally end the process by which babies born in the country automatically become US citizens.

"Birthright citizenship where you have a baby on our land, you walk over the border, have a baby, congratulations, the baby is now a US citizen. We're looking at it very, very seriously," Trump said.

During his 2016 presidential campaign, Trump had said that he will end the birthright citizenship. The 14th Amendment of



the US Constitution guarantees birthright citizenship and states: "All persons born or naturalised in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

Indian-origin Presidential candidate Kamala Harris, a Democratic senator from California, mocked Trump's comments on Twitter Wednesday, stating the President "should 'seriously' consider reading the Constitution."

Trump's statement came as the administration announced a proposal to detain undocumented families together indefinitely, replacing the agreement that set a 20-day limit for holding children, The Hill reported.

China 'will not sit idly by' over US arms sale to Taiwan

AP ■ BEIJING

A senior Chinese officer says the country "will not sit idly by" if the US proceeds with a sale of advanced F-16V fighter jets to Taiwan, and warned of other potential countermeasures in addition to punishing foreign firms involved in the deal.

Col. Chen Rongdi, chief of the Institute of War Studies at the Academy of Military Sciences, said at a defense

forum Thursday that Beijing considered the sale a violation of previous US commitments to China regarding the island it considers its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary.

He did not elaborate on what additional measures China might take.

Beijing has repeatedly said it will levy sanctions against US companies linked to a planned USD 8 billion sale and demanded Washington cancel it immediately.

Iran's Prez says 'talks are useless' in dealing 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.

N Korea dismisses nuclear talks if US 'hostile military moves' continue

AFP ■ SEOUL

North Korea said Thursday it has "no interest" in dialogue unless Washington stops "escalating hostile military moves", as a senior US envoy visited Seoul with an eye on reviving nuclear talks with Pyongyang.

Talks between Pyongyang and Washington have stalled since a second summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi collapsed without an agreement. The pair met again in June

in the Demilitarised Zone and agreed to restart working-level dialogue. Meanwhile, North Korea has carried out several short-range missile tests in recent weeks in protest against annual US-South Korea joint military drills that it sees as a rehearsal for invasion.

Stephen Biegun, the US special envoy for North Korea who leads the working-level talks, arrived in Seoul late Tuesday for a three-day trip, and said Washington was "prepared to engage" as soon as it hears from Pyongyang.

Merkel gives Britain until Oct 31 for Brexit solution

AFP ■ THE HAGUE

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Thursday that Britain could have until the day of its scheduled EU departure to avoid a chaotic no-deal Brexit, clarifying that she had not set London a 30-day deadline. Merkel had appeared to lay down the 30-day rule to solve the vexed issue of the Irish border "backstop" when she met British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in Berlin on Wednesday.

"I said that what you want to do in three or two years, you

can do in 30 days -- or rather, you would have to say: you can do it by October 31," Merkel said at a press conference in The Hague with Dutch premier Mark Rutte.

"So it's not about 30 days, but they were symbolic for the fact that you can do it in a short period of time."

Merkel said she was giving the new date "because Great Britain said they would like to leave the European Union on 31 October."

"And until then we have to work on it -- work on it if the will exists on both sides."

The German leader said the aim was to find a regime that both respects the two-decade old peace agreement in the British province of Northern Ireland "and at the same time we can ensure the integrity of the (EU's) internal market."

In Berlin on Wednesday night, Merkel had appeared to give London its biggest glimmer of hope in weeks when she said that "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?"

Hong Kong students plan class boycott for protest demands

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong university student leaders said on Thursday they'll call for a boycott of the start of classes to pressure the government to respond to the protest movement gripping the city since June.

Student union leaders from 10 universities said they want students to skip the first two weeks of classes in September.

They vowed to escalate their action if the city's Beijing-backed leader, Carrie Lam, fails to respond by Sept. 13.

Young people have been at the forefront of the Chinese city's protest movement, which was sparked by calls for the withdrawal of an unpopular extradition bill.

The bill, which would have allowed suspects to be extradited to mainland China where the judiciary is not indepen-

Second day of Italy crisis talks after PM resigns

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. 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. AFP

Turkey to host Syria summit with Russia, Iran on Sept 16

AFP ■ ANKARA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will host his Russian and Iranian counterparts for a summit on Syria in Ankara on September 16, the presidential spokesman said.

Despite being on opposing sides in the Syrian conflict, Syria regime backers Iran and Russia have worked closely with rebel supporter Turkey to find a political solution.

"The president will host a three-way summit with the participation of Russia and Iran in Ankara," spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said late Wednesday.

The announcement of the meeting between President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Erdogan comes at a time when Syrian forces have made advances into the last rebel stronghold of Idlib in Syria's northwest.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara 390007
 Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
 Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055

