

OPINION 6
EMPEROR
IN PERIL

WORLD 5
NEW BREXIT TALKS IN
BRUSSELS NEXT WEEK

MONEY 10
AADHAAR-PAN LINK MUST
FOR TAX FILERS: CBDT

Established 1864
Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR
CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN
City Vol. 8 Issue 45
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RAIPUR, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



SINDHU, SAINA
SET UP SUMMIT
CLASH
11 SPORT

Firm to avenge Pulwama, Govt mulls options

Surgical, airstrike not easy choices for want of shock & awe, in wake of foul weather

RAHUL DUTTA ■ NEW DELHI

The security establishment in India is mulling over options to avenge the killing of 44 CRPF personnel in a suicide attack in Pulwama on Thursday. The Services Chiefs briefed the political leadership on Friday about their preparedness to carry out any punitive strikes. The options include cross-border raids or surgical strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK), air strikes to destroy camps of well-known terror outfits, or something more "detering".

However, none of these options are easy for want of element of surprise, and inclement weather conditions.

Determined to punish the perpetrators, officials said the Government has also not ruled out opting for an unconventional response which may not entail using military option. These options could include intelligence-based action which may be covert in nature. Also, the retaliation by India may not come soon as the decision makers will weigh all consequences before launching any punitive action, officials said.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday took stock of the situation in the wake of the attack and options to be exercised, sources said. Modi later said in a public rally here that the security forces were given a free hand for the job at a place and timing of their choosing.

Elaborating upon various alternatives, sources in the security establishment said while surgical strikes by the elite Special Forces are on the table, it may be difficult at this point of time due to inclement weather along the Line of Control (LoC). Most of the mountain passes are snow-bound, making movement of commandoes to carry out any operation across the LoC difficult. If helicopters are used to drop the commandoes close to the LoC, the Pakistan Army will be immediately alerted, they said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays tribute to the martyred CRPF jawans, who lost their lives in Thursday's Pulwama terror attack, after their mortal remains were brought at AFS Palam in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Officials also admitted that surprise element as regards surgical strikes this time unlike two years back is not there, and the Pakistan Army will be fully geared to thwart any such move. The Pakistan Army is now deployed in full strength along the LoC and swift raids by the Indians may not be productive, they added.

On using air power, be it helicopters or fighter jets, to take out terrorist camps of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in Muridke in POK, officials said — India has the weapons and capability such an action across the border — may be construed as an act of war and also lead to escalation of hostilities between India and Pakistan.

Taking these factors into consideration, the Government decided to move step by step and immediately try to isolate Pakistan diplomatically and withdrawing the Most Favoured Nation status on Friday. More diplomatic actions in the coming days were not ruled out, sources said.

Pak stripped of Most Favoured Nation status

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Talking tough after an unprecedented terror attack on security forces in Kashmir that killed 44 CRPF jawans on Thursday, the Government on Friday removed "Most Favoured Nation" (MNF) privilege accorded to Pakistan. All steps will be taken to ensure the neighbouring country's isolation globally, the Government said after the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) met here to review the situation following the terror strike reportedly had a backing of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad.

After the CCS meeting at Prime Minister's residence, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said all efforts will be made to ensure that perpetrators of the attack are brought to book.

Pak's Abdul Rasheed brains; 40 biker-fidayeen on prowl

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the deadly strike on a CRPF convoy that took lives of 44 paramilitary jawans, the security agencies have identified Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) commander Abdul Rasheed as the mastermind of the Pulwama terror attack.

Pakistani national Rasheed is suspected to have been trained in Afghanistan. An IED expert, he is suspected to have planned the terror attack in December last year. He is suspected to have also acted as a handler of the slain Adil Ahmad Dar, alias Waqas Commando who rammed his explosive-laden Scorpio SUV into a bus of the CRPF convoy on Thursday.

Intelligence estimates suggest 35-40 fidayeen of Jaish are

active in South Kashmir.

Inputs also suggest motorcycle-borne fidayeen could be on the prowl in the Valley, a reason why convoy movement was banned across Kashmir by the State police.

