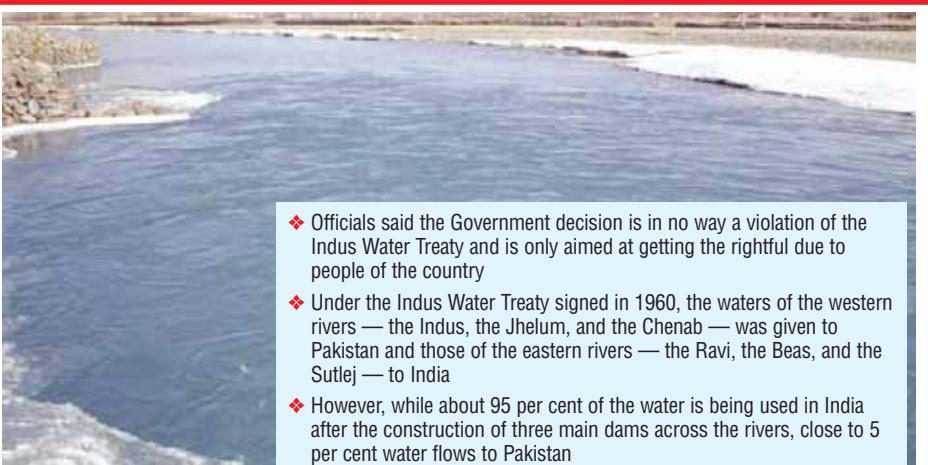


A HOME FOR EVERY
POOR FAMILY

- 1.5 crore poor families get their own home
- Housing for every poor family by 2022

NAMUMKIN AB
MUMKIN HAIGovernment of India
DAVP 22/2017/3/0047/119

- ◆ Officials said the Government decision is in no way a violation of the Indus Water Treaty and is only aimed at getting the rightful due to people of the country
- ◆ Under the Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960, the waters of the western rivers — the Indus, the Jhelum, and the Chenab — was given to Pakistan and those of the eastern rivers — the Ravi, the Beas, and the Sutlej — to India
- ◆ However, while about 95 per cent of the water is being used in India after the construction of three main dams across the rivers, close to 5 per cent water flows to Pakistan

Chenab — was given to Pakistan and those of the eastern rivers — the Ravi, the Beas, and the Sutlej — to India. India's share of water from the Ravi, the Beas and the Sutlej came to 33 million acres feet (MAF). While about 95 per cent of the water was being used in the country after the

construction of three main dams across the rivers, close to 5 per cent water or 1.6 MAF would flow to Pakistan.

To gain access to this water, India is now building more dams which will be completed in six years, officials said.

Another official said the decision was taken two months

back. Water to Pakistan from the three rivers has been flowing for 60 years while the country needs the same to meet needs of its citizens, they said insisting stopping of its share of water from going to Pakistan is in no way a violation of the Treaty.

"Under the leadership of

Hon'ble PM Sri @narendramodi ji, Our Govt. Has decided to stop our share of water which used to flow to Pakistan. We will divert water from Eastern rivers and supply it to our people in Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab," Gadkari said in a tweet.

He further said, "The construction of dam has started at Shahpur-Kandi on the Ravi. Moreover, UJH project will store our share of water for use in J&K and the balance water will flow from 2nd Ravi-BEAS Link to provide water to other basin States."

Gadkari's tweets have come barely a week after the gruesome Pulwama terror attack on February 14 in which as many as 40 CRPF personnel were martyred when a terrorist rammed an explosives laden vehicle into a bus carrying them. New Delhi believes the attack was planned and supported by elements in Pakistan.

Continued on Page 4

SP bags 37, sacrifices 1
for RLD, gives BSP 38

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Over a month after announcing an alliance for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) announced the allocation of seats to each partner on Thursday.

In a statement, SP president Akhilesh Yadav and BSP chief Mayawati announced that



while the SP will contest on 37 seats, the BSP will fight on 38. Amethi and Rae Bareli — the pocket boroughs of the Rahul family — have been left for the Congress.

The three other seats left by the BSP-SP alliance are Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar and Mathura for the RLD.

On January 12, when the SP and BSP announced their alliance, both Mayawati and

Akhilesh had said they would contest 38 seats each and leave four seats for other parties including two for Congress. But the SP sacrificed one seat from its quota to pacify the RLD to remain in the alliance.

As per the list, the SP will contest eight Lok Sabha seats in west UP, 16 in east UP, nine in central UP and two each in Terai and Bundelkhand region.

Akhilesh is likely to contest from Kannauj and Mulayam from Mainpuri.

The SP has been given all the five seats it had won in the 2014 parliamentary elections - Azamgarh, Kannauj, Mainpuri, Budauli and Ferozabad. In the Lok Sabha by-elections, the SP had wrested the prized Gorakhpur and Kairana seats from the BJP.

Because of its sway in eastern UP, the BSP will contest 17 seats of the region, including Ambedkar Nagar from where Mayawati is expected to contest.

The BSP will contest 11 seats of western UP, eight in central UP and two in Bundelkhand region.

Continued on Page 4

Samajwadi Party leaders Mulayam Singh Yadav and Akhilesh Yadav address their party workers in Lucknow on Thursday

PTI

Opp to meet on Feb 26 to plan panel to draw up CMP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of political parties, including the BJP and the Congress, making alliance partners for the Lok Sabha polls scheduled for next couple of months, the Opposition leaders are all set to meet on February 26 to discuss the strategy and formation of a sub-committee for evolving a common minimum programme (CMP). The meeting to be held at Mohali in Punjab is to be attended by top leaders like Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu among others.

Detailed report on P5

Govt allows air travel by paramilitary jawans in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A week after the Pulwama attack on the Srinagar National Highway, Union Home Ministry on Thursday approved entitlement of all paramilitary personnel to travel by air on the Delhi-Srinagar, Srinagar-Delhi, Jammu-Srinagar and Srinagar-Jammu sectors.

Till now, officers in the rank of Inspectors and above were given this air travel facility.

The Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order saying it "has approved the entitlement of air travel on Delhi-Srinagar, Srinagar-Delhi, Jammu-Srinagar and Srinagar-Electronic City.

Officials added that the six stations on this corridor will cater largely to densely populated areas of Noida. The housing societies in Sectors 34, 52 and 22 will be immensely benefited as it will help commuting within Noida as well.

Further, commuters can also easily reach major hospitals such as Safdarjung and AIIMS in Delhi.

As many as 65,000 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel are deployed in the State as part of 65 battalions apart from units of the Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the National Security Guard (NSG) present in the Kashmir valley for rendering a variety of roles in the internal security grid.

Continued on Page 4

Akshardham panic after
robbers open fire, bike
patrol cops pin down 2

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Panic gripped motorists and commuters waiting for the traffic signal to turn green at the curve of Gurjar Samrat Mihir Bhoj Marg, near Akshardham, when gunshots were heard around 4.30 pm on Thursday.

What followed next was action that very much resembled to Bollywood flicks.

Two Delhi Police personnel riding a scooter who happened to be in the vicinity managed to nab two of the six criminals who had robbed two Haryana-based businessmen of ₹35 to ₹40 lakh and one of the crimi-

nals opened fire at them.

According to police, a gang of six armed robbers, on three bikes were tailing the duo after they hired an auto near Ghazipur Murga Mandi to reach to the Inter State Bus Terminus (ISBT) Kashmere Gate.

Before the victims could comprehend what was happening, they were surrounded by the gang members who forcibly snatched the bag containing cash. Seeing the commotion, the two Delhi Police officials intervened.

The criminals opened fire but the bullet missed the mark and in the ensuing melee, cops managed to pin down on two criminals while their cohorts fled the spot with the "booty".

According to a senior police official, the victims have been identified as Ashok Kumar, a resident of Ganaur (Haryana) and Narendra, a resident of Karnal (Haryana). They are into the business of poultry and on Thursday they came here in Ghazipur Mandi to collect their payment, police said.

Continued on Page 4

One of the robbers in police custody in New Delhi on Thursday Ranjan Dhiraj | Pioneer

Akhilesh has destroyed half of SP
by giving BSP 38 seats: Mulayam

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Expressing annoyance over the Samajwadi Party (SP) joining hands with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav said that Akhilesh Yadav had "finished" the party by deciding to contest only 50 per cent of the Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh.

"By contesting just 40 of the total 80 seats in the State, Akhilesh has finished half the party. Delaying the announcement of candidates is further

weakening the prospects of the party," Mulayam said while addressing party workers at SP State headquarters here in the presence of media persons on Thursday.

This is the first time that Mulayam has come out openly against his son and SP chief after the party stitched an alliance with the BSP.

"The fight of the SP is with the BJP. The party workers should pull up their socks to fight and win majority of the seats that the party is contesting," he said while conceding

Surgical strike brains to head
Cong task force on security

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The main architect of the 2016 surgical strikes on terror launch pads in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK), former Northern Army commander Lt-Gen (retd) DS Hooda, will head a Congress task force on national security. Congress sources said party president Rahul Gandhi had met Hooda earlier and discussed the modalities of the panel to which Hooda agreed.

"The Congress president has set up a 'task force on national security' to prepare a

vision paper for the country," party said in a statement. Hooda will lead the panel and prepare the paper in consultation with a select group of experts.

Hooda's appointment by the main Opposition party attains significance as the Congress has been accusing the Modi Government of politicising the surgical strikes. On September 29, 2016, the Army had carried out the strikes on seven terrorist launch pads across the Line of Control (LoC) in retaliation to an attack on its base in Uri earlier that month.

Continued on Page 4

DMRC set to open its
longest Noida corridor
next month, trials on

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Commuting will become easier between the national Capital and Noida as the Delhi Metro is set to open the 6.6 kilometre Noida City Centre-Electronic City Metro corridor by next month.

Signalling trial runs have already been commenced on the section. The Blue Line corridor will become Delhi Metro's second longest Metro corridor after the 59 kilometre long Majlis Park-Shiv Vihar corridor of Phase 3.

With this extension, the Blue Line will become 56.46 kilometres long.

The route will be formally thrown open to the public once the Commissioner Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) inspects the corridor and accords operation clearance.

Once the section starts operation, a large number of people living in Noida such as sectors 34, 52 and 22 as well as sectors 59, 61, 62 and NOIDA Electronic City will be benefited as currently there is no metro connectivity.

The rules follow the national offshore wind energy policy which was notified in October 2015, providing a basic framework for development of offshore wind energy in the country.

Continued on Page 4

6.6-km long corridor is an extension of the existing Blue Line corridor that connects Dwarka with Noida City Centre.

"The section will be a major boost for around 80,000 new passengers living in the inner circles of Noida and will also connect various parts of Delhi. Moreover, the entire Phase-III project of the Delhi Metro will be completed once this section will be ready to open for public," said a senior Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) official.

The new section will have a total of six stations at Sector 34, Sector 52, Sector 61, Sector 59, Sector 62 and NOIDA Electronic City.

Officials added that the six stations on this corridor will cater largely to densely populated areas of Noida. The housing societies in Sectors 34, 52 and 22 will be immensely benefited as it will help commuting within Noida as well.

Further, commuters can also easily reach major hospitals such as Safdarjung and AIIMS in Delhi.

As many as 65,000 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel are deployed in the State as part of 65 battalions apart from units of the Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the National Security Guard (NSG) present in the Kashmir valley for rendering a variety of roles in the internal security grid.

Continued on Page 4

No wind power at ecology cost: Govt

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

To ensure that its ambition to

install 30,000 megawatt of offshore wind power by 2030 does not come at the cost of the marine ecology health, the Government has proposed that lease of wind farm in the sector will be cancelled if they are found posing threat to flora and fauna beneath the sea.

This is one of the major

reasons for lease cancellations proposed in the draft Offshore Wind Energy Lease Rules, 2019 issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). The Ministry is now seeking suggestions and opinion from the public about the

proposed rules. The rules also propose penalty to the defaulting project proponent in the form of fine and jail imprisonment, if found violating the norms.

As per the draft rules, lease of an offshore wind power project can be cancelled if it is found to be "causing environmental damage to both flora and fauna beneath the sea and posing threat to human life and property while carrying out the activities under water and operation of the wind energy turbines during validity of the lease."

The draft rules also maintains that "If, in the opinion of the Central Government, oper-



ation of the wind turbines/wind turbines is causing damage to environment or damage to property, or pollution can thereby be prevented, the Central Government may order the Wind Farm to be shut down pending an enquiry

under sub-rule (a), which enquiry shall be held within a reasonable period of the making of such order."

In offshore wind farms, wind turbines are elevated over the sea level with different types of foundations, depend-

ing on the depth. The large-scale deployment of offshore wind farms is the part of the Government's shift to renewable energy. Offshore wind power projects are used to exploit the potential of wind in open seas, where wind blows stronger than on land.

The rules follow the national offshore wind energy policy which was notified in October 2015, providing a basic framework for development of offshore wind energy in the country.

Continued on Page 4

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Continued on Page 4

Killer with 113 cases held after encounter

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



After a brief encounter, the Delhi Police on Thursday arrested a 40-year-old man who was involved in 113 cases of murder, attempt to murder, dacoity, robbery, snatching, robbery, Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and Arms Act. There were cases registered against him in every corner of the national Capital. The accused who committed his first crime in 1994 was also declared a 'Bad Character' (BC) by Delhi's Anand Parvat police station.

**DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
III, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001**
PROCLAMATION OF SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Property will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues, in the matter of ICICI BANK LTD v/s DALJIT SINGH AND OTHERS O.A.No.357/2013 & R.C. No: 60/2018

1. Description of Property:
Make: TATA MOTORS LPT 2518 Reg No: HR56M0398

Manuf Year: 2010

Reserve Price: Rs.60,000/-

EMD- Rs. 6,000/-

2. Date and Time of Auction:

20.03.2019

3. Auction Venue: NCMCL KUNDLI, Opposite Shiv Dayal dharamkanta, Playo Manihari Road, Narela Industrial Area, Kundli, Sonipat, Haryana

4. Inspection Day & Venue:

16.03.2019 & NCMCL KUNDLI,

Opposite Shiv Dayal

dharamkanta, Playo Manihari

Road, Narela Industrial Area,

Kundli, Sonipat, Haryana

5. Manager: Shankar Kapoor

Mob No: 9650193259

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset

specified herein above have been

stated to the best of the

information and knowledge of the

undersigned, who shall however

not be responsible for any error,

misstatement or omission in the

said particulars. The interested

participants are therefore

requested, in their own interest, to

satisfy himself / themselves / itself

with regard to the said asset and

other relevant details pertaining to

it before submitting the bids.

Interested bidders shall be

required to deposit an Earnest

Amount mentioned above against

the respective vehicle by way of

pay order/Demand Draft in favour

of Recovery Officer-I, DRT-III

payable at Delhi. Successful

highest bidder shall have to

deposit 25% of sale proceed by

way of pay order/Demand Draft in

favour of Recovery Officer-I, DRT-

III, Delhi, by next working day i.e. 3

pm with Tribunal, after adjusting

the EMD as stated above. The

balance 75% of sale price to be

paid, in favour of Recovery Officer-

I, DRT-III, Delhi, on or before 15th

day from the date of sale of

property, exclusive of such day, or

if the 15th day be holiday or other

holiday, then on the first office day

after the 15th day alongwith

payment fees @ 2% upto

Rs.1,000/- and @ 1% of the sale

price exceeding Rs.1,000/- . The

Poundage fees shall be deposited

through demand draft payable in

favour of the Registrar, DRT-III ,

Delhi.

In Case of failure to deposit the

amount as mentioned above, the

amount of Earnest Money

deposited shall be forfeited.

Interested participant/s are

requested to participate 20 March

2019 for physical auction or call

Bank Manager Shankar Kapoor.

Vikas Jaitly
Recovery Officer II,
DRT III Delhi

was instructed to surrender. But instead of surrendering, the accused fired upon the police team and tried to flee from the spot. In retaliation, the police team also fired up shots in the air and the accused was overpowered by the team," said Additional CP.

"In May-2018, the accused had come out of jail and started demanding protection money from the criminals and persons who were involved in illegal activities in Sultanpuri, Mangol Puri, Aman Vihar, Anand Parbat, Sarangpur and Dabri area," said the Additional CP, adding that police team were "A case under section 186/353/307 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 25/27 Arms Act has been registered at Crime Branch police station. Police have also recovered one country made pistol along with one live cartridge and an empty bullet shell from the possession of the accused."

"Police had received a call that a man had 'jumped before a moving train following which a team was dispatched for the spot,' said the senior police official.

"He was rushed to a GTB hospital where he is undergoing treatment. We have examined the footage of the incident, and there one can see that he accidentally fell on the tracks. He was there with his wife and standing very close to the edge of the platform. And, when the train was approaching he fell

Textiles Ministry employee falls on metro track, right foot severed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a horrific incident, a 57-year-old man, working with the Ministry of Textiles, accidentally fell on the tracks of the Delhi Metro at Dilshad Garden Station and came under an approaching train following which his right foot was severed. The incident occurred on Thursday morning when the victim was on his way to office.

The injured has been identified as Zachariah Koshy, a resident of Shalimar Garden in Ghaziabad. According to a senior police official, the incident took place around 9.15 am on Thursday.

"Victim's right foot got severed in the accident and his left foot is also very badly injured. Koshy's son Ajem is with him in the hospital. Police will record the Koshy's statement, once he is in a better condition," said the senior police official adding that further investigation is going on. A Delhi Metro official had earlier suspected that it might have been a case of a "suicide bid".

Due to the incident, services were affected on the Red Line between Dilshad Garden and Shahdara stations. "Normal services were later restored," the DMRC official said.



down and his feet got run over by it," said the senior police official.

"The boy's parents, Ruchi (27) and Sumit Singh (29), and grandmother Reeta Singh (65) were crushed to death but he had miraculously escaped and was trapped inside the car. His cries could be heard by the witnesses and the police. Subsequently, he lost consciousness but was rescued by fire department and disaster management teams.

The boy was taken to a hospital. He had not suffered any external injuries, they got his medical examination done to rule out any internal injury. After the doctors declared that the boy did not suffer any internal injury, he was handed over to his grandfather," said the senior police official.

"The boy was taken to a hospital. He had not suffered any external injuries, they got his medical examination done to rule out any internal injury. After the doctors declared that the boy did not suffer any internal injury, he was handed over to his grandfather," said the senior police official.

Grandpa looking after toddler who lost parents in road accident

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after, a three-year-old boy, who lost his parents and grandmother after a sand-laden dumper overturned on their Audi car in Rohini, while they were returning home from a wedding in Gurgaon on Wednesday night, is being looked after by his grandfather and aunt.

The boy's parents, Ruchi (27) and Sumit Singh (29), and grandmother Reeta Singh (65) were crushed to death but he had miraculously escaped and was trapped inside the car. His cries could be heard by the witnesses and the police. Subsequently, he lost consciousness but was rescued by fire department and disaster management teams.

The boy was taken to a hospital. He had not suffered any external injuries, they got his medical examination done to rule out any internal injury. After the doctors declared that the boy did not suffer any internal injury, he was handed over to his grandfather," said the senior police official.

Krishna Nagar gets multi-level parking, commercial complex

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Delhi Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) president Manoj Tiwari on Thursday inaugurated a newly constructed multi-level parking and commercial complex at Krishna Nagar of East Delhi.

The parking which is constructed by East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) has capacity to accommodate 200 Cars.

Speaking on the occasion, Tiwari said that the EDMC is taking all efforts to provide basic facilities to the citizens using its own resources. Alleging the Delhi Government for being "apathetic" towards developing facilities in the area, he said that the Corporation completed the project without any financial assistance from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) led Delhi Government.

In another event of EDMC, Dr Harshvardhan laid the foundation stone of car parking with capacity to accommodate 150 Cars and a commercial Complex at old committee office premises at Anaj Mandi Shahdara. The civic body will develop the facility on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

parking and commercial complex has been developed in an area of 1740 square meter at a cost of Rs 24 crores by EDMC. "It took 24 months to complete the project. This complex is equipped with modern facilities like CCTV, lift, power back-up and fire fighting system," he said.

In another event of EDMC, Dr Harshvardhan laid the foundation stone of car parking with capacity to accommodate 150 Cars and a commercial Complex at old committee office premises at Anaj Mandi Shahdara. The civic body will develop the facility on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Top cop launches pilot project Naazuk in Bharat Nagar


 STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

Delhi Commissioner of Police, Amulya Patnaik, on Thursday launched a new child centric initiative called "Naazuk" as a pilot project from Bharat Nagar area of North West district which will soon be extended to other parts of Delhi. The launch was attended by around 800 children and 200 parents of the area.

As part of this initiative, children and their guardians will be sensitized about the potential threats with the help of Role play, short films and dramatics. Services of experts in the field of child psychology will also be resorted to bring about clarity in the minds of children," said Anil Mittal, Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO), Delhi Police.