Whereas
 The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number | Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession | Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) | Name of Branch |
|---------|---|---|--|----------------|
| 1. | Ruchika Sharma/ Bhavna Sharma/ LBNOD00002050883 | Flat No. 549, Second Floor "Akme Homes" Block Derby, Akme Polis, Nh 95 Ludhiana Chandigarh Road, Village Jandiali Ludhiana-141001 Punjab / Aug 16, 2019 | July 31, 2015 Rs. 28,62,120/- | Del/Ncr |
| 2. | Jaasbir Singh Mann/ Rakesh/ LBNOD00002067544 | Unit No. 531, SF On Second Floor, "Akme Homes" Derby Tower, Akme Township NH 95 Ludhiana Chandigarh Road, Jandiali Ludhiana- 141001 Punjab/ Aug 16, 2019 | June 29, 2015 Rs. 32,25,747/- | Del/Ncr |
| 3. | Rajeev Kumar Jain/ Sandeep Gaur/ LBGUR00002061286 | Unit No. 551, FF & SF, "Akme Homes", Akme Township NH 95 Ludhiana Chandigarh Road, Jandiali Ludhiana-141001/ Aug 16, 2019 | June 29, 2015 Rs. 51,43,357/- | Del/Ncr |
| 4. | Raj Kumar/ Amita Devi/ LBGUR00002077645 | Unit No.531, GF, "Akme Homes" At Akme Township Nh 95 Block Derby Ludhiana Chandigarh Road, Jandiali Ludhiana-141005 Punjab/ Aug 16, 2019 | July 31, 2015 Rs. 32,80,734/- | Del/Ncr |
| 5. | Shanu Gupta/ Shree Sai Jewellers/ Sonya Gupta/ LBDEL00002053679 | Flat No.532-(GF & FF), On The Ground & First Floor "Akme Homes" Block Derby, Akme PO-LIS, NH 95 Ludhiana Chandigarh Road, Village Jandiali Ludhiana-141001 Punjab/ Aug 16, 2019 | December 31, 2015 Rs. 69,01,673/- | Del/Ncr |
| 6. | Shiv Vishnoi/ Harpreet Kaur/ LBGUR00002048432 | Flat No. 550, Second Floor "Akme Homes" Block Derby, Akme Polis, Nh 95 Ludhiana Chandigarh Road, Village Jandiali Ludhiana-141001 Punjab / Aug 16, 2019 | December 31, 2015 Rs. 43,50,446/- | Del/Ncr |
| 7. | Vinay Dixit/ Prabha Dixit/ LBNOD00002056380 | Flat No. -534- GF- FF- SF On The Ground, 1st And 2nd Floor Akme Homes Block Derby, Akme Polis NH-95 Ludhiana- Chandigarh Road Village Jandiali, Ludhiana Punjab, Ludhiana-141005/ August 16, 2019 | July 31, 2015 Rs. 88,05,471/- | Del/Ncr |
| 8. | Richa Rathi/ Ashish Rathi/ LBNOD00002066925 | Flat No.- 525 SF On The Second Floor Akme Homes At Akme Polis NH- 95 Block Derby Ludhiana- Chandigarh Road Village Jandiali, Ludhiana Punjab, Ludhiana- 141005/ August 16, 2019 | July 31, 2015 Rs. 36,33,984/- | Del/Ncr |
| 9. | Sameer Sharma/ Ruchika/ LBGUR00002118907 | Flat No.- 510 SF On The Second Floor Akme Homes Akme Polis Nh-95 Ludhiana- Chandigarh Road Village Jandiali, Ludhiana Punjab, Ludhiana-141005/ August 16, 2019 | August 31, 2015 Rs. 31,26,219/- | Del/Ncr |
| 10. | Abhishek Gupta/ Neha/ LBNOD00002062677 | Flat No.- 532 SF, 2nd Floor Akme Homes Block Derby, Akme Polis NH-95 Ludhiana- Chandigarh Road Village Jandiali, Ludhiana Punjab, Ludhiana-141005/ August 16, 2019 | August 31, 2015 Rs. 32,86,786/- | Del/Ncr |
| 11. | Mahender Kumar/ Meena Verma/ LBDEL00002048071 | Flat No.- 508 SF On The Second Floor Akme Homes Akme Polis, NH-95 Ludhiana-Chandigarh Road Village Jandiali, Ludhiana Punjab, Ludhiana-141001/ August 16, 2019 | December 31, 2015 Rs. 32,60,897/- | Del/Ncr |
| 12. | Vivek Mehrotra/ Shweta Mehrotra/ LBNOD00002073190 | Flat No.- 530 (GF-FF-SF), Block- Derby Akme Township Ludhiana/ August 16, 2019 | April 22, 2016 Rs. 92,27,293/- | Del/Ncr |
| 13. | Vivek Mehrotra/ Shweta Mehrotra/ LBNOD00002073188 | Flat No.- 529 SF, Block- Derby Akme Township Ludhiana/ August 16, 2019 | April 22, 2016 Rs. 26,69,837/- | Del/Ncr |

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 23-08-2019
 Place: Delhi/ NCR

Sd/-
 Authorized Officer
 ICICI Bank Limited

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Expression of Interest (EOI)

No.: 23AC/EOI/Non Plastic/NZM/2019 Date: 08.2019

Delhi Division, Northern Railway invites "Expression of Interest" from Entrepreneurs/Sole proprietorships/Partnerships/Limited Liability Partnerships/Companies/ Cooperative societies/NGOs for free supply of biodegradable/Oxo-biodegradable/eco-friendly Sustainable alternatives for single-use plastics and other plastic-based food packaging materials used at Catering units/stalls of Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station for a period of 1 year. The detailed information regarding EOI is available on the website of Northern Railway www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in. Last date of submission of EOI is upto 15.00 hrs. on 05.09.2019. 2705/2019

Serving Customers with a Smile

Perfect Buildwell (P) Ltd.

ZARA Aavaas

Sector - 104, Gurugram (Haryana) Affordable Group Housing Project License No. 12 of 2014

List of defaulters who have not made payment till date in spite of reminder. The successful applicant may deposit their installment along with applicable interest on or before 2nd September, 2019, failing which their allotment shall be cancelled without any further notice and 5% of the Total Cost of the Flat shall be deducted and balance shall be refunded to the applicant without any further claims.

| LIST OF DEFAULTERS | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 BHK 301 Sq. Ft. | 2 BHK 498 Sq. Ft. |
| Unit No. | Unit No. |
| 8021 | |
| 9014 | 1061 |
| 14042 | |

Note :-
 1. All payments should be made in favour of M/s Zara Aavaas - Perfect Buildwell (P) Ltd.
 2. Please mention your Booking No., Name and Phone No. on the back of Pay Order/Demand Draft.
 3. All payment should be made at our Branch Off. 2nd Floor, E-597, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048.
 4. In case of any clarifications you may get in touch at 40641100-88 or you can mail us at E-mail: info@perfectbuildwell.com
 5. The above mentioned applicants can ignore the notice if already paid subject to their intimation.

The Executive Engineer, LTV Division, PWD(R&B), Manu, Dhalai Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT no.- 03/EE/LTV/PWD/M/2019-20, Date:- 07/08/2019

For "Proposed construction of 12(twelve) Nos. Staff Quarters building [Type-I quarter-04 units (one block-twin double storey), Type-II quarter-04 units (one block-twin double storey) and Type-III quarter-04 units (one block-twin double storey)] at Manu Community Health Centre (CHC), L.T. Valley Sub-division under Dhalai District, Tripura/SH: Building portion including internal water supply. Sanitary installation, Sewage and Drainage works (2nd CALL).

DNIT No: ACE/Project Unit/PWD(Buildings) /DNIT/43/2018-19

With Estimated cost: ₹ 2,25,17,830.00, Earnest Money: ₹ 2,25,178.00 Time of Completion-18 (eighteen) months. Last date of bidding for bids -05/09/2019 upto 15.00Hrs.

