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Pak kept in FATF grey terror list

PSN ■ NEW DELHI

The international terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Friday condemned the Pulwama terror attack that martyred 44 CRPF jawans and decided to continue the 'Grey' listing of Pakistan for its failure to stop funding of terrorist groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Jamat-ul-Dawa. The Paris headquartered FATF observed that Pakistan is not properly understanding the risks of terror financing and there are many deficiencies in maintaining proper actions to curb terror financing. In a statement, the FATF said Pakistan should continue to work on implementing its action plan to address its strategic deficiencies, including by adequately demonstrating its proper understanding of the terror financing risks posed by the terrorist group and by conducting supervision on a risk-sensitive basis.



FATF president Marshall Billingslea presents the outcomes from FATF placed to the media

At the end of this plenary, the FATF has observed that several deficiencies remain in Pakistan's legal regime in dealing with terror financing. Since June 2018, Pakistan has made a high-level political commitment (statement by its Minister of Finance) to work with and address its strategic

counter-terrorist financing-related deficiencies. At the start of its deliberations, all FATF members observed a minute of silence for the 44 CRPF jawans who were martyred. The President of FATF expressed sincere condolences to the people and the Government of India. The FATF currently has 35 members and two regional organisations — European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council. The FATF also said Pakistan should continue to work on implementing its action plan to address its strategic deficiencies, including by adequately demonstrating its proper understanding of the terror financing risks posed by the terrorist groups and conducting supervision on a risk-sensitive basis, demonstrating

that remedial actions and sanctions are applied in cases of Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating Financing of Terrorism (CFT) violations and that these actions have an effect on AML/CFT compliance by financial institutions. Pakistan should demonstrate that competent authorities are cooperating and taking action to identify and take enforcement action against illegal money or value transfer services (MVTs), demonstrating that authorities are identifying cash couriers and enforcing controls on illicit movement of currency and understanding the risk of cash couriers being used for TF, improving inter-agency coordination including between provincial and federal authorities on combating TF risks besides others.

The UN Security Council (UNSC) statement on Pulwama attack was delayed nearly by one week due to China's opposition. The condemnation by the UN's most powerful 15-nation body named the Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM).

UNSC names JeM for Pulwama, China belittles resolution

PSN ■ NEW DELHI

The UN Security Council (UNSC) statement on Pulwama attack was delayed nearly by one week due to China's opposition. The condemnation by the UN's most powerful 15-nation body named the Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM). A day after it emerged that China, an all weather ally of Pakistan, did not want a referendum to JeM in the UNSC statement which strongly condemned the Pulwama terror attack. Beijing has tried to downplay the resolution and said the mention of the Pakistan-based terrorist group does not represent a judgement and was only in "general terms". The UN condemnation came a day after Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Maleeha Lodhi met top UN leaders, including with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to brief them about the escalating tensions in the region in the wake of the Pulwama attack but her efforts did not bear any fruit. Even after UNSC con-



demned the Pulwama strike as "terrorism" China continued to oppose any mention of terrorism in the statement, said a person familiar with the diplomatic parleys on the issue at the UN headquarters. China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, has over the years used its veto power to scuttle a move by India at the UN to put Jaish-e-Mohammad founder Masood Azhar on a global terror list. The UNSC comprising 15 permanent and non-permanent members, including China on Thursday condemned in the "strongest terms" the "heinous and cowardly" terror attack perpetrated by Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), in a show of solidarity and support to India.

Tribute to martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh Punjab to build memorial with soil of 13,000 villages

PSN ■ CHANDIGARH

In the centenary year of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre and to commemorate the tragic event, Punjab Government on Friday decided to build a memorial in Amritsar with soil from all the 13,000 villages of the state to eulogise the immense contribution of Punjab in the national freedom struggle. The decision got the go-ahead from the Chief Minister during a meeting the State Level Implementation Committee regarding Centenary Commemoration of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre here. The Rural Development and Panchayats has been designed the nodal department to coordinate with the Panchayats of the nearly 13,000 villages across the State for this cause. The Chief Minister has also asked the Deputy Commissioner Amritsar to identify a strategic spot in the city, where a suitable memorial would be erected with the soil brought from these villages.



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engage with the Arts and Cultural Heritage Trust, which had created the Partition Museum at Town Hall, Amritsar to conceptualise and plan the Jallianwala memorial. The Chief Minister has directed the Principal Secretary Cultural Affairs to coordinate with all the concerned departments to ensure a grand function to mark on April 13, this year. The Chief Minister directed the Cultural Affairs department with a special focus on the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, the Art and Culture Heritage Trust would organise a Heritage Walk in the old Amritsar town, in addition to an exhibition depicting some known and unknown facts of the massacre. Apart from these, an exhibition would also be held in 10 cities of the state to highlight the saga of the Indian freedom struggle. It was also informed in the meeting by the Principal Secretary Cultural Affairs that a coffee table book on Jallianwala Bagh was being prepared with the help and guidance of Punjab Lalit Kala Academy. A two-day Jallianwala Bagh centenary Lit-Fest would be organised in GNDU Amritsar and dramas in Hindi and Punjabi would be organised by North Zone Cultural Centre in association with National School of Drama.

TIGHTENING NOOSE

- The international terror financing watchdog condemned the Pulwama terror attack
- It decided to continue the 'Grey' listing of Pakistan for its failure to stop funding of terrorist groups such as JeM, LeT and JuD
- FATF observed that Pakistan is not properly understanding the risks posed by the terrorist group and by conducting supervision on a risk-sensitive basis
- An Indian official, who attended the FATF plenary explained that placement in compliance document means putting the country in 'Grey' list and it will be reviewed again in June 2019

Anupriya threatens to divorce cavalier BJP, meets Priyanka

Shah reaches out to Rajbhar

PSN ■ LUCKNOW

Apna Dal (Sonelal), a key BJP ally in Uttar Pradesh, has convened a meeting of its leaders on February 28 to take a final call on continuing alliance with the BJP for the coming Lok Sabha polls. Party founder and Union Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel, along with her husband and MLC Ashish Patel, met Congress general secretary Prityanka Gandhi Vadra and her colleague Jyotriditya Scindia in New Delhi on Thursday and had a long talk to explore the possibility of a pre-poll tie-up. The NDA ally had contested secretary's seat in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections in UP. It has a support base in the OBC Kurmi community in



districts around Allahabad, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra and Varanasi. The Apna Dal also contested the 2017 Assembly polls and won nine seats. "Some differences cropped up and we gave them time to answer our questions till February 20. But they did not have any answers. So it appears that the BJP is not interested in listening to or replying to our complaints," Anupriya said in Bareilly on Thursday.

"Now Apna Dal is independent to take its own decision. We have called a party meeting and we will do what is decided. Whatever will be decided in the meeting, you will be informed," she said, clarifying that there was no conflict with the BJP over seat-sharing. In an effort to keep the flock together, BJP chief Amit Shah reached out to another NDA ally from UP. CM Prakash Rajbhar. Rajbhar's Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party has influence in eastern UP districts bordering Bihar. The smaller NDA allies have upped the ante after the BJP in the last two months conceded a considerable space to its partners in Bihar and Maharashtra for stitching a larger coalition for the general elections. The party has agreed to contest only 17 seats in Bihar, five less than it won in 2014, in order to bring Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) on board.

CAPSULE

PAK GOVT SEIZES JAISH HO AMID GLOBAL PRESSURE
Lahore: Bowing down to intense international pressure to rein in terrorist groups operating from its soil, the Pakistan Government on Friday took over the control of HO of Jaish-e-Mohammad, which claimed responsibility for the Pulwama suicide attack that martyred 44 CRPF personnel.

2 TERRORISTS KILLED IN BARAMULLA ENCOUNTER
Srinagar: Two terrorists were killed in an encounter in JK's Baramulla on Friday.

UP ATS ARRESTS TWO JEM ULTRAS FROM DEOBAND
Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) arrested two Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists from Deoband in Saharanpur, Director General of Police OP Singh said on Friday.

Delhi per capita income rises by 11%, GDP 13%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Anil Bajjal on Friday announced the achievements of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government in Delhi and said its actions have added impetus to the development process in the national Capital. In 2018-19, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is estimated to be ₹7,79,652 crore, registering a growth of 12.98 per cent, he said. Delivering his speech at the beginning of Delhi Assembly's Budget session, the LG said the per capita income of Delhi in 2018-19 is estimated at ₹3,65,529 as compared to ₹3,28,985 in 2017-18, indicating a growth of 11.11 per cent. "While the economy of the



State has flourished, it is imperative that all sections of the population become beneficiary of this growth. The growth has to be inclusive to uplift the conditions of the weaker sections of the population," Bajjal said. He said for the welfare of the senior citizens, the Government has also launched the 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana' on December 5 last year.

Eye on poll Haryana CM lists out his Govt's achievements

PSN ■ CHANDIGARH

With an eye on ensuing Lok Sabha polls, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Friday listed out the ruling BJP's victories in panchayats polls, direct mayoral elections in cities, municipal corporation elections to Gurugram, Faridabad, students union and Jind by-election while asserting that people of the State have extended their support to his Government in the last four-and-a-half year. "Now, Lok Sabha elections will be held and later, Haryana Vidhan Sabha elections will be held on time," the Chief Minister said during his reply to the debate on Governor's address on the third day of ongoing Budget session. In an election year, the

Chief Minister said, "Legislators in the Opposition have appreciated various schemes of the present State Government. We can learn the good things from people sitting in opposition, and by learning from their shortcomings, we can improve." On the issue of construction of Satluj-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal, Manohar Lal said that the SYL canal has become more of political issue now, the matter is with the Supreme Court to decide. If the water share of India, which is flowing into Pakistan, is flowed into India, this would provide big relief to farmers, he said. While taking a dig at the former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Manohar Lal said that for Hooda, it is easy to dream but

it is difficult to fulfill the dream. Referring to the Kundli Manesar Palwal Expressway and National Cancer Institute, he said that these are projects which have been completed by the present State Government but not the previous one. Responding to the queries of opposition regarding farmers' woes, the Chief Minister said that his government has been making concerted efforts towards doubling the income of farmers by 2022. Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana' (PMKSN), the Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department has uploaded data of eight lakh farmers to whom the first instalment of payment would be released by the Prime

CM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minister Narendra Modi on February 24. Haryana could be first state to work effectively on the PMKSN Scheme, he said. He added that in case of damage caused to crops due to natural calamities, the Central Government gives compensation at the rate of ₹5,400 per acre whereas the State Government gives compensation at the rate of ₹12,000 per acre. Speaking on drug abuse, Manohar Lal said, "We all will find a solution to this and it is our duty to bring youth on right track." He said that there are about 25,000 persons registered in 61 Anti-Addiction Centres in the State. About the ongoing strike by NHM employees, the Chief Minister said that there is no

Jobs to dependent: Chief Minister Manohar Lal announced that in case of death of government employee before he attains the age of 48 years, the dependent of the deceased might opt for a government job or full salary till 58 years. In case of the tragic death of employee after attaining the age of 48, his family would get the salary benefit upto 58. The dependent family member of the deceased employee could be given government job in any government department. In the ex-gratia policy of 2006, five per cent posts were kept reserved for such cases but now it has been decided to extend this benefit to all cases of ex-gratia, he added.

Collector rate: Manohar Lal announced to change the name of collector rate to fair value rate. He said that the name "collector rate" is in practice from the time of Britishers but now it has been decided to change it to fair value rate.

He added that if the employees would not agree to resume their duties, they would be terminated.

HARYANA BUDGET SESSION

Hry CM presents rosy picture on jobs front as Opp attacks

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

As the Manohar Lal Khattar Government is patting its back for ensuring transparency in recruitments to government jobs, the opposition—Indian National Lok Dal and Congress—on Friday escalated their attack on the State Government over "job crisis" while pointing out how a large number of over-qualified youth are being selected for the posts of peons and gardeners in Haryana.

During the discussion on Governor's address on the third day of ongoing budget session of Haryana Assembly, the BJP led State Government found itself enmeshed in a war of words over the recruitments of over-qualified youth for the posts of peons and gardeners even as the eligible youth, who fulfill the criteria for recruitment of recruitment agencies, which are looting the youth in the name of providing jobs.

Slamming the State Government, Leader of opposition and INLD's senior leader Abhay Singh Chautala said, "These days, over-qualified youth with degrees like M.Sc. and double degrees are turning up for the posts of gardeners and peons."

"There is no point of possessing a master's degree if you will end up becoming a peon and a gardener. Such jobs do not require such high qualifications," said Chautala while speaking during the discussion on Governor's address.

"You claim of providing jobs on merit basis but M.Sc. qualified youth are doing the job of gardeners in Haryana," Chautala told the Chief Minister Manohar Lal while citing the example of his own gardener, who he claimed has a M.Sc. degree.

He stated that eligibility criteria should be taken into consideration for selection of candidates in class IV jobs, Chautala said. "The over-qual-

ified youth should not be insulted with such jobs."

Upping the ante against the government over the same issue, independent MLA Jai Parkash said, "Jobs should be given to over-qualified youth. Due to over-qualified youth applying for the class IV jobs like peon, gardeners etc, people from rural areas and youth who are not very educated but have minimum qualification for these jobs are being ignored." "People with qualification like M.Sc., M.A., Ph.D are applying for class IV jobs, he said while asking the government to ensure that people who require such jobs and fulfill minimum qualification criteria for these jobs should be given employment.

Congress Karan Dalal also attacked the State Government over the issue of unemployment and accused the government of allowing the opening of recruitment agencies, which are looting the youth in the name of providing jobs.

Notably, highly qualified candidates, including post-graduates (PGs), graduates, diploma holders and candidates with vocational education, had applied for Class IV posts, for which the examination was held in November last year in Haryana. 18 lakh educated applicants had opted for 18,218 Group D posts (Class IV) of peon, gardener and beddar.

As per government's data, 1,001 PGs, 5,346 graduates, 276 with vocational education, 569 diploma holders, 6,756 senior secondary pass candidates were listed in the final selection for the Group D posts.

Countering the picture projected by opposition of rising unemployment in the state, Chief Minister Manohar Lal stated that 1,001 PGs and 5,346 graduates in class IV posts (Group D) have been provided and more recruitments will be done in next six months.



Haryana chief minister addressing the state assembly in the ongoing Budget session in Chandigarh on Friday. Pioneer Photo

On the issue of highly-qualified applying for class IV jobs, he said, "As per the government's data, the percentage of unemployed highly qualified youth is more in the country."

Quoting the All-India unemployment rate, Manohar Lal said, "The overall unemployment rate among those youth with secondary education is just 3.2 percent, those with post-graduate degree is 8.5 percent and with graduate-level technical education is 11 percent."

"We cannot put a cap on highest education qualification in government jobs. As highly qualified people are more in percentage of unemployed youth, they are availing whatever opportunity they are getting in government jobs," he said.

Referring to the recruitment of more than 18,000 people to Group D posts, the Chief Minister claimed that more than 10,000 candidates had qualification of only 10th and 12th. Out of total recruited, around 15,000 belonged to rural areas, he added.

The State Government, through Governor's address, had conveyed that it provided government jobs to 56,000 young men and women and the recruitment process for close to 17,000 posts is in the final phase.

The Governor's speech had also mentioned that more than 7.73 lakh job seekers have been registered with the Employment Exchange as on November 2018. 16,332 unemployed youth have been employed as cab drivers under MoU with OLA and UBER and 466 employed as security guards under Saksham Haryana campaign. Apart from this, 26,537 job seekers have been placed by various private organizations through job fairs till December 2018, it stated.

put me in jail," Hooda told Manohar Lal while speaking during the Zero Hour.

"I challenge you to get all inquiries done against me. We will see what happens then... There are cases against me and inquiries are ongoing but I have done nothing wrong," the two-time former Chief Minister said.

Responding to him, Finance Minister said, "The former CM should have faith in the judicial system. Let the Court decide if you will go to jail or not."

Hooda is facing CBI probes in three cases including Mansar land acquisition and allotment of an institutional plot to Associated Journals Ltd (AJL), the publisher of National Herald, in Panchkula. In these cases, charge sheets have been filed in the Court.

The CBI last month registered the third case against Hooda and several others in connection with the alleged irregularities in allotting over 1,417 acres of land during 2009-12 in Gurugram. The case against Hooda and others was registered on the directions of the Supreme Court on November 1, 2017 when the CBI was entrusted with the

probe into alleged irregularities in the process of acquisition of 1,417.07 acres of land between 2009 and 2012 for sector 58 to 63 and 65 to 67 in Gurugram.

Hooda, while talking to the mediapersons later said, "I have done nothing wrong. They (BJP) claim that the land was provided to Robert Vadra (Congress President Rahul Gandhi's brother-in-law) in an illegal manner but all such claims are wrong."

When asked whether he had headed a group of rebel party MLAs in 2017, Hooda showed pride on the working of Chief Minister and all Cabinet Ministers. Soon after, the entire House burst into laughter when Manohar Lal told him that his ticket for next elections is final after the speech.

MLA Tej Chand Sharma demanded to scrap Article 370, which gives special status to Jammu and Kashmir. Remembering martyrs of Pulwama terror attack, he said that the Article 370 should be abolished now. Sharma had been suspended from the BSP and had given openly backing the BJP.

Taking a job at the government, independent MLA Jai Parkash asked it to give the data of how many employees have been beaten during various agitations during BJP's tenure. Teachers, NHM workers and other employees have been suffering under BJP's rule, he alleged.

Former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda along with other Congress MLAs raised the issue of disparities in compensation given to farmers in Haryana asking the government to review the collectorate rate.

The opposition MLAs asked the government not to amend the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) 1900, which gives protection to large portions of the Aravalli foothills and the Shivaliks

SIDELIGHTS

- Former deputy CM of Haryana, Chander Mohan attended the proceedings of Haryana Assembly and was in the guest gallery during the question hour and discussion on Governor's address.
Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda demanded a CBI probe into the alleged murder of a veterinary surgeon Dr Rakesh from Badoli village in Sonapat district.
BJP MLA Randeep Singh Kapriwas, who had headed a group of rebel party MLAs in 2017, showered praise on the working of Chief Minister and all Cabinet Ministers.
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Speaker still to decide on membership of Khaira, Phoolka

Speaker should to decide on LOP status: NAINA CHAUTALA

A day after the Chautala family feud echoed in Haryana Assembly and demand of voting to decide the status of Leader of opposition was raised, Jannayak Janta Party leader Naina Chautala on Friday said that it is upto the Speaker Kanwar Pal Gujjar to decide over the issue.
MLA Naina Chautala, who is wife of JIP partner Ajay Chautala, while talking to the mediapersons said that we have accepted on the floor of the House and the INLD has split and JIP is formed.
When asked whether

Abhay Chautala should continue as Leader of opposition, Naina said that both INLD and Congress have 17 MLAs each. The Speaker will decide on this, she said.

While citing on the issue, former Chief Bhupinder Singh Hooda said that Leader of opposition (Abhay Chautala) should leave the post on moral grounds.

A day before, the Speaker had maintained that if JIP leaders submit a written statement to him about the party's split, he will look into the matter.

Congress had headed voting to decide whether the INLD MLA Abhay Chautala should continue as the Leader of opposition in the House.

In the 90-member State Assembly, while the ruling BJP has 48 MLAs after the recent Jind bypoll win, both Congress and INLD have 17 members each. One each member belongs to the SAD and BSP, five are independents while one seat fell vacant after demise of INLD's Jaswinder Singh Sandhu recently.

Gurugram MLA questions his Govt. again

A day after questioning the State Government over the investments materialized in Haryana, Gurugram MLA Umesh Aggarwal on Friday put his government in the dock over the issue of questioning public policy in Gurugram.

Seeking answers from Urban Local Bodies Minister Kavita Jain on why the outdoor publicity tenders have not been floated for over a year, BJP MLA Umesh Aggarwal said that if an appropriate outdoor publicity policy is made then more revenue could be generated in Gurugram.

He also raised questions on the revenue generation from advertisement during last five years in Gurugram Municipal Corporation.

A day before, the Gurugram MLA during the question hour had left the Manohar Lal Khattar Government embarrassed when he asked questions on Industries and Commerce Minister Vipul Goel over the statistics related to investment tabled in the House.

Later, he had also expressed dissatisfaction over the issue of cleanliness in Gurugram.

College to be opened in name of martyr Kiran Shekhawat

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Education Minister Ram Bilas Sharma on Friday said that a women college will be opened in the name of martyr Kiran Shekhawat in Prithla area and the State Government would also consider opening a University in Mewat.

Lieutenant Kiran Shekhawat was the first Indian woman officer to martyr in the line of duty. The woman Naval officer had martyred in a Dornier crash off the Goa coast in the year 2015.

During the question hour, INLD MLAs Zakir Hussain (MLA Nuh) and Anwar Ahmad (MLA Ferozepur Jhirka) had raised a demand of construction of a University in Mewat and also, reminded the State Government of its announcement to open a College in the name of martyr Kiran Shekhawat in Prithla area and also assured to provide land from village panchayat for the construction of the University.

7.76 LAKH BPL FAMILIES IN HARYANA There are a total of

7,76,771 BPL (below poverty line) families in rural areas of Haryana. This included over 4.02 lakh BPL families belonging to Schedule Caste category, over 2.43 families belonging to Backward Classes category and over 1.30 lakh belonging to general category as on December 2018," the State Government informed the Haryana Assembly in a written reply.

RS 1140.98 CR COMPENSATION GIVEN TO FARMERS

Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister, OP Dhankar informed the House that the changes in Punjab Agriculture Bima Yojana, Rs 1140.98 crore was given as compensation to 5.98 lakh farmers. In reply to a question, Dhankar also said that during 2017-18, a premium of Rs 208.98 crore has been collected from the farmers under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, whereas Rs 849.73 crore was disbursed as compensation amount to farmers.

SCHOLARSHIP DISBURSAL DELAYED

Health Minister Anil Vij said that Civil Hospital of Ambala city will be upgraded to 300 bedded hospital for the patients, it is being upgraded to 300 bedded," Vij said in a written reply.

Health Minister Ram Bilas Sharma informed the House that during the academic session of 2018-19, the State Government has distributed a sum of about Rs 106.39 crore as scholarship to the students of Government schools from class 1 to 12, belonging to Scheduled Caste and soon it will be distributed to the remaining students. On delay in disbursing of scholarship, he said that scholarship is being linked to Aadhar card so as to bring pace and transparency in the work.

Both Khaira and Phoolka, elected MLAs from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ticket, has resigned from the party. While Phoolka had also submitted a plea to disqualify the Speaker, Khaira had notified to Khaira would soon be published in the newspapers, after which the next course of action would be taken.

Intervening, SAD MLA Bikram Majithia said that the resignation of Khaira, disqualification of Phoolka and the future exploitation of official machinery as lakhs of are being spent on these members by way of houses, vehicles, other allowances.

On this, the Speaker pointed that it was his jurisdiction, and upon him to decide about the action in the matter. "If you are still dissatisfied, the doors of courts are open," he told Majithia.

Vidhan Sabha has issued showcause notices to Khaira and Phoolka to get their resignation accepted. However, he had not resigned as MLA and had dared the AAP to get their resignation accepted.

Facing split, AAP seems to be moving closer to lose the coveted post of the principal opposition party less than two years after it pushed Punjab's decade-long rulers SAD-BJP to the third spot.

In case, the Khaira and Master Baldev were disqualified, and Phoolka's resignation be accepted, AAP's tally would come down to 17, just two above SAD's 15 seats.

It has been widely known that the fact that Khaira, who has recently floated PEP, enjoys the support of six sitting AAP MLAs. Out of these, Master Baldev has already resigned from AAP. Kharaf MLAs Kanwar Sandhu has been

placed under suspension for speaking against the party and the high command, but has not resigned from the party.

Besides, Nazar Singh Manshania, Pirmal Singh, Jagdev Singh Kamalu and Jagga Bisnowal are openly supporting Khaira, though AAP's state leadership has all along been claiming that they would soon return to the party fold.