"To make the program interesting for children, information is imparted in the form of 'Questions and Answers' session. This initiative is a step further by the Delhi Police to instill confidence in the minds of blooming buds to teach them to raise their voice and report such incidents," said APRO.

Patnaik also said that "Naazuk" is different from Nirbhik program. "In Nirbhik, police address children in schools while in Naazuk, we reach out to children and their parents in their residential areas and living spaces.

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Fire breaks out in furniture showroom in Tilak Nagar

'The fire was brought under control by 2.50 am. No injuries or casualties have been reported. The cause of the blaze is yet to be ascertained'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In another fire incident reported in the national Capital, furniture worth lakhs of rupees was gutted in a fire that broke out in a showroom on Jail Road in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar.

According to a senior Delhi Fire Services (DFS) official, a call was received about the blaze at 1.27 am following which four fire tenders were rushed to the spot. "The fire was brought under control by 2.50 am. No injuries or casualties have been reported. The cause of the blaze is yet to be ascertained," said the senior official of DFS.

GDA to decongest traffic in city under ITMS

SP SINGH ■ GHAZIABAD



The GDA is also planning to construct a cow shelter home (Gaushtala) on 18,000 square metre lands in the city, the official said.

The Chief Engineer of Municipal Corporation Mohiddin Khan said that earlier the Municipal Corporation had to build the gaushtala in Nandi Park but now it will be developed by GDA as directed by the state administration.

"We have initiated the process and have invited tender for the same. The total cost of both projects would be Rs 79 Crore" he added.

In addition to make the city free from traffic jam, the other shortcomings in road infrastructure are also being taken in consideration. A series of development work will be taken including constructing service lanes alongside major city roads, shifting of electric poles and removing of humpnents in these areas within a stipulated period of two months.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPS



Date : 23-02-2019 (Saturday)

&

24-02-2019 (Sunday)

Venue : All Polling Booths

Time : 10 am to 5 pm

No Voter To Be Left Behind

You will NOT be able to VOTE if your name is not in the Voter List, even if you hold Elector Photo Identity Card

TO ENROLL AS A VOTER APPLY IN FORM 6:

Online: www.nvsp.in

Offline: Special Voter Registration

Robotic method mooted to clean sewers, tanks

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI



'The Government has already taken up various efforts to stop the inhuman practice of manual scavenging, and would soon introduce fully mechanized system to clean the sewage system and septic tanks, still there is a need of robotic solutions for smaller lanes and by lanes where machines cannot go'

In order to curb manual scavenging completely from the national Capital, the Social Welfare department of the Delhi Government is planning to induct 'robotic method' to clean the sewers and septic tanks. The Social Welfare department is also planning to adopt the system of 'Bandicoot-a semi-automatic robot system', used in parts of southern Indian states such as Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Minister of Social Welfare Department, Rajendra Pal Gautam on Thursday conducted a meeting in this regard with the experts from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi Technological University (DTU), Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSIT), Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), and Northern Railways and with the civic bodies.

The Government has already taken up various efforts to stop the inhuman practice of manual scavenging, and would soon introduce fully mechanized system to clean the sewage system and septic tanks, still there

is a need of robotic solutions for smaller lanes and by lanes where machines cannot go," said Gautam.

The Minister further added that, "Recently, in Kerala a Robot named Bandicoot has been developed by Genroboots, Thiruvananthapuram. The Bandicoot is a semi-automatic robot developed which only requires a human operator to stand on the street near the manhole."

The machine with its many cameras, a robotic arm with 360 degree mobility, and a handy bucket to collect the waste does the rest. The operator is only needed for navigation when the manhole is of non-standard size or there are

multiple sewer lines below."

Officials further added that the Bandicoot has been commissioned by municipal bodies in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, where they have also trained 80 manual scavengers to operate the bots in a bid to offset the loss of livelihood.

The experts from various institutions suggested the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to find out suitable robotic system suitable or the conditions of Delhi. It also suggested the system should have censors, helpline number on the sewer. These censors are required to place in the sewer/septic tank so that the status of toxic gases in the manhole may be recorded prior to opening to the manhole.

"Aam Admi Party (AAP) government is with the employees," adding, "That the Delhi government must have authority over the Services Department not only for its smooth functioning, but also for creating a

Sisodia asks Govt staffers to end strike in Secretariat, assures meeting with L-G

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Assuring a meeting with Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal to address the grievances pertaining to implementation of Sahai Committee, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday asked Delhi Government employees to call off the strike in Secretariat.

Three members of the Delhi Government Employees Welfare Association (DGEWA) have been sitting on a hunger-strike outside the Delhi Secretariat for the last four days in favour of their demands.

Umesh Batra, the general secretary of the DGEWA, said there are around 12,000 employees pertaining to Delhi Administration Subordinate Services (DASS), steno and clerk cadre. Sisodia said that services should remain with the elected government so that issues concerning employees can be amicably and quickly resolved.

"Aam Admi Party (AAP) government is with the employees," adding, "That the Delhi government must have authority over the Services Department not only for its smooth functioning, but also for creating a

positive environment for the employees, the lifeline of any government," said Sisodia.

Citing the Sahai committee report, Deputy CM said that since May 2015, AAP government is fighting to retain the services with Delhi government; Our fight is not personal, but against the repressive system," Sisodia added while interacting with employees. The employees working with various departments of the Delhi Government are on a sit-in protest and hunger strike since almost a week demanding implementation of the Sahai Committee Report, recruitment and promotions in vacant positions and general transfer posting policy.

DASS cadre is continuously subjected to injustice," Said Sisodia and appealed to the employees to call off their hunger strike. Since May 2015, we are fighting to retain the services with the Delhi Government. This is not a personal fight, but a fight against the repressive system," the statement quoted Sisodia as saying.

He also said that he was conveying to them, the assurance of

the CM Arvind Kejriwal that their issues will be addressed.

Will highlight AAP's irregularities in Budget session: Vijender Gupta

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Day before the annual Delhi Budget-2019 in the Delhi Assembly, Leader of Opposition (LoP) Vijender Gupta said Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s drama over the grant of full Statehood and delay in granting the sanction for the prosecution in the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) sedition case will be highlighted to corner the Government during Delhi Assembly's Budget Session which starts on February 22.

Gupta, said the BJP will force the AAP Government to answer about the delay in granting sanction for prosecution in the JNU sedition case.

Pertinently, Delhi Police in January filed a chargesheet against former Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in the sedition case registered in 2016.

Kejriwal never approached Cong for alliance: Sheila

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Sheila Dikshit said she was never approached by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to forge an alliance for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls as claimed by him and asserted the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader has reached the "stage of frustration".

"He has not spoken to us. He does not know what he is saying. The AAP has reached the stage of frustration," Dikshit, a three-time Chief Minister of Delhi, told reporters here.

Earlier this month, Kejriwal had told reporters that the Congress has "more or less" ruled out an alliance with the AAP for the Lok Sabha polls.

Meanwhile, Dixit also said that the Congress president Rahul Gandhi will take a final call on party candidates for the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, for which 70 leaders have filed their applications.

not understand." If there is an alliance, the BJP will lose all the seven Lok Sabha seats it currently has in Delhi.

The rally was organised in the minority dominated pocket of Chandni Chowk Lok Sabha seat, currently held by Union minister Harsh Vardhan.

"I don't know what they have in their minds," he said about an alliance with the Congress and alleged that it was "weakening" the AAP in Delhi, drawing comparison with the SP-BSP combine in Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier this month, Kejriwal had told reporters that the Congress has "more or less" ruled out an alliance with the AAP for the Lok Sabha polls.

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Don't believe in fake calls claiming deletion of names: CEO to voters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Aking the citizens to act maturely, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Delhi, Dr. Ranbir Singh, on Thursday advised the voters to check their electoral rolls themselves rather believing in "misleading" phone calls claiming deletion of names from the voter list.

Following the directions of the Election Commission of India, the office of the CEO will conduct special camps on February 23-24 in all the 2,696 polling stations across Delhi to enrol voters whose names have been left out of electoral rolls.

"Around 25 complaints of misleading calls alleging dele-

alleging mass deletion of voters' names in Delhi after the 2015 Assembly elections, claiming the BJP's hand in it. The BJP, in turn, has accused AAP volunteers of making phone calls to voters and falsely claiming that their names were put back on the electoral roll because of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's efforts.

The CEO said the poll panel's focus was to get more people added to the electoral rolls. "Surprisingly, the number of voters in age group of 18-19 years is very low. The number of voters in the age group 18-19 years is around one lakh in Delhi. It should be about 3-4 per cent of the total population of Delhi, which comes to six lakh," Singh said.

The ruling AAP has been

All divisional Rly HQ to get bomb detection squads

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

case of bomb scare on the railway premises.

"We have decided to have both bomb detection and disposal squads stationed at every divisional headquarters so that when there is a scare, action can be initiated quickly.

We will soon get the required equipment and then post personnel for this purpose," RPF Director General (DG) Arun Kumar said adding that squads will be posted over some months starting with identified sensitive divisions, a timeline for

which will be fixed within this financial year.

"Presently, when such cases arise, usually squads of the district police deal with it, the DG said.

There have been several cases of terror strikes at railway stations like a coordinated bomb blasts in 2006, the 26/11 attacks in 2008 where one of the places under fire was the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and the Samjhauta Express blasts in 2007. Following this a proposal was floated to have such squads

in the RPF, but other than certain stations like Bhubaneshwar, very few divisions have such facilities, officials said.

All 73 divisions will now each have a squad of 12-15 personnel who will be trained in detection and disposal of bombs on the railway premises and a BDDS vehicle will also be provided to them. The decision comes months after the Railway Board in an order gave the RPF officers in divisional and zonal levels administrative as well as financial

powers to procure security-related equipment for the force.

"RPF officers in division and zones are empowered to approve security-related items, including drone cameras, baggage scanners, dragon search lights, neck-bend public announcement systems, firing simulators, RFID based access control systems, web and mobile based web solutions, spy cameras, voice recorders... Modern tools for scientific investigation, including call data recorder, body worn cameras, night vision devices," the order said.

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"Around 25 complaints of misleading calls alleging dele-

tion of names from the electoral roll have been received by his office. The complaints have been forwarded to Delhi Police. But, people should themselves check their names in electoral rolls than believing in the misleading calls," said Singh.

The ruling AAP has been



Congratulations Badarpur!

Work of Laying Water Pipeline at Jaitpur Ext., Part-II (Khadda Colony) starts

Laying of Foundation Stone ceremony

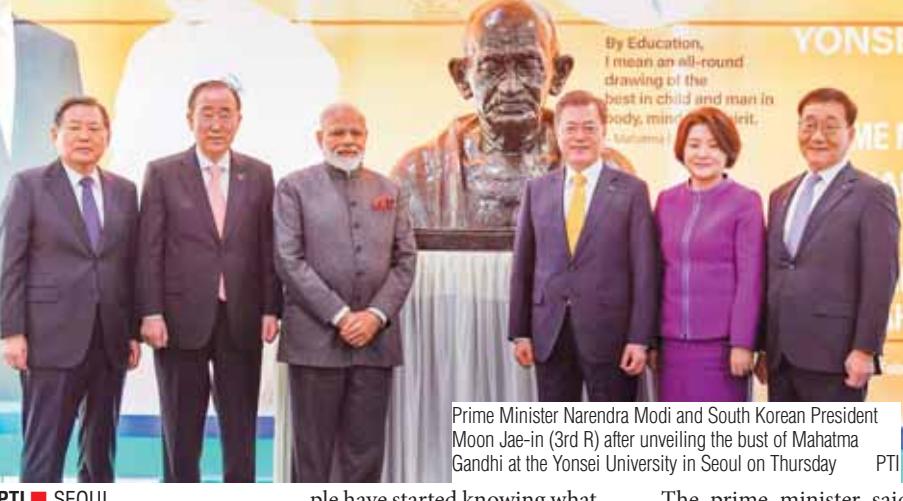
On Friday, 22nd February, 2019 at 4:00 P.M.

Venue: Main Road, Khadda Colony, Jaitpur Ext., Part II,
Near Lal Hospital, Badarpur, New Delhi

"We will make Delhi the best city in the world"

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

India aims to be top 3rd economy: Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in (3rd R) after unveiling the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the Yonsei University in Seoul on Thursday PTI

PTI ■ SEOUL

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Modi said that Indian movies are becoming increasingly popular in Korea.

India and South Korea are stepping-up cooperation in establishing peace, stability and prosperity in the region, Modi said.

"Now we can also hear the voice of Kabaddi-Kabaddi among the Korean children. In 2018, Korean team won Kabaddi's silver medal in the Asian Games. I congratulate all the Korean people for this feat," he said.

The partnership between India and South Korea is being strengthened by the presence of Indian companies in South Korea. Its brands like LG, Samsung, Hyundai have reached even villages, he said.

"The whole world is looking towards India with a hope. Today, India is the fastest-growing major economy of the world. Our economy has become strong."

"Before 2014, we used to listen that India means one of the five fragile economies... Today, it is the fastest-growing major economy of the world. In the next few years, India is fast moving towards becoming the USD 5 trillion economy," Modi said.

India is striving to improve its rankings in the ease of doing business and ease of living index, he said, adding that the biggest indirect tax reform Goods and Services Tax (GST) is now part of the system.

Today, almost every Indian has a bank account. In 1,000 days, more than 33 crore bank accounts were opened. Now these accounts have over USD 12 billion, Modi said.

Under the MUDRA initiative, 128 million people have been given micro-credit worth more than USD 90 billion. The beneficiaries include 74 per cent women.

"There was a special place in the heart of Gandhi for environment... In his memory, we will plant 150 saplings in Korea," he said.

"In Korea, you people not only celebrate all Indian festivals like Holi, Diwali, Baisakhi but you also involve your Korean friends in celebrations."

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Terrorism, climate change biggest challenges before mankind: PM

PTI ■ SEOUL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said terrorism and climate change are two biggest challenges mankind is facing now and Mahatma Gandhi's teachings and values can help the world to address both the pressing issues.

Prime Minister Modi, who arrived here on a two-day visit to strengthen India's strategic ties with South Korea, along with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the prestigious Yonsei University here.

"It is a matter of great honour and my good fortune to unveil the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Korea's premier university today," Modi said.

"This occasion assumes greater significance since we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Gandhi and for the world he is the foremost messiah," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said today humanity across the world is facing two serious problems first terrorism and second is climate change. "If we look at the life of Gandhi, we can find solutions to both these problems. If we look at his teachings, values and the advice he gave we can find a path forward," Modi said.

"Terrorism has challenged the mankind, and at this time Gandhi's teaching, message of unity, values, his message of changing heart of those taken the path of violence through non-violence can show us the way to fight against the scourge of terrorism," he said.

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India-UK tie-up creates wheelchair-accessible maps of Delhi

PTI ■ LONDON

A collaborative project

between the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and University College London (UCL) is developing wheelchair-accessible maps of Delhi using innovative sensing platforms.

The Street Rehab project has been designed to gain a clear understanding of user needs, available technology and the accessibility of India's capital, UCL researchers said on Wednesday.

"Infrastructure in India can often make pushing a wheelchair or tricycle difficult. We are trying to identify how people are currently getting around in Delhi, to find new ways of facilitating rehabilitation and identifying ways to improve infrastructure," said Dr Catherine Holloway of the UCL's

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Opp's crucial anti-BJP meet on Tuesday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of political parties, including the ruling BJP and main Opposition Congress, making alliance partners for the Lok Sabha polls scheduled in next couple of months, the Opposition leaders are all set to meet on Tuesday to discuss the strategy and formation of a sub-committee for evolving a common minimum programme.

The meeting to be held at Mohali in Punjab is to be attended by top leaders like Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu among others.

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- The decision of a public rally in the Congress ruled Punjab is yet to be formalised
- Opposition meeting assumes significance in the wake of both the national parties — the BJP and the Congress — been working overtime to forge alliance
- Both the national parties have announced their alliances in Bihar, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu

The decision of a public rally in the Congress ruled Punjab is yet to be formalised but the meeting is crucial as a day later, the Congress will launch newly appointed general secretary Priyanka Gandhi in his first public rally in Gujarat this month end. The same day the Congress has scheduled its apex body

Congress Working Committee meeting at Ahmedabad.

The Opposition meeting assumes significance in the wake of both the national parties — the BJP and the Congress — been working overtime to forge alliance

and the announcements of Parliamentary seats by the BSP-SP combine who are ready to

take on the Modi juggernaut in crucial Uttar Pradesh. Both the national parties have announced their alliances in Bihar, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Moving forward on a united anti-BJP front for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, top Opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee, Delhi Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal, Naidu, Sharad Yadav, were present in the meeting of Opposition parties at Sharad Pawar's residence on February 13.

The leaders agreed to work together to prepare a common minimum programme to oust the Modi Government and consider forging a pre-poll alliance.

Banerjee, one of the prime movers behind the effort to cobble together an anti-BJP alliance, had organised a mega rally of Opposition parties in Kolkata on January 19. Banerjee has already stated that the differences of parties while in States should be kept aside as the prime agenda of all the Opposition parties is to target the BJP ruled Centre in the Lok Sabha polls.

After Pulwama attack PM was busy shooting for film: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday sharpened its attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Pulwama terrorist attack last week. While it continued to target Modi for his "opened arm" engagement with the crown Prince of Saudi Arabia during the latter visit to India, the grand old party took on the PM over his publicity campaign shooting for a film in the Corbett National Park till the evening of February 14 despite the Pulwama attack taking place in the afternoon.

There was no immediate reaction from the Prime Minister's Office and the BJP over the allegations. Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala, addressing a Press conference, also accused BJP president Amit Shah of "politicisation of terrorism" in his speech in Assam on Sunday.

The Congress said questions must be asked about the "gross intelligence failure" of this Government and on the "priorities of a Prime Minister who on a sensitive time like this has gone on a foreign tour to South Korea instead of tackling terrorism".

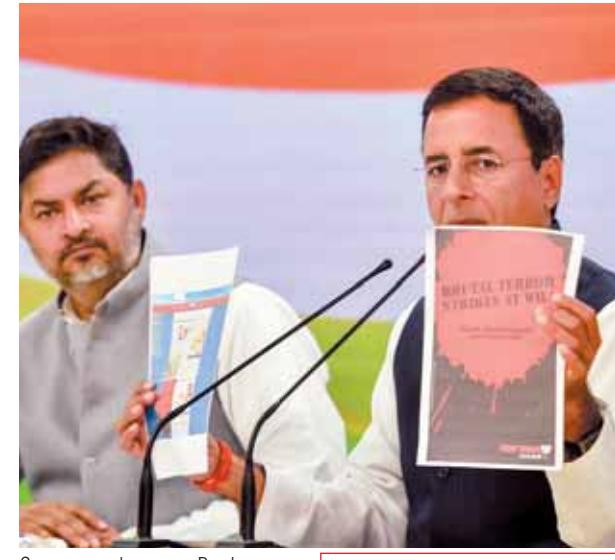
Citing reports from newspapers, Surjewala gave a timeline of events saying the terror attack happened at 3:10 pm on February 14 with the Congress reacting to it at 5:15 pm. "The Prime Minister also knew about it. Yet the PM, a person who claims himself to be a nationalist, continues to shoot a film (for Discovery Channel) for self-propagation in the Corbett National Park in Ramnagar," he claimed.

The Congress spokesperson alleged that the Prime Minister continued to "enjoy boat rides" with the camera crew and later ensured that there was slogan shouting by the BJP people in his favour.

"The Prime Minister continues to have tea, samosas at seven o'clock at Government expense in a PWD guesthouse when every single Indian household didn't have food," he said.

On one hand the country was picking up the "pieces of our martyrs", and on the other hand the Prime Minister was involved in his "propaganda and publicity," Surjewala claimed.

"Can such a conduct be expected from the Prime Minister of a country? The Prime Minister should have been chairing the Cabinet committee on security immediately and should have taken



Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala addresses a Press conference at AICC in New Delhi on Thursday.

action, instead of shooting films," he said.

Surjewala said the Congress had shown restraint on the direction of party president Rahul Gandhi, but it was important to raise issues of such conduct that "insults martyrs". "The Congress party and the entire nation stands united with our armed forces as also our Government in every step that they take in tackling Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. We are determined in that resolve even today," he said.

Surjewala also hit out at the conduct of BJP leaders in the aftermath of the attack. He displayed a photograph purportedly showing BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj smiling during the final journey of a slain jawan and cited Union Tourism Minister KJ Alphons taking a "selfie" at a soldier's funeral. Alphons has denied taking the picture himself saying some miscreants circulated his photograph at the CRPF jawan's funeral as a "selfie".

Surjewala also said Pakistan will not succeed in its designs and invoked Indira Gandhi's strong action in 1971. He also asserted that the Congress, when in power, has always taken moral responsibility in such situations.