For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 LTV Division, PWD (R&B)
 Manu, Dhalai, Tripura

ICA/C-867/2019-20

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-tender for the following work: 1. Name of work with its location: Installation and operation of 44 Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) at 30 Railway Stations over Delhi Division for five years. 2. E-tender Notice Number on IREPS: Publicity ATM118-2019 to Publicity ATM161-2019=44 tenders. 3. Approximate cost of work: As per NIT on ireps.gov.in 4. Date of opening of Tender : 16.09.2019 at 11:00 hrs 5. Cost of Tender document & 18% GST : As per NIT on ireps.gov.in 6. Earnest Money Deposit : As per NIT on ireps.gov.in 7. Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen : <https://ireps.gov.in/> No.:3PUB/Tender/ATM/DLI-DIV/2018 Date : 16.08.2019 2708/19

Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDER)

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer/ Freight, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers.

| 1. Tender No. | 197-S/181/Hiring of Truck/CC-9T/TKD/19/MC-IV |
|---|---|
| 2. Name of work | Hiring of Full body Truck (Carrying capacity -9T) at Wagon Care Centre, TKD for transportation of Railway material between depot. over Delhi Division and JUDW for two years. |
| 3. Advertised Tender Value | Rs. 23,84,025/- (Including GST & ECC) |
| 4. Earnest Money in favour of Sr. DFM/NR, New Delhi | Rs. 47,700/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS) |
| 5. Date & time of submission of tender bid | Upto 20.09.2019 at 12:00 hrs. |
| 6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen | www.ireps.gov.in |

No. 197-S/181/Hiring of Truck/CC-9T/TKD/19/MC-IV dated : 21.08.2019 2714/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UJVN LIMITED

H.O. "Ujjwal" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Telephones:- 0135-2763508, 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507, CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025886, website: www.uttrakhandajividyut.com

Time Extension Notice

The last date for submission and opening of tender specification no. 04/EE(E&M-I)/LP/2019-20 (Operation & maintenance of 33/11 KV Lakhwar substation) invited by Executive Engineer (E&M-I), Lakhwar Project, Dakpathar is hereby extended as under -

Last date for downloading of tender document - 30/08/2019
 Last date for submitting the tender Documents - 31/08/2019 up to 6:00 Hrs.
 Due date for opening of tender Documents - 03/09/2019 at 11:00Hrs.

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.
 पत्र सं. 454 / रिनांक: 21.08.2019 Executive Engineer (E&M-I)
 "AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS WORKS

| Sr. No. & Date | Name of work | Tender Cost (₹) | EMD (₹) |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|------------|
| 1 BCT/19-20/215 dt. 21/08/19 | Virar- Surat Section:- Conducting "Continuous Scour Monitoring" of foundations of Bridge No. 92 Between station of VTN-SAH Section of Mumbai Central Division "using Sonar Echo-rang technology" by Airmar Echorange SS Smart sensor of similar equipment on trial basis & submitting continuous monitoring data, analysis and preparation/submission of detailed reports of continuous scour monitoring data, generating alarms/SMS alerts and validations of reports with grounds levels. | 38,38,464/- | 76,800/- |
| 2 BCT/19-20/216 dt. 21/08/19 | Virar- Surat Section:- ADEN/Valsad (i) TRR(P)= 7.274km TSR(P)= 7.683. (ii) Thick-Wall Switch Renewal (iii) Casual renewal of rails for a section of under ADEN-BL (iv) Painting of AT weld collars & rails under ADEN/Valsad section. | 3,27,38,108.47 | 3,13,700/- |
| 3 BCT/19-20/217 dt. 21/08/19 | Virar- Surat Section:- ADEN/Valsad (i) Complete Track Renewal of existing 60kg rails on PRC sleepers at 1660 No./km including deep screening and recoumpment of ballast to 300mm on various location. i.e Total CTR(P) = 5.854km, CTR(S) = 3.110kms. (ii) Deep Screening of P&C (iii) TFR= 56.04km & TBR= 4.523km (iv) Rectification of bad layouts and TBR of P&C by use of T-28, JCS, Crane etc. under ADEN/Valsad Section. | 3,16,55,349.83 | 3,08,300/- |

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GLOBE TROTTER

EXTREMISTS KILL 5 SOLDIERS IN MALI

Bamako (Mali): Mali's military says that extremists ambushed an army convoy in central Mali on Wednesday killing at least five soldiers. Army spokesman Col. Diarran Kone said Thursday that several others were wounded, and the assailants also damaged materials in the attack on the escort mission. The attack was claimed by the al-Qaida-linked group Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam Muslimin, known as JNIM, which also says it is holding two Malian soldiers hostage.

SEVERAL KILLED IN STORM IN POLAND

Warsaw: "A few" people died and 12 were injured on Thursday during a sudden thunderstorm that saw lightning strike a metal cross in the Tatras mountains in southern Poland, rescuers said.

'CHINA LAUNCHES UNMANNED WARSHIP'

Beijing: China has launched an unmanned warship, which its developer claims is combat-ready. The ship, jointly developed by No. 716 and No. 702 research institutes under China's state-owned China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC), has a length of about only 15 meters and a displacement of 20 tonnes. The JARI multi-purpose unmanned combat vessel held its launch ceremony on Wednesday at an undisclosed location, state-run Global Times reported on Thursday, quoting a statement issued by the CSIC.

PAPER WITH PASSION

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 "farfical" 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 var-



ious 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 is 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

“ 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 ”

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 dissemina-

tion 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)

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

Mariam, 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)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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

The 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 SAMWADS 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 Vandanaaben 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 Manjunben 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

Maybe 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)

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 the 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

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

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.

Reflecting the situation by stating that this government too was a coalition government in a way, Minister V Somanan in response to a question about S A Ramdas not being made minister, in Mysuru said, "Now 17 of us have become ministers, still 16 berths are remaining.

When filling those 16 positions who all have to be considered that our state and national leaders will decide," he added.

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 Kandapur, about 10 km from Karaikudi, though life appeared to go on as usual, the arrest of Chidambaram set tongues wagging.

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



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

Azam Khan moves HC for quashing of 27 FIRs against him

Allahabad: Senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan on Thursday moved the Allahabad High Court for quashing of a spate of FIRs registered against him in a single week in a Rampur police station for allegedly grabbing farmers' lands to build a university there.

As the matter came up for hearing, a bench of justices Pritinker Diwaker and Justice Raj Beer Singh adjourned the hearing on the petition for August 29 on the request of Khan's counsel RK Jain.