In such a situation, SAD is keeping an eye on very development in the party and at least regain the position of principal opposition party in the state.

SAD has many times raised the issue of disqualifying AAP MLAs while citing relevant articles of the Constitution.

As per the tenth schedule of the Constitution, any legislative member who voluntarily gave up membership of the political party he represents shall be disqualified from being a member of the legislative body.

As per Articles 102 (2) and 191 (2) of the tenth schedule, giving up the primary membership of a political party by a legislative member amounted to defection.

Opposition slams Cong Govt dubs Punjab Budget 'bundle of lies'

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Even as the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs came out with slew of suggestions for Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Badal, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Friday dubbed the state Budget a "bundle of lies" while alleging that the Government had "exaggerated income and suppressed expenditure".

Opening the debate on the budget, presented by Manpreet on February 18, Congress MLA Rana Gurjit Singh stressed on taking benefit from the centrally sponsored schemes, while at the same time alleging out at the state bureaucracy for not informing the Ministers about the same.

"Officers know everything about Centre's schemes, but no one ever mention it to the Minister because of which the State remain deprived of central funds and getting benefits from it," said Rana Gurjit while indicating at the officers' gallery leaving them smiling.

Besides, Rana Gurjit batted for crop diversification, increasing transports sub-

sidy to Rs two from Re one, promoting best plantation, besides promoting the state agro based industry. "We should not allow maize from outside the state, and let all state's requirement should be met from within the state only," he insisted.

He also demanded that the distribution of available water in the entire state should be "relocated" by a panel, and Jalandhar should get its 'rightful share'.

In addition, Rana Gurjit demanded that a summit "for agriculture solutions" be organised by the government in which experts, and other stakeholders would discuss the changes the Punjab agriculture sector needs, improvement required, among other things.

AAP MLA Kuldip Singh Sandhu stressed for responsive administration, besides promoting more and more state specific research programmes in Ludhiana's Punjab Agriculture University (PAU). He also maintained all parties should join their heads together to formulate policies to save the state's agriculture.

Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Dhillon claimed that the state's fiscal position had been "deteriorating" ever since the Congress Government came to power, against its claims of fiscal consolidation.

On the contrary, Punjab's economic situation in the Punjab Government has become totally dependent on the Centre for meeting its expenditure," he said.

Claiming that Punjab's fiscal health was deteriorating, Dhillon said: "Economic growth, which was 7.16 percent in 2017-18, dropped to 6.27 percent in 2018-19, and in 2019-20, it is estimated to be 5.93 percent. We know the target of 5.93 percent is also unachievable."

"In the budget, the government has exaggerated income and suppressed expenditure," he alleged while accusing the Government of not making efforts to stabilise or shore up revenue.

Incumbent government had already raised Rs 30,000 crore of debt in the last two years and it would raise another Rs 28,000 crore during the next fiscal year.

"After raising so much debt, they now talk about fiscal consolidation," he said, adding that the previous government had raised a debt of about Rs 89,000 crore during its 10-year regime.

Dhillon, claiming that the state's tax revenue was not rising, said that the total gap between the state's income and expenditure was about Rs 15,000 crore.

It comprises an unfunded gap of Rs 4,322 crore, Rs 1,500 crore of excess revenue, Rs 1,150 crore of reduced salary, wage bill, Rs 4,500 crore of pending power subsidy and Rs 4,000 crore of pending treasury bills," he said.

Dhillon also lashed out at the Congress government for raising Rs 6,600 crore of loan by pledging the future income of Punjab. Infrastructure Development Board and Rural Development Fund. "When we used to raise money this way, they criticised us.

Now they are following the same practice," he said, adding that the Congress had been "exposed".

"Allocation of funds does not matter when the government has no money to spend," Dhillon said claiming that though the Government had introduced a new tax in the budget, it would do so after the Lok Sabha elections.

AAP ON FRIDAY STAGED WALKOUT ON MAUR MANDI BOMB BLAST ISSUE

AAP MLAs, during the zero hour, staged a walk-out on the issue of 2017 Maur Bomb blast in seven, including five children, were killed, saying that the government had failed to nab the culprits and give compensation to the families of the victims.

During the zero hour, AAP MLA Jagdev Singh Kamalu raised the issue saying that the families of those killed or injured in the Bomb blast dated January 31, 2017, at the election rally of Congress candidate Harminder Jassi had not yet

been given compensation nor arrested the perpetrators.

When the Government failed to give a satisfactory reply to the question, all AAP MLAs staged a walk-out of the House amid sloganeering against the government.

Leader of Opposition in Vidhan Sabha Harpal Singh Cheema, later talking with media, demanded that the Government should immediately arrest those behind the blast and grant compensation of Rs two crore each to the next of kin of those killed and Rs 10 lakh to those injured.

SAD RAISES ISSUE OF UNRAILS ISSUE OF WINTER UNIFORM, MAJITHIA PLEDGES MONTHS PAY FOR THEM

SAD MLA Majithia urged the House to donate one month salary to provide winter uniforms for school children, which the State Government had failed to provide even as winter season is coming to an end. Even as he got no response from any other MLA, Majithia pledged his month's salary for the purpose.

Classifieds

LOST AND FOUND

It is notified for the information that my original Bachelor of Technology degree Certificate conferred upon me from Institute of Technology Delhi year 1974 has been lost. If found please return to Rajesh Kapur R/o #497 Sector 3 Panchkula.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I. Mohinder Kumar Bhatti S/O Late Sh. Lachhman Dass R/O House No. 255, Harsikola, Sector 14, Panchkula declares that my son Ajay Bhatti and his wife Rashmi Chandra are out of my control so I disown both of them from my movable & immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk.

I. Piyanka W/O Manoj Kumar R/o H.No.922, B-1, Rattapur Colony, Panchkula, Distt. Panchkula declares that I have no concern or relation with my father named Rajguru Singh. If anybody comes with him, small do their own risk in future.

I. Kala Singh S/O Shri Anand Ram R/o H.No. 2352, Marala, Sector 15, Manimajra, UD, Chandigarh declares that my son Parvinder Singh and his wife Poonam Rani are out of my control. I disown both of them from my movable & immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them at their own risk.

I. Dharampal S/O Begun resident in Dandia Badina, Chandi Dada, My son Aziz and his wife Jyoti are out of my control. I disown them from my property. I shall not be responsible of their acts.

I. Jagjit Singh S/O Guran Singh R/o 119-7, Sector 22-B, Chandigarh declares that my two Sons Ranjeet Singh and Sukhpreet Singh wife Simranpreet and children Rajvir Singh son, Prabhakar Kaur daughter are out of my control so I disown all of them from my movable & immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them will do at his/her own risk. I will self fully responsible for all my liabilities.

I. Ram Rumi S/O Late Laksh Dass R/O Vill-Najochak, PO Naurangpur, Tehsil/Distt. Patnahtok declares that my daughter Manu Devi (27) out of my control so I disown her from my movable & immovable property. Anybody dealing with her at their own risk.

I. Bhupal Singh S/O Guran Singh R/o 10111 Adshah Nagar near Kanhaiya Chowk, Yamanagar declares my son Rohit and his wife Naina are out of my control. I disown them from my movable/immovable property. Anybody deals with them do at their own risk.

We, Mukteshwar Prasad S/O Ram Avtar Prasad and Urmila Devi W/O Mukteshwar Prasad 13011, Near Sutarwind Road, Near Gurtman Club near Ambar had a daughter named Praveen Kumar is out of our control we disown him from our all movable and immovable properties any body deal with her at their own risk and responsibility.

I. Mintu S/O Chiman Lal, Village Gugar Kattala, Tehsil Mukerand, Distt. Hoshiarpur declares that my daughter is Mintu which has also been Perfected in Matriculation Certificate. However, my name has been mentioned as a co-owner in my Brother records who is serving in Indian Army.

I. Kuldeep Ram Holding Indian Passport No. Q-348642, issued at Chandigarh on 02/07/2018. I am the Resident of Vill Sidhmal Mutsahi PO Nurmahal P.S. Nurmahal Jalandhar and presently Resident in UAE. I do hereby change my name from Kuldeep Ram to Kuldeep Kumar with immediate effect.

CHANGE OF NAME

I. Krishan Lal Goyal S/O Jagannath Aggarwal R/O 253 Sector 3, Panchkula, have changed my name to Krishan Goyal.

I. Shvetla Sharma W/O Dinesh Sharma R/O 23241, Gandhi Colony, Balwaj Nagar, Ambala have changed my name to Shvetla Sharma.

I. Karanjeet Singh S/O Guran Singh R/O VPO Melanwala, Distt. Jalandhar, Distt. Yamanagar have changed my name to Karanjeet Singh.

I. Manoo D/o Danu Masih R/O Bahadur PO Bhamburda Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Manoo Gill Concerned note.

I. Sumita D/o Dharma Masih R/O VPO Ghosewadi Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my name from Sumita to Sumita Kumari. Concerned note.

I. No. 398719P NK Balraj Singh S/O Hasan, Chand R/O Village Khangwan PO Marhota The Dusya Distt. Hoshiarpur. P/d declare my wife's name written as Rekha Devi in my army record. According to her Aadhar Card, Matric certificate her correct name is Shobha Devi be amended in my army record.

I. No. 1460319L, Ex. Sep Rajender Kumar S/O Sher Singh R/O Village Malkpur Bangar, Distt. Yamanagar have changed my name to Ashwani Kalia.

I. Renu W/O Sh. Rajesh Kumar R/O Village Ratanpur, PO Pichank, Tehsil Chandi, Distt. Patnahtok my name from Renu Bala to Renu.

I. Rajesh Kumar S/O Sh. Rohan Lal R/O Village Ratanpur, PO Pichank, Tehsil Ambala Cantt declare that my son name wrongly mentioned in his passport No. L273816 Cheakit Dandi. But his correct name is Chakshit Dandi. But his correct name is Chakshit Dandi.

I. Amandeep S/O Sh. Charan Singh R/O Village Dehar Tehsil Moudard, Tehl. Hoshiar, Distt. Hoshiar have changed my name Amandeep to Amandeep Bhatia.

I. No. 286628X, Ex. Hav Ishwar Singh S/O Sh. Hargobind R/O VPO Moudard, Tehl. Hoshiar, Distt. Hoshiar declare that name of my wife mentioned in record as Meena Devi DOB 02/03/1974. Her correct name is Meena Devi DOB 01/21/1978. Change should be made.

I. Shishu S/O Shri Kanwar Pal R/O # 435, Phase-I, BOC, Sector 26, Chandigarh have changed my name to Sunil Kumar.

I. Vandana Rani W/O Rakesh R/O B-1, Panchkula, Moha, Ambala Cantt declares that in my daughter Gurnav both certificate my name is wrongly written as Pinki but my correct name is Vandana Rani. Please do the correction.

I. No. 1574664 F NK Gurnul Singh S/O Atma Ram Village Khangharg, Sector 26 Panchkula declare that in my Army record my wife Manvi Devi Date of birth 15-1-1968 wrong mentioned. Her correct date of birth is 17-7-1967. All concerned note.

I. Reena W/O Sh. Hanam R/o H.No. 119-B, Ward No. 21, Near Little Angel School, Sonpat have changed my name from Reena Devi to Reena Kaur. All concerned note.

I. Lachman Dass S/O Chameera Rani, R/O Village Hargah Shorah, Petawa (Kutukhaha) have changed my name to Lakman Dass.

I. Davkey Devi W/O Lakman Dass, R/o village Hargah Shorah have changed my name to Devki Devi.

I. Gurnam Singh S/O Kartar Singh R/O VPO Sidhant Distt. Gurdaspur have changed my son's name from Kartar to Davinder Singh. Concerned note.

I. No. 1493931Y NK Rajesh Kumar P/O 2 Mech Inf. (1st Jt. Lt) Co. 56 APO, have changed my mother's name from Kaur, Devi to Kaur, Manu. Date of birth from 20-12-1962 to 01-07-1963 in my Service Record.

I. Sunita Kanwar W/O Late Sh. Subhash Chander, Kanwar R/O #44A, Adshah Nagar, Model Town, Ambala City have changed my name from Sunita Kumari to Sunita Kanwar.

I. Bhim Sen S/O Sh. Guptaji Lal R/O 22, Gwalior, Tehsil Siwani, Distt. Bhiwani hereby declare that Bhim Sen and Bhim Sen Bansal both are my names and belongs the same person. I am from now will be known as Bhim Sen for all future purposes.

I. Sumit S/O Sh. Lachnu Ram R/O Vill. Balsamand Teh. Distt. Haryana hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sumit to Sumit Khichi for all future purposes. In future I will be known as Sumit Khichi.

I. Vinod Kumar S/O Shiv Bhagwan Mishra R/O-1220, Colony Nandgaon, Hoshiarpur, Distt. Hoshiarpur inform that in my Driving License my Father Name wrongly recorded Bhagwan Mishra A/O correct name is Shiv Bhagwan Mishra.

I. Usha W/O Sh. Samay Singh R/O Village Murad Nagar, P.O. Badli, Tehsil Ludha, District Kurukshetra declare that Usha, Usha Devi, Teha Sarda (Ludha) have changed my name person in future called me above all names. Note all concerns.

I. Dilshah W/O Rajpal Sehrawar R/O 5729 Chawna Puri, Rohtak 124001 Haryana. I have changed my name to Dilshah Sehrawar For All Purpose.

I. Kumari Rajinder spouse of 144231154, Hav. Sunder Lal R/O 144231154, Teh. Tarnan District. Si Muktar Sahib have changed my name from Kumari Rajinder to Rajinder Kumar. wife affidavit dated 22/02/2019 before office of the executive magistrate Patnahtok (PB).

I. Punam Devi spouse of JC-340137N Sub (Hony Capt) Vijay Bankar Pandey R/O Vill. Tikari, PO Bathaha, Sector, Tehl. Moga, Distt. Allahabad, State-UP Pin-212035 have changed my name from Punam Devi to Poonam Pandey, vide affidavit dated, 20/02/2019 before Notary public Patnahtok.

I. 392165P, Ex-NK Rajesh Kumar S/O Karam Chand R/O Safal Chokk, Ratanpur, T/D Patnahtok. I have changed the name of my son Gursavak Singh to Gursavak Singh and correct DOB is 16/01/2001, instead of 16/06/2001.

I. Gurdev Singh S/O Hazara Singh R/O 235, Phase-2, Urban Tehl. Nakodar Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name to Gurdev Singh (Singh as my Surname).

I. Balvir Kaur W/O Gurdar Singh R/O 235, Phase-2, Urban Tehl. Nakodar Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name to Balvir Kaur (Kaur as my Surname).

I. Santosh Singh S/O Kashi Singh R/O 235, Phase-2, Urban Tehl. Nakodar, Punjab have changed my name to Singh Santosh (Singh as Surname).

I. Poonam Sathian W/O Baljit Rani R/O No. 83, Phase-2, Urban Tehl. Abadpura, Jalandhar have changed my name to Poonam Bai After Marriage.

I. Saravjit Kaur D/o Amarjit Singh R/O 235, Phase-2, Urban Tehl. H.No. 21477, Opp. SBI ATM, Main Bazar Bhagatwala District Amritsar have changed my name to Harsh Kaur.

I. Seema Devi D/o Lakshinder Singh W/O Bhaichand Singh R/O VPO Bhagal Kaland District Amritsar.

I. Amanojit Malik S/O Ashwar Hutan R/O Village Daroli Kaland District Jalandhar have changed my name to Amanojit Singh.

I. Didar Singh S/O Ajit Singh R/O Hoshiar Nagar Tehsil and District Amritsar have changed my name to Didar Singh Sandhu.

I. Rakesh S/O Balbir R/O SSB Railway Station, Amritsar have changed my daughter's name from Anvi to Saanvi.

I. Dalvir Singh S/O Maghar Singh R/O Village (kolahi) Tehsil Nandgaon, Ludhiana Known By Two Names, Rajvir Singh And Bakke Singh Both Names Are Mine.

I. Saurav S/O Banarsi Dass R/O Mohalla Kohlan Nurmahal Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name to Saurav Kumar.

I. Gurdeep Singh S/O Mohan Lal R/O Village Bath PO Chuhik Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar have changed the name of my minor daughter, Rampreet, to Rampreet Kaur.

I. Balwinder S/O Anant Ram R/O Village Awalli PO Bala Sidhpur Tehsil Nakodar Distt. Jalandhar, have changed my name to Balwinder and my Surname as Ram.

I. Surinder Kumar S/O Bikram Rani R/O H.No. 193, Mohalla Prem Nagar, Gumar, Mandi, Civil Lines, Chandigarh have changed my name to Surinder Kumar Bai.

I. Manpreet Kaur W/O Hem Rani R/O V.P.O. Chokkan, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name to Sukh Singh Devi.

I. Ramandeep Kaur W/O Davinder Singh Sandhu R/O Village Bhatnagar, P.O. Suanand District. Si Muktar Sahib have changed my name to Ramandeep Kaur Sandhu.

I. Satinder Kaur W/O Jagdev Singh R/O Village Saranaga, Distt. Si Muktar Sahib have changed my name to Veerpal Kaur.

I. Darshini Devi W/O Bishan Dass R/O Village Saranaga, Distt. Si Muktar Sahib have changed my name to Darshana Rani.

I. Geeta Rani W/O Moh Chand R/O Village Saranaga, Distt. Si Muktar Sahib have changed my name to Geeta Rani.

I. Harjit Kaur W/O Sukhinder Singh R/O Gurga, Teg Bahadur Nagar S/O No. 8 Bathinda Road Si Muktar Sahib. Changed My Name To Harjit Kaur After Marriage.

I. Sukhinder Singh S/O Harbans Singh R/O 235, Phase-2, Urban Nagar S/O No. 8 Bathinda Road Si Muktar Sahib. Changed My Name To Sukhinder Singh After Marriage.

I. Harmanjeet Kaur W/O Jasbir Singh R/O VPO Vaidkanan Distt. Si Muktar Sahib have changed my name Harmanjeet Kaur After Marriage.

I. Manpreet Kaur W/O Santosh Singh R/O 235, Phase-2, Urban Nagar, Distt. Ferozepur have changed my name to Sandeep Kaur, After Marriage.

I. Parveen Kumar S/O Sunderpal R/O House No. 36-2, Kumbhar Mandi, Ferozepur Cantt. Have Changed My Name To Parveen Kumar Khandhar.

I. Ashwini S/O Ramnath Chander R/O 1975, South Taha & District Fazilka have changed my name to Ashwani Kumar.

I. Preety Khatri W/O Ashwani Kumar R/O 8755, Sodan Wali Gali Tehsil District Fazilka have changed my name to Preety Khatri.

I. Roopa Rani W/O Raj Kumar Handa R/O Village Chughwala P.O. Golewala, Distt. Ferozepur have changed my name to Rupia Nanda.

I. Raj Kumar S/O Madan Lal R/O Village Chugr Wala P.O. Golewala Distt. Ferozepur have changed my name to Raj Kumar Nanda.

I. Baljit Singh S/O Sunita Singh Main R/O Vpo. Ajjhwa (Moga) have changed my name to Baljit Singh Chan.

I. Lakshinder Kaur Sandhu W/O Balbir Singh R/O VPO Vaidkanan (Moga) have changed my name Lakshinder Kaur Maan After Marriage.

I. Tejinder Singh Sandhu S/O Nirmal Singh R/O Kalandpur District, Moga. Have changed my name to Tejinder Singh.

I. Charanjit Kaur Bhai W/O Thekhar Singh R/O Vill. Tumbler Bhan (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Charanjit Kaur.

I. Sunita Ubhi W/O Gupreet Singh R/O H.No.11-R, Model Town, Chandigarh, have changed my name to Sunita Rani.

I. Veer Bhan S/O Nihal Chand R/O H.No. 6046-A, St No. 3 Durga Puri Havelok Kalan Distt. Ludhiana. Have changed my name to Veer Bhan.

I. Mukesh Kumar Jha S/O Rudranath Jha R/O H.No. 21, Block C, Tappur Road G.K. Estate, Balwaj Nagar, Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name to Mukesh Jha.

I. Sukhdev Singh S/O Baljinder Singh Deol R/O Vpo. Bopara Kalan Distt. Ludhiana. Have changed my name to Sukhdev Singh Deol.

I. Baljinder Singh S/O Banti Singh R/O VPO. Chokkan, Kalan Distt. Ludhiana. Have changed my name to Baljinder Singh Deol.

I. Manjeet Kaur W/O Baljinder Singh R/O Vpo. Bopara Kalan Distt. Ludhiana. Have changed my name to Manjeet Kaur Deol.

I. Kanwaljit Kaur W/O Jagroop Singh R/O Vpo. Kulari Distt. Ludhiana. Have changed my name to Kanwaljit Kaur.

I. Maninder Singh S/O Jang Singh R/O VPO. Phulwail Pahalwari Road Ludhiana. Have changed my name to Maninder Singh Sekhon.

I. Baljinder Kaur Swathi W/O Maninder Singh Sekhon R/O Phulwail Pahalwari Road Ludhiana. Have changed my name to Baljinder Kaur Sekhon.

I. Simran Vohra W/O Lal Singh R/O LIG-723, Jamsalpur Colony Ludhiana. Have changed my name to Simran Kaur After Marriage.

I. Surinder Kaur W/O Mohan Singh R/O Vpo. Sidhwan Kalan Tehsil Jalandhar Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name to Sunderpal Kaur.

I. Ruchmi Gang W/O Mohan R/O W.No-22, S.No.-1, Gurga Arjan Dev Nagar Saggi Road Moga have changed my name to Raahmi.

I. Jai Kaur D/O Jasvinder Singh R/O H.No. 555, Phase-2, Urban Estate, Durgi Ludhiana have changed my name to Jai Kaur Sabharwal.

I. Jasvir Singh S/O Jagru Singh R/O VPO. Chokkan, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Ferozepur have changed my name to Jasvir Singh Malhi.

I. Arzoo W/O Vihal Goyal R/O Sikhan Wala Road, Prem Nagar Kotkapura (Ferozepur) have changed my name to Arzoo Goyal.

I. Ruchmi Gang W/O Mohan R/O W.No-22, S.No.-1, Gurga Arjan Dev Nagar Saggi Road Moga have changed my name to Raahmi.

I. Jasvir Singh S/O Jagru Singh R/O VPO. Chokkan, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Ferozepur have changed my name to Jasvir Singh Malhi.

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LUDHIANA HOUSING SCAM AAP demands Minister Ashu's resignation

PNs ■ CHANDIGARH

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday demanded resignation of Punjab's Food and Civil Supplies Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu in Ludhiana Housing scam.

Demanding a high level inquiry into the multi-crore Housing scam in Ludhiana under the supervision of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, AAP legislators, including the Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh and Deputy Leader Satinder Kaur, demanded stringent action against all involved in the scam.

Earlier, Manu raised the issue in the House showing a clipping of the media reports published in some newspapers, without naming the 'minister'.

'You know who the Minister', said Mauke to the state Local Government Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, who had ordered an inquiry into the case.

Interacting with the media Bharat Bhushan Ashu on Friday made it clear that he had 'nothing to do with the building in present controversy', urging the Local Government Minister to explain how his name got included in the inquiry.

'If he (Sidhu) finds any merit in it, let him report it to the Chief Minister sahib. But if there is any mischievous attempt to register an official to include my name deliberately in it, then let the official be penalized,' he demanded.

Amarinder Singh should immediately ask his Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu to tender his resignation and initiate action against others involved into the case.

Another Congress MLA Manu demanded that the Minister should immediately suspend the Minister.

Earlier, Manu raised the issue in the House showing a clipping of the media reports published in some newspapers, without naming the 'minister'.

'You know who the Minister', said Mauke to the state Local Government Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, who had ordered an inquiry into the case.