Congress spokesperson slammed the Prime Minister for receiving Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the airport and asked whether according a grand welcome to "those who praised" Pakistan's "anti-terror efforts" was his way of remembering the Pulwama attack victims.

BJP: Attack on Modi exposes Cong's infamy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking on the Congress for attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Pulwama attack, the BJP on Thursday lashed out at the Opposition party saying its stand exposes the claim that it was standing with the Government and armed forces in the aftermath of the terror attack in Kashmir and that the party sounds like echoing voices from across the border.

Addressing a Press conference, Union Minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad accused the Congress of seeking to weaken the morale of the armed forces at a time when the whole world is "firmly standing" with India.

Prasad hit out at the Congress for its "shameful" attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said he was in Uttarakhand on the day of Pulwama attack as part of an official programme related to tiger conservation. "Was the Congress aware of the Pulwama attack? We were not aware," the BJP leader said in a dig at the Opposition party.

He said the Congress attack on the Modi Government reflected in removing security of the Kashmiri separatists and eagerness of Kashmiri youth to participate in Army recruitment. He said India has received global backing against Pakistan on the Pulwama attack and the neighbouring country was diplomatically isolated.



Prez promulgates four Ordinances

After nod, Ordinance makes practice of instant triple talaq penal offence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday promulgated four Ordinances, including the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Second Ordinance, 2019. After the President's nod, the ordinance will come into force for the third time in less than a year.

The Ordinance makes the practice of instant Triple Talaq a penal offence.

The Union Cabinet had given its approval to re-issue the Ordinance on Tuesday. The Government failed to pass the Bill, known as the Triple Talaq Bill, in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament.

The Centre had first promulgated the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance in September 2018. A Bill to replace it was passed in the Lok Sabha in December, but remained pending in the Rajya Sabha.

The Government promulgated the Ordinance again after the Winter Session of Parliament, but could not pass the Bill in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session.

The ordinance is set to lapse on June 3, when the current Government's term ends and before the next session of Parliament.

The Triple Talaq ordinance has faced stiff resistance from the Opposition parties. On February 20, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav had said that the ordinance will be used as "a weapon against minorities."

The other ordinances which promulgated by the President, are the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Ordinance 2019; the Companies (Amendment) Second Ordinance 2019 and the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Second Ordinance 2019.

The Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Second Ordinance 2019 is to protect gullible investors from

JeM used YSMS app on dark web, says Pulwama probe

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Preliminary probe into the Pulwama has revealed that YSMS, a mobile application, was hosted on the 'dark web' and regulation of such communication apps on the internet by the US could have helped in containing the Pakistani terror groups' nefarious agenda in the region.

○ The Jaish-e-Mohammad used the YSMS app for communication among one another before executing the suicide bombing on a CRPF convoy

○ YouTube has uploaded millions of videos of LeT and JeM terror preachers, including Hafiz Sayeed, Abdul Rahman Makki and Masood Azhar, leading to continuous radicalisation of the youth in India

○ Twitter is also being used by the Pakistan-based terror groups for furthering the jehadi agenda without putting any effective filters

○ Search engine Google's features are also being exploited by the terror groups for accessing information under the Do It Yourself programmes for knowhow on sensitive issues like assemblage of IED and remotely-operated vehicle

video sharing platform YouTube has uploaded millions of videos of the LeT and JeM terror preachers, including Hafiz Sayeed, Abdul Rahman Makki and Masood Azhar, leading to continuous radicalisation of the youth in India and the region.

YET ANOTHER AMERICAN FIRM Twitter is also being used by the Pakistan-based terror groups for furthering the jehadi agenda without putting any effective filters. Search engine Google's features are also being exploited by the terror groups for accessing information under the Do It Yourself (DIY) programmes for knowhow on sensitive issues like assemblage of IED and remotely-operated vehicle. IEDs have been used by the terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir. The inimical forces, including Zakir Musa, a former Jaish commander who has since

floated Ansar Ghatalat Hind, subsequently rechristened as al-Qaeda Kashmir is seeking to develop remotely-operated vehicles for execution of bomb blasts in the Kashmir Valley.

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BHIMA KOREGAON-ELGAAR PARISHAD CASE

Supplementary chargesheet filed in court

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Pune police on Thursday filed a 1,837-page supplementary chargesheet before a Pune court against five more persons, including human rights activist Sudha Bharadwaj and fugitive Maoist leader Ganapathy alias Chandrashekhar, in connection with the much-discussed Elgaar Parishad-cum-Bhima-Koregaon riots case.

Three months after they filed the first charge sheet against ten accused in the same case, the Pune police filed a comprehensive charge-sheet before the Additional Sessions Judge Kishor Vadane.

Apart from Bhardwaj and Ganapathy, the three other accused named in the supplementary chargesheet are, Telugu poet Varavara Rao, activists Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Pereira.

Like in the case of the earlier charge-sheet, the five activists have been charged under various relevant sections of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 117 (abetting commission of offence), 120-b (conspiracy)

read with 34 (common intention), 121, 121 (A) (Waging or attempting to wage a war, or abetting waging of war, against the Government of India) 124A (sedition), 153 -A (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot...) and 505-1b (statements conducing public mischief) of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Confirming that a supplementary charge-sheet had been filed in the local court, Pune's Joint Commissioner of Police Shivaji Bodkhe said on Thursday, "The evidence that we have produced against the five accused includes evidence retrieved from electronic devices seized from the arrested activists. We have charged them with waging war against the nation and spreading the ideology of their banned organisation and creating caste conflicts, disaffection and hatred in the society."

On November 15 last year, the Pune police had filed the first chargesheet before a special court in Pune against 10 persons in the Bhima-Koregaon riots case, accusing them among other things of conspiring to kill Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and overthrow the democratically elected government in the country.

In their chargesheet filed before a Special Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) Court in Pune ten weeks after the same court extended a 90-day deadline for filing the charge-sheet by another 90 days, the Pune police had named Sudhir P. Dhawale, Rona J Wilson, Surendra P Gadling, Shoma Sen, Mahesh S. Raut as among the 10 persons. They had been arrested from various parts of the country on June 6.

The five other accused named in their charge-sheet as the absconding accused by the Pune police were M alias Milind Teltumbde from Yavatmal, Prakash alias Navin

Alias Ritupan Goswami from Assam, Manglu, Dipu and Kishan Prashant Bose, all owing allegiance to the banned CPI (Maoists). The chargesheet stated that these five accused had gone "underground" in various parts of the country.

The ten accused named in the first charge-sheet in the Bhima-Koregaon case have been charged under the same sections as is the case with the five accused, including Bhardwaj, against whom the supplementary charge-sheet was filed on Thursday.

The charge-sheet had stated that the five arrested activists --Dhawale, Wilson, Gadling, Shoma Sen and S. Raut --were linked to the CPI (Maoists) which carried out subversive activities through under-

ground means. Human and civil rights organisations like Indian Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL), Anuradha Ghandi Memorial Committee (AGMC), Kabir Kala Manch, all of which set up legally, were supporting the outlawed CPI (Maoists).

According to the chargesheet, accused number two Rona J Wilson had colluded with Shoma Sen and Arun Pereira, secretary of the outlawed CPI (Maoist)'s Eastern Regional Bureau, along with other underground activists hatched a conspiracy to kill the Prime Minister of India.

Like in the case of the previous ten accused, the current five have been charged with "waging a war" against the nation.

Five Maoist-linked activists Human Rights activists Rona Wilson Jacob, Surendra Gadling, Sudhir Dhawale, Prof Shoma Sen and Mahesh Raut were arrested by the Pune police on June 6, in connection with the Elgaar Parishad and subsequent Bhima-Koregaon caste riots.

Subsequently on June 8, the

investigators had claimed that they had recovered from the laptop of Wilson an allegedly incriminating letter, which uncovered an alleged plot by the Maoists to carry out "Rajiv Gandhi-type" assassination of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On August 28, the Pune police arrested five more activists Varavara Rao, Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Pereira, Sudha Bharadwaj and Gautam Navlakha for their association with the Elgaar Parishad held in Pune a day ahead of the January 1, 2018 Bhima-Koregaon riots and their alleged links with the Maoists.

It may be recalled that on January 1, one Rahul Phatangale (28), a Dalit, was killed and another 40-odd vehicles and some other property were damaged after some miscreants attacked Dalits celebrating the January 1, 1818 victory of British troops over Peshwa Bajirao II's army at Bhima-Koregaon in Pune district of western Maharashtra.

Following the incident, Maharashtra had witnessed large-scale Dalit protests which turned violent at some places.

DMDK proves to be tough, seeks more seats from AIADMK

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

reporters that his visit was to wish Vijayakanth best of health and a speedy recovery. "We spoke politics also and I requested him to take a decision keeping the national interests in mind," he said.

Sources close to the actor said that Vijayakanth has some "accounts to settle" with the AIADMK, which he claims was instrumental in decimating his outfit after the 2011 assembly election.

Vijayakanth has reportedly told the AIADMK representative who called on him that during the 2014 Lok Sabha election, his party was allocated 14 seats by the BJP while the PMK was given only seven seats. The AIADMK had signed a deal with the PMK on Tuesday allocating seven seats and a Rajya Sabha seat for the Vanniyar dominated party.

While the AIADMK had smooth negotiations with the PMK and the BJP, Vijayakanth is proving himself to be a tough nut. The situation turned curious on Thursday as S Thirunavakarassar, the former TNCC president called on the actor-turned-politician at the latter's residence in Chennai.

The Congress leader who spent nearly 30 minutes with the actor and his family later told

If the AIADMK parts with seven seats to the DMDK, the ruling party would be left with just 19 seats. There are parties like Putiya Tamilakam, TMC and fringe parties which too have to be accommodated in the front, which is causing anxiety to the AIADMK leadership.

The DMK had on Wednesday allocated nine seats in Tamil Nadu and the lone seat in Puducherry to the Congress.

MHA survey to assess pro-citizen policing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry will carry out a pan-India survey to assess public perception on citizen-centric police services like women safety and reporting of crimes, officials said Thursday. The survey will commence next month and cover a representative sample of 1.2 lakh households spread over 173 districts across the country, based on the National Sample Survey framework.

All the states and the Union Territories would be included in this survey and it will be completed in nine months, a Home Ministry official said.

The survey is aimed to understand public perception about police, gauge the level of non-reporting of crimes or incidents to police, the position on ground relating to crime reporting and recording, timeliness and quality of police response and action and experience about women and children's safety.

The outcome of the survey is expected to bring out useful suggestions for stakeholders in formulating and implementing appropriate policy responses and changes in the functioning of police at the cutting edge and for improving crime prevention and investigation, transformation in community policing.

It is also expected to improve the access to the justice and increased or appropriate resource allocation for police in a systematic manner, the official said.

From time-to-time, several initiatives have been taken by the central government, aimed at facilitating and supplementing the efforts of state governments and the Union Territories in providing citizen-centric police services.

A globally accepted way to assess the impact or outcomes of such endeavours is through a holistic analysis of services rendered to the public, through public perception surveys conducted by professional and independent agencies.

Such surveys are globally tested tools for improving service delivery in policing and enhancing public satisfaction.

With the above aim and to further strengthen the good governance practices in the working of police, the Home Ministry has commissioned the Bureau of Police Research and Development to conduct this pan-India survey called the All India Citizens Survey of Police Services, another official said.

The survey will be conducted through the National Council of Applied Economic Research in New Delhi.

The states and the UTs have been requested to extend full cooperation to the conduct of the survey, and to adopt this good practice and prepare their police for undertaking such surveys on their own in the future, the official said.

POST-PULWAMA BACKLASH

Yuva Sena workers beat up 4 Kashmiri students in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a disturbing incident that took place a week after the Pulwama terror attack, four Kashmiri students were humiliated, beaten up and forced by Yuva Sena activists to raise slogans like "Vande Mataram", "Hindustan Zindabad" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai" at Yavatmal in eastern Maharashtra.

Umar Rashid Dar (19) and Umar Nazir Ganai (20) both from Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir and two of their other friends from the same state were caught hold of near their rented homes at Yavatmal late on Wednesday night, beaten up and forced to raise slogans hailing India, by the Yuva Sena activists.

The victim students are from Dayabhai Patel College of Physical Education. The Yuva 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 40 CRPF jawans were killed.

Referring to possibility of dialogue between India and Pakistan Omar said, "talks with Pakistan cannot be held in the backdrop of terror attacks such as the one in Pulwama, in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed. Our PM has talked about a 'muh tod jawab' but such a reply is not possible in the current situation as the Pakistan PM has also stated that they would not think of but retaliate if any attack is launched by India," Abdulla said.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar Omar told reporters, "All over the country but especially in some areas, an entire population is being malignified. Our students outside the State, with no connection to politics, are being targeted and expelled. This is nothing but a conspiracy. Why is the Centre silent on it?"

Reacting to Omar's statement on a TV debate Governor Satya Pal Malik later said "I don't want to comment on what Omar said but, I can tell you something for your information, there are approximately 22000-25000 Kashmiri students studying outside J&K, not a single student has even been slapped."

He said, "At eleven locations we had appointed liaison

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 with the 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 Kashmair for the last one and a half years... There are 15 to 20 Kashmiri students in Yavatmal (the Yuva Sena leader tells the student: Tell them not to be here)," would not satisfy the Yuva Sena leader who continued to beat him and other students up.

The footage of the incident also showed the Yuva Sena leader order the victim Kashmiri students to raise slogans like "Hindustan Zindabad", "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai". The victim students readily obliged the Yuva Sena leader.

Incidentally, the incident took place four days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Yavatmal town to launch several development projects. In his speech, Modi said that however the perpetrators of Pulwama mayhem "will definitely be punished" and the security forces had been given a "free hand" to deal with the counter-attack they deemed fit.

Following the incident, the Yuva Sena came in for sharp criticism from various quarters. In a damage control exercise, Yuva Sena were, as to why they had come to

president Aditya Thackeray urged his supporters not to vent their anger against "people from our own country" all in the name of "showing their anger against Pakistan".

"I think the outrage was against Pakistan and the need to give it a fitting reply is important... But we must ensure that this is not directed at our own citizens in any manner," Aditya said.

"What has happened is not proper and highly condemnable. If they are our members we would take action against them," Yuva Sena secretary Varun Sardesai said. Meanwhile, the local Lohara police station has registered a case in connection with the incident. "We are recording the statements of the victims and we would soon identify the accused," Yavatmal's district superintendent of police M Rajkumar said.

Extending support to the victim students, Dayabhai Patel College of Physical Education Sandeep Chawak said: "We are with the affected students. Three of the four victim students are studying in our college for the past three years, while the remaining one has been here for the past one year".

A team of police led by DSP Rajkumar visited the college, interacted with the students and assured them that there would not be any repeat of such incidents. "We have increased the security and patrolling around homes where the Kashmiri boys stay," Rajkumar told the students.

Jammu police file case for shouting anti-national slogans

Jammu: Cracking whip against the anti-national elements, the Jammu and Kashmir police has registered a case against those involved in pro-Pakistan and anti-India sloganising outside GGM Science College in Jammu on February 11.

According to police spokesman, "FIR has been registered under Sections section (124A RPC), Punishment for wrongful restraint (341), Punishment for rioting (147) rioting, armed with deadly weapon (148) and endangering life or personal safety of others (336) against unidentified persons".

Police had gathered mobile/CCTV footage from local businessmen to identify these persons involved in anti-India sloganising

As per the hue and cry notice issued by SSP Jammu Tejinder Singh, SP city North, Jammu has intimated that some unknown persons have raised anti-national slogans near the college, out of which the pictures of three unidentified persons have been traced out and are wanted in the FIR.

"As such photographs of these unidentified persons are being published for the information of police establishments and public in general, having any clue related to whereabouts and present locations of these accused persons, communicate the same on the contacts of police," the notice said.

Police had gathered mobile/CCTV footage from local businessmen to identify these persons involved in anti-India sloganising.

College students had boycotted their classes for three days after police lathicharged them inside the GGM science college premises while they were protesting against stranded passengers for raising anti-India and pro-Pakistan slogans in Jammu. PNS



US Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster visits the Charminar, in the old city of Hyderabad on Thursday PTI

ZONAL OFFICE, AMRITSAR SCO 102, DISTT. SHOPPING CENTRE, RANJIT AVENUE, AMRITSAR. PH. 0183-5099346

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-AUCTION NOTICE

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION

LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE

22-03-2019 upto 05:00 PM by Draft / ONLINE / NEFT / RTGS

26-03-2019 from 10.30 AM Onwards

DATE OF THE INSPECTION OF THE PROPERTIES

11-03-2019 to 12-03-2019 from 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM with Greater Noida Branch F-Block, Beta - II, Commercial Complex, Greater Noida. Ph. : 0120-2321493, 494, 98849-18838

Demand Notice Date

Outstanding Amount

01-10-2018

Rs. 45,98,056/22 + Interest, other charges and less recovery if any, till date affected

Account Name / Number for EMD Submission through RTGS / NEFT

Mr. Om Parkash Verma Ph. 0181-5081916, (M) 92347-06732 A/c no. 640005081916 IFSC : BKID0006400

Description of the Immoveable Property : Residential 3 BHK + SERV Flat no. STR-3-1503 at 15 Floor of a Basement + 16 Storied Residential Group Housing Building Plot constructed in a FR Noida development & approved residential use area total super built up area admeasuring 195.70 sq. Mtrs approx situated at Star Court Appmts. Surajpur Kansa Road, JP Greens GR Noida Gautam Budh Nagar UP, in the name of Mrs. Sunira Sobti W/o Mr. Sunchit Sobti (Free Hold Property - Symbolic Possession)

Terms & Conditions of the E-auction are as under :- (1) E-auction is being held on "As is Where is" & "As is What is Basis" and will be conducted "On Line". The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s C-1 India Private Limited, Gurgaon at the Webportal (<https://www.bankeauctions.com>) E-auction Tender document containing online e-auction bid form, declaration, General Terms and Conditions of Online auction sale are available in websites : (a) <https://www.bankofindia.co.in> (b) <https://www.bankeauctions.com> (2) To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the properties. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on auction and claims / rights / dues / affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-auction advertisement does not constitute and will be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property are being sold with all the existing & future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims / rights / dues (3) The intending purchasers / bidders are required to deposit EMD amount either through by way of Demand Draft by 22-03-2019 upto 05.00 pm drawn in favour of Bank of India with above mentioned Branch drawn on any Nationalized or Scheduled Bank or through NEFT / RTGS by 22-03-2019 upto 05.00 pm in above mentioned accounts. Please note that the Cheques shall not be accepted as EMD amount (4) In case of sole bidder, he / she has to increase minimum 1 Bid from Reserve Price (5) The intending bidders should submit the evidence for EMD deposit like UTR number along with Request Letter for the E-auction, self attested copies of (a) Proof of Identification (KYC) viz. Voter ID Card / Driving Licence / Passport etc. (b) Current Address Proof for communication (c) PAN card of the bidder (d) Valid e-mail ID (e) contact no. (Mobile / Landline) of the bidder etc. to the Authorised Officer of above mentioned Branch of Bank of India. Scanned copies of the original of these documents can also be submitted to e-mail ID of the Authorised Officers (6) Names of the Eligible Bidders, will be identified by the Bank of India above mentioned Branches to participate in the online e-auction on the web portal <https://www.bankeauctions.com>, M/s C-1 India Private Limited Gurgaon will provide User ID and Password after due verification of PAN of the Eligible Bidders. (7) It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the properties before submission of the bid. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of the amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increment Amount" against each property. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the e-auction process shall be declared as Successful Bidder & a communication to that

Didi for united, powerful India

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

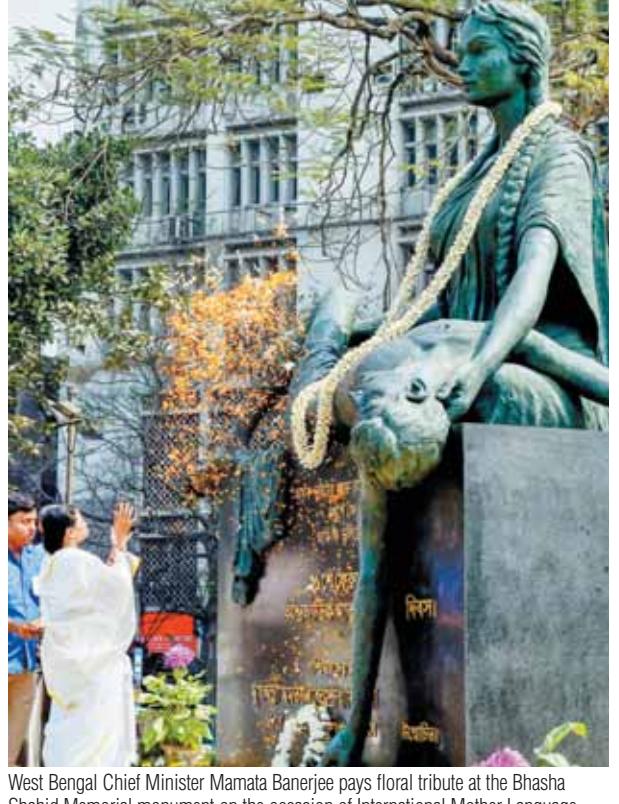
Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday expressed her strong resolve to espouse and defend India's unity and urged the people to respect each others' languages in tandem with taking "pride in your mother tongue."