As soon as the court began the hearing, advocate Vijay Gautam, appearing for farmers on whose complaints a total of the 27 FIRs have been registered against Khan in Rampur's Azeem Nagar police station, objected to the "maintainability" of the petition.

Gautam argued that the petition is not worth hearing and need to be dismissed at the outset as it is not maintainable for the petitioner has sought quashing of all 27 FIRs in a single petition.

He should have filed one petition each for quashing of each of the FIRs, he contended, prompting Khan's counsel Jain to seek adjournment of the hearing for another day.

The farmers on whose complaints the FIRs were registered had already filed a caveat in the court requesting it to give them an opportunity to have their say if Khan moved court for quashing of the FIRs.

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.

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.

MNS chief grilled by ED in money laundering case

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, returned 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.

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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 Kati, Mooring Launches ML Chandri & 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 1500 hours on **01.09.2019**. For details, please log on to the Website : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>
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 E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

| Sl. No. | Job No. | Name of work | Amount in Lac |
|---------|----------------------------|---|---------------|
| A 1 | 03 /GM(R)/SM (WC-4/2019-20 | M/o Road (Beautification of Vilopit Kudaghar in W.C.-4 Area), Noida | ₹ 52.95 |

Which can be uploaded by Date: 02-09-2019 upto 5.00 PM.
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CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

BSP distances itself from Dalit protest over Ravidas temple

Lucknow: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Thursday distanced itself from the violent Dalit protest in New Delhi's Tughlakabad area over the demolition of a Ravidas temple, stressing that all its struggles are carried out well within the ambit of law.

Taking to Twitter, BSP president Mayawati said, "The incidents of vandalism that have taken place in Delhi, especially in Tughlakabad, are unfair and the BSP has nothing to do with it. The BSP always respects the Constitution and the law. The struggles of the party are carried out well within the ambit of law."

In another related tweet, Mayawati said, "The tradition of BSP and its people not to take the law in their hands is completely intact even today, whereas it is common for other parties and organisations. We should not harm innocent people in the honour of our saints, gurus and great men."

She advised party workers not to violate Section 144 of the CrPC after any "unfortunate incident". "Do not try to forcibly go to the incident site so as not to give the government an opportunity to take an autocratic and vindictive action," she tweeted.

Tension prevailed in the Tughlakabad area of South Delhi on Wednesday following a protest by Dalits against the demolition of the Ravidas temple by the authorities on an apex court order recently.

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 directors 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. 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.

CORRI GENDUM NOTICE

| SR. NO. | NAME OF DEPARTMENT | OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO. | NATURE OF CORRI GENDUM | WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH | NODAL OFFICER'S CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL |
|---------|--------------------|--|---|--|--|
| 1 | UHBVN | NIT-239 /XEN/R-11/2019 (B-583) | CORRI GENDUM-VIII DATE OF CLOSING OF E-TENDER: 04-09-2019 UPTO 13:00 HRS | www.uhbvn.org.in | 3019140 xenijsds@uhbvn.org.in |
| 2 | UHBVN | NIT-238 /XEN/R-11/2019 (B-582) | CORRI GENDUM-VIII DATE OF CLOSING OF E-TENDER: 04-09-2019 UPTO 13:00 HRS | www.uhbvn.org.in | 3019140 xenijsds@uhbvn.org.in |
| 3 | UHBVN | 22/1PDS/IT PHASE-11/RT- DAS 2019 | DATE EXTENDED | www.uhbvn.org.in | sprojcts@uhbvn.org.in |
| 4 | UHBVN | NIT NO. 04/CE/COMM/RV/CS/2019-20 DATED 06.08.2019 TENDER ID NO. 2019_HRC_92224_1 | THE DATE OF ONLINE TENDER SUBMISSION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS FOR MVT FILING AND OTHER MATTERS EXTENDED UPTO 16.09.2019 AT 01:00 PM | www.uhbvn.org.in | sera@uhbvn.org.in |

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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 Chruncong 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. **PTI**

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 Shafay 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. **PTI**

Opposition parties mock Nitish Govt over gunshot fiasco at ex-CMs funeral

Patna: Opposition parties in Bihar on Thursday took a dig at the Nitish Kumar Government over the embarrassing incident during former Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra's funeral when guns carried by police personnel for salute failed to fire a single shot.

The spectacle took place on Wednesday at Mishra's ancestral village Balua Bazar in Supaul district, where the Chief Minister was himself present.

Video clips beamed by news channels showed a senior official frantically testing guns of a couple of personnel before giving up helplessly.

The police headquarters here has, meanwhile, taken a strong note of the incident

and sought an explanation from the Supaul police.

However, the occasion provided the opposition with fresh ammunition to train its guns at the ruling dispensation, which takes pride in its claim of having brought rule of law to a state after over a decade of alleged lawlessness.

When the guns of the police fail at a ceremonial function where the Chief Minister is in attendance, can these be expected to be of any use while chasing criminals. It is a testimony to the fact that Nitish Kumar has no control of law and order, Rashtriya Lok Samata Party chief Upendra Kushwaha said in a statement.

Congress MLC - Prem

Chandra Mishra - echoed similar sentiments on twitter, saying when the Bihar police lacks the capability to fire gunshots during a guard of honour, would it not boost the morale of criminals. Not a single gunshot was fired when there should have been 21. What type of honour did you accord to the late Jagannath Mishra @NitishKumar.

RJD Rajya Sabha member and Lalu Prasad's daughter Misa Bharti also sought to have some fun as she shared a news clipping of the fiasco that has left the government headed by her fathers arched rival red-faced on her twitter handle without adding any comment. **PTI**

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 LI4 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. **PTI**

Pak Army shells forward posts, villages along LoC in Poonch for 3rd day

Jammu: Pakistani troops violated ceasefire for the third consecutive day on Thursday and resorted to firing mortars and small arms on forward posts and villages along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, inviting a befitting reply from the Indian Army.

"Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing of small arms and shelling with mortars in the Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district at about 2045 hours Thursday," a defence spokesman said.

He said the Indian Army is retaliating befittingly and the exchange of fire between the two sides was continuing when last reports were received.

On Wednesday, Pakistan troops fired mortars and small arms on villages and forward

posts along LoC in the Sunderbani sector.

Mohammad Addul Karim was critically injured when a mortar shell, fired by Pakistan Army, hit his house at village Dabraj in Mendhar sector late Tuesday night, officials said, adding he was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead.