Interacting with the media Bharat Bhushan Ashu on Friday made it clear that he had 'nothing to do with the building in present controversy', urging the Local Government Minister to explain how his name got included in the inquiry.

'If he (Sidhu) finds any merit in it, let him report it to the Chief Minister sahib. But if there is any mischievous attempt to register an official to include my name deliberately in it, then let the official be penalized,' he demanded.

Cong MLAs warned their own Govt to perform or perish

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Dunjab Congress legislators on Friday gave a clear message to its Government - perform or perish.

Repeatedly, several Congress MLAs reminded the Government of living up to the people's expectations and fulfilling the promises.

'We should fulfill our promises we made with the people. Those who had done wrong or not fulfilled their promises, are facing the consequences later,' said Sham Chaurasia MLA Pawan Kumar

Adia.

He said this while addressing the state Water Supply and Sanitation Minister Razia Sultana to ensure supply of clean drinking water to the people of Kandia area.

The issue was raised during the question hour by Congress MLA Sangat Singh Gilzian, who highlighted that the previous SADP government did nothing to provide clean drinking water to the Kandia area despite making tall promises, and two years of the Congress Government have also passed.

'A person from each house in Kandia area is suffering from cancer because of water,' he said while insisting that clean water should be provided at the earliest as the Congress Government has also not done anything in this regard.

Razia said that the Government has sanctioned Rs 10 crore for the purpose. Another Congress MLA from Amloh Randeep Singh Nabha take to the state Forest Minister Sadhu Singh Dharmast as he failed to provide him full details regarding the nature parks in the state and the money spent on it. Nabha, during the Question Hour, pointed that a nature park in Nabha is in shambles where the statue of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has been installed. Flashing the photograph of the statue, Nabha claimed that it had become a garbage dumping ground. This park does not figure in the list given by the Minister. Why the government was hiding it? Let there be a probe,' he said.

HATHNIKUND BARRAGE CIRCLE JAGADHRI

Applications are invited up to 01.03.2019 for the Post of One No. Clerk, in the O/o S.E., Hathnikund Barrage Circle, Jagadhri on D.C. Rate/Out Sourcing policy for a period of Seventy five days or till the appointment of regular staff. The post is only on contract basis and the services can be terminated at any time.

Supertending Engineer, Hathnikund Barrage Circle, Jagadhri

ELECTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MANAGING COMMITTEE OF THE JALMANA P.A.C.S. LTD. JALMANA (PANIPAT) TO BE HELD ON 27-03-2019

Sr.No.	Particulars	Date	Time	Place
1.	Enrolment list of voters as required under Sub-Para 2(a) of Rule 35	25-02-2019	10:00 am to 12:00 pm	1. O.A.R.C.S.Panipat. 2. At The Regd. Office of the Society 3. Concerned Branch C
2.	Hearing Of Objections of the list of voters as required under Sub-Para Rule 4 of Rule 35	28-02-2019	11:00 am to 12:00 pm	In the Office of Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies Panipat.
3.	Filing of Nomination Paper	12-03-2019	10:00 am to 12:00 pm	In the Office of Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies Panipat.
4.	Scrutiny of Nomination Paper	13-03-2019	10:00 am to 12:00 pm	-/-
5.	Enrolment of voters as required under Sub-Para 2(a) of Rule 35	13-03-2019	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	-/-
6.	Withdrawal of nomination	15-03-2019	Up to 2:00 pm	-/-
7.	Allocation of election symbols	15-03-2019	4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	-/-
8.	Display of list of contesting candidates	15-03-2019	4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	-/-
9.	Taking of poll if necessary	27-03-2019	8:00 am to 4:00 pm	In the office of the Jalmana P.A.C.S.Ltd. Jalmana (Panipat).

Note: (1) It is compulsory for all voters to bring their society pass book/ other photo ID. (2) Out of 10 elected committee members at least two women, one S.C. member and if backward caste voters are more than 10% one B.C. member will be elected.

Birender Singh, Returning Officer, Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies, Panipat.

ELECTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MANAGING COMMITTEE OF THE BAPOULLI P.A.C.S. LTD. BAPOULLI (PANIPAT) TO BE HELD ON 27-03-2019

Sr.No.	Particulars	Date	Time	Place
1.	Enrolment list of voters as required under Sub-Para 2(a) of Rule 35	25-02-2019	10:00 am to 12:00 pm	1. O.A.R.C.S.Panipat. 2. At The Regd. Office of the Society 3. Concerned Branch C
2.	Hearing Of Objections of the list of voters as required under Sub-Para Rule 4 of Rule 35	27-02-2019	11:00 am to 12:00 pm	In the Office of Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies Panipat.
3.	Filing of Nomination Paper	12-03-2019	10:00 am to 12:00 pm	In the Office of Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies Panipat.
4.	Scrutiny of Nomination Paper	13-03-2019	10:00 am to 12:00 pm	-/-
5.	Enrolment of voters as required under Sub-Para 2(a) of Rule 35	13-03-2019	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	-/-
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8.	Display of list of contesting candidates	15-03-2019	4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	-/-
9.	Taking of poll if necessary			

PM receives Seoul Peace Prize

PTI ■ SEOUL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the prestigious Seoul Peace Prize for 2018 on Friday for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth.

The award was presented to him by the Seoul Peace Prize Foundation at a grand ceremony here. A short film on the life and achievements of Prime Minister Modi was also screened at the event.

Modi expressed his gratitude for the prestigious honour and said, "this award belongs not to me personally, but to the people of India."

"The success that India has achieved in the last five years is due to aspirations, inspiration and efforts of the people of India. On their behalf, I accept the award and express my gratitude," he said.

He said he was honoured that the award is being conferred on him in the year that India celebrates the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. He dedicated the USD 200,000 prize money to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives the Seoul Peace Prize, at the award ceremony in Seoul on Friday

PTI

'Namami Gange Programme', which is flagship programme of his government to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of River Ganga.

Modi is the 14th recipient of the award and the past laureates included former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and renowned international relief organizations

like Doctors Without Borders and Oxfam.

The Seoul Peace Prize was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul. The award was established to crystallise Korean people's yearning for peace on the Korean peninsula and in the rest of the world.

Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Modi expressed concern over the growing men-

ace of terrorism and recalled that a few weeks before the Seoul Olympics in 1988, an organisation called Al-Qaeda was formed.

"Today, radicalisation and terrorism have become global and are the biggest threats to world peace and security," he said. He said that like Korea, India has also suffered the pain of cross-border strife.

"Our endeavour towards peaceful developments has only too often been derailed by cross-border terrorism. While India has been the victim of cross-border terrorism for over 40 years, all nations today face this grave threat which respects no borders," he said in an apparent reference to Pakistan.

"The time has come for all those who believe in humanity to join hands, to completely eradicate terrorist networks and their financing supply channels. Asserting that India has suffered the pain of cross-border terrorism for over 40 years, Modi said the country's endeavour towards peaceful developments has only too often been derailed by this menace.

Time for global community to unite, act to smash terror networks: Modi

PTI ■ SEOUL

Making a veiled attack on Pakistan's continued support to cross-border terrorism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday said the time has come for the global community to 'unite and act' to completely eradicate terror networks and their financing supply channels.

Asserting that India has suffered the pain of cross-border terrorism for over 40 years, Modi said the country's endeavour towards peaceful developments has only too often been derailed by this menace.

Modi, who is in Seoul on a two-day visit to South Korea, expressed his gratitude for the host country's support to India after the attack by a suicide bomber of Pakistan-based terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) that killed 40 CRPF personnel in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on February 14.

Addressing the media after his talks with President Moon Jae-in, Modi said that the time has come when the world, going beyond talks, should 'unite and act' against terrorism. Later, speaking at an event after receiving the prestigious Seoul Peace Prize for 2018,

Modi said that while India has been the victim of cross-border terrorism for over 40 years, all nations today face this grave threat which respects no borders.

"Our endeavour towards peaceful developments has only too often been derailed by cross-border terrorism," he said in an apparent reference to Pakistan, which is accused of providing safe havens to several terror groups.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seen-off for Delhi after his visit to Republic of Korea, in Seoul on Friday

PTI

SC to hear pleas seeking review of Rafale verdict on February 26

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will hear on February 26 the two petitions seeking review of its December 14 verdict that had dismissed pleas challenging the deal between India and France for procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets.

The review petition has been filed by former Union ministers Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie as also activist lawyer Prashant Bhusan.

The hearing of the pleas will be conducted in chambers and not in open court.

The trio said the top court had relied upon "patently incorrect" claims made by the government in an unsigned note given in a sealed cover in the court.

Sinha, Shourie and Bhusan have claimed that the judgement was based on "errors apparent on the face of the record" and non-consideration of subsequent information which has come to light would cause a grave miscarriage of justice.

Besides seeking review of the judgement, they have also sought hearing of the plea in an open court.

The top court will also hear the petition filed by P. Raja Sabha MP Sanjay Singh through advocate Dheeraj Singh seeking review of the December 14 verdict.

On December 14, 2018, the apex court had dismissed various pleas challenging the deal between India and France for procurement of 36 Rafale jets saying there was no occasion to



"really doubt the decision making process" warranting setting aside of the contract.

It had rejected the pleas seeking lodging of an FIR and the court-monitored probe alleging irregularities in the Rs 58,000 crore deal, in which both the countries have entered into an inter-governmental agreement (IGA).

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had dealt with "three broad areas of concern" raised in the petitions — the decision-making process, pricing and the choice of Indian offset partners (IOP) — and said there was no reason for the petition filed by the Raja Sabha MP Sanjay Singh through advocate Dheeraj Singh to be treated as a "sensitive issue" of purchase of 36 jets.

It had said the Indian Air Force (IAF) needs advanced fighter jets as the country cannot afford to be "unprepared" or "under prepared" in a situation where adversaries have acquired fourth and fifth generation fighter aircraft, "of

which, we have none".

The apex court had said Thursday that it would consider hearing pleas seeking review of its December 14 verdict. It had considered the submission of Bhusan that his review plea and a separate application, seeking perjury prosecution of some government officials for "misleading" the court be listed urgently.

"We believe there are four petitions in the matter. One by Union of India... Some petitions (having defects) are lying with the registry," the bench said.

"The combination (of the judge's) bench will have to be changed. It is very difficult. We will do something for it," the bench had said.

The December verdict was delivered by the bench comprising the CJ and Justices S K Kaul and K M Joseph.

Vadra appears before ED for 5th time

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Robert Vadra, brother-in-law of Congress President Rahul Gandhi, Friday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for the fifth time in connection with a money-laundering case related to purchase of alleged illegal assets abroad, officials said.

Vadra reached the agency's office at Jamnagar House in central Delhi shortly before 11 am, they said.

He has been grilled in this case four times in the past, the last being February 20.

Officials said the agency is confronting Vadra with documents and statements of witnesses acquired being investigated in the case and his statement is being recorded section 50 (powers of authorities regarding summons, production of documents and to give evidence) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

During the last session, the businessman had told the investigating officer (IO) of the case that he was not well and the lance, the recording of his statement was discontinued, the officials had said.

Vadra's appearance before the ED is related to a criminal complaint related to allegations of money laundering to purchase assets abroad, in an alleged illegal manner.

He has been questioned by the ED sleuths in this case for about 26 hours over four days of deposition earlier this month.

He has been asked by a Delhi court to cooperate in the probe being conducted by the central probe agency.

The ED case against Vadra relates to allegations of money laundering in the purchase of a London-based property, located at 12, Bryanston Square and worth 1.9 million pounds, which is allegedly owned by the businessman in a "benami" way. The agency had told the court that it had received information about various new properties in London that belonged to Vadra. These include two houses — one worth 5 million pounds and

the other valued at 4 million pounds -- six flats and other assets.

Vadra has denied the allegation of possessing illegal foreign assets and termed it a political witch-hunt against him. He has said he is being "hounded and harassed" to subvert political ends.

His first appearance before the ED earlier this month acquired political overtones after his wife Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, recently appointed

Congress general secretary in charge of eastern Uttar Pradesh, accompanied him to the investigating agency's office and picked him up after questioning another time.

Vadra had also appeared before the ED twice in Jaipur in connection with another money-laundering case related to an alleged land scam in Bikaner. His mother Maureen too was questioned by the agency once during the same deposition.



Businessman Robert Vadra arrives at the Enforcement Directorate office for questioning in connection with a money laundering case in New Delhi on Friday

'EU stands firm beside India in fighting terrorism'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The European Union (EU) has affirmed that it is strongly beside India on combating terrorism and there were no differences between them on the issue, it envoy said here on Friday.

Kozlowski said India and the EU would strengthen cooperation in combating terrorism

Referring to the February 14 terror attack by the Jaish-e-Mohammad in Pulwama that left 40 CRPF jawans dead, EU Ambassador Tomasz Kozlowski said its members had strongly condemned the incident and "as a partner of India, we reaffirm our solidarity".

He said the EU stood by India in fighting terrorism and against any terror act regardless of the motivation.

Kozlowski told reporters that the Jaish-e-Mohammad had been listed by the EU as a terror outfit along with Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and several others.

"EU has an autonomous terrorist list. We have our own procedures independent of the UN".

The UN Security Council had on Thursday condemned in the "strongest terms" the "heinous and cowardly" terror attack perpetrated by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad in Pulwama.

Kozlowski said India and the EU would strengthen cooperation in combating terrorism.

Assam hooch tragedy death toll rises to 25

IANS ■ GUWAHATI

At least 25 persons, including 15 women, have died and over 40 others have taken ill after consuming spurious liquor at a tea garden in Assam's Golaghat district, the police said on Friday.

The incident took place on Thursday night at the Salma tea estate in Golaghat, 300 km from here.

"The death toll so far is 25, which includes 15 women and 10 men. While 18 people died at the Golaghat Civil Hospital, the rest breathed their last at the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital," said Rathin Bordoloi, Joint Director of Health, Golaghat district.

He said the people were brought to the hospitals with complaints of severe vomiting and chest pain. "We tried our best, but it was too late," he said.

"A total of 55 people have been referred to the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital for treatment. Seven of them have died while 48 others were still undergoing treatment," said the doctors at the Jorhat hospital.

The locals said several peo-

ple consumed liquor in the tea estate on Thursday night after procuring the stock from a particular seller.

Several of them took ill immediately and many were not even taken to the hospital. They also complained about a nexus between the police and the illegal liquor sellers.

State Excise Minister Parimal Shuklabaidya has ordered a probe into the matter. "The State Government has suspended two excise officials after holding them responsible for the tragedy. We have also asked a four-member team, led by Additional Commissioner of Excise Department Sanjib Medhi, to probe the incident," said Shuklabaidya, adding that the probe committee has been asked to submit its report to the government within three days.

"Based on the inquiry report, stern measures will be taken across the state to plug the loopholes," Shuklabaidya said.

Stop cricket with Pak: Giriraj, it would be a mistake to do so: Tejashwi

PTI ■ NAWADA/PATNA

Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Friday said India should not play cricket matches with Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack which killed 40 CRPF personnel.

He advocated halting all types of exchanges with the neighbouring country, including sports, culture and trade. RJD's

Tejashwi Yadav, the leader of opposition in the Bihar assembly, however, said the dastardliness of the attack notwithstanding, scrapping of sporting ties and cultural exchanges would prove to be futile.

"There should be no cricket with Pakistan. We engage in no sports events with the country till it continues to aid and abet terror. Even families do not dine with each other when they

have a feud. So let us have no links with Pakistan, sporting, cultural or economic," Singh, a BJP hardliner, said in his Lok Sabha constituency of Nawada.

He also lauded Union minister Nitin Gadkari, who holds the Water Resources portfolio, for deciding to stop the flow of India's share of water to Pakistan from rivers under the Indus Waters Treaty. Demands have arisen for boycotting

Pakistan in international sports events, especially the cricket world cup scheduled to begin in May this year.

Sections of Bollywood have also expressed outrage. The All India Cine Workers Association has sought a total ban on Pakistani actors and artists, and cancellation of their work visas, while actor Ajay Devgn had decided that his latest flick Total Dhamaal

will not be released in the neighbouring nation.

When asked about the growing clamour for discontinuance of such exchanges, Tejashwi Yadav said in Patna, "This should not happen. It is not going to achieve anything."

"The Pulwama terror attack deserves condemnation in the strongest possible words and the government must take whatever steps it deems proper on the

security front. But sports and culture must not be dragged into these issues," he said.

The younger son of RJD chief Lalu Prasad, who fancied a career in cricket before taking a plunge into politics three years ago, said, "Players embody sportsman spirit. And hence sportspersons must be allowed to engage in their activity and bring happiness to the people."



Foreign delegates arrive at the airport for a visit to Sangam during Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj on Friday

We are Indians, caste and religion does not exist for us: CRPF officer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

We in CRPF identify ourselves as Indians. Caste and religion does not exist, the world's largest paramilitary force said through its chief spokesman's Twitter handle on Friday.

Peved at a news report in a magazine that gave the caste break-up of the 44 personnel killed in the Pulwama attack, CRPF's chief spokesman and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) M Dhankaran tweeted, "We in CRPF identify ourselves as Indians. Not more, not less. This pathetic divisiveness of caste, colour, and religion does-

n't exist in our blood."

He also tagging the news report saying it 'should strictly refrain from insulting all the martyrs as they are not statistics for your demeaning and meaningless write-up'.

"The force had earlier issued advisories cautioning people against 'fake pictures' being circulated online of body parts of the slain men and bogus messages being shared in the backdrop of harassment of Kashmiri students in various places in the country after the terror attack."

Over 3 lakh personnel force is the country's lead force for internal security duties.

Despite ban, Pak epicentre of terrorism

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Notwithstanding denial, Pakistan continues to be the epicentre of terrorism with as many as 69 outlawed outfits many of which continue with their activities despite the ban. Half of India's total 41 banned terrorist groups are either based in Pakistan or their leadership are based in the neighbouring country or the organisations are sponsored by Pakistan government-military combine.

Pakistan's National Counter Terrorism Authority (NCTA) has so far declared 69 terrorist organisations as banned, most of which are active despite the proscription. Pakistan has especially turned a blind eye to major terrorist groups such as the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, the Al Badr operating in Jammu & Kashmir, sources said.

Amid the escalating pressure on Pakistan from the international community over

Jaish-e-Mohammad's role in Pulwama attack, Islamabad on Thursday banned the 2008 Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed-led Jamat-ud-Dawa (JUD) and its charity wing Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation. Apparently, this was a ploy to seek grey-listing by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). As many as 40 CRPF men were killed in the suicide bombing on a paramilitary convoy by the JeM on February 14.

The JUD's network includes 300 seminars and schools, hospitals, publishing house and ambulance service. The two groups have about 50,000 volunteers and hundreds of other paid workers who recruit gullible youth for terrorism in the garb of charity.

They have been banned to quell any movement against suppression by the Pakistan military, sources said.

According to inputs with the Union Home Ministry, the banned terrorist groups are either based in Pakistan or their leadership are based in the neighbouring country or the organisations are sponsored by the government-military

in 2001, by banning Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ). The LeJ is based in Pakistan with limited operations in Afghanistan.

The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (Afghanistan), Balochistan Republican Army, Balochistan Liberation Front, Lashkar-e-Balochistan, Balochistan Liberation United Front, Tanzeem-ud-Dawlat, Able Sunnat, Gilgit, Anjuman-e-Imamia Gilgit Baltistan and Muslim Students Organization (MSO) Gilgit are among the banned organisations, as per the NCTA documents.

Others in the NCTA list are the Abdullah Azhar Brigade (Lebanon, Syria and Arabian Peninsula), East Turkmenistan Islamic Movement (Turkey, Afghanistan), Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (Uzbekistan) and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Germany.

Two groups — the Mujahid-e-Sahaba and the Maymar Trust — have been under the scanner of the Pakistan government while

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank ltd has organized an auction in below mentioned respect of Vehicles.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

- 1) TATA LPS 4923 REG. NO. RJ32GB5981-YOM 2016
- 2) TATA LPS 4923 REG. NO. RJ32GB5982-YOM 2016

UNDER HYPOTHECACTION WITH MRS. KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH 7 DAYS AT

AUCTION ADDRESS:
3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO. 7, SECTOR 12D, NOIDA-201313 OR
CONTACT : AVINASH SAURABH KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.
CONTACT NO. 9643805296

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI, IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CH-DI, THE COMPLEX, SHASTRI NAGAR, DELHI-110031

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. 111, & FC, Delhi invites on behalf of the President of India, online tender for the following works.

1. M.T. No: EE/CDD-I/INIT/65/2018-19. M.T. No: 4217 Development of

Name of work:- Construction of Road & SW Drain at Durga Park, P.C. to be executed by this Court either by a tenderer duly instructed, either on or after 28th day of March, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. to answer the claim and further you are hereby directed to file your reply on that day.

Take further, notice that in default of your appearance on the day and time aforementioned, the matter shall be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 20th day of February 2019.

Place: Mapusa
Sd/- (Bosco G.F Roberts)
JMFC/PCourt, Mapusa
M.C. JMFC/PCourt, Mapusa

Rahul attacks Modi over Pulwama attack, dubs him 'prime time minister'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime time minister was shooting for a film.

"There was a sea of grief in the hearts of Indians and the martyrs and the (PM Modi) was laughing and getting a photo shoot done next to a river."

Rahul went on to say, "A river of mourning in the hearts of the nation and the homes of the martyrs and the (PM Modi) was laughing and getting a photo shoot done next to a river."

This was a reference to photos that show the prime minister in a motorboat in the Jim Corbett national park.

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, addressing a Press conference, also claimed that the Prime Minister continued to "have tea and samosas at seven o'clock in the evening" and "had a single Indian household didn't eat food (that day)".

PM photo shoot: BJP slams Cong's claim

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While asserting that "lies" need not to be responded to, the BJP on Friday dismissed Congress president Rahul Gandhi's claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended a photo shoot allegedly hours after the Pulwama attack on February 14 as "fake news" and maintained that photographs displayed by the opposition party were clicked in the morning ahead of the terror strikes.

"Rahul Ji, India is tired of your fake news. Stop sharing photos from that morning so shamelessly mislead the nation. Maybe you knew in advance of the terror strikes and you had to go to know in the evening. Try a better stunt next time, there sacrifice of soldiers isn't involved," the BJP tweeted.

The BJP hit back after the Congress president called Modi a "prime minister" and said he continued shooting for a film in Uttarakhand even three hours after news of the Pulwama terror strike came in.

He also attacked photographs of Modi attending the photo shoot and taking a boat ride. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra dismissed as lies the Congress's claim that Prime Minister was "completely oblivious" to the terror strike or "insensitive" as he "continued" with his prior engagements

Centre decides to keep in abeyance powers of arrest given to Assam Rifles

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre decided on Friday to keep in abeyance the special powers given to the Assam Rifles to arrest anyone and search a place without warrant in northeastern States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram, officials said.

The Home Ministry will now revisit the issue with the concerned state governments, which apparently opposed the move to give sweeping powers to the paramilitary force.

It has been decided that the enabling notifications issued on February 19, giving powers to Assam Rifles to be kept in abeyance and the entire matter be revisited in consultation with the state governments concerned, a Home Ministry official said.

While giving the powers to the Assam Rifles, a Home Ministry notification had put the officer of the rank corresponding to that of the lowest rank of members of the Assam Rifles has been given these powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure. Assam Rifles personnel will exercise these powers and discharge their duties "under sub-section (1) of section 41, sections 47, 48, 49, 53, 54, 149, 150, 151 and 152 of the Cr.P.C. within the local limits of the area comprised within the border districts of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram", the notification had said.

Officials said on Friday that powers under Cr.P.C. were available to the Assam Rifles under the Assam Rifles Act, 2016. However, after coming into operation of the new Assam Rifles Act 2016, the issue of re-conferring these powers has remained under consideration since then.

Recently, the issue has acquired urgency for effective enforcement of Free Movement Regime on the Indo-Myanmar border (on the 16 km belt on either side).