Banerjee who was speaking at the inauguration of the International Mother Language Day said she wanted a truly united India which was powerful and where the people were mutually respectful each others' cultures.

In an apparent reference to the post-Pulwama hysterics where the people of Kashmir were subjected to victimisation all over the country Banerjee said the entire community should not be judged by the act of one person.

"I cannot expect victimisation of (Kashmiri) people for one instance," she said adding "there is no reason to judge all the Kashmiris by the act of one person."

A suicide attacker from Kashmir had last week rammed into a CRPF convoy with an IED-loaded vehicle killing 44 jawans inviting world-wide



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee pays floral tribute at the Bhasha Shahid Memorial monument on the occasion of International Mother Language Day in Kolkata on Thursday

PTI

condemnation against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in India. Banerjee who earlier

expressed on the Twitter her "best wishes to all on International Mother Language Day" asking the people to "respect all languages but take pride in your mother tongue" told a gathering at Deshapriya Park in South Kolkata that she wanted a united India which was strong and powerful by dint of its unity.

"We all want to sleep with unity, walk with unity, talk with unity... we want a united India, a powerful India," Banerjee said.

Meanwhile, ruling Trinamool Congress sources said the Bengal Chief Minister would next week attend the anti-BJP opposition meet scheduled to be held at Mohali in Punjab.

The meeting is likely to be held on February 26. A senior TMC leader said "the Chief Minister will take part in the all-party meeting at Mohali as she has been a prime mover for an opposition unity to throw the BJP out of power."

Banerjee had earlier attended a similar meeting at NCP chief Sharad Pawar's residence in Delhi where she met most opposition leaders including Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

IED recovered from Govt bus in Maharashtra

Security beefed at bus depots, stands, checks ordered in buses

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

An improvised explosive device (IED) was recovered from a State Transport bus in Maharashtra's Raigad district late on Wednesday night.

The ST bus was on its way from Karjat to Apta village near Panvel town when the driver found a suspected material kept in a bag on board the bus, at around 11 pm.

The circumspect ST bus driver quickly acted and asked the passengers to disembark the bus. He also immediately alerted the police about the finding.

A team of Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad from the nearby Alibaug rushed to the spot shortly afterwards. The team found that the material looking like a device kept in a bag was indeed an IED. "The team took nearly five hours

to defuse the IED by removing the wires and detonator in it. The police sanitised the ST bus in the early hours of today," a senior police officer said.

Raigad's district superintendent of police Anil Paraskar said that device had been sent for forensic examination. "We have a reason to believe the device might have been kept to create a panic and terror among people," Paraskar said.

After the incident, the coastal Raigad district was placed under a high alert. The State-run Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) ordered beefing up of security across its depots, bus stands and buses in the state.

Maharashtra's Transport minister Diwakar Raote ordered a check of all the buses in its fleet. "This is serious and the matter is being investigated," he said.

Meanwhile, initial investigations have revealed the IED device was of relatively low intensity explosive.

Govt empowers Assam Rifles to arrest, search sans warrant

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Assam Rifles personnel have been empowered by the Central Government to arrest anyone and search a place without warrant in northeastern States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram", the notification said.

Section 41 of the CrPC states that any police officer may, without an order from a magistrate and without a warrant, arrest any person. Section 47 gives powers for search of place entered by person sought to be arrested.

Section 48 says a police officer may, for the purpose of arresting without warrant any person whom he is authorised to arrest, pursue such person into any place in India.

According to a Home Ministry notification, "an 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, 51, 53, 54, 149, 150, 151 and 152 of the

Penal Code.

A prosecution lawyer said that Deb had forged her testimonials and joined the University as a lecturer in mathematics despite being an undergraduate. Photostat copies of her forged mark sheets and certificates were allegedly stamped and attested by Dr Sinha who functioned as the VC of the said central University from 1995 to 2001.

Rashbehari Ghosh a professor in the University of Calcutta. As a result Deb's forged testimonial established her as a B.Sc, M.Sc and M.Phil pass outs from CU, Jadavpur University and Visva Bharati University respectively. The Registrar was found guilty for neglecting his duty by cross-checking the testimonials.

A case was registered after Deb applied for enrolment in Ph.D course in 2002. When she was asked to produce her original certificates she withdrew her application saying they had been stolen and even placed a police diary in favour of her claims.

After the authorities conducted a probe all the three were found guilty and an FIR was registered with the Bolpur Police Station.

Meanwhile, the advocate of the convicts said his client would prefer an appeal in the higher courts even as the trio was taken into jail custody.

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of the prosecution lawyers.

Deb was sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Arvind Mishra on Thursday sentenced ex VC and mathematician Dilip Kumar Sinha, Registrar Dilip Kumar Mukherjee and Mutki Deb a former professor to 5 years' RI after they were found guilty under various sections of Forgery Act, and Sections 467, 468, 471, 475 and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code.

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Saudi significance

India's ties with Saudi Arabia have been symbiotic but it's important to balance the relationship



For some, it might seem incongruous that Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin-Salmān (MbS), at the airport when the *de facto* ruler of the world's largest oil producer and effective leader of the Muslim world landed in India. MbS, as a young leader who styles himself in an attempt to be cool with young Saudis, had after all just gone to Pakistan merely days after the Pulwama attack and not even rapped the Pakistanis. But then, screamed critics in India, why was Narendra Modi going to receive MbS at the airport? He should have been given the same treatment that Justin Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, got during his official visit last year thanks to the Khalistani links of that government.

The problem is that this is a complicated geopolitical issue that cannot really be brought down to simplistic arguments. The close ties between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan go back a long way, to the formation of Pakistan as a theocratic Islamist state. Saudi Arabia provided Pakistan with money and weapons during the 1965 and 1971 wars, and it was rumoured to have even provided fighter pilots. Pakistan plays a role for Saudi Arabia as well, it channelised Saudi money and citizens such as Osama bin Laden into Afghanistan where they fought as *mujahideen* against the Soviet Army in what became a "Holy War" of sorts. Given the shortage of Saudi citizens wanting to be enlisted soldiers, Pakistani citizens make up large numbers in that nation's army. And it was Pakistani special forces that finally helped the Saudi state and the ruling al-Saud family during the dramatic 1979 rebellion in Mecca when the Ka'ba itself was stormed. Today, Pakistan is a pawn in Saudi Arabia's undeclared war with Shia Iran. So when MbS says that Pakistan has the potential for \$20 billion in investment, he is in essence repaying a debt to Pakistan.

Therefore, some might ask why India should entertain a man so obviously allied with Pakistan. Of course, India's huge Muslim population is the most obvious reason, so keeping MbS and the Saudi state at least partially on one's side is the intelligent thing to do. And it is no secret that Modi has received very few leaders at the airport, MbS and previously Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, being two of them. India plays a critical role between those two nations, in fact that is why Air India got overflying rights over Saudi Arabia for its Tel Aviv flight. And then there is the simple fact that Saudi Arabia is home to millions of Indians and the remittances they send here are still important to our economy. MbS wants to encourage the 'Saudisation' of the job force in his country which will be detrimental to Indian workers, so keeping him on our side is strategic. Of course, Saudi Arabia is and will remain one of the largest suppliers of oil to India and now as it prepares for a post-oil future, its funds to India's start-up economy matter as well. MbS is no hero, his role in the brutal murder of columnist Jamal Khashoggi and the way he went after his rivals in the Saudi court should worry people. But we have little choice but to keep Saudi Arabia happy. However, it is plainly clear that MbS is learning on the job and has realised that prickling India is not the way to go even for him.

No gods in Tamil Nadu

Minus the monolithic Jayalalithaa and Karunanidhi, the state will give a mixed verdict



For the first time in Tamil Nadu, elections won't be about demi-gods in the absence of J Jayalalithaa and M Karunanidhi, the two leaders who had become larger than life enough to not only dominate state politics but alternately become kingmakers in national governments with plum portfolios. And considering the southern state along with Puducherry has a sizeable 40 seats in the Lok Sabha, all national parties or coalitions have courted them at one time or the other. There have

been stories about getting a rare audience with the imperious Jayalalithaa after hours of waiting at her Poes Garden residence and confabulations with the closest aide of Karunanidhi to convey messages from Delhi. So yes, with their passing, there is a political vacuum which their successors may not be able to fill. Despite best intentions. And though both the AIADMK and DMK are looking at national parties, the former aligning with the BJP and the latter with the Congress, to cushion themselves from a great fall, fact is both, in their current denuded state, may for the first time give their national counterparts a confidence to make good in Tamil Nadu on their own. They themselves might just become survivors rather than captains of their destiny. Contrary to the two icons, who have always looked outward as nobody challenged their heavyweight status at home, their parties at this time are looking inward, hoping their alliances will decide their fate in the Assembly elections.

Let's look at the AIADMK, the giant killer of the 2014 elections, and its tie-up with the BJP, which is not exactly riding a Modi wave this time. But it is the best fertile ground for both to pull each other up, especially now that the BJP has mended fences with its erstwhile ally, the PMK. One doesn't know whether Jayalalithaa's posters or videos will have the same effect as her live campaigns but the AIADMK under Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami is clearly fearing a sizeable fall in vote share. Torn by dissension and faction fights, he has safely staked the party's future in only 25 seats. Besides, the nephew of Jayalalithaa's aide Sasikala, TTV Dhinakaran, is likely to take a big bite of the AIADMK's vote pie. Dhinakaran is nowhere trying to appropriate Amma's aura but away from the alliance photo sessions, he is campaigning in the villages, emerging to be the only leader after her to put Tamil Nadu first and talk about people's issues. Voters feel Palaniswami has not stood up enough in the Cauvery water dispute or the Sterlite protests. Besides, Dhinakaran has an excellent ground network in southern Tamil Nadu. Of course, the PMK, given its past vote share, could steady the northern votes for the AIADMK-led alliance. But nobody expects a blockbuster performance, though every incremental seat for the BJP could only help in making up a projected deficit in its national tally. Technically, the DMK scion MK Stalin has a slight edge and is following his astute father's template in stitching up a pact with the Congress. First, the DMK is better off than 2014, when the 2G scam did it in and it fought without allies, its voteshare plummeting in a free fall. Now that Raja and M Kanmozi are acquitted in the 2G case, the DMK and the Congress are hoping to regain their 2009 vote share of around 44 per cent. Meanwhile, actor Kamal Haasan could emerge vote cutter than the new god. Tamil Nadu seems to be setting an all-new template of hand-holders.

For India's response to the Pulwama terror attack to be truly effective, we must show our ability to be patient and cause maximum damage at the most appropriate time



AJOY KUMAR

February 14, 2019, will henceforth be remembered as a day marred by the horrific images of a cowardly act of terror where more than 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) soldiers were killed in Pulwama. The suicide bomber, Adil Ahmad Dar, who has been identified as the culprit of this dastardly act, detonated close to 60 kilos of explosives near a convoy of CRPF soldiers. The Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) has claimed responsibility for this act of terror and it has been widely reported that the JeM has been supported and enabled by the Government of Pakistan. There is no denying the fact that this was a day of mourning for India but it is crucial that this incident also becomes an inflection point where India provides a befitting reply to its enemies and emerges stronger than before.

India then stands at the crossroads. While every Indian, I am sure, agrees that such acts of terror must not go unpunished and should be avenged, the question for us as Indians is: What constitutes a befitting reply? Is it a reply that is ill-thought out, reactionary and detrimental to India's interests and values in the long-term or is it one where we emerge stronger and show the enemies of our country that while its enemies will try creating a divide through cowardly acts of terror, our country will continue to stand unafraid and unmoved. We must refuse to give up those values, which distinguish us from failed states that have long ago given up the ideals of a prosperous and democratic society.

I am just as angry and livid at the attack as any patriot but at a time like this, it is important to remember the words of Aristotle, who had said, "Anybody can become angry — that is easy, but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose and in the right way — that is not within everybody's power and is not easy." In this week's column, I will attempt to show how India can show its enemies that not only is the country capable of taking hard decisions and demonstrate that these acts of terror will not be taken lying down but also that it will emerge stronger because of them.

Establish a Commission after such acts of terror: In the aftermath of 9/11, the US instituted the 9/11 Commission, which was an independent, bipartisan body consisting of not only Republicans and Democrats but also staff members, who were experts in various fields. The Commission was charged with preparing a complete report of the circumstances surrounding the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. The report examined the preparedness of the US and also provided recommendations to guard against such future attacks. It is imperative that India draws a similar approach by constituting a commission of experts, which examines the chronology of events that ultimately led to the February 14 attack and debate this report in Parliament. Ultimately, this report should be made public since such a step will help heap public pressure and prevent such lapses in the future.

Strength from within first, then without: Terrorism's short-term objective is to inflict pain and sorrow through violence, and while horrific, its long-term aim of creating an environment that thrives on hate and suspicion in the country is much more frightening and harmful. This terrorist attack seeks to achieve the same goal. We, as Indians, must not succumb.

While understandably, there is a lot of anger in our country over these attacks, some of the reactions to it are



body examined the chronology of events on September 11, 2001, right from early 1999, when the hijackers prepared for the attack while living in Germany till the point when the planes had been hijacked by the terrorists. At each point in the chronology of events, the Commission submitted expert suggestions on how to plug each and every lapse that led to the 9/11 attacks. It is imperative that India draws a similar approach by constituting a commission of experts, which examines the chronology of events that ultimately led to the February 14 attack and debate this report in Parliament. Ultimately, this report should be made public since such a step will help heap public pressure and prevent such lapses in the future.

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While understandably, there is a lot of anger in our country over these attacks, some of the reactions to it are

questionable and are, in fact, aiding our enemies. The first type of reaction is one that demands an all-out war against another nuclear power. Unsurprisingly, a number of these calls are from individuals, who have the luxury to opine without the threat of consequence. The more rational voices on the subject are typically from soldiers and members of the armed forces, who understand the cost of war and, perhaps, more significantly, the cost of rashness in a battlefield.

For example, if India does execute its response without adequate preparedness and at an inopportune time, it will run the huge risk of losing more brave soldiers, not because of an act of terror but due to rashness.

Such an outcome is unacceptable. While desire for revenge is normal, it cannot be at the cost of recklessness disregard for an Indian life. That outcome, in my opinion, is unacceptable. While there are always casualties in war, it is difficult to justify such casualties if they are a result of aggression.

The other type of reaction we have seen is the targeting of Kashmiris across India. This, too, is a response that cannot be justified and must be condemned. First, from a humane perspective, we must recognise that the minute we take out our anger on

an entire community due to our pain over terrorist attacks, we lose humanity, something that distinguishes us from the cowardly terrorists, who attack India and what it stands for.

All of us, including all political parties, must come out clearly and unequivocally against this behaviour. We must recognise that such a reaction is what the forces, that seek to divide India, actually hope to achieve. Creating divides within the country so that we turn on each other makes any future acts of terror easier for our enemies. We must not allow the enemies of the country inflict that sort of irreparable damage.

An examination of acts of terror throughout the world shows that rarely if ever are acts of terror random acts of violence. Instead, they are thoroughly planned and ruthlessly executed. Therefore, in order to be truly effective, our response must also demonstrate our ability to be patient and cause maximum damage at the most appropriate time. While it may be easy to give in to our more basic demands for immediate revenge, I think we can demand better from ourselves and emerge stronger as a result of it.

(The writer is Jharkhand PCC president, former MP and IPS officer. Views are personal)

SOUND BITE

It is essential that there must be accountability under international law and perpetrators of terrorist acts be brought to justice swiftly.

UN chief
—Antonio Guterres



Who is destroying the party? Our own people from the party. It (SP) was such a strong party and won elections on its own.

Samajwadi Party veteran
—Mulayam Singh Yadav



They (BCCI) threaten the players by asking them not to play in the Pakistan Super League, else they won't be allowed to play in IPL.

Former Pakistan skipper
—Shahid Afridi



As far as development is concerned, there should be no politics on this. State and Centre should unite for development.

Vice President
—Venkaiah Naidu



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

China stands exposed

Sir — On the one hand, India has relentlessly been demanding that Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief, Maulana Masood Azhar, be banned and has been exerting pressure on the UN to declare him as global terrorist. On the other, China, one of the permanent member nations in the UN, has constantly been foiling India's bid to name him.

Ironically, another permanent member country, France, has been moving a proposal to ban Azhar. Saudi Foreign Minister, Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, joined the chorus and demanded his proscription. Meanwhile, Russia, too, has said that it isn't averse to banning Azhar. Clearly, China stands exposed on its self-appeasing approach. It is also a fact that the JeM claimed responsibility for the Pulwama attack. Beijing needs to know that terrorism in one part of the world slowly and steadily spearheads to every nook and corner. It cannot be an exception to terror.

KV Seetharamaiah

Hassan

Alliance politics in Chennai

T he battle lines are drawn in Tamil Nadu. The formalisation of the alliance between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) followed by the Congress' seat-sharing agreement with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) means the choice before the electorate has been limited to these two alliances. Whether TTV Dinakaran's Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) upstages the EPS-OPS-led AIADMK remains to be seen. If Kamal Haasan's Makkal Needhi Maiyam decides to go solo, it will have only an outside chance.

In the AIADMK-BJP combine, it is a clear case of one party piggybacking on another. The BJP and the AIADMK are not natural allies but an opportunistic combine. As a Dravidian party, AIADMK subscribes or should subscribe to the conception of social justice by Periyar and not to the Hindutva ideology espoused by the BJP. No wonder, the BJP-AIADMK alliance is widely perceived to be an 'alliance of convenience.' On the other hand,

They (BCCI)

threaten the players by asking them not to play in the Pakistan Super League, else they won't be allowed to play in IPL.

Former Pakistan skipper
—Shahid Afridi



the DMK-Congress alliance is more compatible as their ideologies may be divergent but not antithetical. The anger against the Modi Government and EPS Government or anti-incumbency sentiment is strong and palpable in the State. For the formation of the next Government at the Centre, which alliance (and not which party) wins is what will count to the last seat.

G David Milton

Maruthancode

is worth giving a try.

Azhar A Khan
Rampur

Stand united

Sir — This refers to the article, "Getting a grip of Kashmir's problem" (February 20) by Kalyani Shankar. All those, who try to divide India by killing innocent lives must be punished in accordance with the law of the land. Those, who do the same by assaulting innocent Kashmiri students and shopkeepers, too, must be punished accordingly.

In this hour of darkness, our country needs to be united. We need to show it to the world that Kashmir is an integral part of India and Kashmiris are our brothers and sisters. Similarly, the international community must come together and pledge to root out the menace called terrorism. The 45 CRPF soldiers, who were killed in the Pulwama, represent the unity in diversity of our great country. Indeed, Pulwama martyrs teach us what India is all about.

Sujit De

Kolkata

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Bailing out the youth

Sir — This refers to the article, "Getting a grip of Kashmir's problem" (February 20) by Kalyani Shankar. I subscribe to the writer's view that radicalisation and alienation of the youth in the Valley is on the rise. Failure to provide them with

jobs has made matters worse. Sadly, despite severe castigation from social, political and religious quarters, terrorist attacks continue unabated.

The writer is spot on suggesting that while teaching the recalcitrant neighbour, Pakistan, a lesson is a must, the Kashmir problem, too, needs to be addressed pragmatically. A pro-

longed scenario of indecision and precariousness hanging over the youth's future is at the root of their disappointment and frustration. Ironically, they are exploited by vested interests, too.

That a popular and democratic Government is trying to rope in prominent leaders from all political parties will help the situation return to normalcy. This

FIRST COLUMN

Waiting for polls in Nigeria

Nigerian politicians switch parties as often as they change wives. You would think that such a system could not survive but it still does



Gwynne Dyer

Lengthy delays before announcing the results of African elections are commonplace (the Democratic Republic of Congo last month, Zimbabwe last July, etc). It just means that people voted the wrong way, and the Government needs time to re-arrange the results before publishing them. Postponing the vote at the last moment is much less common, and not so easy to explain. That's what happened in Nigeria last week. Only five hours before the polls were due to open, the Independent National Election Commission postponed the election for a week, citing as reasons attempted sabotage, bad weather and problems with delivering the ballot papers. It's weird but it's hard to see who benefits from it. It may be down to simple incompetence.