Mendhar and Krishna Ghati sectors witnessed heavy mortar shelling and firing from across the LoC on Tuesday, resulting in the death of Army soldier Naik Ravi Ranjan Kumar and injuries to four other personnel.

Nearly half a dozen houses were also damaged in the Pakistani firing, which had forced closure of schools within the firing range in the two sectors. **PTI**

First case under triple talaq law registered in Guj

Surat: A case under the new law which bans instant triple talaq was registered in Surat on Thursday against a Muslim man for allegedly divorcing his wife on phone.

This was first case under The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 filed in Gujarat after the law was passed by Parliament, said Deputy Commissioner of Police Panna Momaya.

As per the complainant woman, her husband Mohammad alias Vasim Pathan and his mother were ill-treating her for the last one and half years.

In June, following a quarrel, Pathan took her to her parents' house and left her there, she said.

On the same night he called her on phone and uttered talaq thrice, she alleged. She filed the complaint on Thursday. **PTI**

ACTIVIST BLAMES MAHA GOVT

Flood lines of Panchganga river '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 of the irrigation department 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.

"The chief minister, in his remarks on the same letter, addressing the irrigation department's secretary, wrote - 'the flood line marked with DP should be maintained'," Yadwadkar said. **PTI**

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

No. C-12/Sanitation/Vetting/Group E/2019 Dated : 21 August 2019

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-tender for the following work:-

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Name of work | Mechanized Cleaning and housekeeping work of Group E stations (Delhi Cantt, Palam, Delhi Kishan Ganj, Delhi Sadar Bazar, Delhi Sadarjung, Delhi Shahdara, Noli, Nangloi, Shinayji Bridge, Tlak Bridge, Tughlakabad, Shakurbasti & Narela) of Delhi Division for a period of four years. |
| 2. E-tender notice number on IREPS | Sanitation 9-2019 |
| 3. Date of Tender Opening | 16.09.2019 upto 11.00 hrs. |
| 4. Approximate cost of work | As per NIT on ireps.gov.in |
| 5. Cost of Tender document including 18% GST | As per NIT on ireps.gov.in |
| 6. Earnest Money Deposit | As per NIT on ireps.gov.in |
| 7. Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen | www.ireps.gov.in |

2709/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Security Commissioner/RPF/Co-ordination, Northern Railway, New Delhi invites E-Tender for the following work.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Name of work with its location | Hiring of 08 nos. road vehicle Non AC Tata Sumo/Bolero for movement of RPF Personnel day & night in jurisdiction of RPF Post, Panipat, Jakhai, Jind, Rohtak, Kurukshetra, Gurugram (Haryana), Sakurbasti & Adarsh Nagar Delhi, Delhi west Division on monthly basis for two year. Approx cost of work Rs. 1,08,28,800/- with GST. |
| 2. Tender Number | 17RPF/MT/Vehicle-Hiring Tender/DLI-West/2018-19 |
| 3. Office Address | Sr. DSC (Co-ordination)/RPF, P.K. Road, New Delhi 110001 |
| 4. Period of works | For Two years |
| 5. Approx. cost of work | Rs. 1,08,28,800/- with GST as applicable |
| 6. Earnest Money | Rs. 2,04,200/- |
| 7. Tender uploading date | 27.08.2019 |
| 8. Date and Time of closing tender bid | 30.09.2019 & 15:00 hrs. |
| 9. Tender open date & time | 30.09.2019 & 15:00 hrs. |
| 10. Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen | www.ireps.gov.in |
| 11. Cost of tender documents | Rs. 10000/- + 1800/(GST 18%) total Rs. 11800/- Payment of Tender Document Fee in respect of e-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. |

No. 17 RPF/MT/Vehicle-Hiring Tender/DLI-West/2018-19 Date: 22.08.2019 2713/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

19 killed in rain-related incidents in UP

Lucknow: As many as 19 people lost their lives in rain-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh where raging waters of major rivers have disrupted normal life, officials said on Thursday.

"As many as 15 persons have died due to rain related incidents in different districts of the state.

"The figure included three deaths in Amethi, two each in Raebareilly, Sonbhadra and Mirzapur and one death each in Saharanpur, Hamirpur, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur, Basti and Ayodhya," the Relief Commissioner's office said.

Besides the 15, four more persons have died in Ballia and Bhadohi, according to reports. **PTI**

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that my client Sh. Rakesh Sherawat, S/o Sh. S.S. Sherawat, R/o Flat No. L-13, Ground Floor, DDA Janta Flats, Saket, Malviya Nagar Extension, New Delhi-110017 is the owner of DDA Janta Flat No. L-13, Ground Floor, Situated at Saket, Malviya Nagar Extension, New Delhi-110017 vide DDA File No. F79/17/77(LABH) has applied for conversion of the aforesaid property from lease hold to freehold. The original documents e-ALLOTMENT/DEMAND LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, SITE POSSESSION SLIP AND NOC FOR WATER & ELECTRICITY CONNECTION of the above said property have been lost or misplaced by my client and is/are not traceable inspite of her best efforts. An FIR/NCR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi (L.R. No. 44131/2019 dated 20.08.2019). Any person(s) claiming any rights, interest having any objections or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No. 8178983981 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (LAB Housing), Vikas Sankar, New Delhi, Amil Panwar, Advocate Ch.No. 155, Saket Court, New Delhi/20

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

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments/corrigendum etc.

| S.No. | Job No. | Name of Work | Amount |
|-------|--|---|-----------------|
| 1 | 01/Manager System/AMC - Server/H P / 2019-20 | A.M.C. of server for different departments of HP make | Rs. 28,95,720/- |

Which can be uploaded by Date: 29.08.2019 upto 05:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date: 30.08.2019 at 11:00 AM.

Manager System

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDER)

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer/Freight, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers. 1. Tender No.: 197-S/187/CAMC of O.H. Crane/TKD/18/MC-IV. 2. Name of work : Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Over Head Cranes at Wagon Care Centre, Tughlakabad for Two years. 3. Advertised Tender Value : Rs.69,80,870.56/- (Including GST) 4. Earnest money in favour of Sr.DFM/NR, New Delhi : Rs. 1,39,600/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS) 5. Date & time of submission of tender bid : Up to 20.09.2019 at 12.00 hrs. 6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen : www.ireps.gov.in No. 197-S/187/CAMC of O.H.Crane/TKD/18/MC-IV Date: 21.08.2019 2712/19

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CIN-U74999DL1999G0101707

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

1. Open E-Tender Tender for Operation & Maintenance of Packaged Drinking Water Bottling Plant under brand name of Rail Neer at Nangloi for a period of 05 years

Pre-bid meeting: 26.08.2019 at 15:00 hrs at IRCTC Corporate Office, New Delhi. Last Date & Time of online Submission: 11.09.2019 up to 15:00 hrs.