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be notified to all my clients Mr. Anil Kapoor, 10/3, Nehru Park, New Delhi-110028, 27/2/2019.

SEAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

For persons carrying any signs, notices, banners or posters in hand possession of original document and technical background for appointment of agency for operation and maintenance of OSS with Fuse cable and HT & LT line in following Circles for three years period as detailed below:-

Govt. of Bihar

SOUTH BIHAR POWER DISTRIBUTION CO. LTD, PATNA-BIHAR

Registered Office: Vidhyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-21
A Govt. of Bihar undertaking
(Department of Operation & Maintenance)
Contact No. 7763813950 CIN No. U40109BR2012SGC018890

Tender Extension Notice
PR No. - 16432

Extension of last date of submission/sale against Online tenders invited in two parts (Techno Commercial Part-1 & Price part-2) by Chief Engineer, (O & M), SBPDCL, from eligible and experienced agencies/contractors having sound financial and technical background for appointment of agency for operation and maintenance of OSS with Fuse cable and HT & LT line in following Circles for three years period as detailed below:-

Sl. No.	NIT No.	Name of District	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Bid Security (EMD) (in Rs.)	Extended Date of opening of Technical & Commercial Part
1.	13/PR/SBPDCL/2019	Nalanda	299545794/-	3995458/-	28/02/2019 after 17:00 Hrs.
2.	14/PR/SBPDCL/2019	Bira (Bhojpur)	228647758/-	3286478/-	28/02/2019 after 17:00 Hrs.
3.	15/PR/SBPDCL/2019	Sasaram (Rohtas)	217423624/-	3174236/-	28/02/2019 after 17:00 Hrs.
4.	16/PR/SBPDCL/2019	Patna	22371626/-	323716/-	28/02/2019 after 17:00 Hrs.
5.	17/PR/SBPDCL/2019	Bhagalpur	223863804/-	3238638/-	28/02/2019 after 17:00 Hrs.
6.	18/PR/SBPDCL/2019	Gaya	190094517/-	2900945/-	28/02/2019 after 17:00 Hrs.
7.	19/PR/SBPDCL/2019	Munger	133538002/-	2335380/-	28/02/2019 after 17:00 Hrs.
8.	20/PR/SBPDCL/2019	Jamui	112899064/-	2128991/-	28/02/2019 after 17:00 Hrs.
9.	21/PR/SBPDCL/2019	Aurangabad	222807994/-	3228080/-	28/02/2019 after 17:00 Hrs.

Period of Sale/download of NIT documents: 28/02/2019 (up to 12:00 Hrs.) in through website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

Submission of NIT through website: 28/02/2019 (up to 12:00 Hrs.) Cost of BOQ as detailed above needs to be paid as cost of BOQ through online mode and Bank Guarantee towards Bid Security (EMD). Original online payment acknowledgment for Cost of Tender and BG towards Bid Security (EMD) must be submitted.

Cost of BOQ (in Rs.) 20,000/-

The NIT documents can be downloaded from website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

Payment of Cost of Tender Document & Bid processing fees: Tender documents fee, Bid processing fee is mandatory to be paid through online mode i.e., Internet payment gateway (Credit/Debit Card), Net Banking, NET/RTGS. Online payment cost of BOQ etc. must be submitted to Senior Manager (Finance) SBPDCL on or before 28/02/2019 at 15:00 Hrs failing which tender shall be summarily rejected.

Payment of Cost of Bid Security (EMD): The cost of Bid security as per the details mentioned above must be paid through BG against EMD fee and it must be submitted to Senior Manager (Finance) SBPDCL in favour of "SOUTH BIHAR POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD." payable at Patna on or before 28/02/2019 at 12:00 Hrs failing which tender shall be summarily rejected.

ES (O&M) SBPDCL

PR.17986 (NIT) 2018-19 तिथि या पत्रे अमी चक्रे, रादी की सुले नबे चक्रे

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS

The 14021/14022 to be known as "SAINIK EXPRESS"

It is to inform all the passengers that the Train Number 14021/14022 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Sikar Express has been named as "SAINIK EXPRESS".

Note: For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Security Helpline No. 182 and passenger Complaint Helpline No. 138

Please join us on: **NORTHERN RAILWAY**
Visit us at: www.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Govt. of Punjab

Tender Notice No. PAU/SPO/GA/2019/160 Dated: 21-02-2019

The Department of Store Purchase Organisation, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana invites online e-tenders for the following:

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1.	Purchase of PTO Torque Sensor with Data Logger	1 No.
2.	Purchase of Brinqueting Plant (Brinqueting Machine & accessories and Chipper (cum-grinder & accessories) for paddy straw and mixed crop residues.	1 No.

Closing date and time: 13-03-2019 up to 11:00 AM
For details log on to: www.eproc.punjab.gov.in and www.pau.edu.
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above websites only.

Accounts Officer,
Store Purchase Ludhiana
Punjab Agricultural University,
Ludhiana

DPR/22/FEB/19/C-4921 Dt. 22-02-2019

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of female Age: Approx 25-30 years, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5', ID Mark: A tattoo mark "RS" on right hand, was wearing White & Grey Colour T-Shirt-Blue Jeans Pant-Mahroon colour Sweater and White colour Rexin Sling in feet, was found near Platform Mangolpuri Railway Station, Phase-I, Industrial Area, Mangolpuri, Delhi at 07:48 A.M. In this regard a FIR No. 1791/19 US 302 IPC, dated 19.02.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Raj Park, Delhi.

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

SHO
P.S. Raj Park, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27910070, 27910071
DP/1966/OD/19

Twitter Head of Public Policy to appear before Parl panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Twitter Chief Executive Officer Jack Dorsey will not appear before the Parliamentary panel on IT on February 25, and instead the company is sending its Head of Public Policy Colin Crowell. The Parliamentary panel on Information Technology had summoned Twitter head Jack Dorsey to appear before it on February 25, and had refused to meet "junior officials" of the microblogging site during its meeting on February 11.

The meeting had been called against the backdrop of growing concerns about safeguarding citizens' data privacy and the possibility of social media platforms being used to interfere in the upcoming elections.

After this meeting, the panel is expected to summon top executives of Facebook and WhatsApp on March 5 to discuss similar issues.

Sources in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), however, said efforts were still on to have Dorsey attend the meeting. On February 11, the committee had refused to meet junior officials from Twitter's India office who were present at the meeting venue. During the meeting with Twitter, the panel wants to examine issues such as data privacy. It is also seeking to better understand the company's business structure, including whether it is a technology company or a media house.

The panel passed an unanimous resolution that the micro-blogging website's CEO should make himself available to show the company's seriousness in safeguarding rights of Indian citizens online, they added.

Under the resolution, the panel would hear only the Twitter CEO or senior member of its global team "who has decision making authority regarding Twitter's operations in India", one of the sources had said, according to news agency Press Trust of India.

Even as it faces heavy over allegations of political bias in the country, Twitter has maintained that it is committed to remain unbiased and that its product as well as policies is never based on political ideology.

The Government has been taking a strong view of misuse of social media platforms and is also proposing to amend IT rules to curb fake news and increase accountability of such apps.

Over the last few weeks, Facebook, Twitter and Google have promised to infuse more transparency into political advertisements on their platform, and announced a slew of measures as part of their election integrity efforts.

On Thursday, Twitter said it has

Now file complaint with DoT against offensive messages received on WhatsApp

New Delhi: People can now file a complaint with the Department of Telecom (DoT) against offensive messages received on WhatsApp. The victim just needs to furnish a screenshot of the message along with the mobile number and e-mail it to caddn-dot@nic.in.

"If anyone is receiving abusive/offensive/deaths/threats/vulgar whatsapp messages, please send screen shots of the message along with the mobile numbers at caddn-dot@nic.in. We will take it up with the telecom operators and police heads for necessary action," DoT Controller Communications Ashish Joshi tweeted.

The move comes following many public figures, including journalists, complaining of receiving abusive and threatening messages.

DELHI JAIL BOARD
(GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NE) III
67, ROAD SHARADHA, DELHI-11002
E-mail: eem@delhi.gov.in

NIT No. 702018-19

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender Rs.	Tender/ Fees (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Date of release of tender in electronic solution	Last date of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	PL, DI and GI Water line in Jaria Colony JIC sewerage (dug Road & Drain No-1 in AC-67 NE-III) (Tender ID.No.2019 DUB 199066 1)	25,34,220/-	500/-	51000/-	18.02.19	08.03.19

For details the notice can be seen at http://delhi.gov.in/procurement.gov.in (ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER))
Adv. No. J.S.V.857/2018-19

Sd/-
EX. ENGINEER (NE) III

Didi blames BJP again for 'allowing' Pulwama

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ HOOGHLY

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee once again blamed the Narendra Modi Government for allowing the Pulwama attack to take place and attacked the BJP for trying to divide the electorate by spreading hatred.

The Chief Minister who was speaking at a mass gathering in Tarakeswar in Hooghly district on Friday accused the Centre of neglecting the security issue that allowed the terrorists to launch one of the most dreaded attacks on the Indian security forces in the history of free India.

Wondering as to "what the Government was doing before the attack" and "why they did not take adequate measures" despite having prior reports Banerjee said "they were all doing politics and nothing else over the issue."

Accusing the BJP and the RSS of fomenting communal tension in Bengal by spreading rumors Banerjee said, "I will do everything for the people but I will never allow riots to take place in our State," adding, "how a band of half-literate people were feigning as champions of Hindu religion in the garb of saffron clothes."

"They have no sense of the Hindu ethos, no knowledge of the true Hindu scriptures. They



only know how to fan riots by spreading rumors. But I will not allow them to do so in Bengal," she said complaining how the agents of the RSS and BJP were spreading rumor of child-lifters in parts of the State. "As the Chief Minister I have specific information that they have let loose burqa-clad people in the market to pass off as child-lifters. Then they are spreading rumors about these child-lifters so as to incite people and create a communal disharmony," Banerjee said referring to the recent spate of mass thrashing of alleged child-lifters in parts of Bengal. "Attacking the BJP Government for creating a mass hysteria to turn the public attention from its failed promises

Banerjee asked, "What happened to the promise that you (Modi) made to the people of bringing back black money from abroad and depositing Rs 15 lakh in each account."

The Hindu ethos was against violence she said asking people to remain alert against hate-rumors. "Even I am a Hindu. Even we have seen pujas in our houses since we were children but our parents never taught to hate other religions," she said asking "who are these people to dictate food habits among others."

Even the "monks of Ramakrishna Mission and Bharat Sevashram Sangha wear saffron robes but they never attack others' religions because they like true Hindus believe in the unity of religions," she said. "In the eight years of TMC rule 'not a single temple, mosque or church was touched in Bengal," she said reminding how her government helped in renovating temples in the State, "unlike the BJP which was pre-occupied with religious divide."

Accusing the Centre of playing political game with partiality by State-funded health schemes like Ayushman Bharat Banerjee said, "We don't need Centre's dole... Ayushman Bharat let's come with pictures (of political parties) will not run in Bengal," reminding "half of the central health scheme was funded by the State Government."

Women on top in Mamata's health scheme

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a revolutionary first step that could go a distance in restoring women's pride in the Indian family system, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday unfolded a family health scheme that would primarily revolve around the main woman of the family.

In what she called a card issued in the name of the "woman head of the family" the newly devised smart health card would take care of health expenses of up to Rs 5 lakh in a given family. The card issued to the woman would take care not only of her marital family but also of her biological parents, she said.

This is a great step forward towards women's empowerment, Banerjee said, adding the person who would be issued the card would be considered as the head of the family and "it would not only take care of her marital family but also of her parents as often such parents become helpless in their old age."

Listing how her Government's achievements have been acknowledged internationally Banerjee said the UK's health scheme like the earlier Aarogyasabha plan had won UN awards. On social welfare she said "about 8 crore people of the State get 2 paise rice" and her Government had waived the taxes on farm land.

Post-Pulwama attack: Kashmiri scribe beaten up in Pune, 3 held

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a second unsavoury incident of backlash after last week's Pulwama terror attack, a journalist from Kashmir was beaten up by some unknown persons in Pune, even as three Yuv Sena office bearers were arrested by the local police at Newmatul in eastern Maharashtra on Friday in connection with Wednesday's assault on five Kashmiri students.

Zibran Nazeer, a copy editor working with a national English newspaper published from Pune, was roughed up by some unidentified persons. The Pune police have not yet identified the culprits behind the incident.

The Yavatmal police, meanwhile, arrested three Yuv Sena office bearers, including the one Ajinkya Motke, for allegedly beating up four Kashmiri students in Waghapur Road area of the eastern Maharashtra town. On its part, the Shiv Sena has expelled from the party the Yuv Sena's office-bearers involved in the assault incident. In tweets put out on Friday, Yuv Sena president Aditya Thackeray said, "There was an unfortunate incident yesterday in Yavatmal. We use to be here in Jammu & Kashmir. The @ShivSena had issued a press note yesterday itself which hasn't been printed today, may be to further sensationalise the issue or defame us, while ignoring our disciplinary action."

"As of last evening, the Party has sacked those involved in the act. J&K is a part of India and no Indian, or for that matter, nobody should face the brunt of anger that is towards terrorism. We use to be here. I stand the angst but it must be against terror, not innocent people," Aditya added.

In all five Kashmiri students — identified as Umar Nazeer Ganai, Umar Rashid Dar, Tajimullah Ali, Owais Mushtaq and Amir Mulla — humiliated, beaten up and forced by Yuv Sena activists to raise slogans like "Vande Mataram", "Hindustan zindabad" and "Bharatmata ki jai" at Yavatmal on Wednesday night.

The victim students were from Dayabhai Patel College of Physical Education. The Yuv Sena activists accosted them near their rented homes in Waghapur Road area of the town and physically harassed them as a mark of "protest" against the Pulwama terror strike in which 44 CRPF jawans were killed. Two of the jawans from the neighbouring Buldhana district were among those killed in the Pulwama attack.

A clip of video footage shot by the Yuv Sena activists themselves went viral on social media on Thursday. The footage showed a local Yuv Sena leader beating the Kashmiri students and asking them questions like "where were you, as to why they had come to Yavatmal and whether were they linked with terrorists. 'What is your name? Why have you come here? You should not come here... What connection do you have with terrorists there?... Your relatives are killing our jawans there. Why have you come here? How many students are here like you in Yavatmal?'"

The replies from a student like "I have to come to study here... I am the son of a doctor. I have not been to Kashmir for the last one and a half years... There are 15 to 20 Kashmiri students in Yavatmal. The Yuv Sena leader tells the student, "Tell them to go. They would not satisfy the Yuv Sena leader who continued to beat him and other students up."

All roads in Chennai lead to Vijayakanth



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

DMK president MK Stalin meets DMDK chief Vijayakanth at his residence in Chennai on Friday. PTI

Vijayakanth, convalescing at his house in Chennai suburb has become the most sought after person in Tamil Nadu politics. MK Stalin, president of the DMK and Tamil film's all time great Rajinikanth called on the ailing actor at his residence on Friday as political alliance formation in the State for the Lok Sabha election reached a feverish pitch.

Vijayakanth, founder of the DMDK has not opened his mind to the media. But news trickling out of his Virugambakkam residence through emissaries of the AIADMK, the DMK and the BJP who met him to court him to their fronts said that the actor is adamant that he should get at least seven seats and a Rajya Sabha seat from the AIADMK. This is what the AIADMK allocated to the PMK on Tuesday to ensure the Vanniyar dominated party stays with the front led by the ruling dispensation in Tamil Nadu.

Stalin who called on

Vijayakanth told reporters that there was no politics in his visit to the actor's residence. "We are good friends for the last 35 years and imy visit was to enquire about the health of Vijayakanth," said Stalin after the meet.

As usual grapes in Chennai worked overtime and came out with stories claiming that Rajinikanth's visit was as an emissary of the BJP and he had requested Vijayakanth to join the AIADMK-led front. "There is not a drop of politics in my visit to Vijayakanth's house," said Rajinikanth. Sources close to the DMDK first family (which include Premalatha Vijayakanth and her brother T S Sudhesh) said that the actor has demanded seven Lok Sabha seats and would not settle for anything less. "He may come round and join the front which pays him the pound of flesh he demands. This could be Lok Sabha seats or in kind" said the source.

Priyanka rejects proposal to replace Babbar

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary in charge of UP east, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, has rejected a proposal to replace UPCC chief Raj Babbar, saying he will continue till the Lok Sabha polls are over.

Sources in the party said that Priyanka also shot down a proposal for appointing another party chief to oversee east UP.

At a meeting convened to discuss Lok Sabha elections at Congress War Room at 15, Gurudwara Rakabganj Road in New Delhi on Thursday, Priyanka along with Congress general secretary in charge of UP west, Jyotiraditya Scindia, and UP Congress chief Raj Babbar sat down to thrash out strategies for the upcoming polls.

After hectic deliberations, the meeting ended around Thursday midnight.

The discussion also veered around a possible replacement of Babbar, but it was set aside as little time was left for the general elections.

The idea of having two state chiefs for Uttar Pradesh was also brushed aside.

The sources said that Congress workers during the discussions with Priyanka, had appreciated Babbar's role as an influential campaigner but were critical of his ability to manage the organisation.

UP ATS arrests 2 suspected JeM ultras in Deoband

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two suspects with alleged links with terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad were arrested from Saharanpur in a swoop by an Anti-Terrorist Squad led by IG Aseem Arun in the intervening night of Thursday-Friday. Posing as students without taking admission anywhere, the duo were staying in Deoband and were engaged in recruiting new faces for their organisation.

Chats linked to jeah, videos, pictures linked with JeM and two 30 calibre pistols and 30 cartridges were also recovered from their possession.

DGP OP Singh told the media in Lucknow on Friday that the UP ATS had arrested Shah Nawaz Ahmad Tuli of Kulgam district and Aquib Ahmad Malik from Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir and they were aged between 20 and 25 years.

Singh said the Jammu and Kashmir Police were being contacted to get more inputs about the arrested duo. He also said that information about their period of stay in Deoband was also being collected.

"The ATS got a tip-off about the two from an alert student after which a probe was initiated. IG (ATS) Aseem Arun reached Saharanpur to verify the credentials of the youths, who posed as students. After days of surveillance, both were arrested."

Asked whether the two were involved in the recent Pulwama terror attack, the DGP said, "It is difficult to tell whether they came here before the terror attack or after that. A probe is on to ascertain that." "Both are being grilled about their arrival in the state with their parents. Many other members are involved, was anyone recruited by them for JeM, where did the funding come from, what was its quantum and what was their target after recruitment," the DGP said.

Modi, Shah to criss-cross UP in next few days



PM Modi will be visiting the State twice. On February 24, he will be visiting Gorakhpur to launch the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana on the concluding day of BJP's Kisan Morcha convention and later he will visit Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Realising that Uttar Pradesh is crucial for the party, senior leaders of Bhatnagar Janata Party, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party president Amit Shah, will criss-cross the state in the next few days, holding rallies and launching the ambitious PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme.

PM Modi will be visiting the State twice. On February 24, he will be visiting Gorakhpur to launch the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana on the concluding day of BJP's Kisan Morcha convention and later he will visit Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj.

Four days later, on February 28, the Prime Minister will interact with youths of Uttar Pradesh through video conferencing from New Delhi and on March 3, Modi will address a public meeting in Amethi, the parliamentary constituency of Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

On the other hand, Amit Shah will be visiting UP twice this month — on Saturday and on February 26. On Saturday morning, Shah will attend a function of Co-operative Bank in Lucknow and later visit Gorakhpur the same evening. On February 26, Shah is scheduled to visit Ghazipur. In Gorakhpur, Shah will inaugurate the national convention of Kisan Morcha while in Ghazipur, the BJP president will attend Kamal Jyoti programme.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh will also be visiting his parliamentary constituency Lucknow for two days from Sunday. He will inaugurate many development projects and address a BJP workers' meet of Awadh region. He will leave for New Delhi on Monday evening.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Name: Meghna Karnail D/o: Upender Karnail R/o: 2063, Gali No. 5, Kasmin colony, Jain Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 13.02.2019 from the area of P.S. Begumpur, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 02-A dated 14.02.2019 has been lodged at Police Station Begumpur, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 18 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Navy blue colour Top with Jacket, Blue color jeans.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Begumpur, Delhi at E-mail id - cic@cbl.gov.in or Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>

SHO P.S. Begumpur, Delhi Rohini Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph. No. 011-27581118, 27581125

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Okafor John Chinedu S/o Okafor Christiano R/o H.No. 197-D, Arjun Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **F.I.R. No. 1284/2015 u/s 419/487/471 IPC** at P.S. Mehrauli, Delhi and it has been referred to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Okafor John Chinedu** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Okafor John Chinedu** has absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Okafor John Chinedu** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.03.2019**

By Order
Sh. Vaibhav Mehta
Metropolitan Magistrate Judge-05 (South) (Court Notice) Room No. 210, Saket Court, New Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Name: Sarita Pradhan W/o Mahender Pradhan R/o A-77, 2nd Floor, Hari Nagar, Delhi** has been missing since 02.02.2019 from her residence. In this regard a case vide DD No. 15A dated 08.02.2019 has been lodged at PS Hari Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

SARITA PRADHAN Age: 44 Years, Height: 4'10", Complexion: Fair, Build: Normal, Face: Oval, Wearing: Black colour suit & salwar and cream colour hawai chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Hari Nagar, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in or website: <http://cbl.nic.in>

SHO P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi West Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph. No. 011-28125719, 28125728



Congress president Rahul Gandhi being presented with a memento at Lord Venkateswara temple in Tirumala on Friday. PTI

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-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	Commercial Advertisement Rights through permissible media at Railway Stations (Station Advertising Zones) over Delhi Division for a period of five years.
2. Date of Tender Opening	18.03.2019 upto 1100 hrs.
3. Approximate cost of work	As per NIT on iraps.gov.in
4. Cost of Tender document	As per NIT on iraps.gov.in
5. Earnest Money Deposit	As per NIT on iraps.gov.in
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen	https://iraps.gov.in

No. 7PUB/TN/Bulk Advt Rights/DL/2011 Dated 22 February 2019 573/2019

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7, Sethi Bhawan, Rajinder Place, New Delhi Ph. 011-25747942, Fax: 011-25747942

To: **BORROWERS:** M/s. Pawar Dairy Prop. Ram Kumar Pawar S/o Mr. Shergill 86-B, Shalimar, Kirti Nagar New Delhi-110049

SURETY: 1. Mr. Sandeep Pawar S/o Ram Kumar Pawar 86-B, Shalimar, Kirti Nagar New Delhi-110049 2. Mr. Nareesh Tyagi S/o Lal Singh 115, Sarojini Nagar New Delhi-110024

Dear Sir,

ABBREVIATED DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SEC. 13 (2) OF SARFAESI ACT

In respect of loans availed from our MCB, Netaji Subhash Place Branch (BIC: 9197) by you, which have become NPA with balance outstanding of **Rs. 1,93,05,174.65 (Rupees One Crore Ninety Three Lakhs Five Thousand One Hundred Seventy Four Paise Six Five Only)** due along with interest from 01.01.2019 and costs etc. Via have already issued detailed demand notice dated 03.01.2019 under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act by Registered post with acknowledgment due to you, which have been returned undelivered with following remarks that insufficient address and returned to sender.