There are 79 candidates for the presidency but only two count. The incumbent, former general Muhammadu Buhari, is running again despite a less than stellar performance in his first term as an elected President. (He also held the office as a military dictator for 20 months in the 1980s, before being overthrown by another general.) Buhari won power in 2015 by claiming to be a born-again democrat and a 'new broom' who would sweep away corruption and many Nigerians dared to believe him. He was the first Opposition candidate ever to win a free presidential election. But four years later, Nigeria has fallen another 12 places on Transparency International's corruption index: it now ranks 144th out of 180 countries, just ahead of Mauritania.

Buhari is personally clean but his anti-corruption measures almost exclusively targeted politicians of other parties. Nigerian average incomes fell by more than a third and unemployment doubled on his watch (mostly because of the collapse in oil prices). He didn't deliver on his promise to eliminate the Islamists extremists of Boko Haram, affiliated with the Islamic State (IS), who have terrorised the north-east of the country. He is also so lethargic, perhaps due to chronic illness, that he is popularly known as 'Baba-Go-Slow'. He took six months to name his Cabinet and he was abroad so long on sick leave (five months) that when he finally came home, conspiracy theorists claimed that he had died and been replaced by a body double ('Jubril from Sudan') who had undergone plastic surgery.

Buhari should lose, and he probably will, because three ex-generals (all former Presidents), who once backed him, have switched to his challenger, businessman Atiku Abubakar. 'Atiku' is a billionaire who started out as a humble customs officer. People speculate that this made him very useful to generals and other powerful people, who wanted to parlay a small fortune into a big one. Be that as it may, Atiku then went into the oilfield supply business and prospered mightily (maybe with a little help from his friends). He served two terms as Vice President, after the first of which, he was accused of having diverted \$125 million of public funds to his own business interests.

A US Senate report in 2010 accused him of having transferred \$40m of "suspect funds" to the US, using his American wife's bank account but he has never faced a court. But he vows to use his skills as an entrepreneur to sort out the country. If he succeeds, and some of the money sticks to him, who cares? At least it can be said on his behalf that he supports Arsenal. This is the choice that faces Nigeria and it's really no choice at all. Both candidates embody exactly the characteristics that define the country's problems. First, they are very old — Muhammadu Buhari is 72, Atiku Abubakar is 72 — in a country where half the voters are under 35, and half the population is under 18. The country is run by a congeries of mostly rich old men, mainly for their own benefit and it has been, thus, ever since the return of democracy 20 years ago. Before that, it was run by a bunch of somewhat younger soldiers, also mostly for their own benefit.

Nigerian politicians switch parties as often as they change wives, and show only rhetorical concern for the 10 million young people who are unemployed. You would think that such a system could not survive and perhaps, one day, it will be swept away but there is no sign of it happening in this election. The other thing the two chief presidential candidates have in common is a plethora of children. Buhari has 10 offspring from two marriages (one after the other). Abubakar has 28 children from four marriages (simultaneous). Humble people can't afford quite that many but most people are doing their bit to ensure that Nigeria's population outgrows its resources. This is a sensitive topic, but not to talk about it is to ignore Nigeria's biggest problem. In 1960, it had a quarter of the population of the US. Now it has more than half as many people and by 2050, it will overtake the US to become the world's third most populous nation. At that point, it will have over 400 million people. Nigeria is only slightly larger than Texas (28 million). It will probably be a 'free and fair' poll, but it won't change any of that.

(The writer is an independent journalist)

analysis

09

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS MOURNING, MODI WAS BUSY SHOOTING FOR A FILM. IS THERE ANY PRIME MINISTER IN THE WORLD LIKE THIS? I HAVE NO WORDS REALLY.

—CONGRESS' CHIEF SPOKESPERSON

RS SURJEWALA



WHEN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS ONE, WHEN NATIONS HAVE BEEN PASSING RESOLUTIONS, THE CONGRESS IS SEEKING TO WEAKEN THE MORALE OF THE NATION.

—UNION MINISTER

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

Words without meaning

Though general elections are a few months away, the BJP and the Congress are simply attacking each other. Will they pull out a rabbit from their hats and bring a fresh narrative?



AMITABH SHUKLA

After Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's entry into active politics, our grand old party, the Congress, looks energised, motivated and has the momentum on its side to face the 2019 Lok Sabha election. Of course, it has been helped in no small measure by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which now looks jaded, carries the disadvantage of anti-incumbency and is seemingly devoid of the same energy and enthusiasm that marked the party's campaign throughout 2013 till the 2014 general election. Despite being on a roll — to an extent as Congress supporters would like to believe — after last year's victories in the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, this would be the first battle in recent years where the grand old party, which by default is the main challenger to the BJP, is yet to come out with a positive poll narrative or sound implementable promises. It needs a pitch, now.

Rather than projecting any positive agenda for the creation of jobs, to boost the country's economy or putting forth any dynamic agenda which it might have for foreign policy *vis-à-vis* our neighbouring countries, all it is dependent this time around is on the "failure" of the Modi regime to fulfill promises it made in 2014. As of now, Rafale seems to be the single most important agenda for the Opposition, even as the ruling party is spiritedly defending itself and has been denying any wrong doing. Attack, attack and attack... seems to be the Congress' *mantra* as it enters the last phase before the elections are formally announced by the Election Commission of India. But Rafale doesn't have the ability to wash with the electorate as an emotional issue. Can the Modi Government's alleged failure, therefore, become the trump card for the Congress? If the party's think-tank believes it can take the electoral plunge without any positive agenda, or without any performance-oriented narrative, it is, perhaps, going through a delusional phase. There will be near unanimity among non-BJP parties and also a large section of the academia and economists that demonetisation was a blunder and that the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) could have been done in a better way, and perhaps, in a phased manner. There can be no argument on this front. But can this failure of the ruling party become the main weapon of the Congress' fightback?

At present, all that the Congress has offered include loan-waivers to farmers in States like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, where the party won last year, triggering speculation that it would do well in the general elections too. But can loan-waiver alone be the panacea of all the ills that plague the farming community? No farmer, agriculturist or expert dealing with the farm economy and farm crisis thinks so. At best, it is a pill which can only remove the symptom but can never fight the cause of the disease.

So, what can the Congress offer to the farmers of the country? Farm distress is, perhaps, the single most reason to make the Modi Government unpopular among the rural vote-base. Low farm prices have ensured that the



farmers' returns from investments in crop, seeds, fertilisers and land are reduced and have, in fact, come down significantly in recent years. But will the Congress implement the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission report, which advocates a new mechanism for fixing Minimum Support Price for their crops? We have not heard much from the party on this front except some vague promises.

In fact, even in Punjab, where the party has been in power for almost two years now, and which is plagued by farm distress and farmers' suicides for long, we are yet to hear much except that provisions for cosmetic loan-waivers have been made. Farmers continue to be stressed in the State even though the Congress under Capt Amarinder Singh took over the reins of power almost two years ago.

If you do not have anything concrete on the farm front, that's fine, you can take a call later. But what are your plans about job creation and giving impetus to the economy? There is no denying that demonetisation, which was followed by GST in quick succession, affected job growth. In fact, the combine triggered massive job losses. Has the Congress come up with a plan to infuse new life to the economy and create jobs? The answer obviously would be a big no.

In 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was bidding for power at the Centre, he, too, attacked the Congress left, right and centre, using every possible imagery to pin down the party and expose its inner contradictions. This was similar to what the Congress is doing right now. At that time, Modi found traction among voters with three crucial words — Modi, Modi, Modi — that echoed in almost all public meetings in the Hindi heartland throughout the campaign period. But at the same time, while tommocking his personal charisma, he had also come out with slogans of creating two crore jobs every year and gifting 15 lakh in every bank account from the black money which was supposedly parked in foreign accounts. Of course,

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the promise of *achhe din* acted as the catalyst that instilled hope among a large section of the population, cutting across caste and religious lines.

Five years down the line, all of these largely remain a promise and the slogans raised then have been given a decent burial. Even the "Gujarat model of development", which was supposed to be implemented at the national level, remains forgotten and no one hears anything about it anymore. What Modi and his party are doing this time around is what they did in 2014 — virulently attack the Congress. Dynasty and alleged acts of omission and commission are the top subjects on which the grand old party can be attacked. There is no attempt to even sell a rescue plan for stressed Indians.

So, there you are: Both the main contenders are calling each other names, they want the people to believe that the other is corrupt and are trying to attract the voters' eyeballs with their colourful vocabulary, which they are using against each other. What catapulted the BJP under Modi in 2014 was complete disillusionment with 10 years of UPA regime, charges of big ticket corruption, perception of a remote-controlled Prime Minister and loss of hope among the electorate for the future. Modi brought in a wave of fresh air, positive change, political machismo and above all, hope for *achhe din* with some specific policy measures.

In the absence of a positive narrative among both contenders for power — BJP and Congress — electioneering so far has been reduced to charges and counter charges, attack and defence. Of course, real electioneering is yet to pick up and will be seen only after the nation gets over the Pulwama tragedy. But people are still wondering if elections this time round would be fought on negative agenda, making both sides look opportunist than committed visionaries who will see us through.

(The writer is Senior Editor, The Pioneer, Chandigarh)

IN THE ABSENCE OF A POSITIVE NARRATIVE AMONG BOTH CONTENDERS FOR POWER — BJP AND CONGRESS — ELECTIONEERING SO FAR HAS BEEN REDUCED TO CHARGES AND COUNTER CHARGES. OF COURSE, REAL ELECTIONEERING IS YET TO PICK UP AND WILL BE SEEN ONLY AFTER THE NATION GETS OVER THE PULWAMA TRAGEDY

Give political shakti to women

Increasingly, women have shown equal, if not greater, understanding of their role as leaders. But obstacles are many and they have to triumph over them. Most important of all, the power to give women a chance still rests with the men



Swapna Majumdar

When many of the guests left her wedding reception because of the terrible smell emanating from unhygienic conditions prevailing in her village in Maharashtra, Madhuri Sawant was determined to change things. It took 14 years of single-minded determination to overcome a rigid mindset and conditioning but Sawant ensured that her village was among the 12 villages from Maharashtra to win the first Nirmal Gram Puraskar, an award instituted by the Union Government in October, 2003, to promote rural sanitation. Sawant's village beat 443 contenders from 10 States to win the award given to panchayats

or local self-governments, that have ensured that all households have access to toilets; are free of open defecation; and have separate toilets for boys and girls in schools and anganwadi centres.

Although Sawant started her campaign much before she became the village's first woman *pradhan*, holding an office made it easier for her to push for sanitation and developmental work. It was her ability to catalyse change that catapulted her village to the top.

Sawant is not the only one who has been bringing change. There are innumerable examples of how the leadership of women in *panchayats* is transforming India and have been underlining why there is an urgent need for an increase in women's participation in the political system. Their presence in the village not only inspires other women but increases aspirations among families with daughters.

When women are seen taking up responsibilities of village leaders, which are traditionally appro-

priated by men, others are motivated

to try and follow in their foot-steps. Research has shown that perceptions of women as leaders improve when they are seen and heard at village meetings.

Studies have proven that women's representation in local Governments can make a tangible difference. For example, the number of drinking water projects in areas with women-led *panchayats* was 62 per cent higher than in those that were led by men. Further, women legislators enhance economic performance in their constituencies by about 1.8 percentage points per year more than male legislators.

Women legislators lay the foundation for increasing their participation in the labour force and, thereby, closing the gap of male-to-female work-

ing population in India.

Even at the national level, women's leadership in the political decision-making processes champions issues of development, gender justice, elimination of gender-based violence, gender-equality laws, healthcare and safety of women, irrespective of party affiliation.

Despite their low numbers, women constitute 12.2 per cent of the MPs in the 16th Lok Sabha and 11.5 per cent in the Rajya Sabha, women have shown equal, if not greater, understanding of their role in Parliament.

While women MPs on an average asked 234 questions in the Lok Sabha, compared to 236 questions by men MPs, female MPs on average participated in more debates (56) than their male counterparts (55), according to data collected by PRS Legislative Research for the 16th Lok Sabha (June 1, 2014, to July 31, 2018).

Incidentally, female voter turnout was higher than male turnout in 16 States and Union Territories out of 35 in the last gen-

eral elections in 2014. Can this be translated into greater participation of women as candidates? Yes, says a recent survey by Shakti, a non-partisan inclusive platform of women across the country.

On being asked whether they wanted more women MPs in Lok Sabha in 2019 elections, Shakti received an affirmative answer from 10 lakh registered voters across the rural, urban, women, men and youth spectrum. Their Shakti-Neta App survey recorded 82.2 per cent 'YES' across 24 States.

But first, political parties have to give women a chance to contest the elections. Only 8.8 per cent tickets were given to women candidates by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and 12.9 per cent by the Congress in the 2014 general election. Will it be different this time around? Will women be able to overcome prevailing cultural attitudes regarding gender roles, lack of finances and the threat of violence?

That it is possible for women to triumph over these obstacles has been shown by Jayanti, a young

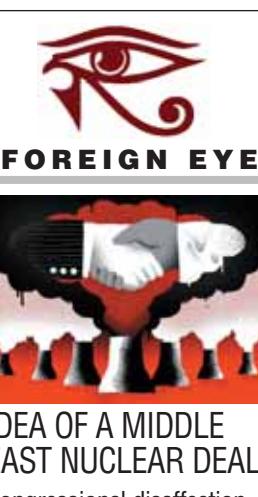
woman from the backward Sahariya tribe in the Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh. Jayanti's journey from a daily-wage labourer to a *pradhan* symbolises the growing political empowerment and coming of age of many marginalised women.

In the feudal and backward Bundelkhand region of the State, these women are now more willing to participate actively in the electoral process. Jayanti stood her ground despite threats and coercion to withdraw from the elections.

Even the announcement that she had lost by four votes did not break her spirit. She exercised her right to a recount and was vindicated when she was declared the winner by a thin margin of six votes. Since then she has resolved problems related to the mid-day meals old age pension cards and roads.

The power to give women a chance still rests with the men. Now is the moment to prove that commitments for women-led development don't remain mere rhetoric.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



IDEA OF A MIDDLE EAST NUCLEAR DEAL

Congressional disaffection with Saudi Arabia was already rising over the Yemen war and the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. The House Oversight Committee's investigation painting a familiar picture of Trump associates skirting the law to curry favour with people who can make them richer is a stark warning that there is even greater reason for concern and for Congressional efforts to put stricter controls in place.

(The New York Times editorial)

Niti: Govt reforms made India fastest economy

India's growth in the current fiscal year is estimated to be 7.2 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The host of reforms undertaken by the Government has transformed India into the fastest-growing major economy along with the macroeconomic stability not witnessed in the past, according to a note prepared by the Niti Aayog.

The country's growth, the note added, has decisively increased over the last five years and is much higher than the average growth among the emerging and developing economies.

"India's economic performance dipped considerably during 2010-13."

"Over the last five years (2014-18), the India economy has recovered and now is going through one of its best-ever phases of economic growth combined with the microeco-



nomic stability," the note said.

Narendra Modi became the prime minister in May 2014 after the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance won the general elections.

The next general elections are due in April-May.

According to the note, in 2018-19, against India's likely growth of 7.2 per cent, the world GDP growth would be 3.7 per cent and median of seven emerging market economies (Brazil, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Russia, South Africa and Turkey) is 3.5 per cent.

The closest to India is

China, which is estimated to grow at 6.6 per cent in 2018-19, the note said.

"The uptick in economic growth has come from various economic reforms undertaken by the Government such as improvement in ease of doing business, opening up to foreign direct investments, the push for infrastructure development and a stable and decisive policy environment," it added.

India's growth in the current fiscal year is estimated to be 7.2 per cent with the growth in preceding three years being 8 per cent, 8.2 per cent and 7.2 per cent.

The closest to India is

BHEL commissions 250 MW thermal power plant in Bihar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned a 250 MW coal-based thermal power plant (TPP) in Bihar.

The unit has been commissioned at the greenfield 4x250 MW Nabinagar Thermal Power Project, being set up by Bharatiya Rail Bijlee Company Limited (BRBCL), a joint venture of NTPC Limited and the Indian Railways.

This is the third 250 MW unit commissioned by BHEL at Nabinagar TPP, located at Nabinagar in Aurangabad district of Bihar. The first two units are already under commercial operation and the fourth unit is in an advanced stage of execution.

The orders for Steam

Generator (SG) and Turbine Generator (TG) packages for setting up of four units of 250 MW coal based thermal plant were placed on BHEL. The company's scope of work encompassed design, engineering, manufacture, supply, erection and commissioning of Steam Turbines, Generators and Boilers, along with associated Auxiliaries and Electricals, besides state-of-the-art Controls & Instrumentation (C&I) and Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs).

The key equipment for the project has been manufactured by BHEL at its Haridwar, Trichy, Ranipet, Hyderabad and Bengaluru works, while the construction of the plant has been undertaken by the company's Power Sector — Eastern Region.

AstraZeneca launches strategic partnership with NASSCOM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lief Johansson, Chairman of the Board, AstraZeneca Plc during his three day visit to India, announced expansion of the company's strategic collaborations to address the rising burden of Non-Communicable Diseases(NCDs) in India.

At the India-Sweden Unnati healthcare 2.0 day, the company and its partners, Business Sweden, The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), Atal Innovation Mission-Niti Aayog and AGNI, announced the finalists of the Unnati Healthcare Innovation Challenge.

Public sector banks zoom up to 19% on fund infusion plan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of public sector banks (PSBs) jumped up to 19 per cent on Thursday after the Finance Ministry announced infusion of ₹48,239 crore in 12 such lenders in this fiscal to help them maintain regulatory capital requirements and finance growth plans.

Corporation Bank zoomed 19.02 per cent at close of trade, UCO Bank 8.75 per cent, United Bank 7.19 per cent, Indian Overseas Bank 6.78 per cent, Central Bank of India 5.50



crore of the planned recapitalisation of ₹1.06 lakh crore for PSBs for the current fiscal, according to Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar.

Corporation Bank is the biggest beneficiary of this round of capital infusion with ₹9,086 crore of funding, followed by Allahabad Bank with ₹6,896 crore.

Further, ₹4,638 crore and ₹205 crore will be provided to Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra, respectively.

Punjab National Bank will get ₹5,908 crore, Union Bank of India ₹4,112 crore, Andhra Bank ₹3,256 crore and Syndicate Bank ₹1,603 crore.

Under prompt corrective action (PCA), the Government will pump in ₹12,535 crore in four other banks — Central Bank of India, United Bank, UCO Bank and Indian Overseas Bank.

"Market extended gains as investors sentiment has been boosted owing to recapitalisation of PSU banks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

With this funding, the total amount of capital infusion would increase to ₹10,00,958

₹ drops 13 paise to 71.24 against \$ as crude rises

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee skidded by 11 paise to close at 71.24 against the US dollar on Thursday as rising oil prices and a strengthening greenback weighed on the market sentiment.

At the Interbank Foreign Exchange (forex) market, the domestic unit opened strong at 71.06 and rose to 70.91. However, it could not hold on to the gains and fell to a low of 71.29 before finally ending at 71.24 — a fall of 13 paise.

The rupee had closed at 71.11 against the US dollar Wednesdays.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs), who had been heavy sellers over the past few sessions, net bought equities worth ₹55 crore Thursday while domestic institutional investors bought shares to the tune of ₹202 crore, provisional data showed.

Global markets were mixed following the release of Federal Reserve minutes which showed that the US central bank would be patient on interest rate hikes.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.13 per cent to 96.57.



Punjab National Bank has bagged an award in the digital space as runner-up in the category of 'Most Customer-centric Bank using technology' at an awards ceremony held by Indian Bank's Association



On occasion of 77th Foundation day of the Oriental Bank of Commerce, blood donation camp was held at Corporate Office Gurugram. Total 123 blood units were donated by the staff members to the National Thalassemia Welfare Society. Blood donation camps are being organised throughout the country in different circle offices. Bank employees/customers have donated more than 1,500 units of blood across the country



NHPC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Neyveli Lignite Corporation of India Limited (NLCL) in the area of Power Trading in Chennai. NLCL is having vast experience in lignite mining, installation and operation of Thermal Power Plants both lignite & coal based and also wind & solar power projects

ComMin sets \$50-bn bilateral trade target with Russia by 2025

PTI ■ MUMBAI

He also said both the countries are confident of achieving the target.

The Minister said by 2030, the country is expected to become the third largest economy in the world with a huge middleclass. But to reach that position, we need more and better infrastructure, access to energy, more goods and services and a modern agriculture sector, he added.