2. Open E-Tender Tender for Operation & Maintenance of Packaged Drinking Water Bottling Plant including preforms manufacturing unit under brand name of Rail Neer at Ambernath for a period of 05 years

Pre-bid meeting: 26.08.2019 at 16:00 hrs at IRCTC Corporate Office, New Delhi. Last Date & Time of online Submission: 12.09.2019 up to 15:00 hrs.

Tender document downloading & participation can be done only on website: www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC

Note: "Any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, will be published on IRCTC website: www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC only."

Group General Manager (Procurement), IRCTC Ltd.
11th Floor, Statesman House, B-14B, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Palace, New Delhi-110 001, Fax: 011-23311259

PARADIP PORT TRUST

PARADIP PORT - 754 142, ODISHA (INDIA)

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

No.AD/RSC-I-21/2019(PL)/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. 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

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, रायपुर (उ.ग.)

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur (C.G.)
Tatibandh, G.E. Road, Raipur-492 099 (CG) (www.aiimsraipur.edu.in)

No. AIIMS-RPR/Rect. & Advt. Cell/2019/1815, Date: 21-08-2019

E-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur Chhattisgarh, Gol, invites e-tender for following:

| Tender Title | EMD Cost | Published on CPPP/Website | Pre-bid meeting date | Closing 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 at 3:30 PM | 11-09-2019 at 06:00 PM |

The details terms & conditions are available on the website- www.aiimsraipur.edu.in and CPP Portal www.eprocure.gov.in Stores Officer, AIIMS Raipur

Trump flip-flops on tax cuts

Says US has 'strong economy'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A day after considering cutting taxes to promote economic growth, President Donald Trump changed course and said he would abandon the idea because the nation already had "a strong economy."

Trump's flip-flop on Wednesday came after recent market volatility and economic uncertainty, and amid a debate about whether the United States was heading for a slowdown that would imperil his reelection chances.

Trump earlier this week acknowledged, for the first time, that his China trade policies may mean economic pain for Americans, though he insisted the tariffs are needed for more important long-term benefits. But his consideration of cutting payroll taxes appeared short-lived.

"I'm not looking at a tax cut now," he told reporters at the White House.

"We don't need it. We have a strong economy."

Trump also knocked down the idea of indexing to the cap-

ital gains tax, which applies when investors sell assets, to inflation. He said he feared "it will be perceived, if I do it, as somewhat elitist."

Analysts have warned that a slowdown, if not full-blown recession, could hit before next year's election. Trump, however, has largely praised the economy's performance and his handling of it.

He has often blamed the Federal Reserve (and Chairman Jerome Powell) and the global slowdown for creating dark clouds at home.

"Jay Powell and the Federal Reserve have totally missed the call. I was right and just about everybody admits that," Trump said Wednesday.

"He raised interest rates too fast, too furious, and we have a normalised rate. And now we have to go the other direction."

Some White House advisers fear Trump has undercut Powell's credibility.

They worry that the president's calls for rate cuts and his discussion of indexing or a payroll tax cut could spook, rather than reassure markets.

Trump indicated he had no choice but to impose the trade penalties that have been a drag on US manufacturers, financial markets and, by some mea-

sures, American consumers. "Somebody had to do it. I am the chosen one," Trump said on the White House lawn, looking skyward.

"Somebody had to do it. So, I'm taking on China. I'm taking on China on trade."

China, though, said trade with the US has been "mutually beneficial" and appealed to Washington to "get along with us."

A foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, expressed hope Washington can "meet China halfway" in settling disagreements.

The US economy appears to be showing vulnerabilities after more than 10 years of growth. Factory output has fallen and consumer confidence has waned as he has ramped up his trade fight with China. Trump rattled the stock and bond markets this month when he announced plans to put a 10 per cent tax on \$300 billion worth of Chinese imports.

The market reaction suggested a recession might be on the horizon and led Trump to delay some of the tariffs that were scheduled to begin in September, though 25 per cent tariffs are already in place for \$250 million in other Chinese goods.

UAE to be first Middle East country to launch RuPay Card

PTI ■ DUBAI

The UAE will be the first Middle East country to launch the RuPay Card during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Gulf nation on Friday, according to a media report.

The RuPay card is a first-of-its-kind Indian domestic Debit and Credit Card payment network, with acceptance at ATMs, POS devices and e-commerce websites. It was launched in 2012.

"A Memorandum of Understanding to establish a technology interface between the payment platforms in India and UAE, would be exchanged between the National Payments Corporation of India and UAE's Mercury Payments Services," Navdeep Singh Suri, the Indian Ambassador to the UAE, told the UAE's state-run WAM news agency.

"This will enable the RuPay card to be used at point-of-sale terminals across the UAE," he said.

"The UAE is the largest and most vibrant business hub in the region. It hosts the largest Indian community, receives the largest number of Indian tourists and has the largest trade with India. By becoming the first country in the region to introduce the RuPay card, we expect that each of these ele-

ments of tourism, trade and the Indian diaspora will benefit," Suri said.

India has already launched the RuPay card in Singapore and Bhutan.

Prime Minister Modi's third official visit to the UAE on August 23-24 is another important milestone in the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership, the Indian envoy said.

During the visit, Modi will receive the 'Order of Zayed', the highest civil decoration of the country for "giving a big boost to bilateral relations between the two countries."

Modi would also meet the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to discuss bilateral, regional and international matters of mutual interest.

The India-UAE bilateral trade touched almost \$60 billion last year with a fairly balanced profile of about \$30 billion of exports and \$30 billion of imports, the envoy said.

"On the investment side, we have already seen sizable inflows from India to the UAE in free zones like Jebel Ali, Hamriyah Free Zone Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone and also in sectors ranging from manufacturing and real estate to trade and services," he said.

Goyal: WTO reforms should be holistic, comprehensive

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday made a case for holistic and comprehensive reforms of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) without ignoring the ground realities, especially the stark inequality among developed and developing nations.