You are advised my intention of taking possession of Securities owned by 1. Mr. Ram Kumar Pawar 2. Mr. Sandeep Pawar, as per Section 13(4) of the Act in case of your failure to pay the amount mentioned above within 60 days.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

1) Agricultural Land situated at Khawati No. 127/112, Khawati No. 164, Rect. No. 09, Kila No. 151/2/2/3, Rect. No. 10, Kila No. 151/2/1/18, totaling to 5 Kanals 12.5 Marlas Situated at Maaja Jansana, Talsai Tigran, Dist. Faridkot

East: Road West: Other's Property North: Vacant Plot South: Vacant Plot

2) Agricultural Land situated at Khawati No. 36/64, Rect. No. 21, Kila No. 5/2/6/7, 6/17, 7, 15/1/5/10, 15/1/5/11, 15/1/5/12, 15/1/5/13, 15/1/5/14, 15/1/5/15, 15/1/5/16, 15/1/5/17, 15/1/5/18, 15/1/5/19, 15/1/5/20, 15/1/5/21, 15/1/5/22, 15/1/5/23, 15/1/5/24, 15/1/5/25, 15/1/5/26, 15/1/5/27, 15/1/5/28, 15/1/5/29, 15/1/5/30, 15/1/5/31, 15/1/5/32, 15/1/5/33, 15/1/5/34, 15/1/5/35, 15/1/5/36, 15/1/5/37, 15/1/5/38, 15/1/5/39, 15/1/5/40, 15/1/5/41, 15/1/5/42, 15/1/5/43, 15/1/5/44, 15/1/5/45, 15/1/5/46, 15/1/5/47, 15/1/5/48, 15/1/5/49, 15/1/5/50, 15/1/5/51, 15/1/5/52, 15/1/5/53, 15/1/5/54, 15/1/5/55, 15/1/5/56, 15/1/5/57, 15/1/5/58, 15/1/5/59, 15/1/5/60, 15/1/5/61, 15/1/5/62, 15/1/5/63, 15/1/5/64, 15/1/5/65, 15/1/5/66, 15/1/5/67, 15/1/5/68, 15/1/5/69, 15/1/5/70, 15/1/5/71, 15/1/5/72, 15/1/5/73, 15/1/5/74, 15/1/5/75, 15/1/5/76, 15/1/5/77, 15/1/5/78, 15/1/5/79, 15/1/5/80, 15/1/5/81, 15/1/5/82, 15/1/5/83, 15/1/5/84, 15/1/5/85, 15/1/5/86, 15/1/5/87, 15/1/5/88, 15/1/5/89, 15/1/5/90, 15/1/5/91, 15/1/5/92, 15/1/5/93, 15/1/5/94, 15/1/5/95, 15/1/5/96, 15/1/5/97, 15/1/5/98, 15/1/5/99, 15/1/5/100, 15/1/5/101, 15/1/5/102, 15/1/5/103, 15/1/5/104, 15/1/5/105, 15/1/5/106, 15/1/5/107, 15/1/5/108, 15/1/5/109, 15/1/5/110, 15/1/5/111, 15/1/5/112, 15/1/5/113, 15/1/5/114, 15/1/5/115, 15/1/5/116, 15/1/5/117, 15/1/5/118, 15/1/5/119, 15/1/5/120, 15/1/5/121, 15/1/5/122, 15/1/5/123, 15/1/5/124, 15/1/5/125, 15/1/5/126, 15/1/5/127, 15/1/5/128, 15/1/5/129, 15/1/5/130, 15/1/5/131, 15/1/5/132, 15/1/5/133, 15/1/5/134, 15/1/5/135, 15/1/5/136, 15/1/5/137, 15/1/5/138, 15/1/5/139, 15/1/5/140, 15/1/5/141, 15/1/5/142, 15/1/5/143, 15/1/5/144, 15/1/5/145, 15/1/5/146, 15/1/5/147, 15/1/5/148, 15/1/5/149, 15/1/5/150, 15/1/5/151, 15/1/5/152, 15/1/5/153, 15/1/5/154, 15/1/5/155, 15/1/5/156, 15/1/5/157, 15/1/5/158, 15/1/5/159, 15/1/5/160, 15/1/5/161, 15/1/5/162, 15/1/5/163, 15/1/5/164, 15/1/5/165, 15/1/5/166, 15/1/5/167, 15/1/5/168, 15/1/5/169, 15/1/5/170, 15/1/5/171, 15/1/5/172, 15/1/5/173, 15/1/5/174, 15/1/5/175, 15/1/5/176, 15/1/5/177, 15/1/5/178, 15/1/5/179, 15/1/5/180, 15/1/5/181, 15/1/5/182, 15/1/5/183, 15/1/5/184, 15/1/5/185, 15/1/5/186, 15/1/5/187, 15/1/5/188, 15/1/5/189, 15/1/5/190, 15/1/5/191, 15/1/5/192, 15/1/5/193, 15/1/5/194, 15/1/5/195, 15/1/5/196, 15/1/5/197, 15/1/5/198, 15/1/5/199, 15/1/5/200, 15/1/5/201, 15/1/5/202, 15/1/5/203, 15/1/5/204, 15/1/5/205, 15/1/5/206, 15/1/5/207, 15/1/5/208, 15/1/5/209, 15/1/5/210, 15/1/5/211, 15/1/5/212, 15/1/5/213, 15/1/5/214, 15/1/5/215, 15/1/5/216, 15/1/5/217, 15/1/5/218, 15/1/5/219, 15/1/5/220, 15/1/5/221, 15/1/5/222, 15/1/5/223, 15/1/5/224, 15/1/5/225, 15/1/5/226, 15/1/5/227, 15/1/5/228, 15/1/5/229, 15/1/5/230, 15/1/5/231, 15/1/5/232, 15/1/5/233, 15/1/5/234, 15/1/5/235, 15/1/5/236, 15/1/5/237, 15/1/5/238, 15/1/5/239, 15/1/5/240, 15/1/5/241, 15/1/5/242, 15/1/5/243, 15/1/5/244, 15/1/5/245, 15/1/5/246, 15/1/5/247, 15/1/5/248, 15/1/5/249, 15/1/5/250, 15/1/5/251, 15/1/5/252, 15/1/5/253, 15/1/5/254, 15/1/5/255, 15/1/5/256, 15/1/5/257, 15/1/5/258, 15/1/5/259, 15/1/5/260, 15/1/5/261, 15/1/5/262, 15/1/5/263, 15/1/5/264, 15/1/5/265, 15/1/5/266, 15/1/5/267, 15/1/5/268, 15/1/5/269, 15/1/5/270, 15/1/5/271, 15/1/5/272, 15/1/5/273, 15/1/5/274, 15/1/5/275, 15/1/5/276, 15/1/5/277, 15/1/5/278, 15/1/5/279, 15/1/5/280, 15/1/5/281, 15/1/5/282, 15/1/5/283, 15/1/5/284, 15/1/5/285, 15/1/5/286, 15/1/5/287, 15/1/5/288, 15/1/5/289, 15/1/5/290, 15/1/5/291, 15/1/5/292, 15/1/5/293, 15/1/5/294, 15/1/5/295, 15/1/5/296, 15/1/5/297, 15/1/5/298, 15/1/5/299, 15/1/5/300, 15/1/5/301, 15/1/5/302, 15/1/5/303, 15/1/5/304, 15/1/5/305, 15/1/5/306, 15/1/5/307, 15/1/5/308, 15/1/5/309, 15/1/5/310, 15/1/5/311, 15/1/5/312, 15/1/5/313, 15/1/5/314, 15/1/5/315, 15/1/5/316, 15/1/5/317, 15/1/5/318, 15/1/5/319, 15/1/5/320, 15/1/5/321, 15/1/5/322, 15/1/5/323, 15/1/5/324, 15/1/5/325, 15/1/5/326, 15/1/5/327, 15/1/5/328, 15/1/5/329, 15/1/5/330, 15/1/5/331, 15/1/5/332, 15/1/5/333, 15/1/5/334, 15/1/5/335, 15/1/5/336, 15/1/5/337, 15/1/5/338, 15/1/5/339, 15/1/5/340, 15/1/5/341, 15/1/5/342, 15/1/5/343, 15/1/5/344, 15/1/5/345, 15/1/5/346, 15/1/5/347, 15/1/5/348, 15/1/5/349, 15/1/5/350, 15/1/5/351, 15/1/5/352, 15/1/5/353, 15/1/5/354, 15/1/5/355, 15/1/5/356, 15/1/5/357, 15/1/5/358, 15/1/5/359, 15/1/5/360, 15/1/5/361, 15/1/5/362, 15/1/5/363, 15/1/5/364, 15/1/5/365, 15/1/5/366, 15/1/5/367, 15/1/5/368, 15/1/5/369, 15/1/5/370, 15/1/5/371, 15/1/5/372, 15/1/5/373, 15/1/5/374, 15/1/5/375, 15/1/5/376, 15/1/5/377, 15/1/5/378, 15/1/5/379, 15/1/5/380, 15/1/5/381, 15/1/5/382, 15/1/5/383, 15/1/5/384, 15/1/5/385, 15/1/5/386, 15/1/5/387, 15/1/5/388, 15/1/5/389, 15/1/5/390, 15/1/5/391, 15/1/5/392, 15/1/5/393, 1

PAPER WITH PASSION

Starve terror funding

While the UNSC has named JeM in its resolution, it should follow up by curtailing funds to Pakistan-based terror outfits



Given that China has always obliged its puppet state of Pakistan in the past and blocked any anti-terror resolution against groups that use the territory of India's western neighbour to launch a constant stream of small attacks on our country, it was telling that even it was forced into approving the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution. With trade talks with the United States stalled and China's economy feeling the heat due to the Trump Administration's talks on that front, China finally gave up its blatant hypocrisy and approved this resolution. One must not

forget that despite China's covert support for Islamist terrorists in Pakistan, that country has been brutalising its Islamic minority in its north-west region. The Uighurs in particular have been incarcerated in mass camps, which according to scant reports from that region, are akin to Nazi Germany's concentration camps. Unfortunately, JeM chief, Masood Azhar, while able to indoctrinate youths into killing themselves, does not quite comprehend the concept of irony of being protected by a country whose policy towards his Muslim brethren, whom he claims to be fighting for, is so frighteningly barbaric.

But even if China condemns the attack on Indian paramilitary forces, albeit indirectly through a UNSC resolution, it will not change Pakistan's behaviour. As long as funds continue to flow into Pakistan from Saudi Arabia, China and even Western powers, which are desperate for peace in Afghanistan, can do little. The Pakistani meddling has left its western neighbour poverty-stricken and under-developed yet flush with weapons. The US and the European Union through their central banks must do more to block the routes of terror fundings. The United States Treasury Department, for example, claims jurisdiction whenever the US dollar is used in bribes or terror and following the 9/11 attacks has done a lot to clean out the global banking system of terror funding and money laundering. Yet, much more needs to be done to clean up the system. In India as well, despite digitisation and the impact of demonetisation, money-laundering continues to grease the wheels of the terrorist machine in Kashmir. It is likely that the authorities are aware of how the system works, often through seemingly legitimate businesses. They have to crack down on these.

While cutting the money machine will not completely stop terrorism in the Valley, it can dramatically aid the situation because indoctrination only goes so far. Without money, terror activities also dry up. This is similar to the methods used by the Israelis in combating terror. While the Government has acted against wanton sources of foreign money coming into India, which earlier had little or no accountability, it has dawdled in cracking down on those who fund Kashmiri separatists. And this has to stop now.

Erring Governor

The BJP has failed in fulfilling its Constitutional duties by not acting against Tathagata Roy's anti-Kashmiri remarks



It has almost become routine now for the nation to expect directives from the Supreme Court on what should have been an easy enough executive function of the State, to protect the rights of its citizens, majority or minority. So though the Home Ministry issued a directive to secure Kashmiris following the hibackos of rage and hate post-Pulwama, the failure of implementing it was evident from a series of attacks and slurs on Kashmiri students and traders across the country. One that led to a PIL and the top court telling the government how it is done. It directed chief secretaries and DGPs of 11 States, where the hate-mongering was severe, to take "prompt" action to prevent incidents of threat, assault and social boycott of Kashmiris and specifically assigned police officers, who were earlier appointed as nodal officers to deal with incidents of mob lynching, to look after affected Kashmiris.

The question is whether the current NDA government could not have done this on its own? The question also is if the government, seeking a second term in general elections just weeks away, doesn't want to be seen as *sabka saath*? Or does it want to pander to the majoritarian discourse and play up the hyper-nationalist narrative following the biggest terrorist attack in the Valley? Everybody is angry about this gross brutality but to ostracise an entire community of people just because it had been blighted by some indoctrinated militants is to simplify the problem to suit a certain narrative than deal with the complexities of it. Clearly, the government of the day has not helped douse inflamed passions or emotions by playing down the extent of hate crimes, even by way of an appeal by one of the Ministers. What is inexcusable is its staunch refusal to uphold the Meghalaya Governor Tathagata Roy, who has been fanning hatred by calling for a boycott of Kashmiri goods and people on his social media handle, implicitly turning Indians *versus* Indians though he believes Kashmiris are not worth being called that. Neither has the top leadership of the BJP asked him to issue an apology or delete his tweet, except distancing itself from his remarks. Strangely, there is no talk of recalling the Governor for acting contrary to his Constitutional duties. And while President Ram Nath Kovind is bound to act on the advice of his Council of Ministers, fact is there is no statement or action by his office to condemn the fissiparous comments. For a chair that was once held by luminaries, at least there could have been a moral censure, displeasure or conscience call. That he is allowed to make in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution. By allowing the Meghalaya Governor to go scot free despite his abusive statements, he too would be seen as failing in executing his constitutional duties. Roy's comments clearly fall within the ambit of the legal principle of "compelling reasons" to initiate action against him for going against the spirit embedded in our Preamble and clearly violating the principles of liberty, equality, fraternity and justice. Can we afford to alienate Kashmiris further when counter-insurgency should be matched by a counter-social engagement? Evacuating them from other Indian states, where they have gone to better their lives away from militancy through education and jobs, is like pouring cold water on mainstream efforts. By failing to act against Roy, the government seems to be giving a tacit approval to sick polarisation attempts simply because they can cause an emotional wave during the elections. The BJP may want to keep him as a party member but he sure should not be Governor anymore.

Tough terms of friendship

Given Saudi Arabia's own priorities and strategic roadmap imperatives, Pakistan will remain a preferred ally as long as it does not harm Saudi interests directly



BHOPINDER SINGH

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad-bin Salman (MBS) is touring the three most important capitals beyond Washington, D.C., in his post-9/11 phase. Western capitals were ultimately not amused by MBS' ingrained feudal instincts in carrying out the rash inter-purge, *laifaire* Khashoggi and other unwarranted military interventions, after the initial hoopla surrounding the ostensible modernisation managed by the "real power behind the throne". His initially fetted socio-economic promises of "Vision 2030" and steps to liberalise and reform the society were soon undone by reports of increased human rights violations and clumsy interventions in Syria, Yemen and Qatar also in a post-9/11 framing of the Lebanese Prime Minister.

However, the crude and brutal assassination of Saudi dissenter Jamal Khashoggi, attributed directly to the recklessness of the young Prince himself, was the last straw for the Western nations in condemning MBS openly. His style of management by intimidation, coercion and "buying out" became obvious as indeed his deep-rooted insecurities and ambition that saw him systematically "neutralise" all opposition.

Recent international opprobrium has led to heightened insecurities about the Saudis have, therefore, made a deliberate outreach towards the alternative global platform of the East as they hope to enhance their economic and geo-political stability with two of their top three export markets, namely China, the biggest, and India, the third biggest revenue generator. However, the Saudi Arabia's ally, perhaps, the most significant for it addressed the perennial and foremost fear in the minds of the Saudi Royal family — regime change.

Historically, Saudi Arabia's closest Muslim ally, Pakistan has been the trusted go-to nation for managing all internal and external threats to the vulnerable House of Saud. The role of the Pakistan Army's Special Services Group (SSG) in overcoming the seizure of the Grand Mosque at Mecca in 1979 typified both the sort of domestic challenges that beset the Saudi family as well as the faith reposed on Pakistani soldiers.

In the 1970s and 1980s, up to 20,000 Pakistani soldiers were said to be deployed within Saudi Arabia to protect its sensitive spots. With the sixth largest military in the world, reasonable combat-exposure and even nuclear capabilities on Pakistan's side, the Saudi-Pakistan relationship became more symbiotic, logical and mutually gratifying.

Custodianship of the two holiest mosques and as the ready "investor" in all domestic urgencies of Pakistan led a former Pakistani Ambassador to Saudi Arabia



to famously state that the security of Saudi Arabia was a "personal matter". It is often claimed that the Saudis had even secretly funded the Pakistani nuclear programme as it allowed them the plausible option of deniability as also ensured the requisite protection via Pakistan in the face of growing threats from its sectarian-nemesis, Iran and also states like Saddam's Iraq and Israel.

The Saudi funding of the Pakistan-controlled Afghan mujahideen in the 1980s and 1990s is a matter of recorded fact. Today, a leaner Pakistani contingent in the form of "advisors", trainers and even combat soldiers, ensures the continuity of this crucial comfort-factor for both nations. Deteriorating relationship with the US and parallel growing proximity of both nations with the alternate power centre of China is yet another matter of strategic option and convergence.

The influence that the Saudis can wield on the Pakistani state and also its powerful military was in full display when the Saudi brokered release and exit for the

deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the 1999 military coup by the then Pakistani General, Pervez Musharraf. Later, the Saudis were able to rope in the just-retired Pakistani Chief of Army, General Raheel Sharif, to head the controversial 41-nation Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Alliance (IMCTA), based out of Riyadh — without General Raheel Sharif completing the mandatory two-year "cool-off" period required before accepting any international assignment.

There was a minor bump in the relationship with Pakistan shying away from committing its military forces in Saudi Arabia's misguided war in Yemen, owing to sectarian implications within the tinderbox of Pakistan itself. Soon, security desperation for the Saudis and the dire economic desperation for Pakistanians ensured that the two nations perpetuate and strengthen the umbilical cord of *quid pro quo*.

Expectedly, Pakistan pulled out all stops to roll out the red carpet for MBS and he did not disappoint his hosts with a slew

of \$20 billion investments for cash-strapped Pakistanis. More pertinently, the loaded statement, suggesting the discussion of "politicising the UN listing regime", when India was in the midst of making international efforts to name and shame Jaish-e-Mohammads Masood Azhar, did not go unnoticed in New Delhi. Maturity, gravitas and nuanced diplomacy is not a known MBS strength, and particularly at this moment of vulnerability for himself, he would be driven by the urge to buy out Pakistani guarantees for securing the Kingdom's worst nightmare — regime change.

No other country of the 41 nation IMCTA grouping has either the quantity or quality of readily-deployable military or is as deeply indebted to Saudi Arabia for its own economic survival (2.5 million Pakistani work in Saudi Arabia) as the Pakistanis — affording a win-win solution for both by deepening ties. Imran Khan's charm offensives elicited a candid and spontaneous, "Consider me Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia," from MBS.

Therefore, given Saudi Arabia's own priorities and

strategic roadmap imperatives, Pakistan will remain a preferred ally that will always benefit from a deliberate overlook for any of its misdemeanours as long as they do not harm Saudi Arabian interests directly.

India shares common ground with Saudi Arabia on religious extremism (finally) and on organisations like the Islamic State (IS) or Al Qaeda — though a similar aversion and clamp-down on the subcontinental extremist bodies like the Jaish-e-Mohammad or even the Pakistan-sponsored Taliban, may not be as forthcoming.

On the contrary, equity with the likes of the Afghan Taliban may actually give Saudi Arabia counter-leverage against the US in its battle of wits. Diminishing the Pakistani establishment, especially its military, would be perceived to be extremely counter-productive to Saudi interests, as it risks portending a regime-change in Saudi Arabia — a nightmare that Pakistan willy-nilly guarantees against.

(The writer is former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry)

SOUNDBITE

To forfeit the cricket match would not just cost two points: it would be worse than surrender since it would be defeat without a fight.

Congress leader — Shashi Tharoor

The mention of JeM in UNSC statement was only in general terms and does not represent a judgement.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman — Geng Shuang

Technology can be a great enabler in the endeavour to enhance quality of life and dignity, particularly of those who reside in villages.

President — Ram Nath Kovind

We are not preparing for war, you (India) are issuing threats... We are not preparing to initiate but planning to defend and retaliate which is our right.

Pakistan Army spokesman — Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Human emotions

Sir — Jealousy is a special form of emotional anxiety that occurs due to the lack of a sense of security in relation to the one who is loved. It is an emotion that has the components of both anger and fear and is most common among children. There is a subtle difference between 'envy' and 'jealousy'. In the case of the former, the need for a loved one is not essential. It is a desire for things that belong to the competitor. Jealousy arises apprehending loss of affection. Apprehension of losing it leads to an attitude of resentment. A child feels insecure and never wishes to lose that person's affection.

Jubel D'Cruz
Mumbai

Be accommodative

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "No gods in Tamil Nadu" (February 22). Though it was alleged that the Pattali Munkata Katchi (PMK) was in discussions with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections together, it is a blessing in disguise

for the latter that the former is not a part of the alliance now. It's understandable that most cadres in the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) are against its unholy alliance with the PMK and the BJP. Having conceded 10 Lok Sabha seats to the Congress, DMK president MK Stalin should now be pro-active and show deserving generosity in

accommodating the party's other alliance partners without exhibiting a big brother attitude towards them. Stalin has his task cut out and he should use all his wit to stitch a coherent and winning team that would work in tandem if he wields his alliance to defeat his rivals in the hustings.

Shalini Gerald
Chennai

Friends with the devil

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "A modern-day Faust" (February 22). We all know how Imran Khan became the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Without visible help from his Army, it would not have been an easy ride for him. Khan's demand for proof from India for Pakistan's involvement in the

Imran Khan: A puppet of Pakistan Army

His refers to the editorial, "A modern-day Faust" (February 21). Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has demanded that India must furnish proof about his country's involvement in the Pulwama terror attack. But already, enough material has been provided to Islamabad in relation to the Mumbai terror attack and other such incidents thereafter that prove beyond doubt the involvement of Khan when? JeM is a Pakistan-based terror organisation headed by Masood Azhar, which has its headquarters at Bahawalpur. In the past, JeM has targeted many Army posts and strategic locations in India, including the Pathankot airbase. Pakistan Army's sponsorship of anti-India



terror groups, too, is well-known. Khan's anti-India attitude and sympathy for the terrorist groups is also not hidden. The Inter-Services Intelligence and the Pakistani Army wanted Khan to become the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Being sure of him becoming a puppet in their hands, they manipulated things for Khan. He is a puppet and a caged parrot of the Army and speaks what he is being tutored.

MC Joshi
Lucknow

Pulwama terror attack despite Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) claiming responsibility for the same is not a joke. India has provided sufficient proof in the past but nothing moved even then.

So Khan's credibility is doubtful. Yes, we should not expect anything positive from him for he has decided to sleep with the devil like the JeM. Khan is walking on thin ice and will pay a huge price for siding with the JeM and other terrorists outfits.

Bal Govind
Noida

Predictable line

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "A modern-day Faust" (February 22). Breaking his silence after the Pulwama attack, Pakistan Prime Minister's statements were only shocking. It's ironic that Pakistan needs more proof. It is amusing that the Pakistan Government, which is unable to control terror activities on its soil, is now talking about retaliation.

Shubham
Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

War beyond borders

India is not the only country facing terrorism. It has to, therefore, ensure a global alliance to break the backbone of terror and its illicit funding



SHIVAJI SANKAR

The Pulwama terror attack that claimed the lives of 40 Indian soldiers has caused remorse and frenzy across the country to take revenge. There has been a cry to teach Pakistan a lesson. Many have even advocated for a war. Indians are hurt but however one may wish, the solution is not easy. India has military preparedness but war will be expensive, and this not just in monetary terms. The sub-continent is passing through severe uncertainty as its neighbours — Afghanistan and China — change tack every now and then. This, combined with the changing situation in Afghanistan, where the US is in a hurry to withdraw its troops, and the Taliban's muscle-flexing, have made matters worse. Russia and Iran are not shy of striking a deal with the Taliban. All of this apart, big money plays a crucial role. It is not just the nation states that are pouring funds. In fact, they, including the US, are having trouble arranging for it. India is just next to a troubled Western Asia singled by the Islamic State (IS).