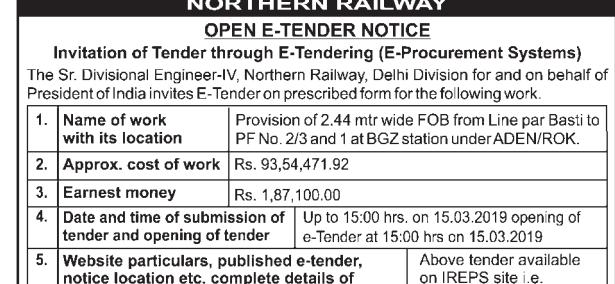
"Russia is well placed to meet our needs in these areas as well as others, he said, adding beside businesses, there is a need for collaboration between the two countries on the education sector as well.

ICC organises 9th edition of India Corporate Governance & Sustainability Vision Summit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Chamber of Commerce organized the 9th edition of India corporate governance and sustainability vision summit and awards on 21st February 2019 at New Delhi. The summit and the awards over the years have provided the right platform to organizations for effectively showcasing their corporate governance and sustainability practices.

The dignitaries who graced the occasion were Anil Swarup, Former Secretary, Department of Power, Government of India.



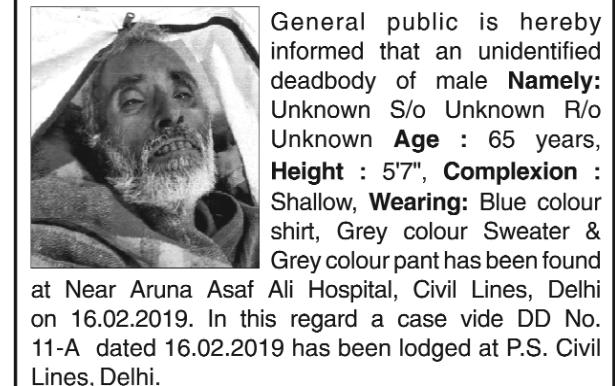
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.

1. Name of work with its location	Proviation of 2.44 mtr wide FOB from Line par Basti to PF No. 2/3 and 1 at BGZ station under ADEN/ROK.
2. Approx. cost of work	Rs. 9,54,471.92
3. Earnest money	Rs. 1,87,100.00
4. Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Up to 15:00 hrs. on 15.03.2019 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs on 15.03.2019
5. Website particulars, published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No. 128-W/W/260/Tender Notice/56/18-19/NW-IV Dated: 21.02.2019 550/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Named:** Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown **Age :** 65 years, **Height :** 5'7", **Complexion :** Shallow, **Wearing:** Blue colour shirt, Grey colour Sweater & Grey colour pant has been found at Near Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital, Civil Lines, Delhi on 16.02.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 11-A dated 16.02.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi.

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

SHO : P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi North Distt., Delhi

Date : 21.02.2019 **Place :** Uttar Pradesh **Director :** Ashok Kumar DIN: 00082651 Plot No.-43-A, Akash niwas Complex, Noida - 201301

DP/9678/N/19

Tel. No. 011-23810633, 23815444

Business Corner



banking technology 2019 awards

Best use of Digitalisation

Best use of Technology

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Best use of Cloud Computing

Best use of Big Data

Best use of Machine Learning

Best use of Analytics

Best use of Cryptocurrency

Best use of Internet of Things

Best use of Blockchain

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Best use of Big Data

Best use of Machine Learning

Best use of Analytics

Best use of Cryptocurrency

Best use of Internet

Markets extend gains; PSU banks, metal stocks shine

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Undercurrent in the market is yet to stabilise due to caution on global trade and growth while falling interest rates and reforms by government will give impetus to consumption-led stocks

Equity indices closed higher for the second straight session on Thursday, led by metal, pharma and banking stocks amid widespread buying by foreign and domestic institutional investors.

Global markets were mixed following release of Federal Reserve minutes which showed that the US central bank would be patient on interest rate hikes.

After a choppy start, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 142.09 points, or 0.40% higher at 35,898.35. The broader NSE Nifty gained 54.40 points, or 0.5%, to 10,789.85.

Tata Motors was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 2.94%. It was followed by Vedanta, Bajaj Finance, Sun Pharma, ONGC, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Auto, Tata Steel, RIL, HDFC duo, L&T and SBI, rising up to 2.78%.

On the other hand, Yes Bank, Coal India, Infosys, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Bank, Axis Bank, ITC and TCS slipped up to 1.33%.

Shares of public sector banks (PSBs) jumped up to 1.9% after the government on Wednesday announced fund infusion of ₹48,239 crore in 12 such lenders.

Corporation Bank zoomed

19.02%, UCO Bank 8.75%, United Bank 7.19%, Central Bank of India 5.50%, Allahabad Bank 5.34%, Andhra Bank jumped 5.22%, Bank of Maharashtra 3.96%, Syndicate Bank 3.59%, and Punjab National Bank ended 2.95% higher.

Sectorally, the BSE metal index, consumer durables, healthcare, finance and bankex rose up to 1.14%, while IT and tech indices ended with losses.

Broader indices outperformed the benchmark. The BSE Midcap index climbed 0.88% while the small-cap gauge rose 1.07%.

"Market extended gains as investor sentiment has been boosted owing to recapitalisation of PSU banks and Fed's

affirmation of slow pace in rate hikes."

"Accumulation is seen on heavyweights after recent fall while mid and small cap outperformed. Undercurrent in the market is yet to stabilise due to caution on global trade and growth while falling interest rates and reforms by government will give impetus to consumption-led stocks," said Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs), who had been heavy sellers over the past few sessions, net bought equities worth ₹713.47 crore on Wednesday while domestic institutional investors bought shares to the tune of ₹113.27 crore, provisional data showed.

Elsewhere in Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.41% and Japan's Nikkei ended 0.15% higher; while Shanghai Composite Index shed 0.34% and Korea's Kospi slipped 0.04%.

In the Eurozone, Frankfurt's DAX was up 0.28%, Paris CAC 40 fell 0.06% and London's FTSE was down 0.63% in early deals.

The benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.12% to USD 67 per barrel.

Meanwhile, the rupee depreciated marginally to 71.14 against the US dollar intra-day.

Tech Mahindra to buy back shares at 14.59% premium

New Delhi (PTI): IT firm

Tech Mahindra on Thursday announced a ₹1,956-crore buyback of its shares at ₹950 apiece, a 14.59 per cent premium over current trading price. The share buyback proposal has been approved by the company's board. The firm is proposing to buy back up to 2.05 crore (2,05,85,000) equity shares at a price of ₹950 per equity share for an aggregate amount not exceeding ₹1,956 crore, Tech Mahindra said in a regulatory filing.

March 6, 2019, is the record date for the purpose of ascertaining the eligibility of shareholders to participate in the buyback, it added.

RCap invites Nippon Life to buy its entire stake in asset management JV

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

make further announcements at the appropriate time.

As per BSE data, as on December 31, 2018, Reliance Capital held 42.9 per cent stake in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM).

Japan's Nippon Life Insurance already holds 42.88 per cent stake in RNAM.

"Reliance Capital has invited its partner, Nippon Life Insurance, to make an offer to acquire up to 42.88 per cent stake held by Reliance Capital in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management," Reliance Capital said in a regulatory filing.

The company said it would

company. According to the sources, once the transaction goes through, the company would become the largest wholly foreign-owned mutual fund in India.

Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group companies have been trying to monetise some of their assets and bring down the debt significantly.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held RCom Chairman Anil Ambani and two others guilty of contempt of court for violating its order by not paying dues of ₹550 crore to Ericsson, and said they faced a three-month jail term if ₹453 crore was not paid to Ericsson in four weeks.

iRobot looks to strengthen presence in India

New Delhi (PTI): iRobot

Corp, which offers premium robotic cleaners globally, is looking to strengthen its distribution network as part of expanding presence in India, according to an official.

"We have witnessed strong double-digit growth in the Indian market. This is coming from both metros as well as smaller cities," Puresight Systems director and chief operating officer Pulak Satish Kumar said.

Puresight is the exclusive distributor of Nasdaq-listed iRobot's products in India. Kumar said the products, priced between ₹19,900 and ₹89,900 were available through franchise outlets, Croma and online retailer Amazon.

Auto sales to pick up in second half of next fiscal: Ind-Ra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

expected to grow "moderately"

India's overall automobile sales are likely to remain tepid in the first half of 2019-20, but the upcoming implementation of BS-VI emission norms will drive the demand in the second half of the year, according to India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

As per the ratings agency, the passenger vehicle (PV) segment, which has clocked a 4 per cent growth in the ten months of the ongoing fiscal, is

the expected price rise in 2020-21 due to the implementation of BS-VI norms, improvement in consumer sentiments along with new model and variant launches will be among the key growth drivers for the PV segment.

Two-wheelers are also poised for steady growth in the next fiscal, it said. The segment has grown by 8 per cent so far in the ongoing fiscal.

Buying preponement on

the expected price rise in 2020-21 due to the implementation of BS-VI norms, improvement in consumer sentiments along with new model and variant launches will be among the key growth drivers for the PV segment.

For the CV segment, it said, continued uptick in industrial activity, road and infrastructure development, and the likelihood of liquidity of NBFCs will fuel demand.

"As per industry estimates, the cost of petrol variant PVs and two-wheelers could increase 10-15 per cent and

that of diesel variant by 20-25 per cent," it said.

To this, Ind-Ra expects demand to pick pace in second half of 2019-20, although it is likely to remain tepid in the first half, it said.

The agency further said credit ratings of most of the large players in its sample are set to be unaffected in 2019-20 despite capex plans in view of the ongoing regulatory changes, development of an electric vehicle platform and continued new product launches

NIFTY 50

BSE 500

Script

Open

High

Low

LTP

Change

NIFTY 50

1074.10

10808.75

10721.50

10789.75

54.40

PAKISTAN PM TO MILITARY

Respond decisively to any aggression by India

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

THIS IS A NEW PAKISTAN AND WE ARE DETERMINED TO DEMONSTRATE TO OUR PEOPLE THAT THE STATE IS CAPABLE OF PROTECTING THEM

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday authorised the military to "respond decisively and comprehensively to any aggression or misadventure" by India, amidst heightened tensions between the two sides following the Pulwama terror attack that killed 40 CRPF soldiers.

Days after the terror strike by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad terror group in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said security forces have been given free hand to avenge the dastardly act.

Prime Minister Khan, who chaired a key meeting of the National Security Council here on Thursday, said the Pakistan government was "determined to demonstrate" that it is capable of protecting its people.

He authorised the armed forces of Pakistan to "respond decisively and comprehensively to any aggression or misadventure by India," said a statement issued after the meeting.

"This is a new Pakistan and we are determined to demonstrate to our people that the State is capable of protecting them," Khan was quoted as saying by the Radio Pakistan.

The country's top civilian

and military leadership said that "Pakistan is not involved in any way, means or form in Pulwama incident and it was conceived, planned and executed indigenously", according to the statement.

It said Pakistan has sincerely offered investigation of the "incident" and dialogue on the issue of terrorism among other disputed issues with India.

"We expect India to positively respond to these offers," it said, adding that based on the investigation or any tangible evidence provided, Pakistan shall take action against anyone found using its soil.

The NSC urged the global community to play its part in resolving the Kashmir issue.

In a video message on Tuesday, Khan assured India that he would act against the perpetrators of the Pulwama terror attack if New Delhi

shares "actionable intelligence", but warned against any "revenge" retaliatory action.

India dismissed Khan's comments, saying disclaiming Pakistan's link with terrorist attacks is an oft-repeated excuse by the "nerve centre" of terrorism.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on Tuesday said India was not surprised that Khan refused to acknowledge the attack on India's security forces in Pulwama as an act of terrorism, adding his offer to investigate the attack if provided proof is a "lame excuse".

Head of the NSC meeting on Thursday, Prime Minister Khan and Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa held a one-on-one meeting during which they discussed region's security situation.

The meeting was attended by Army chief General Bajwa, services chiefs, heads of intelligence agencies, security officials and federal and state ministers for finance, defence, foreign affairs and interior.

Khan also directed both the interior ministry and the security institutions to immediately accelerate actions on ground to ensure that militancy and extremism are routed from the society and the country.

70 killed as massive fire rages through historic part in B'desh

PTI ■ DHAKA

A fast-moving fire swept through adjoining apartment buildings and chemical warehouses in a historic part of the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka, killing at least 70 people and injuring several others, the latest such deadly blaze in the country.

Officials said the fire broke out at night at a chemical warehouse on the ground floor of a four-storey building named Hazi Wahed Mansion behind a mosque in Old Dhaka's congested Chawkbazar area on Wednesday night and the flames then quickly spread through four other buildings nearby, including a community centre where a wedding



Locals and firefighters gather around buildings that caught fire in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Thursday

was 81. However, it was later revised downward to at least 70.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police officials said the fire spread rapidly due to the multiple chemical godowns that were situated in the area.

State-run Dhaka Medical College Hospital's director Brigadier General AKM Nasiruddin, however, feared that the toll may rise as several people were being treated at the facility with critical burn injuries.

Khokon called off the rescue operation around 12:10 PM after nearly 14 hours of efforts. Two-hundred fire fighters from 37 units doused the blaze, making their way to the scene through narrow lanes with fire engines.

Pelosi urges support for resolution to block border wall emergency

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Wednesday called upon lawmakers to back a resolution to halt the national emergency declared by US President Donald Trump to fund a wall on the southern border with Mexico.

Trump announced the emergency in order to bypass Congress, which approved only a quarter of the \$5.6 billion he wanted for the wall in a spending bill.

Mahatma Gandhi's lifestyle did not leave any carbon footprint, a lesson for world: Modi

PTI ■ SEOUL

Mahatma Gandhi's lifestyle was a crucial lesson for the world facing the daunting challenge of global warming and climate change as he lived such a life that he did not leave any carbon footprint, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Thursday.

Unveiling a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the prestigious Yonsei University here along with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Modi said in the 20th Century, Mahatma Gandhi was "perhaps the mankind's biggest gift".

He said that terrorism and climate change are two biggest challenges mankind is facing and Mahatma Gandhi's teachings and values can help the world address both the pressing issues.

"During Mahatma Gandhi's lifetime there was no discussion about climate change and environment, but the statesman led such a life that he did not leave any carbon footprint. He showed what living in harmony with nature is. He showed that it is important to leave a clean and green planet for the future generations."

Gandhi used to say we don't have the right to take away the natural resources that belong to the future generations.

Russia indict US investor for fraud: Lawyer

AFP ■ MOSCOW

Russian investigators formally charged US investor Michael Calvey with fraud on Thursday following his controversial arrest, his lawyer said.

Investigators presented him

with the indictment on the charge of large-scale fraud as part of an organised group, which can carry up to ten years in prison.

"He has refused to admit his guilt or give any testimony" before consulting with his defense, lawyer Dmitry Kletchkin told Russian news agencies.

Calvey is the founder of the multi-billion-dollar Baring Vostok investment fund. He is one of six people arrested in a probe into the alleged embezzlement of 2.5 billion rubles (USD 37.7 million) from the Russian Vostochny Bank.

Calvey has said in court that the charges against him are being used as an instrument in a shareholder dispute, insisting that he has done nothing wrong.

Several high-profile figures have spoken on behalf of Calvey, with Russia's business ombudsman Boris Titov saying the case was a typical corporate dispute and calling his arrest illegal. But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Thursday said: "We have no doubt that truth will prevail as a result of the investigation. Nobody but the court can pronounce Michael Calvey innocent."

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is here by informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown**, residence and family is **unknown** about 30 years of age was found lying unconscious at footpath in front of RML Hospital Gate No. 4 New Delhi on 15.02.2019. He was admitted to RML Hospital Emergency Ward where Doctors declared him brought dead. In this regard a DD No. 20-A, dated 15.02.2019 has been registered at Police Station **North Avenue**, New Delhi. Dead Body of the Deceased has been preserved in RML Hospital mortuary for identification for next 72 hours.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, **Age:** 30 years, **Height :** 5'8" ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Small, **Build:** Very Thin, **ID Mark:** A tattoo mark on right hand, **Wearing:** Blue dark T-Shirt and gray Pant.

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

P.S. North Avenue, New Delhi

Ph. No.- 011-23093040, 23093294

Mob. No- 9873432659

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Vivek Chandela, S/o Sh. Prem Raj, R/o WZ-102, Village Khyla, New Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under in case FIR No. 265/18, U/s 376D/328/354/506 IPC and 66E/67/67A IT Act, at P.S. Naraina, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Vivek Chandela, of case FIR No. 265/18, U/s 376D/328/354/506 IPC and 66E/67/67A IT Act, at P.S. Naraina, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.03.2019.

By Order

Ms. Manisha Tripathi,
Metropolitan Magistrate-03,
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

DP/8119/WD/19/(Court Matter)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION KATRA Corrigendum

Subject:- Extension of dates

Reference:- This office e-NIT No. 53 of 2018-19 dated 12-02-2019 communicated vide endorsement No. 7293-7313 dated 12-02-2019.

Due to non-availability of internet service in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, the date for uploading the bids for above noted works hereby extended as under:-

S. No.1. Particulars:- Date of downloading / submission of bids in electronic format. Please read:- From 13-02-2019 Upto 22-02-2019 upto 2.00 PM

S.No.2. Particulars:- Date of opening of Technical/ Financial bid. Please read:- From 22-02-2019 Upto (3.00 PM) Instead of:- From 18-02-2019 Upto (3.00 PM).

Note:- All other terms and conditions shall remained unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division, Katra

No.DIP/J-5317/18 Dated:- 20.02.2019

For Hindusthan Urban Infrastructure Ltd.

Sd/- M.L.Birmiwala

(Company Secretary & Compliance Officer)

Date : 21.02.2019

Place : New Delhi

PR.17645 (Ni Ni) 2018-19

बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम, लिंग पटना

(बिहार सरकार का उपकरण)

पुनः कोटेश्वर आमत्रण सूचना संख्या-145/2018-19

मुख्य मंत्रीप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, अधिकारी रोड, शास्त्रीयगढ़, पटना-23

- दिनांक:- 05.03.2019 से दिनांक:- 25.03.2019 के अपराह्न 15.00 बजे तक।

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना एवं मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना का कार्यालय।

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना एवं स्थानीय पर्यावरण विभाग, पटना-2 (पर्यावरण विभाग) का अधिकारी रोड, शास्त्रीयगढ़, पटना-23

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना-2 (पर्यावरण विभाग) का अधिकारी रोड, शास्त्रीयगढ़, पटना-23

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना-2 (पर्यावरण विभाग) का अधिकारी रोड, शास्त्रीयगढ़, पटना-23

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना-2 (पर्यावरण विभाग) का अधिकारी रोड, शास्त्रीयगढ़, पटना-23

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना-2 (पर्यावरण विभाग) का अधिकारी रोड, शास्त्रीयगढ़, पटना-23

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना-2 (पर्यावरण विभाग) का अधिकारी रोड, शास्त्रीयगढ़, पटना-23

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना-2 (पर्यावरण विभाग) का अधिकारी रोड, शास्त्रीयगढ़, पटना-23

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना-2 (पर्यावरण विभाग) का अधिकारी रोड, शास्त्रीयगढ़, पटना-23

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना-2 (पर्यावरण विभाग) का अधिकारी रोड, शास्त्रीयगढ़, पटना-23

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना-2 (पर्यावरण विभाग) का अधिकारी रोड, शास्त्रीयगढ़, पटना-23

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना-2 (पर्यावरण विभाग) का अधिकारी रोड, शास्त्रीयगढ़, पटना-23

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना-2 (पर्यावरण विभाग) का अधिकारी रोड, शास्त्रीयगढ़, पटना-23

उमा महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लिंग, पटना-2 (पर्यावरण व

Trend Blazer

Raveena helps martyrs' children

Actress RAVEENA TANDON says that her foundation will look into the education of martyrs' children. As per reports, Raveena, who is known for her philanthropic work and her association with various noble causes, is already committed to the education of the girl child and provides scholarships for the same. But she is now taking charge of children of all martyrs.

Talking about it, she said: "These are moments when everyone should come forward and contribute whatever it might be — whether it's a big or small amount. It goes a long way and I have taken over the responsibility of educating the girl children. I am not limiting it to just them but the children of the martyrs. It's not only of the Pulwama attack, it is basically for all our jawans."



'What can one do if they (industry) reach out to me asking for blessings? These are youngsters who have worked with me in the past. Should I have told them they don't have my blessings? The proper thing to do would have been to first ask my consent before remixing Mungda.'

—Rajesh Roshan

Actor BOMAN IRANI will be essaying the role of business tycoon Ratan Tata in the forthcoming film PM Narendra Modi. "I have always received comments on social media that I resemble Ratan Tata. I always thought the day the character comes along, I will be more than happy to play it,"

Boman said. "So when Omung, Sandip and Vivek called me for the role, I immediately agreed to do it. The team is quite wonderful and Omung is doing a great job. We have already shot my part and it went very well," he added.