He said instead of going for a piecemeal reform, the members should take on board issues of all countries of the WTO. "It is the time when all members of the WTO start looking at some of those reforms that have been pending for long. When we look at reforming the WTO, (it should be done) holistically and comprehensively. It cannot be pick and choose," Goyal said.

He was speaking at a programme of South-South and Triangular Cooperation here. "I do hope that as we look at reforming the WTO, a little bit more relevance to today and 21st century realities will come into play," he added.

The statement comes at a time when the US has called for reforming the world trade body. The US wants formulation of some guidelines regarding special and differential treatment (S&DT), which is meant for developing nations.

Business Corner



To inculcate the habit of learning and quizzing, NTPC organises Medha Pratiyogita i.e. quiz competition for its employees and School Children all across its Regional Headquarters and Stations. The regional round of Medha Pratiyogita (DBF & Hydro Region) was organised by DBF-HQ at NTPC Dadri



K Sreekanth has assumed the charge of Chairman and Managing Director of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) on 5th August, 2019. Prior to taking up this assignment, he was serving as Director (Finance) POWERGRID



Rajeev Mehrotra, CMD (RITES) received the National Project Excellence Award of PMA (India) for the Project Bogibeel Rail cum Road Bridge from Amitabh Kant CEO, NITI Aayog in the inaugural function of Project Managers Global Summit 2019 on "Sustainability Through Competent Project Leadership". RITES worked as the design consultant for this project near Dibrugarh, Assam, across mighty River Brahmaputra



Atul Sobti has taken over as the Director General of SCOPE (Standing Conference of Public Enterprises), which is an apex organisation of Public Enterprises. Atul Sobti who recently superannuated as CMD of BHEL, a Maharatna Public Sector Enterprise, is a graduate Mechanical engineer with post-graduation in international management and diploma in project management

WEDDINGZ.IN GROWS 480% POST-OYO ACQUISITION, EXPANDS TO OVER 30 CITIES IN INDIA

New Delhi: Weddingz.in, a wedding company posted that it has grown 480% since the acquisition of OYO. A year after its acquisition by OYO Hotels & Homes, India's largest, world's 3rd largest and fastest-growing chain of leased and franchised hotels, homes, living and workspaces, Weddingz.in has witnessed 480% growth in revenue. Backed by OYO's operational capabilities, a unique offering of providing hassle-free wedding experience and 1500+ talented employees, Weddingz.in has become a household name for a great wedding experience. Weddingz.in has witnessed 636% growth in bookings since August 2018 and enjoys high customer delight. **PNS**

Mines tribunal stays K'taka Govt order that bars NMDC from mining

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mines tribunal, hearing the petition filed by NMDC challenging the Government of Karnataka order withdrawing the extension of mining lease of Donimalai Iron Ore granted to the former in 2018, has stayed the Karnataka Government's order till next hearing. The tribunal on Wednesday in its order said that "accordingly the impugned order dated August 17, 2019 and any consequent action thereon are stayed until the next date of hearing"



The said stay order would prohibit the Government of Karnataka to take any further action regarding mining lease or initiate auction process of Donimalai mine.

NMDC on August 19, 2019 filed a Revision Petition before the Mines Tribunal, challenging the Government of Karnataka's arbitrary order of withdrawing the extension of mining lease of Donimalai Iron Ore Mine granted to it on November 2, 2018, according to a press note issued by the Government of India enterprise.

The petition challenges the Karnataka Government's August 17 order that withdraws the extension of lease of Donimalai Iron Ore Mine, granted earlier for a period of 20 years till November 3, 2038.

Govt classifies ocean power as renewable energy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh on Thursday approved a proposal to declare ocean energy as renewable energy.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has clarified to all stakeholders that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy, such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion, shall be considered as renewable ener-

gy and shall be eligible for meeting non-solar renewable purchase obligations (RPO), a statement by the MNRE said.

This step has been taken by the MNRE after some renewable energy developers sought clarification in this regard, according to the statement.

Under the RPO, distribution companies (discoms) are required to have certain proportion of clean energy supplies. The proportion is fixed by state power regulators. The discoms can also buy renew-

able energy certificates in lieu of mandated clean energy supplies, from the developers or renewable power generators.

Oceans cover 70 per cent of the earth's surface and represent an enormous amount of energy in the form of wave, tidal, marine current and thermal gradient.

A variety of different technologies are currently under development throughout the world to harness this energy in all its forms.

Deployment is currently

limited but the sector has the potential to grow, fuelling economic growth, reducing carbon footprint and creating jobs not only along the coasts but also inland along its supply chains.

As India steps up its effort to contemplate its renewable energy and climate change objectives after 2022, it is opportune to explore all possible avenues to stimulate innovation, create economic growth and new jobs as well as to reduce our carbon footprint, the statement said.

VAKILSEARCH TO INCORPORATE 10,000 FREE COMPANY INCORPORATIONS

New Delhi: VakilSearch, a legal-tech company which offers online legal, tax and compliance technology services has launched Swadeshi Startup Movement to encourage citizens of India to become entrepreneurs. Inspired by the Swadeshi Movement that ensued during the freedom struggle era, this campaign is being launched to commemorate the Make in India initiative, in-line with Startup India spearheaded by the Government of India. **PNS**

NTPC gets shareholders' nod to raise up to ₹15k cr via bonds, hike borrowing limit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-run power giant NTPC on Thursday has got shareholders' approval to raise up to ₹15,000 crore through issuance of bonds and to raise its borrowing limit to ₹2 lakh crore.

The company got shareholders' nod through a special resolution to raise funds up to ₹15,000 crore through issue of bonds/debentures on private

Goodyear India unveils new Car, SUV range of tyres

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Goodyear India on Thursday launched two new products Assurance DuraPlus 2 and Wrangler AT SilentTrac for the Indian market.

While Assurance Duraplus 2 is designed for small-to-mid-sized passenger cars, Wrangler AT SilentTrac is tailored for confident SUV drivers with a strong desire for adventure and the freedom to explore with full control over the wheels.

Goodyear India unveils new Car, SUV range of tyres

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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The Empowered Officer, TRRDA, PWD(PMGSY), 7th Block, 2nd Floor, Secretariat Building, Agartala, Tripura invites sealed tender(s) against press NleT No : 11/E0/TRRDA/ 2019-20 date: 14.08.2019.