The IS war is being fought not for a "holy cause of jihad." Terror is a complex mix of arms-drug peddlers, cyber frauds, human traffickers and other hegemons. School girls from Europe to West Asia are used in the sex trade. This generates illicit funds. Will the Taliban take control of Afghanistan, where India has invested huge sums of money, as also in diplomacy, with the US' withdrawal? It may be seen as yet another American failure after its loss in Vietnam, Somalia, Iraq and Syria. Since 2001, after spending billions, the US controls not even half of Afghanistan. Afghan soldiers and civilian casualties are heavy. Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE are working out the face-saver for the US' withdrawal. They are also pressuring Pakistan to help as also providing financial aid to boost its forex reserves that are as low as \$ 6 billion. Saudi Arabia has given \$32 billion aid to Islamabad.

Conflict is rising in northern borders of Pakistan. Even Iran lost 28 soldiers in a blast on its borders with Pakistan on February 12. Frenzy is ripe there too. The country vowed retribution. The sub-continent is on a tinder box but war is too complex an affair. Astute diplomacy is needed to save India's economic assistance and friends in Afghanistan and Iran. The Taliban's resurgence is a problem for Islamabad. It fears losing its might in the Koreloz, tribal regions on Pakistan's borders on an onerous with sub-rogation. Slight change in equilibrium would cause major problems for India and other states. The Pakistani Government is not in full control. The diplomatic question is: Who do you fight? Pakistan? Or in case of war, Taliban, Jaish-e-Mohammad and other rif-raff elements? The situation today is more complex than in 1971, when Bangladesh was created despite radicalisation even at that time. There are many non-state actors.

Today, it's not an issue of an Islamic bomb on India. It is managing within the country and outside in multi-dimensions and directions. An aggressive diplomacy, lobbying, negotiations and operations need huge investment as also manpower. Conflict with Pakistan cost three per cent of India's GDP according to Indian think-tank, Strategic Foresight Group, in 2004. India lost 3,843 soldiers in 1971 and captured 93,000 soldiers. Almost a million people in India were refugees. It had bled the economy then. The post-1971 war costs were higher. It had caused over 13 per cent inflation and severe unrest. The imposition of internal emergency was another fall-out. The proxy war since 1990 has claimed more casualties and economic cost — be it in Kashmir or the Mumbai attack or the subsequent several other blasts and raids. Military and civilian casualties are more than it was in full-fledged wars in 1965 and 1971.

It is estimated that since December 2001, every year almost \$600 million is spent to protect the western border. Pakistan's spending is estimated to be a little less but it is higher in percentage terms for its GDP and geographical area. The Federation of Indian Chambers for Commerce and Industry estimated a huge business cost to the ongoing Indo-Pak conflict and trade volume is small. In other words, denying MFN status to Pakistan would have little economic impact.

So what does Pakistan gain? A conflict with India has seen huge economic gains in assistance from West Asia, the US and the West. The US, despite the World Trade Terror attack, considered Pakistan a strategic ally and gave Musharraf enormous aid. Even the current President Donald Trump is doing it today. India-baiting is survival technique for the artificial state. For us, apart from financial and political cost, there is human misery. Certain powers want the rogue state to survive as they have business, territorial and other interests. India has to chart out a course. A war may not be easy but breaking the tentacles of those who lead to war is a necessity. What have we done post-Pulwama? India has to re-strategise and ensure global alliance to break the backbone of terror and its illicit funding.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

INDIA HAS DECIDED TO FULLY UTILISE ITS SHARE OF UNUSED WATER FROM RIVERS RAVI, BEAS AND SUTLEJ THAT HAS BEEN FLOWING INTO PAKISTAN.

—UNION MINISTER
NITIN GADKARI



THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO PACKAGE HIGH OCTANE JINGOISM TO SUBTERFUGE NATIONAL SECURITY FAILURES.

—CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON
MANISH TEWARI

Dravidian pride at stake

With the Congress and the BJP stitching alliances with DMK and AIADMK respectively, some interesting action awaits Tamil Nadu with both regional parties having to battle contradictions



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Well, Tamil Nadu is ready for the quinquennial Lok Sabha election which may take place in the month of April. With the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Congress announcing the formalisation of their alliance to fight the Lok Sabha election together, the line-up in the State is ready. The *malayalam* in the Dravidian land would be led by MK Stalin with the Congress, the Left, the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK), the Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and the Islamist parties riding piggyback on the shoulders of the DMK. Meanwhile, the ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) has announced the mega alliance that features the Vanniyar-dominated Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The AIADMK is in talks with the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), led by former film star Vijayakanth and the Tamil Maanila Congress of GK Vasan, son of former Congress strongman, GK Mooparar.

Since all constituents in the DMK-led front are themselves struggling to stay afloat, they would be happy with whatever the DMK throws at them. The VCK, a fringe outfit led by Thol Thirumavalavan, has been out in the political wilderness since 2009. It has no representation in the Tamil Nadu Assembly since 2011 and its leaders are losing successively since 2009. The communists are also facing uncertainty in the State after they failed to win at least a single seat either in the Lok Sabha or in the Assembly since 2014. But they claim that they are the ones who determine the future of Tamil Nadu.

Till the AIADMK succeeded in making deals with the PMK and the BJP by allocating seven and five seats to them respectively, it was widely believed that the DMK was in for a big win in the Lok Sabha election. The AIADMK has been fretting and floundering since the passing away of party supremo, J Jayalalitha, in December 2016. The group led by Sasikala (former aide of Jayalalitha), popularly known as the Mananagar group, has been working with one faction of the party while the official faction led by Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami looked vulnerable, fragile and weak. While Sasikala had to surrender to the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru in February 2017, following a Supreme Court order which quashed the Karnataka High Court order that had acquitted Jayalalitha, Iyavarsi and VN Sudhakaran in the disproportionate asset case, TTV Dinakaran, Sasikala's nephew, emerged as the *de facto* leader of the AIADMK, much to the anguish of the cadre.

But within months, the Mananagar clan was eased out of the AIADMK and Chief Minister Palaniswami slowly but steadily began taking control of the party and the Government. Though he is yet to emerge as a charismatic leader who could match the prowess of Amma (as Jayalalitha is addressed by the cadre), Palaniswami has proved that he is not a pushover. As he completed two years in office in February 17, the same day, he returned to the Edappadi village in Salem as tightened his grip over the party and Government apparatus.

Since day one of his swearing in as the Chief Minister, Palaniswami was under attack by Stalin, the Leader of the Opposition. The Income Tax and



Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) raids on the offices and residences of Health Minister C Vijaya Basakar and his department heads, the *gubbi* scam, which led to CBI raids in the houses of top police officers in the State and the vigilance probe into the civil contracts given by the AIADMK Government to a cartel of contractors, successively added to the worries of the Chief Minister. Stalin had been claiming that the Government would not last for more than a month.

The DMK chief's agony can be understood. The party has been out of the corridors of power in Chennai since 2011 and out of the Delhi power circle since 2013. It is a struggle for survival for him and his party. The 2014 Lok Sabha election saw a political tsunami with Jayalalitha devastating the DMK in all 39 constituencies in Tamil Nadu. Interestingly, the Congress and the DMK fought the election separately with the latter forfeiting its security deposits in all constituencies except Kanyakumari, where the party finished second to the BJP. The DMK is facing a series of disadvantages from within as well as outside. The major issue hanging like a sword of Damocles over the DMK is the issue of education. Tamil Nadu is the only State in the country which does not have a single Navodaya Vidyalaya, a public school concept introduced by the Rajiv Gandhi Government in 1986. Reason? Dravidian parties are against teaching of Hindi and Sanskrit in schools. What has happened is that students in Tamil Nadu have fallen behind in the standard of education because the elite-level school system, poor compared to the quality of education in other standards. The children of Tamil chauvinist politicians learn Hindi and English in high-end schools. The non-teaching of Hindi in the State has created a sense of alienation in the minds of the people.

The split in the party and the absence of a powerful leader like Jayalalitha has made the AIADMK vulnerable. TTV Dinakaran hopes that the Thevar community would vote for him, which would further weaken the AIADMK. But Palaniswami, who

presence of the Congress in the DMK camp itself is a contradiction because the latter is for the immediate release of all the seven assassins undergoing life imprisonment in the 1991 assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The other constituents in the DMK front have made it known that they would fight for the release of the seven assassins, leaving the Congress flabbergasted.

The AIADMK front, too, has contradictions and weaknesses. The PMK is in the forefront, fighting for exempting Tamil Nadu from NEEET. M Thamburaj of the AIADMK, who is the deputy speaker of the Lok Sabha, was against any kind of alliance with the BJP, which he describes as a communal party. Anwar Raajaha, the Muslim face of the AIADMK, has declared that he would fight against the triple *talaq* Bill till his last breath. It may sound interesting, but the truth remains that Anbumani Ramadoss, the chief ministerial candidate of the PMK, had submitted a massive memorandum to Governor Banwarilal Purohit, listing nearly 30 corruption charges against the AIADMK Government. But the PMK and the AIADMK are strong alliance partners now.

There are more issues like education. Tamil Nadu is the only State in the country which does not have a single Navodaya Vidyalaya, a public school concept introduced by the Rajiv Gandhi Government in 1986. Reason? Dravidian parties are against teaching of Hindi and Sanskrit in schools. What has happened is that students in Tamil Nadu have fallen behind in the standard of education because the elite-level school system, poor compared to the quality of education in other standards. The children of Tamil chauvinist politicians learn Hindi and English in high-end schools. The non-teaching of Hindi in the State has created a sense of alienation in the minds of the people. The split in the party and the absence of a powerful leader like Jayalalitha has made the AIADMK vulnerable. TTV Dinakaran hopes that the Thevar community would vote for him, which would further weaken the AIADMK. But Palaniswami, who

hails from the Vellala Gounder community, is confident that his brethren in south and south-west Tamil Nadu would stand with him because he is the first Chief Minister from this community. The inclusion of PMK was also not without reason. The Vanniyars are an influential lot in the districts — ranging from Tiruvallur to Kanchipuram, Vellore to Tiruvannamalai and from Viluppuram to Cuddalore. Though the PMK and the DMDK failed to win at least a single seat in the 2016 Assembly election, results show that they retained their vote percentage in the State, which fluctuates between five per cent to six per cent. The caste factor plays an important role in Tamil Nadu despite claims made by the Dravidians that theirs is a casteless society. The AIADMK was staging a 'coup' when it signed the deal with the PMK.

The DMK front looks formidable on paper like the Brazilian team for the 2018 World Cup Football Championship. Stalin reminds one of Neymar, a paper tiger. The DMK presence is a pale shadow of his late father Karunanidhi. Add to this the Periaristis and Dravidian intelligentsia of Chennai, which has spread the news that the DMK front would win all the 39 seats from the State. They also spread the news that the BJP high command was threatening the AIADMK for 20 seats. The acceptance of five seats by the AIADMK, which was accepted by the BJP, demolishes a part of the falsehood spread by media and intelligentsia.

It is true that the AIADMK has failed in countering the propaganda by the DMK. But by Tuesday, when the AIADMK-BJP-PMK alliance was announced, it had become clear that the DMK would not have a smooth sailing in the boat. The AIADMK looked like a party which would be outplayed by the DMK with a tennis score (40-0). But not any more. There is some interesting action in store as the AIADMK, the DMK and Dinakaran take to the field. To add to the glamour, there is Kamal Haasan, who thinks he is the greatest of all politicians. Let the game begin!

(The writer is Special Correspondent, The Pioneer)

Revisiting the Iranian revolution

Had the post-modernists bothered to look beneath the meta-narratives of 20th century revolutions, they would not have come up with a naïve account

written by the late professor of politics Sephr Zabih. Writing just three years after the revolution, Zabih said that the revolution was driven by a wide coalition of anti-Shah forces, which included democrats, liberal socialists, communists, nationalists, socialists and "Islamists." According to Zabih, after the Shah dictatorship collapsed in January 1979, there was a "power grab" among various groups that worked in unison during the revolution.

However, some historians continued to explain the revolution as "Islamic." While dealing with the immediate pre-revolution scenario, however, even they agree that multiple forces, advocating a diverse range of ideologies, were involved during the upheaval. They agree upon the point that Iran's senior religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini was the most widely accepted figure of authority during the revolution — even by those who hold the claim that the clergy hijacked the revolution.

But former affairs expert Robin Wright in her book *The Last Great Revolution* wrote that even though many secular, liberal and even some Leftist forces agreed to accept

Khomeini as the revolution's central figure, they did so to keep the movement intact and, more so, because they believed Khomeini did not have any overt political ambitions.

Just before leaving for Tehran from Paris (where he had been in exile) Khomeini told the French daily, *Le Monde*, that it was not his intent to make religious leaders run the Government. What's more, as Bowden notes in his 2006 book, *Guests of the Ayatollah*, on his return to Iran after the Shah's fall, the Ayatollah retired to his home in Qom after agreeing to form an interim set-up of "secular technocrats" led by the anti-Shah "liberal-democrat" Mehdi Bazargan.

According to Wright, just a year after the revolution, Khomeini decreed that no cleric was allowed to run in Iran's first post-revolution election in 1980, even though he had already declared Iran to be an Islamic republic. A centre-right liberal, Syed Banisadgar, won the election, attracting 75.6 per cent of the popular vote. The candidate of the Islamic Republic Party, which was pushing for an entirely theocratic set-up, bagged just 3.35 per cent. But by 1981,

Khomeini was being hassled by the clerics to dismiss Banisadgar "because he was acting against the clergy." In June 1981, after realising that he had lost Khomeini's backing, Banisadgar managed to escape abroad.

Political scientist John Lambert, in his book, *Iran: At War With History*, wrote that Iran was ravaged by violence between various groups that had taken part in the revolution. After Banisadgar's escape, the nationalist and liberal groups were systematically eliminated by pro-Khomeini Islamic militants. The Leftist outfits picked up arms to push back the influence of the clerics. But after ordering a purge in Iran's universities, which had been hotbeds of Leftist student agitation during the revolution, the emerging Islamic regime went all out against the Leftists. By December 1983, the pro-Khomeini Islamic Republican Party had managed to grab absolute power and turn Iran into a theocracy. The irony of it all is that many clerics were some of the last to join the movement against the Shah.

One important commentator of the revolution who called it Islamic was the famous post-modernist

French philosopher Michel Foucault. But in the book, *Foucault and the Iran Revolution*, Jemmet Afary and KB Anderson wrote that, in his "post-modernist" pursuit of challenging the idea of "materialistic" rationale, Foucault made most post-modernists claim that Iran's revolution was "unique" in the context of 20th century revolutions because it was religious in character. But since post-modernism often gets caught up in attacking grand narratives as an end product alone, it often fails to investigate the more complex history of events and forces which are present beneath the meta-narratives.

For example, to Foucault, in an era of communist revolutions, the Iranian revolution was unique because it was driven by "politics of spirituality." This was a naïve account. The Iranian Revolution actually unfolded like most 20th-century revolutions did — different

forces holding differing (even opposing) ideologies coming together to uproot a common enemy and then competing with each other in a grab for power. Had the post-modernists bothered to look beneath the meta-narratives of 20th century revolutions, they would not have ignored the following facts: The October 1917 "Bolshevik/communist revolution" in Russia was the outcome of a more broad-based revolution in February 1917 in which revolutionary and anti-democratic groups of various shades of left Russian nationalists and urban middle-class groups collaborated to overthrow the Tsar. The "hard-left" group (the Bolsheviks) led by Marxist ideologue Vladimir Lenin, grabbed power in late 1917 through a coup d'état. Lenin wasn't even present during the February revolution. He returned to Russia from exile in Switzerland in April 1917.

The 1949 Communist revolution in China emerged during a tussle between Mao Tse Tung's communists and Chinese nationalists. Both had collaborated to oust the occupying Japanese forces during World War II. But in the post-War conflict for

power between the two, the communists managed to grab power.

The "Islamist" Muslim Brotherhood collaborated with secular Egyptian nationalists during the 1952 uprising in Egypt which overthrew the Egyptian monarchy. In the post-1952 tussle between the two, the nationalists managed to oust the Brotherhood from the equation.

The 1959 Cuban revolution was a nationalist uprising. It wasn't until two years later, in 1961, that Fidel Castro — after consolidating his power — declared that his was a communist regime. During the 1979 Nicaraguan revolution, the communist Sandinistas were overtly supported by that country's Catholic priests.

The post-modernists in their haste to declare the Iranian Revolution unique not only ignored the uniform patterns of 20th-century revolutions, but they also missed the "political spirituality" present in the Nicaraguan revolution and the 1952 Egyptian uprising. What's more, to challenge the whole idea of the meta-narrative, they eventually created their own meta-narrative, by declaring the revolution in Iran as "Islamic." (Courtesy: The Dawn)



NADEEM PARACHA

Eleventh February, 2019, marked the 40th anniversary of the Iranian Revolution, which is also remembered as an "Islamic revolution" by some historians. But was it? Not according to celebrated American journalist and author Mark Bowden. In a November 18, 2009 piece for the *Wall Street Journal*, Bowden wrote that "the revolution, which ousted the Shah dictatorship was primarily a nationalist one." He added that many of those, who took part in the commotion, "were not motivated by the desire to establish a theocracy, but a desire to cast off authoritarianism."

Bowden is not the only prominent writer to hold this view. This assessment first emerged in 1982 in the book, *Iran Since the Revolution*,

Sensex ends marginally lower, bank stocks fall

PTI ■ MUMBAI
The BSE Sensex ended marginally lower on Friday as investors turned cautious after the minutes of RBI's latest policy meeting highlighted growth concerns.
The 30-share Sensex settled 26.87 points, or 0.07 per cent lower at 35,871.48. The broad-based NSE Nifty inched up 1.80 points, or 0.01 per cent, to 10,791.65.
During the week, Sensex rose 62.53 points or 0.17 per cent, while the Nifty advanced 67.25 points or 0.62 per cent.

Kotak Bank was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, falling 3.71 per cent, followed by RIL, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, PowerGrid, IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, HDFC and ITC.
On the other hand, Yes Bank was the top gainer, spurring 3.23 per cent.
Other winners were Vedanta, Tata Motors, NTPC, M&M, Maruti, ONGC and Hero MotorCorp, rising up to 2.86 per cent.

Generally, the BSE bank and finance indices fell up to 0.43 per cent. Energy and consumer durables too ended in the red.

BSE metal, auto, realty, power and oil and gas indices gained up to 1.62 per cent.
Broader indices outperformed the benchmarks, with the BSE Midcap index gaining 0.38 per cent and the small-cap cap-weighted index up 0.77 per cent.
According to traders, despite positive global cues, investor sentiment turned weak after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the minutes of its latest monetary policy meeting after market hours Thursday.
The central bank's Monetary Policy Committee noted the "weakened growth momentum" amidst inflation cooling off as it delivered a surprise rate cut of 0.65 per cent.
In its debt policy review as RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das argued that there was a need to look at growth concerns.

"Market returned range bound after the rate cut, with minutes which hints at concerns of elevated core inflation and threat of global growth slowdown," 10-year yield inched higher while bank index underperformed. Inflow of domestic funds to market remains positive while tepid reaction from FIIs and lack of major triggers are impacting investors' sentiment," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.
Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net buyers to the tune of Rs 202.10 crore, and foreign institutional investors (FIIs) also bought shares worth a net of Rs 55.48 crore on Thursday, provisional data available with BSE Global.
Market markets rose as top trade officials from the US and France met in Washington, and possibly the last round of talks to negotiate a comprehensive trade deal before their self-imposed deadline of March 1.

In Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.65 per cent, Shanghai Composite Index jumped 1.91 per cent and Korea's Kospi gained 0.08 per cent. Japan's Nikkei ended 0.18 per cent lower.
In the Eurozone, France's CAC 40 rose 0.27 per cent, and London's FTSE gained 0.17 per cent in early deals.
The benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.34 per cent to US\$ 67 per barrel, while the oil price, Paris CAC 40 rose 0.27 per cent, and London's FTSE gained 0.17 per cent in early deals.
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OFB GEARS BULK PRODUCTION CLEARANCE FOR 'DHANUSH'

The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has received the bulk production clearance (BPC) from the Indian Army and the Ministry of Defence for production of 114 of the first ever indigenous 155mm x 45 calibre artillery gun — 'Dhanush'.
The weapon is the first, long-range artillery gun to be produced in India and is considered to be a major success story of the 'Make in India' initiative. The gun is equipped with indigenous 155 x 45 sighting system, auto-laying facility, on-board ballistic computation and an advanced day and night direct firing system. The self-propulsion unit allows the gun to negotiate and deploy in hilly, mountainous terrains with ease.
'Dhanush' has been mechanically upgraded to fire standard NATO 155 mm ammunition and can accommodate both, ball and high velocity charge system (BVCS), which have resulted in increasing the range. The gun has also been electronically upgraded to enhance the firing accuracies, laying speeds of the existing gun and to provide compatibility with various kinds of ammo as well.
The performance of 'Dhanush' has been evaluated



under arduous conditions in several phases. The guns travelled extensively in towed and self-propelled mode in all terrains viz desert and high altitude with each gun clocking over 1600 km. Such an extensive exercise was carried out by the user for the first time for any gun system under the process of induction.
The manufacture of a 155 mm modern artillery gun was initially seen as a challenge for OFB as it was to change the firing parameters from 155 x 39 calibre to 155 x 45 calibre. The organisation received the transfer of technology (ToT)



The chairman-cum-managing director of the National Aluminium Company (NALCO), Dr Tapan Kumar Chand believes that achievements give motivation and purpose gives objectivity to any organisation but to remain sustainable and successful, business organisations need to have insulation from detrimental effects of business environment.
One must remain well aware in advance of the changes in technology, statutory regulations and preferences of the customers," he said. Dr Chand was speaking at the inauguration of the two-day long 8th National Management Conference (NanCon-2019) on 'Weatherproof organisation: Challenging the Challenge at the Asian School of Business Management (ASBM).'
Sharing the success story of NALCO, he elaborated that when the global economy was

reeling under economic slowdown, with the metal sector being affected the worst; NALCO took a conscious decision of introducing an all weather business model that focuses on benchmarking and quantification. With the business model in place, the company doubled its net profit from ₹2669 crore in FY 2016-17 to ₹1342 crore in FY 2017-18. Now the company is all set to scale higher on financial front and envisages achieving a net profit of more than ₹2000 crore by 2020 and ₹2500 crore in the next three years.
Besides, to retain business excellence, the company has consistently been working on with focus on sustainability through innovation, adoption of new technology, lower production cost and nurturing its human resources, added Dr Chand. During the event, the conference compendium and newsletter of ASBM was also released.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10,791.65	10,815.50	10,764.50	13.95
IOC	137.18	138.17	137.00	0.18
HINDPETRO	223.75	224.23	223.15	0.08
INVESTEL	276	280.8	277.26	8.86
BCL	317	347	317	30.00
VEDL	164.15	170	163.6	16.65
TATAMOTORS	170	175.3	167.5	17.49
YESBANK	214.5	223	213.1	8.51
NTPC	138.75	140.25	138	1.50
M&M	315	348.4	312.2	46.20
MARUTI	6,827.00	6,939.00	6,819.5	119.50
DREDDY	2,584.75	2,600.00	2,575.0	15.25
HITCHE	1,044.20	1,070.00	1,040.00	25.80
HEROMOTOCO	2,652.90	2,697.00	2,620.00	28.45
GRASIM	747	762	742.58	10.42
BHARTI	302	316.5	300.6	31.4
HINDALCO	194.3	197	192.3	19.8
ONGC	148.6	150.5	147.1	1.8
WIPRO	375	380	375.5	30.00
SNB	267.5	271.9	267.4	20.00
ECHERMOT	20,577.00	20,700.00	20,400.00	212.55
TCS	1,917.20	1,930.00	1,905.00	12.80
HINDUNILAK	1,780.00	1,792.00	1,775.00	12.00
AISBANK	697.45	704.15	692.2	18
TATATEL	507	509	502.1	30.15
COALINDIA	214.85	219.3	214.95	12.5
TECHM	4,829	4,829.75	4,818	8.25
BANQUE	6,129.00	6,227.00	6,100.00	127.00
INFRAEEL	311.45	311.9	310.5	6.9
ZEEL	44.75	45.08	44.25	0.47
NIFY	72.15	73.2	72.4	1.05
INFLA	31.04	31.4	30.5	0.9
PI	82.58	82.98	82.18	11
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,825.00	2,840.00	2,810.00	30.00
POWERGRID	27.5	27.95	27.1	27.45
ITC	161.7	162.6	161.35	0.25
INDUSIND	451	457.5	451.5	6.00
TITAN	1,035.10	1,040.00	1,030.00	12.5
HDFC	1,893.5	1,899.00	1,877.00	18.00
ITC	1,282.00	1,284.00	1,283.50	0.50
HILTI	67.1	67.55	67.1	0.45
ULTRACEM	3,631.00	3,649.00	3,625.00	24.00
ADANPORTS	333.5	336.8	332.7	34.10
INDUSIND	1,470.00	1,485.00	1,465.00	20.00
INFRAEEL	311.45	311.9	310.5	6.9
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Trump, Kim to have one-on-one meet

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will meet one-on-one and spend substantial amount of time together next week when the two leaders meet in Hanoi, Vietnam, the White House said on Thursday.