PURSUIT OF BALANCE

Actor ANIL KAPOOR, who will be seen next in *Total Dhamaal*, tells SAIMI SATTAR that all genres need a good script

Actor Anil Kapoor Kapoor is conversing with the chef and asks him to send some *meethi chutney* to accompany the really delicious Delhi *samosas*. Eating fried, oily snacks is quite contrary to the idea of the actor's diet, who seems to have drunk from the fountain of eternal youth, but he lets us in on his mantra. "The body is like bank balance. It needs a certain number of calories to run. If you've burnt more calories and eaten less, then you have the bank balance which can be withdrawn when it is needed. Today is one such day when it is okay to indulge myself," says the actor, who, except the fine lines and creases here and there, looks not a day older to when he had made his debut in 1979.

Dressed in all black, he is promoting his new film *Total Dhamaal*, where he reunites with Madhuri Dixit, his popular co-star of the 90s. "It has been a long career. I have been quite lucky. And there is the bonus of being able to work with beautiful girls like Madhuri," he guffaws.

As to what kept him invested in the adventure comedy film, he tells us, "First of all, I laughed reading the script. That did it for me. This is an ensemble cast and the biggest advantage is that the entire film is not on your shoulder, which reduces the pressure. As a result, we enjoyed acting in the film more and did better. This is also apparent in the trailer and people are liking it," he says. And the subject of mature romance worked well for him and Madhuri. "When you are younger, you can take the pressure because you are fresh, the songs are great and as a pair you are also looking good together. We are not Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt. We should stay in our *auqat*."

Of course, he points out that there are other factors that prove to be clinchers. "The script, director, co-stars, producers, distributors and the money make me decide," says the 62-year-old. But whichever genre he is working in, preparation is essential. "In today's time when the stakes are so high, every detail including performance, dialect design, art and clothes have to be prepared in advance. If you are prepared, your work will be faster, easier and better."

Having worked in comedy franchises quite a bit, Kapoor believes that the foremost role is played by the writers. "Only a few people can work on punches and understand them in a manner that it works pan-India, with people from villages to those in the cities, students, children, intellectuals. The dialogues should make everyone or at least 70 per cent of the population laugh. These days there is a surfeit of comedy for various categories of audience, be it TV, YouTube and even stand-up acts. So in a film, you need to add scale and adventure. We have got in an animal farm like scenario in *Total Dhamaal*, which is not possible in a TV show, for instance, to make sure that people feel that they've got their money's worth," he says.

Kapoor feels there are as many styles of comedy as there are directors, writers and actors. "*Chameli ki Shaadi* was situational. Indra Kumar does a combination of situational, gags and physical comedy. Similarly, Priyadarshan is different and so is Rohit Shetty or the old guard like Basu Chatterjee and Hrishi. Directors need to have a sense of humour inherently and that makes a difference. Their thinking, the way of writing and the editing can make a comedy work or fall flat. The physical comedy that Jim Carey does was fantastic. The way Ben Stiller works is different.

Steve Martin, Mehmood, Kishore Kumar traverse similar territory. Amitji is more poker and physical while Govinda and Johnny Lever have their own streetsmart way of executing it. Coming to the writers, the kind of comedy that was penned by Kader Khan was distinct."

Kapoor is categorical that if the writing is flat, then even a Charlie Chaplin or Laurel Hardy cannot make a script work. "Gags have to be well-written and thought out. When the writing is good, it is easier for the actors," he says and goes on to give the example of American show *Modern Family* as brilliantly written.

We rely on his experience to talk about the progression of content in cinema and inevitably talk revolves around *Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga*. "The audience is evolving. The educated, sensible youth of the country are exposed through the internet and are engaging with sensible content." And he loves the next generation. While most actors do not like carrying work back home or vice versa even when they have spouses or parents from the industry, Kapoor has no qualms admitting that shooting with his daughter Sonam was a blast.

"During the shooting of *Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga*, we were preparing for marriage and in between shots we discussed everything related to it," he says of the film.

Besides the content, another way that Kapoor has seen the industry change is the way it treats women. He believes that #MeToo has changed the work environment. However, he believes, "I was fortunate to work in films where there was a healthy atmosphere. Whether it was my Telugu debut as *Bapu* in *Vamsa Vruksham* (1980) or with MS Sathyu with whom I was a part of *Kahan Kahan Se Guzar Gaye*, our assistants and newcomers were women. In *Parinda*, Renu Saluja was the editor and she controlled everything. Much later in *Ayesha*, Rhea was the producer and she was 21. On the sets of *Veer di Wedding*, I had to look for a boy as there were 50 girls. In this film, the photographer is a Japanese girl. We are consciously creating an atmosphere."



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

Foreign ink

Before getting a tattoo in an unknown language, it is best to check its meaning or be prepared for disastrous results

with the Victoria tattoo on David Beckham's arm which was spelt incorrectly or Gillian Anderson's unknown Hindi word. Recently, pop singer Ariana Grande planned to get the title of her latest hit single, *7 Rings*, tattooed on her palm in Japanese, but after sharing a photo of the new ink on Instagram she got trolled and learned that it was misspelled and meant, '7 bbq grill' instead. When she attempted to get it fixed, it turned out to be an even bigger faux pas, as the tattoo now means '7 bbq fingers'.

A tattoo definitely looks more attractive in another language form and can be a great conversation starter. It also adds a hint of mystery, according to Vikas Malani, founder of BodyCanvas Tattoos. But sometimes the results are not so desirable as was seen



"If celebrities can wake up to the nightmares of a tattoo gone wrong, what are mere mortals like us? The countless instances of tattoos gone wrong with disastrous errors and weird translations happen because people fail to do their homework," says Malani.

His words of advice? "Never trust the Internet /Google. Try translating two languages that you know with its help and you know it can have errors — big ones. So, if you don't write/speak the language that your tattoo is

written in, find a qualified translator or native speaker to translate it for you. Then verify/cross check with one more person who knows that language too. We know the difference between you're and your but someone who doesn't know English might just end up getting a tattoo with a wrong meaning altogether."

Malani feels that websites

may give us the words but the meaning can go out of context. The word "free" can denote freedom or something that has no cost. In English, we use the same word for both meanings, but in another language, it may be two different words. So do a thorough research beforehand to avoid any blunders and make your tattoo rock."



KUSHAN MITRA



A Civic lesson

The new tenth-generation Honda Civic is certainly an attractive vehicle, with or without its front-end. But will it set the roads alight as the previous Civic did in India?

When Honda Cars India launched the

few times until you get the hang of it.

But you never buy a car for its looks alone, you do care about the performance too. So how is the new Civic? Well, first a disclaimer, this is a first drive, not a detailed test drive where I drive and experience a vehicle over a few days during my commute. We drove the car around the highways near Bengaluru airport and up the twisty roads on Nandi Hills. Initially, I had the i-DTEC which comes with a six-speed manual transmission. Now, I have a strong opinion about six-speed manual transmissions in India because I still believe it is one gear too many on any car. That said, on the highway you can easily put the car into sixth and just cruise at 80-100 km per hour, the diesel purring along. What does not purr along are the

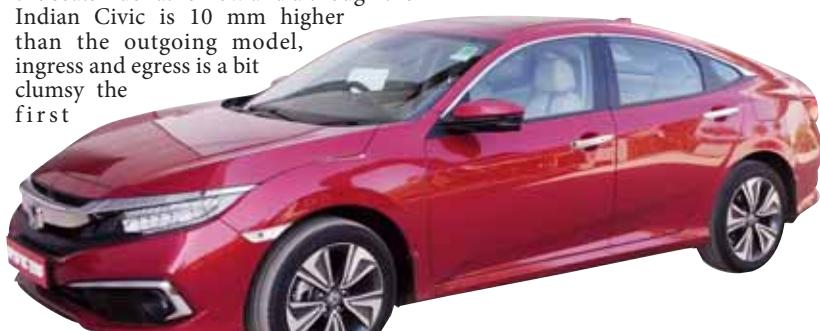
tires? Because of the need to derive higher fuel economy, the i-DTEC comes with low rolling resistance tires and those are noticeably noisy. You can drown that out by pumping the volume on the smart infotainment system, which is similar to those on other new Hondas, and comes with support for Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, standard across variants.

Now, on the twisty sections you really do need to mash the gears to keep the motor in its narrow powerband. While the car does take the corners very steadily indeed, you do feel that it could do a bit more. Maybe with grippier tires it could. Then again, even with enthusiastic driving, the Civic Diesel returned almost 15 km per litre. This is clearly a car designed to be an economical long-distance hauler

racer. So on to the iVTEC, first things first, there is no manual version on this Civic. Nope. Nada. Nyet. What you get is Honda's very nice Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) with a Torque Converter and seven forward speeds as standard, as well as a paddle-shift system when you want to have fun. Now, Honda's CVTs are very smooth — I loved the CVT on the diesel Amaze for example — but they are not designed again for very enthusiastic driving. On regular day-to-day driving on the highway and in the city, gear shifts are brilliant and kick-down power when you need to get a move on gets delivered promptly. But you do start to sense some shift-lag when you start using the paddles a lot. Possibly I am saying this because dual-clutch gearboxes and their millisecond shifts have spoiled me. While this CVT is not what I would call lazy, it again feels tuned more to regular urban commuting.

And you know what? Urban commuting is what most buyers of the Civic will do, and once you begin to live with it, you can work your way around the CVT transmission and figure it out. As such, both the iDTEC and iVTEC Civics are very well suited for that role and look fantastic as well.

The problem Honda India faces is actually less to do with the Civic and more to do with the segment, because the segment is moribund. India's love affair with the Sports Utility Vehicle continues, anybody buying a car in the ₹15-18 lakh range is looking lustfully at the Hyundai Creta. The Civic, which one expects to match the Corolla Altis for price, meaning it would be around the ₹18-24 lakh segment, will have people look at the Hyundai Tucson, or have people who want space just look at the Toyota Innova. There is no doubt the new Honda Civic is a good car and an excellent looking one at that, but I'm not sure it can make the Indian buyer start looking at sedans again.





gorgeous



Taking you to the land of foodie's paradise, Daniell's Tavern creates a classic menu filled with the goodness of butter in gravies infused with authentic spices, for the quintessential Punjabi dining experience. All time favourites like Butter Chicken, Makki ki Roti, Sarsa ka saag and the lip-smacking lassi. Date: March 15 to 25 Time: 6.30 pm to 11.45 pm Venue: Daniell's Tavern



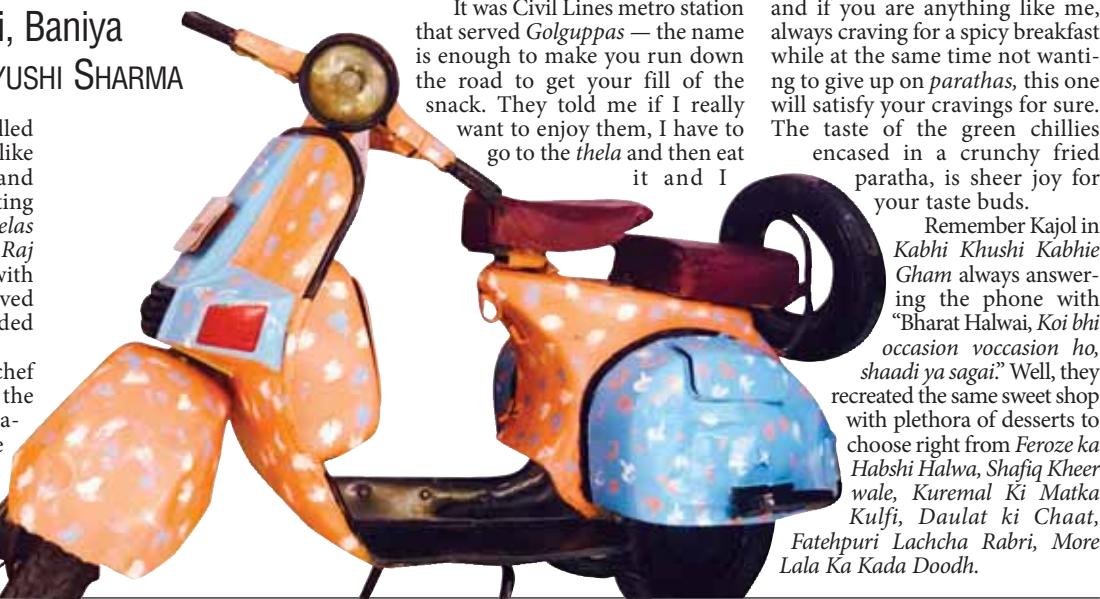
The Wine Project is set to bring all things wine with its Delhi Wine Festival. The festival is going to be a perfect cocktail of all things food, wine, music and so much more. Presenting some of the best international wines from Spain, Portugal, Italy, Australia, Chile, Argentina, South Africa, France and New Zealand. Date: March 2 (12 pm to 9.30 pm) and 3 (12 pm to 1 am) Venue: Qla, near Qutab Minar, Mehrauli.

Lemon street

The ninth edition of the Dilli 6 food festival at Edesia offered delicacies from the reigns of Tomars, Mughals and Britishers to Punjabi, Baniya and Kayastha. By AYUSHI SHARMA

that have been shot in the walled city (or sets that looked like it) like Dilli-6, Bajrangi Bhaijaan and Kurbaan, was displayed, depicting a slice of life. There were thelas serving Pani puris, Tikkis and Raj bhog while the lavish buffet with almost 80 plus dishes was served with signboards that reminded one of metro stations.

According to executive chef Swaminandan, Crown Plaza, the old city shares an intimate relationship with food across the dynasties such as Pandavas, Tomars, Mughals and the Britishers which ruled here. The food at Purani Dilli is sumptuously garnished



with culinary secrets that have been passed down through generations. Also, Delhi being the food capital of the country has the influence of several cuisines such as Kayastha, Baniya and Punjabi. He said, "The food festival attempts to unravel the culinary legacy of Purani Dilli travelled through ages."

I have a notion that you are not a true Delhiite if your taste buds don't salivate when you smell the whiff of hot oil from the kadhai and tawas when your favourite street food such as Aloo Tikki, Golgappa, Dahi Bhalle, Aloo Puri and Chole Bhature is being prepared. Mine certainly did.

It was Civil Lines metro station that served Golgapas — the name is enough to make you run down the road to get your fill of the snack. They told me if I really want to enjoy them, I have to go to the thela and then eat it and I

couldn't agree more so I held those paper bowls in my hand and gulped down an uncountable number of them. They were a delightful offering of pale green masala water, saunth, chutneys and soft-boiled potatoes. Apart from mitha paani and khata paani, they also served with spicy hing water. This tangy, spicy treat with the cherry on the cake of hygienic environment only tempted me further.

After munching on to the starters at the chaat thelas, I hopped on to the Parathe Wali Gali metro station, to experience those deep friend, golden Parathas stuffed with fillings as varied as Mirchi, Nimbu, Gobhi, Methi to Mooli and Khoya. Imagine lemon pickle stuffed inside a paratha and one starts to drool. Well, the Nimbu Paratha tasted like that in every respect. I tried the Mirchi one too and if you are anything like me, always craving for a spicy breakfast while at the same time not wanting to give up on parathas, this one will satisfy your cravings for sure.

The taste of the green chillies encased in a crunchy fried paratha, is sheer joy for your taste buds.

Remember Kajol in Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Ghani always answering the phone with

"Bharat Halwai, Koi bhi occasion vo occasion ho, shaadi ya sagai?" Well, they recreated the same sweet shop with plethora of desserts to choose right from Feroza ka Halwa, Shafiq Kheer wale, Kuremal Ki Matka Kulfi, Daulat ki Chaat, Fatehpuri Lachcha Rabri, More Lala Ka Kada Doodh.



Give in to your springtime cravings with a spread of delicacies, prepared using strawberries at La Baguette. With their aroma, bright red colour, juicy texture and sweetness, strawberry treats are the perfect and one of the most popular choices for spring desserts. Price: ₹280 onwards plus taxes Time: 10 am to 10 pm Date: Till February 28



Decode Airbar, is all set to take the drinking experience a notch higher. They are bringing in Glitter Beer for the first time. Glitter beer is all about the bling and the shine, without any harm. They are using edible glitter to glam up the brewed glass of beer. Time: 12 pm to 12 am Price: ₹245 plus taxes for 400 ml Venue: SCO 39, 1st Floor, Sector 29, Gurugram

RECIPES



AVOCADO AND ROASTED BEETROOT TARTARE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Roasted beetroot: 240 gm
- Salt as per taste
- Black pepper as per taste
- Olive oil: 40 ml
- Avocado: 500 gm
- Cucumber rounds: 60 gm
- Edamame: 20 gm
- Edible flower: 5
- Mayonnaise: 20 gm
- Balsamic caviar: 10 gm

FOR MARINATION

- Lemon juice: 20 ml
- Sugar: 30 ml
- Water: 20 ml
- Sesame seed paste: 10 gm
- Soya sauce: 10 gm
- Basil pesto: 20 gm

FOR AVOCADO MARINADE WITH SPICY MAYONNAISE

- Egg-less Mayonnaise (ready to use): 60 gm
- Japanese chili paste: 10 gm

FOR GARNISH

- Edamame pods: 20 gm

Beetroot flower: 5

METHOD

- Wash and peel the beetroots. Season them with salt and pepper, and rub with oil. Wrap them in silver foil and roast in the oven for about 15-20 minutes at 140 degree Celsius until they are cooked. Cool, and cut into small dices.
- Peel the avocado and cut into small dices.
- Slice cucumber into rounds and arrange on a plate in concentric circles. Make the basil pesto as normally made at home and keep aside. Make balsamic vinegar pearls with agar agar and keep aside.

- To make the marinade, mix together all the ingredients, and add beetroot and avocado to the it. Keep it aside for 5 minutes.
- Take a round mould and neatly layer the beetroot at the base, followed by a layer of avocado.

Courtesy: Chef Vaibhav Bhargava at The Drunken Botanist

TITO'S GREYHOUND

WHAT YOU NEED

- Tito's Handmade Vodka: 45 ml
- Grapefruit juice: 90 ml

METHOD

- Pour Tito's Handmade Vodka into a glass over ice and add grapefruit juice.
- Garnish with grapefruit wedge or rosemary sprig.

Courtesy: Tito's Handmade Vodka



A NATURAL WONDER

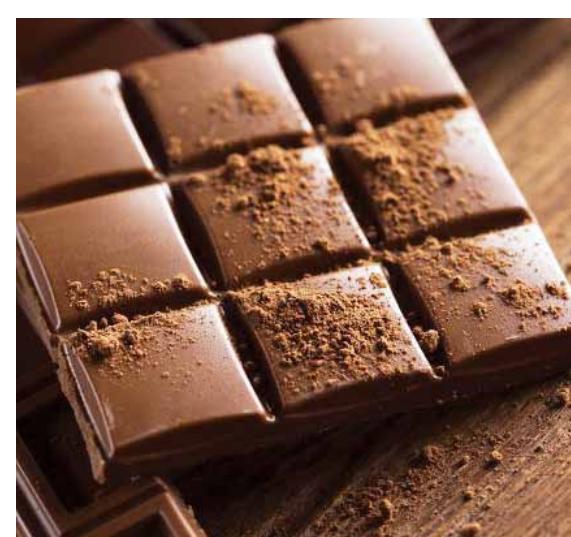
Could dark chocolate boost your athletic performance? By TEAM VIVA

Researchers are casting their eye over the growing benefits of dark chocolate on health to see if it can translate into improved athletic performance as well.

A research carried by Deakin University in Australia listed health benefits of consuming dark chocolate, especially for athletes.

Dark chocolate contains large amounts of cocoa, which is the seed portion of the tree. This is rich in a group of compounds called flavonols. Originally discovered because of their potent antioxidant activity, these have been found to contain many health benefits. While cocoa is rich in flavonols, fruits, vegetables, red wine and tea all contain significant amounts of this latest natural wonder.

Not just an antioxidant, flavonols can improve blood flow, reduce oxygen cost, improve insulin sensitivity and improve immune



responsiveness. They help achieve this through increased bioavailability and bioactivity of nitric oxide. The potential benefits from flavonols on nitric oxide production tick many of the boxes that athletes are looking for in improving performance.

Most of the research on dark chocolate has looked at cardiovascular health in people with pre-existing medical conditions, with only a limited focus put on exercise performance in a more healthy population.

ON YOUR BIKE
Putting dark chocolate to the exercise supplement test, nine moderately-trained male participants volunteered to undertake a series of baseline tests looking at their maximal oxygen uptake (VO₂max), lung gas exchange measures and two-minute exercise bike time trial performance. They performed each trial two weeks apart under conditions of either consuming daily 40 grams of dark chocolate or white chocolate (which contains no polyphenols) leading up to the trial.

Dark chocolate consumption improved time trial performance relative to both the baseline conditions and also white chocolate consumption conditions. This equated to a 17 per cent greater distance covered when eating dark chocolate compared to the start of the experiment and 13 per cent more distance covered compared to eating white chocolate.