For Upgradation of Road & CDs including LS Bridges of PMGSY Works (RRP-II WB-AF and G&CR);

1. TR-08-01 P2, TR-08-02 P2 & TR-08-03 P2: With Estimated cost: a) Upgradation: ₹ 1317.55 Lakh b) Maintenance: ₹ 149.22 Lakh c) Earnest money: ₹ 29.34 lakh

2. TR-03-02 P2, TR-03-01 P2 TR-03-03 & TR-03-04 P2 :With Estimated cost: a) Upgradation: ₹1831.51 Lakh b) Maintenance : ₹ 209.36 Lakh c) Earnest money: ₹ 40.82 lakh

Time of completion-12 (twelve) months. Last Date of dropping of tenders -12th September, 2019 up to 1500 hrs (the time settings fixed on the server & displayed at the top of the tender site).

For details please visit: www.pmgstenderstrp.gov.in

Pre-bid meeting will be held on 22nd August, 2019 at 1100 hrs. in the office of the Empowered Officer, TRRDA, PWD (PMGSY), 7th Block, 2nd Floor, Secretariat Building, Agartala, Tripura.

SD/-
Empowered Officer,
Tripura RRDA, PWD (PMGSY)
7th Block, 2nd Floor, Secretariat Building, Agartala

ICA/C-871/2019-20

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, CMS Road, Dohradum-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763806, Fax No. 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

e-Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (C&M), MB-II, Joshiyara (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

| | |
|--|---|
| Tender No. | 01 / EE(C&M) / MB-II / 2019-20 |
| Name of work | Annual Civil Repair & Maintenance of Joshiyara Barrage, Uttarkashi. |
| Estimated Cost | Rs. 4003515.00 (including GST) |
| Earnest Money Deposit | Rs. 100100.00 |
| Tender Fee | Rs. 2360.00 (Including GST) |
| Date & time of availability of bid document on website | 23.08.2019 from 17:00 Hrs. |
| Last date & time of submission of bids on website | 16.09.2019 upto 17:00 Hrs. |
| Last date & time of submission of hard copies of bids | 19.09.2019 upto 15:00 Hrs. |
| Date & time of opening of bids on website | 21.09.2019 at 11:00 Hrs. |

For fuller & further detail, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"

459/UJVN/Advt/1 Dated 21-08-2019 **E.E (C&M), MB-II, Joshiyara**
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Babli @ Bauo, S/o Gurdeep Singh, R/o J-232, Sardar Colony, Sec-16, Rohini, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 296/12 u/s 323/341/506 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. K.N.K. Marg, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Babli @ Bauo** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Babli @ Bauo** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Babli @ Bauo** accused of **FIR No. 296/12 u/s 323/341/506 IPC** is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before **17.10.2019**.

By Order
Ms. Richa Sharma, Metropolitan Magistrate(08),
Room No. 306,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/3178/RD/19-(Court Matter)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Namely : Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: approx. 28-30 years, Height: 5' 6", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Red T-shirt with strips blue and cocka colour blue Jeans pant, camel colour belt, black dora around neck bare foot and French cut beard, who was found dead at Haiderpur water treatment plant, Delhi.** In this regard a case **DD No. 14-A, dated 18.08.2019 has been registered at P.S. K.N.K Marg, Delhi.**

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

Sd/- SHO
P.S. K.N.K Marg, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-27571162

DP/3193/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a Male namely **Manoj S/o Munna Lal, R/o B-742, Ambika Enclave, Nihal Vihar, Delhi, Age : 29 yrs., Height : 5'5", Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, Wearing : Black Colour T-Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans and Hawai Chappal in Feet,** has been missing / kidnapped since **02.08.2019** from the area of **P.S. Nihal Vihar.** In this regard a case **DD. No. 93-A dated 03.08.2019** has been lodged at **PS. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped Male but no clue has come to light so far.

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

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

SHO
PS. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710

DP/2575/OD/19.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Where as complaint has been made before me that **Ibrahim@Malik, S/o Md. Akbar, R/o Plot No. 507, Ishwar Colony, Bawana, Delhi** is involved in case **FIR No. 204/19, dated 06.05.19 u/s 392/397/120B/34 IPC, P.S. Bawana, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Ibrahim@Malik** cannot be found and whereas as it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ibrahim@Malik** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ibrahim@Malik, FIR No. 204/19 u/s 392/397/120B/34 IPC, P.S. Bawana, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **27-09-2019**.

By Order
Ms. Manu Goel Kharb
Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (North)
DP/533/ON/19 Room No. 114, 1st, Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a person namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was admitted on 19.08.2019 at Rajan Babu TB Hospital, Kingsway Camp, from the area of P.S. Kashmere Gate.** In this regard proceeding **DD No. 19-A dated 19.08.2019** has been lodged at **Police Station, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.** During the Treatment Doctor Declared him Dead. Identification of unidentified dead body of a male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 32 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: White Lining Shirt & Black Loner.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station Kashmere Gate, Delhi.
Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123

DP/352/N/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED PERSON

General public is hereby informed that this person namely **Tilak Raj S/o Ram Singh R/o H.No. 1164, 1st Floor, Chota Shiv Mandir, Alipur, Delhi Age : 39 years, Height : 5'7", Face : Long, Complexion : Fair, Build : Normal, wearing cream colour T-shirt, blue colour pant and shoes in feet,** has been missing/ kidnapped since **16.07.2019** from the area of **P.S. Alipur, Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 64-A dated 01.08.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Alipur, Delhi.**

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

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO : P.S. Alipur, Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. : 011-27202290
Fax: 24368639, 24368641 27202265
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

DP/519/ON/19

Griezmann could be key against Betis

Neymar future remains up in air

AFP ■ PARIS



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 pre-season 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 good 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 Barça'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 Barcelona 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 Barça, 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.



Henry desires to succeed as manager



Thierry Henry reacts after Monaco suffer defeat during Ligue 1 match

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.

"I came out of it fully reassured that's what I want to do, zero doubt about it," he said.

All Henry asks is for transparency from his employers.

"Communication and honesty from the start is key," he said.

"What's the job? Is the job to stay up, is the job to win the League or be in the Champions League?"

"But how and what is success? Is success improving players? Ultimately, results are the most important thing, but I want to improve players as well."

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 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 eight.

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 four.

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 2018 Asia Team championship and 2017 World Championship, kept his stranglehold 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 Kemar 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 Kemar 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 Shamarh 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 Rahane 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

IANS ■ 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'

IANS ■ 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 toppled 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 Subramaniam, who was removed for his alleged misbehaviour with top diplomats of the Indian government during the ongoing tour of West Indies. Subramaniam 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.