Trump and Kim are meeting for their second summit on February 27 and 28. The first one was on June 12 in Singapore, which was part of the president's effort to improve his country's relationship with North Korea and ultimately have a denuclearised state.

"There will be opportunities for the two leaders to see one another one-on-one, to share a meal and indeed for expanded meetings of their respective delegations in laying out the objectives (which) is ultimately about denuclearisation of North Korea," a senior administration official told reporters during a conference call.

"That is what was agreed



File Photo

already between the two sides and that is the overriding goal that President Trump is seeking to achieve with this summit," the official said, who spoke with reporters on condition of anonymity.

This is an important step towards that ultimate goal, the official noted. "After breaking the ice with Kim in some aspects in June, Trump is also looking to talk in depth about the kind of future that

North Korea could enjoy if it follows through on its commitment to the final and full of denuclearisation," the official said.

Trump would be accompanied by his Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and several of his top aides for the second summit meeting with the North Korean leader. Hundreds of reporters are travelling to Hanoi to cover the much-anticipated summit.

N Korea has asked for help on food shortages: UN

AP ■ UNITED NATION

The United Nations says North Korea's Government has asked for help from international humanitarian groups to combat food shortages.

UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Thursday that food production figures provided by North Korea show "there is a food gap of about 1.4 million tons expected for 2019, and that's crops including rice, wheat, potato and soybeans."

Dujarric says the UN has expressed and will continue to express our concern about the deteriorating food security situation in North Korea.

He says the UN "at various levels" is consulting with the North Korean Government "to further understand the impact of food security on the most vulnerable people, in order to take early action to address the humanitarian needs."

ISIS jihadi girl's family plead for her baby's UK entry

PTI ■ LONDON

The family of a UK girl of Bangladeshi descent, who fled to join Islamic State (ISIS) in 2015, has appealed to the Government to allow her newborn baby to be rescued from the Syrian refugee camp and raised in Britain.

Sister of Shamima Begum, Renu, has written to UK home secretary Sajid Javid urging for his assistance and also informed him of the family's plan to help her 19-year-old sister mount a legal challenge against his decision to revoke her British citizenship. "We were pleased to learn from your comments in the Commons that you recognise my nephew, Shamima's son, as a British citizen," Renu Begum said in a letter to the UK Home Secretary.

"As a family, we ask now how we can assist you in bringing my nephew home to us. In all of this debate, he is the one true innocent and should not lose the privilege of being raised in the safety of this country," it notes.

US aid to Venezuela a pretext for military action, says Russia

AFP ■ MOSCOW

Russia on Friday accused the United States of using aid deliveries to Venezuela as a pretext to carry out military action against President Nicolas Maduro's Government.

"A dangerous provocation, instigated and led by Washington, is planned for February 23," foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said, pointing to efforts by opposition leader Juan Guaido to pick up US aid being stockpiled on the Colombian border.

Guaido plans to try to bring the aid across the border are aimed at provoking clashes, she said, to provide a convenient pretext for conducting military action.

Russia is a key supporter of Maduro's Government and has repeatedly accused Washington of trying to carry out a coup in Venezuela.

On Thursday, Guaido set out in a convoy to collect US-supplied food and medicine

stockpiled in Colombia, vowing to bring in the aid by Saturday.

Maduro has closed the border with Brazil to prevent the entry of aid and the military has beefed up security at the Colombian border.

Zakharova alleged that the US had moved special forces and military equipment closer to Venezuelan territory and was considering large-scale weapons purchases to arm the opposition.

Noting that it had been five years since the Ukrainian revolution that ousted a Russian-backed leader — which Moscow has accused the US of orchestrating — Zakharova said Washington was preparing for more regime change in Venezuela.

GLOBE TROTTER

EARTHQUAKE WITH 7.5 MAGNITUDE HITS ECUADOR
Quito: An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5 hit Ecuador Friday but there were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage. The quake struck before dawn in Ecuador's eastern Amazon region 17 kilometers (10 miles) from the town of Montalvo near the border with Peru, the US Geological Survey said.

SWEDEN GETS 4.5 YEARS FOR ROYAL JEWELS HEIST
Copenhagen: A 22-year-old Swede was sentenced Friday to four and a half years in prison after he was convicted of stealing 17th-century Swedish royal treasures estimated to be worth 65 million kronor (USD 7 million) from a cathedral last year. The Eskilstuna District Court said Johan Niklas Backstrom stole two crowns and an orb used at the funerals of King Karl IX and Queen Kristina. The jewels, dating from 1611, had been on display in Stranghalls Cathedral, west of Stockholm.

BIHAR SHARIF SMART CITY LIMITED

Short Notice Inviting e-Tender (Re-Tender)

(http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON) Re-Tender No.: BSSCL 9/2018-19

Chief Executive Officer, Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited, Bihar

Sharif invites online bids on twostage system for the following works:

NIT Reference No.	Name of Project/ Work(s)	Estimate Amount (Rs.)	Bid Security / (Earnest Money) (Rs.)	Cost of Document/ Tender Fee (Rs.)	Period of Completion
Tender No: 9/2018-19	Request for proposal for construction of Five Storey (G+4) ICCB Building in Bihar Sharif under Smart City Mission	5,09,00,000/- (Rs. Five Crores Nine Lakh only)	10,18,000/- (Rs. Ten Lakh Eighteen Thousand only)	10,000/- (Rs. Ten Thousand Only)	15 Months

1. Important data of RFB is as mentioned below:

Name of Project/Work(s)	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time for on-line Submission of Bids	Date & Time of opening of tender	
	From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Request for proposal for construction of Five Storey (G+4) ICCB Building in Bihar Sharif under Smart City Mission	09.03.19 1100 hrs	23.03.19 1700 hrs	25.03.19 1700 hrs	26.03.19 1500 hrs	To be intimated later

2. A Pre-Bid meeting is as mentioned below:

Request for proposal for construction of Five Storey (G+4) ICCB Building in Bihar Sharif under Smart City Mission

Date: 06.03.19; Time: 1100 hrs.

Place: 1st Floor, Administrative Building, Bihar Sharif Municipal Corporation Nalanda, Bihar

- For additional details such as estimated cost, important date, detailed information, qualification and eligibility criteria, visit website: <http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/> under downloading of RFB
- For participating in the above e-tender, the bidders shall have to get them registered with <http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/> and get user ID, password, Class 3, digital signatures Certificate (DSC) is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process. For any clarification/ difficulty/ regarding e-tendering process bidders can contact helpdesk on the phone numbers mentioned in the Website.
- The bidders should keep checking the website for any **addenda/corrigenda** and the bidder should incorporate the same in their bid documents. No addenda/corrigenda shall be published in the newspaper.
- RFP document can also be downloaded from link given below (but bid can only be processed)

NIT Reference No.	RFP Document download Link
Tender No: 9/2018-19	https://nagarseva.bihar.gov.in/biharsharif/cache/SHOW_DOCS/RFP_ICCB_Building.pdf

बिहार सरकार के लिए www.prbihar.gov.in पर जायें।

PR.17858 (N.I.N.) 2018-19 विदिदा मेरी जमी चढ़ेगी, रादी की सुली नही चढ़ेगी।

Chief Executive Officer
Bihar Sharif Smart City Limited

May warned of new Brexit revolt

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May on Friday warned of a new revolt brewing within her otherwise loyal group of party Parliamentarians over fears that a chaotic no-deal Brexit is not being ruled out in time for the March 29 deadline for Britain's exit from the European Union (EU).

The Brexit Delivery Group, which comprises both pro and anti-Brexit Conservative Party MPs,

has warned that they are preparing to back alternatives if May's reworked withdrawal agreement cannot command a House of Commons majority.

Co-chairs Andrew Percy and Simon Hart said their group wants the Government to take no-deal off the table or they would consider voting against the Government and in favour of an amendment to give Parliament the opportunity to delay Brexit and prevent a no-deal situation if there is no agreement with the EU by the middle of March.

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Undertaking)

Corporate Identity No.: U44319UP2015SO002622356

V.C.V. Gabar Singh Ujja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001 Ph. No. 0135-2763672/75 Fax - 0135-2768320, Website - www.upcl.org & www.uttarakhandpower.org

E-TENDER NOTICE

TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. 15/SE(MM)/2018-19

Superintending Engineer (MM), Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd., V.C.V. Gabar Singh Ujja Bhawan, Dehradun invites e-tender from Government approved reputed manufacturer/accredited representative, who are registered in GST/Income Tax Department having experience, for supply of following TriP materials in Govt department/public sector under taking organization. Last date of online request of tender document submission/opening date of tender and the detail of material are as given below:-

Detail of Material which is to be supplied	Qty. (No.)	Cost of tender Document including GST (Draft in ₹)	Average Turnover for Previous 3 Years (in ₹s.)	Earnest Money (FOR CDR) BG (in ₹)	Last Date of online request for purchase of tender document	Last Date of submission of tender in online & offline mode	Date of opening of tender in online & offline mode
1- LT Tong Tester	as per tender document	11800.00	4.00 Crore	4.22 Lakh	14.03.2019 upto 1200 Hrs.	14.03.2019 upto 1400 Hrs.	15.03.2019 at 1600 Hrs.
2- 11 KV Tong Tester							
3- Digital 5 KV Insulation meggar tester							
4- Digital Single Phase Relay Test Kit							
5- Digital Earth Tester							
6- Universal CTPPT Analyser							
7- Accucheck LT							

For further details, please visit our website www.uttarakhandpower.org

No. 103/EE (CM)/UJCL/A-2 Dated 21.02.2019

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION, Customer Care No. - 18004190405 "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24 x 7 from www.upcl.org" (For information on Electricity Theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 18001804185/Fax : 0135-2760911)

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: about 35 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Identification: A Tattoo mark "Heart on Right Hand, Wearing: White dhoti, Black Shirt, Black Pant, Mahron jacket, has been found dead at Near Y-Block, 901 Bus Stand, Shiv Mandir, Mangolpuri, Delhi on dated 17.02.2019 at 09:51 A.M.

In this regard a DD No. 56-A, dated 17-02-2019 has been lodged at P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi.

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

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

SHO
P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi
DP/1965/OD/19 Ph.: 011-27922186, 7065036121

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: 40 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Sex: Male, Wearing: Blue Colour Jacket, Brown Pant was found dead on 15.02.2019. Place of Recovery: Found dead at Katha Kunj Near Hanuman Mandir, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 10-A, has been lodged at PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 15.02.2019. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO
PS. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
DP/9688/N/19 Ph.: 011-23967889, 23968730

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namedly Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/O: Unknown, was found dead on 19.02.2019 at Bank of Baroda, Asaf Ali Road, Kamla Market, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in MAMC Mortuary for 72 hours.

In this regard DD No. 73A, dated 19.02.2019 has been lodged at Police Station, Kamla Market, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 62 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: White Shirt, Lining Coat and Black Pant.

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

SHO
Police Station, Kamla Market, Delhi
DP/6075/CD/19 Ph.: 011-23230623, 23233743

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male Age : 55 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion : Sallow, wearing white & blue colour T-shirt and grey colour pant, was found dead on 09.02.2019 on footpath, near Yamuna Pusta, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 42-A dated 09.02.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23968730

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a boy namedly Somveer, S/o Babu Ram, R/O C-35/36, Sec-5, DSII/CD Bawana, Delhi. The boy has been missing since 07/10/2018 from the area of P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi.

In this regard DD No. 27-A, dated 07/10/2018 has been lodged at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing boy is as under: Name: Somveer, Age: 25 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Fair, Face: Normal, Wearing: Grey Colour Shirt, Blue Jeans and Red Chappal in Feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing boy, kindly inform SHO/P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi.

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

SHO
P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi
DP/2533/RO/19 Ph. No. 011-27822206, 08750870322

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person 40 years of age namedly Ram Chander, S/o Bhoore Lal whose residence is unknown, was found dead in the area of P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi from there he was admitted in the L.N.J.P hospital and during the treatment doctors declared him dead, on 14.02.19. In this regard a vide has been registered with DD No: 10A, dated 14.02.19 at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UDB is as under: Sex: Male, Age: 40 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Naked.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

SHO
P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
DP/9689/N/19 Ph.: 011-23968730, 23967889

SHORT CIRCUITS



MANISHA KOIRALA

I was about to lose my life and now I see everything with gratitude. Whatever time I'm alive, I'm going to live well. I am going to give my best, make the most of my life and share the joy with all pitfalls and bumps. Earlier I lived in an unwarmer phase. This is definitely my second inning to not only my work but my life as well.



AMIT TRIVEDI

An upcoming artiste can face a number of challenges and, having been on this journey myself, I can fully attest to how impactful the right platform and the right mentors can be for an artiste at the onset of his or her music career. My message is to 'Do what moves you' and keep chasing your dream.



PALLAVI SHARDA

Being versatile has always been my interest. Early on in my Hindi film career, people wanted to pigeonhole me into an understandable, manageable, quantifiable thing. But I am very pleased that I stuck to my convictions, took risky decisions and did not get caught up in the archetype of the Bollywood heroine.



SUSHANT SINGH

How do we ban the already banned? Please wake up and look around, the film industry has not been working with Pakistani artistes since the Uri attack. Post attack (in 2016), producers and the Federation (Federation of Western India Cine Employees) had banned Pakistani artistes.

MILO VENTIMIGLIA

There are things that people live through, so to be able to have a forum to discuss it and speak about it honestly, I'm incredibly proud of Mandy (Moore) for just being who she is, an inspiring woman. To let someone know that they're not alone in a feeling, I think that's a great thing to do.



ENCOUNTER 50 MINUTES

The smart hatter

Actor AJAY DEVGN dabbles in comedy with his latest film, *Total Dhamaal*, but is equally at ease in other genres, says SAIMI SATTAR



Ajay Devgn has found quite the spot. While the rest of the cast of *Total Dhamaal* is cooped up inside a hall in a hotel, he has a small set-up just outside, open to the sky, which is certainly pleasant given the weather. "Oh, that's because I smoke," he says with a laugh and one can't help but notice a pack of cigarettes lying prominently on the table. As is wont, I try to put on the recorder on my phone for the interview while Ajay narrates that he was born in Delhi but does not know much of it, even as I keep fiddling with the device waiting for it to switch on. When I confess that it has frozen, Ajay asks me if he can help and tries to, but clearly the app has a mind of its own and won't succumb even to the charms of a celebrity actor who has more than a hundred films to boot. Casting it aside, I decide to go the old fashioned way and jot down what he says.

Ajay explains that the film is called an adventure comedy as there is hardly a moment where the cast is in a situation which cannot be classified as an escape. "Except for one court scene with Anil Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit, the entire cast is either mid-air or in water or in trouble. It has an *Indiana Jones* like feel," says the actor who rode astride two bikes into collective national conscience with *Phool Aur Kaante* in 1991 for which he got the best Filmfare Male Debut Award.

However, it is Ajay's funny bone that has given him huge career hits and is on display in the third installment of the *Dhamaal* franchise. "The content in comedies is what makes you laugh. That depth has been there in the *Golmaal* series. Making people laugh is not easy in general. Add to it the fact that you can't tickle them twice with the same joke, the humour loses punch. So the content has to be fresh. Then as performers, after the gag has been written, it is also essential to understand how much to stretch the joke, the appropriate amount of energy needed to perform it and also an understanding of when and how it can nosedive if not executed well. Some jokes need a poker face and others need a lot of action," says the actor who in the initial years of his career was known for his intense and action roles. However, Ajay made a transition and can dabble in different genres with seemingly equal ease. "If you aren't classified, that is the best place to be in as an actor. If I did one genre all the time, that is what is likely to happen. I keep on reinventing myself which keeps me going. In fact, I would say I do not understand a genre. What I understand are the characters and I play them. Guddu in *Total Dhamaal* doesn't know the genre. He knows what he has to do and does it," says the actor.



The seamless switch between the characters is not surprising given his avid interest in world cinema. However, Ajay points out, "I do like to watch world cinema but you need to be in the mood to do so. If you are viewing it with someone, it needs to identify with that kind of films. Plus, even when watching it alone, you need to be in a certain frame of mind. However, when you go out with friends or family, it is more likely that you would opt for something which is a comedy or is light-hearted."

Talking about why formula or big stars are no longer a guarantee of success as was obvious from the flops that most of the major stars had to face last year, he says, "Actors now need to know that they can no longer fool the audience. Earlier, it was possible to work around with the same formula but it is not happening any longer. Charisma won't work until the content is good. Besides, the audience, which is more educated and exposed to different experiences now, is more discerning and is constantly evolving." That's what he misses for two milestone performances of his career. "If I did something like *Zakhm* (1998) today or for that matter *Raincoat* (2004), the audience would have been more receptive and appreciated me better. Both the films got a lot of critical appreciation and were praised but the box office collections did not really match up. Today, they would have got the money too," he says.

For somewhere who has traversed a wide arc of creativity, filling out different characters, he has his keen eyes on the script as well as his instincts to invest each role with originality. "I played a gangster in *Company* and then repeated it again in *Once Upon A Time in Mumbai* but no one can say that the characters were similar," says the intelligent actor.

Ajay is starring next in *De De Pyaar De*, which is scheduled to release tentatively around May this year. Also on the cards is Neeraj Pandey's *Chankya* where he embodies the role of the political thinker, economist and royal advisor. Another historical that he is producing and starring in is *Tanaji - The Unsung Warrior*. "My reason for taking up Tanaji is primarily because I liked the script. He was a great historical figure and sacrificed a lot but many people in Maharashtra and most outside have not heard of him. This makes our effort to bring his story to the big screen worthy," says he. However, many historicals have invited the ire of self-appointed censors of history. So does he fear controversies? Reasons Ajay, "The problem with our country is that it is really diverse and one group or the other might find something offensive. The final say should be that of the court if there is any difference of opinion and people should just go with the verdict."

A connected citizen, Ajay has taken a clear stand on issues. When #MeToo rocked the Hindi film industry last year, he wrote on his Twitter handle, "I'm disturbed by all the happenings with regards to #MeToo. My company and I believe in providing women with utmost respect and safety. If anyone has wronged even a single woman, neither ADF (Ajay Devgn Films) nor I will stand for it." And he makes no bones about it even now and says, "We respect women. We always believed in this. If two people are involved and it is consensual we are no one to judge them. But it should not be forced."

On another issue, that of nepotism that keeps on making a buzz in the industry time and again, Ajay says, "It is not as if other people do not get chances. They do. If you are connected you do get an initial shot at it but then you have to prove yourself. Ultimately it depends on whether the audience likes you or not." Incidentally his daughter Nyssa is not interested in films at all and he says that she does not have an aptitude for the medium. "She is studying in Singapore," he says.

Recently, Ajay and his actor wife Kajol promoted a Unilever campaign called Start Little Good to spread awareness about proper recycling of plastic. "I've been aware of global warming. I have been obsessed with being environmentally conscious at home. I am that person who is teased constantly by his sisters for putting off lights and fans when not in use," he says.

Clearly, he does like to dabble in a whole lot of things with equal ease.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

Hear my name

Singer ADNAN SAMI believes that the concept of blind auditions is the proof that *The Voice* is solely based on creating a space for talent and skill.

By TEAM VIVA

What made you take up *The Voice*?

This music competition show transcends all barriers of physical appearance, background, religion and gender, to provide a platform for the budding singing talent solely based on their core competence. The entire concept of the "blind auditions" is very innovative where we do not see the contestant and just hear them and if their voice strikes a chord, we turn our chairs for them. It is a journey of finding raw talent, polishing and nurturing it through the mentorship by coaches and enabling them to reach their potential. The platform gives an opportunity for talent to work with their dream coaches and that is a massive opportunity for any aspiring singer. For the first time ever in the history of the show, the format has been altered to introduce the concept of a super guru with the one and only A R Rahman stepping into the shoes. I am joined by popular singers Harshad Kaur, Kanika Kapoor and Armaan Malik as coaches.

Could you elaborate on your role as a coach and what you plan to bring to the show?

As a coach, I will nurture the contestants and help them in unleashing their potential as a singer. I will not only play the role of music coach but will be a life coach as well, sharing my own experiences and never-give-up stories to keep them motivated. Out of all the coaches, I think I will be the surprise package and bring a lot of musical input to the show, right from playing instruments to giving technical comments.

What do you think differentiates *The Voice* from other reality singing shows?

I mentioned the blind auditions before. I also like that there are no judges but only coaches who provide contestants with technical know-how and skills for them to grow.

How challenging is it to judge a reality show? How excited or nervous have you been?

It is always a pleasure to work with A R Rahman and for the first time I will be seeing him from the lens of a superguru. He will be seen sharing valuable feedback and perspectives which are truly inspiring. His insights about the entire process of creating music and his personal life changing stories are remarkable.

How does it feel to share space with the maestro A R Rahman?

We get along really well and it reflects on the show. There is a great variety of different types of musicians who bring something distinct with them. Each coach has come from a different school of music, had prolific musical experiences and achieved immense success. So there is a one-stop shop of expertise.

What kind of voice on the show will stand out and catch your attention?

I am not in search of any specific voice. A voice which influences and touches my heart will earn a chair. Everything else can be taught if the quality of the voice is great.



Fabricated over a span of nine months, artist Vibhor Sogani's installation at Kishangarh, Rajasthan titled *Through the Depths* represents the process of extraction of raw stone from the depths of the earth and its subsequent refinement into an aesthetic symbol. It is an ode to passion, endeavour and intent. Standing 12-feet tall on an elevated stone, it is crafted in 316-grade stainless, mirror-finished steel.

CONVERSATION 40 MINUTES

A wide arc

Actor VIJAY VARMA tells CHAHAK MITTAL that just as humans try to steal others' experiences and recreate them in their own lives, an actor's versatility comes from the various shoes he steps into



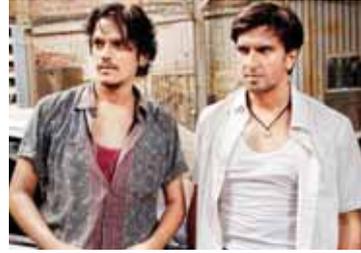
It was probably Zoya Akhtar's "insightful eye" with which she observed actor Vijay Varma's versatility and acting skills and welcomed him on board the cast of *Gully Boy*. The character of Moeen has become a favourite with just a handful of scenes and has been also receiving immense appreciation for his role as Ranveer Singh's friend and conscience-keeper.