There was also a significant six per cent improvement in VO₂max under the dark chocolate conditions com-

pared to baseline conditions. The same six per cent improvement was also seen when dark chocolate was eaten compared to white chocolate, but this didn't reach the level of statistical significance. There were no statistical differences in blood lactate, heart rate, or blood pressure between the different experimental conditions, but dark chocolate showed a trend for improving many of these measures.

Since the taste of dark chocolate is quite distinct, it was not possible to blind the participants to what they were eating. So some placebo effect could have played a role if participants expected the dark chocolate to have a benefit.

WHAT IT ALL MEANS

This was only a very small study, but as far as proof of concept goes, it certainly gives a green light to more research in this area. When you put in context that all that is being used is a small amount of dark chocolate, then there appears little harm in athletes jumping the gun early and trying it for themselves.

BHARWA CHEESE MIRCHI

WHAT YOU NEED

- Green Chillies: 5
- Yellow cheddar cheese: 20 gm
- Goat cheese: 20 gm
- Red capsicum: 10 gm
- Green capsicum: 10 gm
- Jalapenos: 10 gm
- Chilli flakes: 10 gm
- Oregano: 10 gm

- Black pepper: 10 gm
- White pepper powder: 10 gm
- Gram flour (besan): 30 gm
- Penko bread crumb for crumbing
- Oil for frying

METHOD

- Cut the green chillies lengthwise from the centre.

- Boil water and blanch the chillies.
- Drain and cool.
- Prepare the goat cheese mixture by adding small dices of green capsicum, red and yellow capsicum, white pepper powder.

- Stuff the green chili halves with the goat cheese mixture.

this batter and roll in the panko breadcrumbs.

- Deep fry the crumbed chillies till the color of breadcrumb is golden brown.
- Mix the chopped raw green aam papad and sweet chili sauce. Serve the fried chillies with this tangy sauce.

Courtesy: Chef Nitish Mehta at Studio Xo Bar



TITO'S GREYHOUND

WHAT YOU NEED

- Tito's Handmade Vodka: 45 ml
- Grapefruit juice: 90 ml

METHOD

- Pour Tito's Handmade Vodka into a glass over ice and add grapefruit juice.
- Garnish with grapefruit wedge or rosemary sprig.

Courtesy: Tito's Handmade Vodka

CRAZY LAST QUARTER

Gimenez and Godin strike late to earn Atletico 2-0 victory in an entertaining first leg tie against Juventus

AFP ■ MADRID

Cristiano Ronaldo's Champions League mission with Juventus stalled on Wednesday as Atletico Madrid secured a deserved 2-0 victory from a thrilling first leg at the Wanda Metropolitano.

Ronaldo returned to the Spanish capital, where he enjoyed unprecedented success in this tournament with Real, but it was their rivals celebrating at the final whistle as goals from Jose Gimenez and Diego Godin put Atletico within sight of the quarter-finals.

But this was a victory that Simeone's side fully deserved. Antoine Griezmann had hit the crossbar while VAR twice intervened, correctly, in Juve's favour, cancelling a penalty for a foul on Diego Costa and then ruling out an Alvaro Morata header just before Gimenez struck.

While Juventus tried to preserve the stalemate, Atletico were bold. Simeone introduced Morata, Thomas Lemar and Angel Correa, all around the hour-mark, and his daring paid off. "I showed balls," Simeone said.

Juve are certainly not dead and buried, particularly given Costa and Thomas Partey will both be suspended for the return in Turin after each picked up yellow cards.

But the failure to score an away goal, and their clear inferiority in the second half does not bode well for any hopes of a comeback.

"They don't give you chances," said Allegri. "They make you play badly."

Defeat in the last 16 for either team would be unthinkable, for Atletico, who know the final will be played here, at their own stadium, on June 1, the perfect chance to wrestle the trophy off Real in the very city they share.

RONALDO SUBDUED

And for Juventus, whose wait for Europe's premier prize has now entered its 23rd year, when expectations are higher than ever given they now boast the tournament's most prolific ever player.

Ronaldo, though, endured a disappointing night, suffocated from the outset by a typically relentless Atletico backline.

Perhaps it was frustration that made him wave five fingers in the direction of the baiting Atletico crowd, presumably to signify his five Champions League triumphs.



Jose Gimenez celebrates after scoring Atletico Madrid's opening goal against Juventus in round of 16 first leg clash at Wanda Metropolitano in Madrid on Wednesday



Sterling winner caps late City comeback

AFP ■ SCHALKE

Raheem Sterling sealed a dramatic 3-2 Champions League win for 10-man Manchester City at Schalke on Wednesday as the English champions scored twice in the last five minutes.

Sterling tucked away the winner at the Veltins Arena in the 90th minute just after substitute Leroy Sane fired home a stunning free-kick for the Premier League leaders against his former club in the last 16, first leg.

Schalke led 2-1 at half-time as the VAR twice intervened to award penalties,

both converted by Nabil Bentaleb, cancelling out Sergio Aguero's opener in Gelsenkirchen.

City were in real trouble with 22 minutes left when Nicolas Otamendi, who gave away the controversial first penalty, was sent off for a second yellow card before Sane's moment of brilliance and Sterling's winner.

However, City still have some work to do in the return leg on March 12 with Fernandinho, who was booked when conceding the second spot-kick, and Otamendi both suspended.

Schalke are just above the Bundesliga's relegation places and winless in their last four league games, yet they gave Premier League leaders City an almighty scare.

The hosts initially struggled to get out of their half as Man City dominated the opening 30 minutes, until the game swung dramatically Schalke's way with the two penalty decisions.

Schalke shot themselves in the foot for City's opening goal on 18 minutes when a lazy pass from goalkeeper Ralf Faehrmann to Leroy Sane was snappled up by David Silva.

The Spaniard drew Faehrmann and selflessly served up a simple tap-in for Aguero to claim his 10th goal in his last seven City appearances.

SCHALKE SPARKED INTO LIFE

However, falling behind sparked life into Schalke.

Schalke drew level after Daniel Caligiuri fired in a speculative shot which clipped Otamendi's arm.

Despite City's furious protests, the spot-kick was duly awarded, which Bentaleb tucked away to the delight of the home crowd on 38 min-

Figuratively

Leroy Sané has been directly involved in eight goals in his last seven appearances in all competitions for Manchester City (three goals, five assists).

Nicolas Otamendi has received his first red card for Manchester City in what was his 161st appearance for the club.

Manchester City have conceded at least two goals in six of their seven games in the Champions League knockout stages under Pep Guardiola.

Since the start of last season, only Cristiano Ronaldo (8) has scored more away goals in the Champions League than Sergio Aguero (7).

"We will not go far in this competition unless we improve. The result is indeed good, but we gave the first two penalties away and the red card, so we are not ready to fight for the Champions League."

—Pep Guardiola
(Man City boss)

utes and they would be celebrating again soon after.

The Germans took the lead when Fernandinho pushed Senegal defender Salif Sane when a free-kick flew into the box, and VAR again intervened and another penalty went Schalke's way.

Bentaleb stepped up to smash the spot-kick past Ederson and put Schalke ahead.

The second half was a much more even affair with Schalke no longer intimidated to be playing star-studded City.

In turn, the visitors' problems were compounded on 68 minutes when Otamendi clattered Schalke's replacement forward Guido Burgstaller and was dismissed.

In a bid to turn the match with 13 minutes left, Leroy Sane came on for Aguero and the Germany international produced the goods against the club he left in 2016. Then Sterling latched onto goalkeeper Ederson's long clearance as the home defence hesitated and slotted in.

SINGLES

TSITSIPAS BACK TO WINNING WAYS

MARSEILLE: Rising Greek star Stefanos Tsitsipas bounced back from successive defeats with a comfortable win over Poland's Hubert Hurkacz to reach the quarter-finals in Marseille on Wednesday. The 20-year-old, who stunned Roger Federer en route to the Australian Open semi-finals last month, had lost his last two matches to Gael Monfils and Damir Dzumhur. But Tsitsipas, the top seed this week in France, was back in form as he brushed aside world number 78 Hurkacz 6-4, 6-2 in only an hour. He will next face a lucky loser — either Ukrainian world number 141 Sergiy Stakhovsky or the 130th-ranked Gregoire Barrere — in the last eight.

BREAKDANCING SET FOR OLYMPICS DEBUT

PARIS: Breakdancing is set to make its debut as an Olympic sport at Paris 2024, the head of the local organising committee said on Thursday. Skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing, which have already been added to the programme for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, have been invited to return in Paris four years later. Tony Estanguet, the head of the Paris 2024 organising committee and a former Olympic Gold medalist in canoeing, said the inclusion of the four sports responded to a need to make the Olympics "more urban" and "more artistic". "This is a major step forward in our ambition to organise a unique Olympic Games," Estanguet said.

SAXENA'S 122 PUTS INDIAN COLTS IN COMMAND

TIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A brilliant knock of 122 by left-handed opener Diyans Saxena put India under-19 team in a commanding position against South Africa on the second day of the first 'Youth' Test on Thursday. The home team made 330 all out in 92.3 overs in reply to South Africa's 197 and prised out three wickets to gain the upperhand at stumps. The visitors closed the day's play at 34 for 3 in 15 overs having lost the openers and captain Matthew Montgomery. Saxena got better as the innings progressed as he hit some delightful shots and hammered a six. To South Africa's credit, they didn't allow the Rahul Dravid-coached India under-19s to run away with things as the bowlers struck at regular intervals to dismiss the host for 330 and limit the lead to 133.

TENDULKAR TO DO PUSHUPS AT IDBI MARATHON

NEW DELHI: Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar will join thousands of runners during the IDBI Federal Life Insurance New Delhi Marathon on Sunday to raise funds for the families of the martyrs of the Pulwama terror attack. Before the start of each of the four races at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Sunday, Tendulkar will do 5-10 push-ups as part of the #KeepMoving Push-up Challenge and the runners will join him in the exercise. For each of the participants in the challenge, IDBI Federal, the marathon organisers, will donate ₹100 towards the fund for the martyrs' families. More than 18,000 runners are expected to take part in the four races — full marathon (2000), half marathon (6000), timed 10K (5500) and 5K Swachh Bharat Run (4500)—of the New Delhi Marathon.

SEVILLA BEAT LAZIO TO REACH EUROPA LAST 16

SEVILLE: Wissam Ben Yedder scored his second goal of the tie as Sevilla eased to a 2-0 second-leg win over Lazio to reach the Europa League last 16. The record five-time winners had claimed a 1-0 first-leg victory in Rome last week thanks to a Ben Yedder strike, and the Frenchman doubled their overall lead on 20 minutes by tapping in after Pablo Sarabia's shot was saved by Thomas Strakosha. Sarabia wrapped up a 3-0 aggregate success by lashing home Jesus Navas' pass with 12 minutes to play.

ISSF indicates withdrawal of Olympic quota from Delhi WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

All the 16 Olympic quotas allotted to New Delhi World Cup were on Thursday withdrawn owing to denial of visas to Pakistani shooters in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack.

This was announced by the ISSF president Vladimir Lisin during his address to the season-opening World Cup at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range.

Pakistan shooters' participation in the tournament became the bone of contention since the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama killed more than 40 CRPF personnel last Thursday.

Denied visas in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack, the Pakistan's shooting federation on Wednesday wrote to the international body, asking it to drop the two 25m rapid fire pistol quotas for 2020 Olympics.

It was learnt that the International Olympic Committee is deliberating on the matter and a decision of its Executive Board is likely to be issued at 10 pm local time of Switzerland (02:30 IST Friday), officials said.

"The International Olympic Committee informed us this World Cup will not be included in the competitions for Olympic quotas. In this case, the quotas will be distributed in another World Cup. No one can be discriminated and we have to follow the IOC decision as part of the IOC family," Lisin said during his address.

National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president Raninder Singh, though, said that they are still looking

for a resolution so that the quotas for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics are not withheld.

"Nothing is cancelled as of now. The status as of now is we don't know. We are waiting. There are meetings that are going on where the position is being assessed by the IOC and the government. Everyone is working very hard but it is a very peculiar position. It is very unprecedented scenario and it is unfortunate," Raninder said.

Denied visas in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack, the Pakistan's shooting federation on Wednesday wrote to the international body, asking it to drop the two 25m rapid fire pistol quotas for 2020 Olympics.

HARDIK OUT OF AUSTRALIA SERIES

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya was on Thursday ruled out of the upcoming T20 and ODI series against Australia due to "lower back stiffness" with Ravindra Jadeja replacing him in the 50-over squad.

It is a minor setback for the team and Pandya, who returned to action during the limited-overs series in New Zealand after being handed a provisional suspension.

"The BCCI Medical team decided to rest the all-rounder and let him undergo strength and conditioning work for his lower back at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru. Pandya will begin his strength work from next week," said the BCCI in a statement.

"The T20I squad will now consist of 14 members. Ravindra Jadeja has been named replacement for Hardik Pandya for the 5 ODIs," it added.

After returning from ban Pandya made instant impact in his comeback game, proving how



crucial his presence is for the balance of the side.

The 25-year-old has so far played 11 Tests, 45 ODIs and 38 T20s.

His absence from the ODI squad gives Jadeja another opportunity to stake his claim in the squad for the World Cup to be played in the UK in May-July.

India will host Australia for two T20s and five ODIs, starting Saturday in Visakhapatnam.

The domestic veterans then restricted Sikkim to 104/7 to

start their campaign on a winning note.

Young Shreyas Iyer hit a blazing 147 off 55 balls to help Mumbai defeat Sikkim by 154 runs in their Group C opening match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy on Thursday.

Iyer's 147 is the highest T20 score by an Indian. He surpassed the record of Rishabh Pant, who had scored an unbeaten 128 for Delhi Daredevils.

His 147 is also the 12th highest score by a batsman in the T20 cricket history.

Test specialist Cheteshwar Pujara also hit an unbeaten 100 in 61 balls, but the effort went in vain as Railways chased down Saurashtra's 189-run target with five wickets in hand at the Holkar Stadium.

At the Emeralds Heights International School ground, it was all Iyer show, who took the Sikkim bowlers to cleaners hammering 15 sixes and seven boundaries as Mumbai posted a mammoth 258/4 in 20 overs.

The domestic veterans then restricted Sikkim to 104/7 to

start their campaign on a winning note.

Mumbai lost openers skipper Ajinkya Rahane (11) and young prodigy Prithvi Shaw (10) cheaply and were reduced to 2-22.

But one-down Iyer and experienced Surya Kumar Yadav joined forces as they hammered the opposition bowlers and conjured a 213-run stand for the third wicket.

For Mumbai, spinner Shams Mulani and pacer Shardul Thakur picked two wickets each, while Dhawal Kulkarni, Shubham Ranjane and Tushar Deshpande picked a wicket each.

In another Group C match, Pujara hit a stroke-filled unbeaten 100 off 61 balls, with 14 boundaries and a six, and his team, Saurashtra, to 188/3 in 20 overs.

But contributions from the middle order helped Railways overhaul the target with two balls to spare.

Meanwhile at Mysore, Jharkhand pulled off a thrilling three-run win over holders Delhi in a Group 'A' match.

Batting first, Jharkhand rode on Virat Singh's unbeaten 70 to make 158 for 4 in 20 overs against an attack that included Test paceman Ishant Sharma.

Delhi fell short by three runs despite a brave knock of 70 by Dhruv Shorey.

In other matches, Kerala thrashed Manipur by 83 runs and Jammu and Kashmir beat Nagaland by nine wickets in an one-sided encounter.

Iyer hits record-breaking ton

PTI ■ INDORE



It was an absolute carnage with Iyer being the more aggressive of the two.

24-year-old Iyer raced to his 100 in just 38 balls.

Surya too played a handy knock of 63 in just 33 balls with eight boundaries and two other sixes over the fence.

Sikkim was never in the hunt to chase the total and their innings ended at 104/7.

For Mumbai, spinner



In service of the nation

INDIAN RAILWAYS

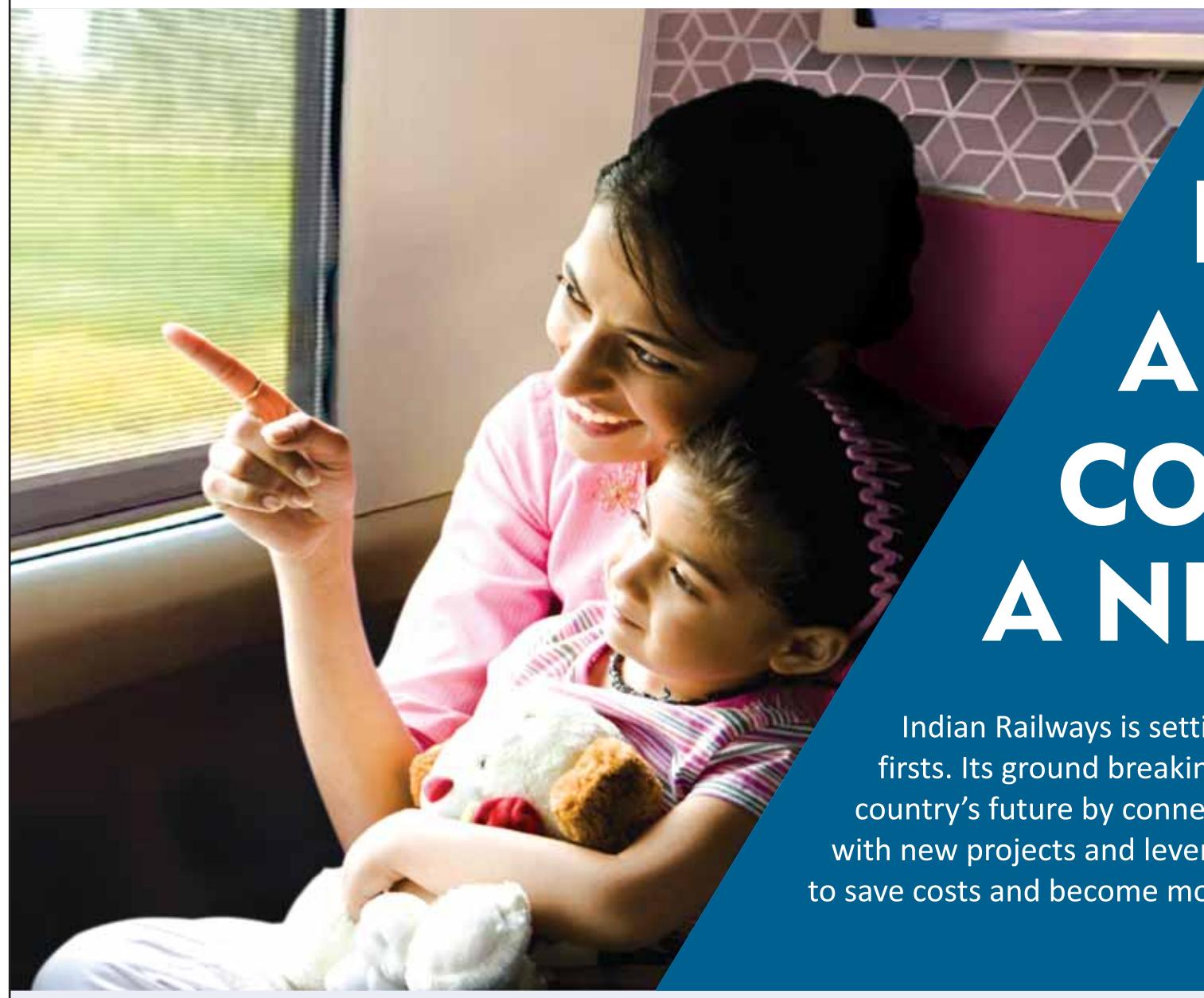
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PIONEERING A NEW COURSE FOR A NEW INDIA

Indian Railways is setting new milestones with many firsts. Its ground breaking new course is redefining the country's future by connecting India's vast hinterland with new projects and leveraging indigenous innovations to save costs and become more environment friendly.



100% electrification of Broad Gauge routes sanctioned:
Highest ever electrification of 4,087 Route KM in 2017-18



Development of High horse power (9000 HP) passenger and freight locomotives for running trains at higher speed



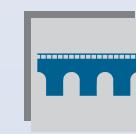
First state-of-the-art electric loco of 12,000 HP developed at Electric Locomotive Factory, Madhepura



First indigenous semi-high speed train Vande Bharat Express introduced



Development of aerodynamically designed passenger locomotive with speed potential of 200 Kmph under "Make in India" initiative



India's Longest Rail cum Road Bridge: Bogibeel bridge in Assam dedicated to the nation



World's first ever conversion of diesel loco into high horse power electric loco at Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) in Varanasi - savings in costs and environmentally friendly



Setting New Benchmarks with Many Firsts