The actor believes that when he was given the dialogues to prepare, the audition went well and he indeed did "a fairly well job". However, the most special part,

he says, was Zoya's eye for detail and content that mattered. "It's great to work with a director like her. She respects hard work and has a heart for quality. It's important to have such directors around," says he.

Vijay has played characters that were completely different in films like *Chitragong*, *Monsoon Shootout* and *Pink* previously. Preparing for his role in *Gully Boy* was another challenge, he says. "It needed a lot of internal and mental work to understand and fit into the world that the filmmakers wanted to portray in

the film. From being a garage mechanic, drug peddler, and even a thief amidst the dark, Moeen had a lot of personalities rather than just one. He knew his punishment was justified. He used kids for labour but gave them a roof over their heads. He was a good friend too. So, there was a great deal of emotional work," says Vijay and goes on to add that picking up the language and accent also had to be worked upon. "I spoke to a lot of local slum people in order to understand and catch their terminology and bring out that worn out



feeling in my character."

Seminal roles sometimes also shape actors as people and change their outlook on life. Vijay tells us what this role had taught him. He says, "You do get a better insight in certain segments and geography, about which you might have never

thought before. It makes you delve deeper into things unfamiliar to you. As humans, we are always trying to find inspiration from other people, moments and places. We try to steal experiences from others' lives and try to recreate them in our own. Similarly, an actor also

lives many lives and tries to imitate some of them in reality — the ones which they find worth recreating or living for.

While talking about *Gully Boy* as a film, he feels that it is important to create and show films with such themes. He says that it is "captivating" and "immersive" in the sense that it shows reality and connects with common people. "It's about their dreams and struggles. It's also important to acknowledge street artists like these since they never receive recognition and applause for their amazing talent. They are despised even by their own families. It's not considered as an art," says he.

For Vijay, there's no particular genre that he fits in perfectly, rather he believes that if he'd been given a role in any kind — suspense, action, dark comedy, thriller — he would certainly give his best and "do a good job".

Fendi honours Lagerfeld

The final collection at the Milan fashion week was dedicated to the fashion designer

Fendi paid understated tribute to Karl Lagerfeld, who died this week and was the Rome-based fashion house's creative director for 54 years.

The fashion house said in notes for its Milan Fashion Week show that the Fall/Winter 2019-2020 collection "is the final collection designed by Karl Lagerfeld, representing a lifetime of dedication and creation from 1965 until today."

Reproductions of five of Lagerfeld's sketches accompanied the notes, summing up the looks. A small card came printed with his signature and the Fendi "F" that had a heart forming the cross-stroke. The date of the designer's death was on the back: 19-02-2019.

A video recorded before his death showed Lagerfeld being asked to draw himself as he appeared on his first day at Fendi.

"Well, that's prehistoric," the designer said. "In the 1960s, we didn't hold back."

His personal Fendi preview look: a Cerruti hat over his long hair, dark sunglasses, a printed Lavalliere tie, a yellow-and-red English hunting jacket in Scottish tweed, French-style culottes and a bag that he had found in Milan.

"That was my style. Disreputable," the late designer told the camera in French.

Other highlights from the second day of Milan Fashion Week:

LAGERFELD'S FENDI FINALE

Karl Lagerfeld's grand finale at Fendi emulated the designer's signature style, with striking high collars and the models wearing ponytails at the nape.

The opening look featured a huge bow tie and a double-breasted jacket with white accents, worn with a mini-skirt showing off Fendi tights. That look was elaborated on to show the same jacket as a long overcoat, then paired with wide-legged pleated trousers with white stripe accents. A neat, point-collared shirt buttoned to the top unified the outfits.

A series of wide-pleated skirts in shiny finishes or sheers, as well as structured dresses with pagoda shoulders, pointy collars and cinched waists feminized the collection.

Coats were luxurious furs with the elegant double-F logo in cursive — known as Lagerfeld's curling "Karligraphy" — and laser-cut leather with zippers that opened the sleeves and the back. Shiny leather coats were shaped like capes and had open-rip arms and fur collars.

Beyond neutral tones, Lagerfeld included flashes of daffodil yellow, seafoam green and tangerine. The looks were finished with fur riding caps, the Fendi Peekaboo bag with perforated detailing or the updated Baguette bag with a multi-strap harness.

Gigi Hadid closed the show in a diaphanous mango dress with a snug Fendi-look bodysuit. A big bow floated on the back.

FENDI'S PUBLIC FAREWELL

Silvia Venturini Fendi, who was a child when Lagerfeld joined Fendi and revolutionized her at her family's fashion house, thanked the fashion crowd and took a bow, then clenched her fists and stepped backstage.

A screen descended. Backstage was kept private.

Venturini Fendi in a note said the bond between Lagerfeld and Fendi "is fashion's longest love story."

"When we called just a few days before the show, his only thoughts were on the richness and the beauty of the collection," she wrote. "It's a true testament to his character. He shall be so missed."



MAX MARA CELEBRATES THE POLITICS OF GLAMOR

Max Mara dedicated its collection to the "boss lady" — not to the women who have strode to power in their luxury outerwear and business attire.

The show title, "the politics of glamor," was also a not-so-hidden reference to the brick-red "Fire Coat" that U.S. House Minority leader Nancy Pelosi wore to a White House showdown with President Donald Trump. A flurry of social media attention prompted the fashion house to reuse the high-neck coat.

Most of the looks in the latest collection for next fall and winter were for serious day dressing, with a focus on short skirts or longer versions that appeared cut from trousers, but with deep slits to show off knee-high, faux croc boots.

Outerwear varied from ankle-length sleeveless coats with oversized pockets and to poncho coats with furry collars. Zips and pockets gave a sense of utility.

Max Mara punctuated its trademark neutral monotonous with trios of colors and prints, opening the show with identical mini-skirt, business looks in an emerald green, sky blue and canary yellow. The outfits were topped with large, enveloping alpaca cardigans.

Wools mixed with technical fabrics, leathers and fur for contemporary styling. Neutral monotonous in ivory, camel and caramel toast gave way to animal prints and heritage prints with heart motifs.

Accessories included an innovative bag that draped around the neck like a scarf and incorporated two compartments on each end, or a small clutch attached to the body with a harness.

Eva Herzigova closed the show with a black mini with the slightest golden sheen, worn with a black gran-



te textured coat that was mined from the depths of fashion. Kaia Gerber rocked a layered off-white look with a rich, furry overcoat and single-button suit coat.

EMPORIO ARMANI FOR EVERY AGE

Emporio Armani is Giorgio Armani's line for youthful dresses, but the designer sent an older model down the runway to emphasize that age is not the defining measure.

For this collection, shapely legs were certainly wear. The looks included shorts that looked like skirts, or mini dresses with swinging hemlines. Armani included a low kitten heel on

booties or knee-high evening sock boots, because "the low heel gave a sense of freedom."

He said a faux crocodile jacket could give an older woman an edgier touch at a price tag not out of this world.

The Emporio Armani freestyle styling included a sweatshirt with a new gold-embossed EA logo pairs with fluid, elegant trousers. An off-shoulder jumpsuit with a deconstructed jacket top projected a day-to-evening derring-do. Pretty dresses were paired with latex-effect leg-

gings. For Armani, the limits of fashion are defined by "good taste."



The collection included a series of red looks, perhaps a tribute to the growing Chinese market.

Red, along with black and white, "sets everything you see around, that is so much, too much," Armani said.

PRADA EXPLORES LOVE AND WAR

Prada's collection for next fall and winter explores the dichotomy between war and romance, the tug between better and baser impulses.

The collection veers from military looks in Loden textiles with combat boots but softened with furry backdrops to romantic styles with dresses strewn with floral appliques or layered with lace accents.

"It is about romance, but romance and fear," the designer said after the show. "In the sense that the two forces I feel at the moment are fear and danger, but at the same time romance is the solution. So these are pieces of love stories, introducing good in a world that has a lot of bad."

THE PRICE IS RIGHT AT MOSCHINO

Jeremy Scott staged a tongue-in-cheek Moschino game show to show off his collection of slinky dresses and gold lame on women with 1970s bouffants.

The collection fully embraced the early television era, with handbags shaped as TV dinners, toothpaste tubes and champagne bottles, reflecting the reality of home cuisine, a major TV-era advertising force and the millionaire dreams of the television audience.

Models shimmied up against a red Ferrari, a grandfather clock, kitchen appliances and a La-Z-Boy recliner — the latter of which boasted price tags below most present-day luxury brand apparel.

Scott basked in the irony, taking a star turn under a shower of big gold confetti.



ONENESS WITH NATURE

Photographer JUHI SAKLANI's captures ecology which has been integrated with human life

For photographer Juhi Saklani, life can persist in most unexpected places like a grand tree braving traffic, pollution, and dirt of a busy Delhi road, what she claims as almost a "national monument". Displayed in 2019 Habitat Photosphere on 'Bhu/Earth', among many others, the trees photograph reminds humans of their oneness with nature.

Habitat Photosphere, an India Habitat Centre (IHC) initiative, is geared towards sensitisation of a sustainable environment and cultural sustainability through the medium of photography.

With this year's theme as 'Bhu/Earth', the ongoing exhibition is currently blooming with photographs, installations and interactive events.

Saklani, one of the four awardees of the Photosphere Fellowship, is exploring art and ecology through photographs of trees growing through old walls and buildings, and inhabiting books, maps and newspapers.

Some exhibited works in her series 'Human/Nature' use "regular headlines about trees being felled for buildings, roads, river interlinking, smart city projects, parking and more" as images.

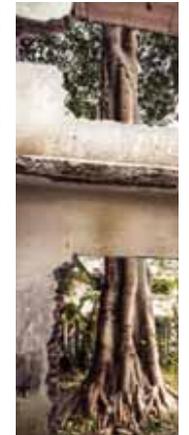
The series emerged from her "reading and conversations around deep ecology and the nature of the ecological crisis we find ourselves in today — how to live with climate change, species extinction, dramatic loss of biodiversity, violation of the water, massive deforestation, critical levels of pollution", she said.

"I am still a student of ecological issues and philosophies, but some of it has seeped into the photographs. I truly feel that humans need to start thinking of themselves as a part of nature, as opposed to controllers or 'conquerors' of nature," Saklani, who has previously been an editor and writer with Outlook Traveller for nearly a decade, said.

"I am still a student of ecological issues and philosophies, but some of it has seeped into the photographs. I truly feel that humans need to start thinking of themselves as a part of nature, as opposed to controllers or 'conquerors' of nature," Saklani, who has previously been an editor and writer with Outlook Traveller for nearly a decade, said.

Saklani, whose passion for photography started with taking photographs to support her articles, believes trees to be companions and healers that people need to stay informed about what is happening to their city.

Along with other awardees and more varied exhibitors, Saklani's earthy take on the Photosphere theme of 'Bhu' is open for the public to view till March 18 at the IHC here. The Photosphere has been curated by art historian Alka Pande. —IANS



which were to be "redeveloped" to host commercial spaces.

"In face of official reports which said Sarojini Nagar was a place of 'no significant biodiversity', experts found 26 bird species and 11 types of butterflies in just a two-day survey."

"Activists conducted tree surveys in Netaji Nagar and found an irreplaceable wealth of bargads, peepals, semals, neems, jamuns, amalas..." a note on the section said.

Thanks to the efforts of the protesters, "the company NBCC has to redesign its projects to minimise tree loss," the writer, who feels meditative while clicking trees, said.

"A window into the 'development', interestingly, has been curated as a combination of photographs and rustic-looking wooden windows allowing one to peep at the collages in which the threatened trees and demolished houses of these colonies are still trying to co-exist."

"It's also a protest against the top to heavy planning that does not involve people in the decisions about their city's future. And a reminder that people need to stay informed about what is happening to their city."

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London clubs reach last 16

Arsenal overcome first leg deficit to see off BATE Borisov 3-0(1); Chelsea beat Malmo in similar fashion

AFP ■ LONDON

Arsenal and Chelsea reached the last 16 of the Europa League on Thursday after the Gunners comfortably saw off BATE Borisov 3-0 and Maurizio Sarri's troubled side relieved some of the pressure on him with the same scoreline against mediocre Malmo.

After falling 1-0 in Belarus, Arsenal was level on aggregate after just three minutes when Zakhar Volkov sliced Aubameyang's low cross past Denis Scherbitski in his own goal.

Unai Emery's side deservedly went through thanks to two thumping headers from Shkodran Mustafi and Sokratis either side of the break which put them into Friday's draw.

Ahead 2-1 from the first leg in Sweden, Chelsea had to wait until 10 minutes after the break for their first sign of excitement, Olivier Giroud tapping in the decisive goal of a humdrum encounter at Stamford Bridge.

Ross Barkley made sure of the win with a super free-kick in the 74th minute, just after Malmo's Rasmus Bengtsson was sent off for his second bookable offence, before 18-year-old Hudson-Odoi made the most of a rare start by crashing home the third.

Carlo Ancelotti's Napoli breezed to a 2-0 win over FC Zurich that saw them win 5-1 on aggregate, while Inter Milan went through 5-0 after sweeping four goals past Rapid Vienna without reply at the San Siro.

RENNES MAKE HISTORY

French side Rennes are into the last 16 of a major European tournament for the first time after winning possibly the most entertaining tie of the round 6-4 on aggregate following a barnstorming 3-1 win at Real Betis.

Goals from Remy Bensebaini and Adrien Hunou fired Rennes into a two-goal lead within the opening half-hour but the tie was put back in the balance when Giovanni Lo Celso pulled one back four minutes before half-time.

With Betis pushing to equalise and go through on away goals, M'Baye Niang finished off an injury time break to see the mid-table Ligue 1 side through.

RB Salzburg, Dinamo Zagreb and Zenit Saint Petersburg all overturned



Sokratis Papastathopoulos, left, celebrates with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang after scoring



Olivier Giroud, left, celebrates with Unai Emery after scoring

"We wanted this result but also we wanted to play for our supporters here. We did our best to come back (in the tie) and the team worked very well."

—Unai Emery (Arsenal manager)

"The boys really played well today. We worked hard throughout the game. The goal that came at the end was definitely a bonus for the way that we played."

—Callum Hudson Odoi (Chelsea winger)

FIFA hands Chelsea transfer ban

LONDON: Premier League club Chelsea have been banned from signing new players in the next two transfer windows as punishment for breaking rules on registering under-age players, FIFA said on Friday. The disciplinary committee sanctioned Chelsea with a ban on registering new players at both national and international level for the next two complete and consecutive registration periods. FIFA said in a statement. In addition, Chelsea were fined 600,000 Swiss francs (600,000, 530,000 euros) and given a period of 90 days to regularise the situation of the minor players concerned. The ban does not prevent players being released by the club and it does not apply to Chelsea's women's and futsal teams. Chelsea have been given three days to appeal against FIFA's decision, which could prove highly damaging, for example preventing the club from signing a replacement for Eden Hazard if the star player leaves the club.

Arsenal face Rennes in last 16

AFP ■ PARIS

Arsenal will face French side Rennes in the last 16 of the Europa League, while Chelsea were paired with Dynamo Kiev in Friday's draw.

Both Premier League clubs will be at home in the first leg on Thursday, March 27, with the return matches scheduled for March 14.

Arsenal's draw means that their veteran goalkeeper Petr Cech will return to face the club he represented for two seasons before joining Chelsea in 2004.

The Brittany club finished fifth in Ligue 1 last season and are currently in mid-table, but have impressed since the 38-year-old Julien Stephan was appointed as coach in December.

Arsenal manager Unai Emery — who won the Europa League three years running as coach of Sevilla — is familiar with Rennes from his two seasons in charge of Paris Saint-Germain.

London rivals Chelsea, the other Premier League club still in the competition, might also view winning the Europa League as their most likely route to next season's Champions League.

After beating Swedish side Malmo, they might find the going tougher against next season's Ukrainian giants Dynamo.

The clubs met in the group stage of the Champions League in 2015-16,

drawing 0-0 in Kiev before Chelsea won 2-1 at Stamford Bridge.

Elsewhere, Sevilla, who have won the trophy five times including twice in its former guise as the UEFA Cup, will face Slavia Prague.

Widely-fancied Napoli will take on the Austrian champions Salzburg, who reached the semi-finals last season.

Former European Cup finalists and UEFA Cup winners Eintracht Frankfurt were drawn against Inter Milan, who won the UEFA Cup three times in the 1990s.

Benfica face Dinamo Zagreb, while Valencia's reward for knocking out Celtic is a tie against FC Krastodor of Russia.

That is one of two ties between Russian and Spanish sides, with Zenit Saint Petersburg drawn against Villarreal.

The final of this season's Europa League will be played in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, on May 29.



Low expectations is great place to start from: Vihari

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hanuma Vihari has been punching above his weight ever since he made his India debut and that's why he is ready to deal with "low expectations" in a bid to change the popular perception of not being good enough for the T20 format in the upcoming IPL.

Vihari is back in the IPL, which starts March 23, with the Delhi Capitals after going unsold at the auction for three years primarily due to an unimpressive strike rate of sub 100.

"I think because of the slow strike-rate of the past, people won't have expectations from me, which can be a great thing. I take it positively, because now I have a chance to prove them all wrong," Vihari said.

The Delhi Capitals have a star-studded top order with Shikhar Dhawan, Prithvi Shaw, skipper Shreyas Iyer and the indomitable Rishabh Pant in the ranks.

Vihari knows it will be a fight to get into the playing XI but he is ready to do the role of a finisher the same way he agreed to open in unfamiliar conditions in Melbourne.

"Honestly, given that I am playing the IPL after a three-year gap, I am really not going out there and bat anywhere the management asks me to, whether it's at the top of the order, or in the role of a finisher.

"On my part, I am really in a great mental space and a great position as far as my game is concerned. I am really well-prepared for everything right now," the 25-year-old Andhra batsman said.

He was a part of Sunrisers Hyderabad in 2013 but a lot has changed since then. He has scored loads of runs for India A and also struck a fifty against England on his Test debut.

"I am excited, and fully ready for the season ahead with Delhi Capitals. Mainly because in these three years, I have developed so much as a player.

"I am much more confident of performing now. Also, we have a great mix of Indian and foreign players. I am really looking forward to playing under Shreyas and Ricky's (Ricky Ponting) leadership," Vihari said.

Vihari feels his India stint will make a difference as it has topped his confidence so necessary in a slam-bang tournament. "It gives me a huge boost for sure. I think things have worked out quite timely for me. The IPL opportunity could not have come to me at a better time."

He is most comfortable in the middle order but won't mind facing the red cherry at the start of an innings if asked to do so once again.

"Yes, I will do whatever is needed for the team. These are situations you face as a sportsman, and you have got to learn to accept it. It doesn't want to be tagged as the guy who is not a team man," Vihari said with conviction.

Short working on his spin to enhance selection chances

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Dashing Australian batsman D'Arcy Short is working on his left-arm spin bowling with his former India twerker Siddharth Sriram to enhance selection in the team for the limited over series starting with the first T20I in Vizag on Sunday.

"I did a lot of work with him (Sriram) in the A tour in August and September. That was good then and I've done a bit of work with him yesterday and today, just refining things and getting a little bit better," he was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au.

"If I can give two or three overs or even four or five in one-day cricket then it's always going to help my selection in the end and hopefully it goes in my favour," added Short, who is former India cover for Shaun Marsh.

The 28-year-old has claimed 10 wickets in 15 games for Hobart Hurricanes this season besides amassing 637 runs at 53.08 and a strike rate of 140.61.

Sriram said Short can offer a lot to the team with his spin bowling.

"We've seen in the Big Bash, he's bowled a lot more than the previous years which I think is a very good sign for our cricket team going forward," he said.

"He's come a long way. One of the main things we talked about was aligning with his consistency and then extent of length.

"If he can do that and spin the ball both ways, when he's bowling at his best I think he offers a lot to the team along with his batting."

Australia will play second T20I on February 27 at Bangalore, before competing in the five-ODI series next month.

'Would hate to give two points to Pak'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on Friday said he would "hate" to see India concede two points to Pakistan by not playing them in the upcoming World Cup as such a move would only help the arch-rivals in the mega-event.

Tendulkar endorsed Sunil Gavaskar's view that India would be better off beating Pakistan in the World Cup than forfeiting the June 16 tie in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack.

"India has always come up trumps against Pakistan in the World Cup. Time to beat them once again. Would personally hate to give them two points and help them in the tournament," said Tendulkar.

Having seen the way India always comes first, so whatever my country decides, I will back that decision with all my heart," the legendary batsman added.

While the likes of Harbhajan Singh and Yuzvendra Chahal have called for complete cricketing boycott of Pakistan, Gavaskar on Thursday said India will be the loser if they decide to not play against Pakistan on June 16.



Sachin Tendulkar tweet from his official Twitter handle @sachin_r

"Who wins if India decide against playing Pakistan in the World Cup? And I am not even talking about the semi-final match, who wins? Pakistan will even that get two points," Gavaskar had told 'India Today'.

"India have so far beaten Pakistan every time in a World Cup, so we are actually conceding two points when by beating Pakistan, we could make sure that they don't advance in the competition," he had said.

Kishan powers Jharkhand's triumph

PTI ■ MULAPADU

Skipper Ishan Kishan blasted a 55-ball 100 (8x4, 7x6) to power Jharkhand to a five-wicket win over Jammu and Kashmir in a Group 'A' match on Friday.

In other matches, Delhi routed Manipur by 10 wickets while Andhra Pradesh thrashed Nagaland by 179 runs to notch up four points.

Sent into bat by Jharkhand, J&K made 168 for 9 in 20 overs with Jatinder Singh making the top-score of 42 while Rahul Shukla took five wickets.

The talented Kishan took the J&K attack by the scruff of the neck, hammering boundaries and sixers at will. He lashed shots to all parts of the ground, taking the team home in the 17th over, for its second straight win.

Meanwhile, Delhi bounced back after losing to Jharkhand on Thursday, by racing to the target of 119 in just 11.4 overs after Manipur was restricted to 113 for 6 in 20 overs.

Ricky Bhui hammered a 42-ball 108 to power Andhra to 244 for 4 in the quota of 20 overs before Nagaland was shot out for 65 in 13.1 overs.



KARNATAKA HAMMER BENGAL CUTBACK: Young Rohan Kadam struck an unbeaten 81 as Karnataka countered to a nine-wicket win over Bengal to register their second successive Group D win.

MUMBAI ROMP PUNJAB

PTI ■ INDORE

Led by pacer Dhawal Kulkarni, Mumbai defended a modest 156-run target as they defeated Punjab by 35 runs in the Group C match, registering their second successive win.

In another Group C game, Test specialist Cheteshwar Pujara, who had hit an unbeaten 100 in 61 balls against Railways, continued his good form as he scored 68 to help Saurashtra defeat Madhya Pradesh by 6 wickets.

This was Saurashtra's first win in the tournament. On Thursday, Mumbai had kicked-off their campaign on a winning note, thrashing minnows Sikkim by a staggering 154 runs.

Asked to bat first, Punjab bowlers led by Baltej Singh (3-30) and left-arm seamer Barinder Sran (3-34) dished out a clinical performance as they bundled off a formidable Mumbai for a modest 155 in their 20 overs Friday.

Surya Kumar Yadav was Mumbai's top-scorer as he hit a quick-fire 80 in 49 balls and stitched a crucial 126-run stand for the third wicket with in-form Shreyas Iyer (46).



After Iyer's dismissal, 'crisis man' Siddhesh Lad went for a duck and then Mumbai lost wickets in a heap and eventually folded up for 155.

Unheralded 18-year-old Punjab opener Prabhsimran Singh, who has been picked by Mumbai Indians, gave Mumbai a scare with a blazing 54 in just 20 balls, an innings studded with six boundaries and four sixes.

But he lacked support from other end. All other Punjab batsmen, including Yuvraj Singh, had an off-day in office as their innings folded up at 120.

Kulkarni (4-22) was ably supported by Shubham Ranjane (2-14), while Shams Mulani, Shardul Thakur picked a wicket each.