"The chatter inputs reveal that Jaish-e-Mohammad has hinted to carry out IED attacks along the routes of security forces across Jammu & Kashmir.

It is as such suggested that security forces need to put on alert to thwart any such attempt by terrorists," warned a Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) alert a day before the Pulwama attack, asking all the J&K-based units to remain on highest alert and maintain constant liaison with the State police.

"...it is requested to issue necessary guidelines and instructions and to all unit

commanders of J&K-based units to be on highest alert to avoid any untoward incident. Constant liaison must be maintained with the local police and other intelligence agencies for sharing of information and coordinate action. Any significant information in this regard should be immediately intimated to all concerned," read the alert.

The J&K Police had on February 8 issued an alert asking the CRPF to sanitise area of deployment. "Before occupying your place of deployment, please sanitise the area properly as there are inputs of use of IEDs. Matter most urgent, read the February 8 alert flashed through the police control room to the various formations of CRPF, Srinagar Sector, BSF, ITBP and police formations in the State," it said.

Blood boiling, will exact high price: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said those responsible for the Pulwama terror attack will pay "a very heavy price" and security forces will be given a free hand to deal with terrorists. In a hard-hitting speech, Modi said the "blood of the people is boiling" and forces behind the act of terrorism will definitely be punished.

"I want to tell the terror outfits and those aiding and abetting them that they have made a big mistake. They will have to pay a very heavy price for their actions. Let me assure the nation that those behind this attack, the perpetrators of this attack will be punished," Modi said at a function to flag off the Vande Bharat Express, India's fastest train from Delhi to Varanasi. He was speaking just after the Cabinet meeting.

"Security forces have been given complete freedom, the blood of the people is boiling...Our neighbouring country, which has been isolated

internationally, thinks such terror attacks can destabilise us, but their plans will not materialise," Modi said.

"My condolences to families of those martyred in Pulwama attack; those behind the terror strike will pay a very heavy price," Modi said.

"I am thankful to all nations which condemned the Pulwama attack and I urge them to come together to crush terrorism," he said.

Appealing to his critics to not politicise the tragedy, Modi said the attacks have left the country emotional. "I understand the sentiments of those criticising us but I urge them that it is an emotional time, so stay away from political one-upmanship," he said.

Addressing a public meeting in Jhansi later in the day, the PM again did not name Pakistan but said the attack was an outcome of the neighbour's desperation as it is in a bad shape and has been forced to go to different countries with a "begging bowl" to meet even its daily expenses.

Exclusive passage for force convoys, crackdown on ISI funding ordered

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Announcing a massive crackdown on those accepting funds from the Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to carry out nefarious activities in the Kashmir, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said strict action will be taken against them.

Making another significant announcement in Srinagar, Rajnath said the civilian traffic would be stopped during the movement of convoys of Army and paramilitary. "In the wake of the suicide attack on a CRPF convoy on Thursday, it has been decided that the civilian movement will be stopped for some time when a large convoy of security forces passes through an area," Rajnath told at Press conference.

He said that the civilians will face a little difficulty because of the restriction. "We apologise for it," he added.

Earlier, on his arrival in Srinagar, the Home Minister attended a high-level security review meeting and also visited Command hospital where he interacted with the injured CRPF jawans.

Rajnath also shouldered mortal remains of CRPF jawans along with senior police/Army and CRPF officers after attending a solemn wreath-laying ceremony.

INDIA'S ENVOY TO PAK CALLED BACK

Ajay Bisaria, India's High Commissioner to Pakistan, was on Friday called back to Delhi for consultations after a Pakistan-based terror group killed over 44 CRPF soldiers in a massive car bombing in Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday.

ALL-PARTY MEET CALLED BY GOVT

An all-party meeting has been called by the Government on Saturday to discuss Thursday's terror attack against a convoy of CRPF. This meeting will be first of its kind called by the NDA Government led by Narendra Modi.

US to Pak: End safe haven for terrorists

The international community has strongly condemned the terror attack, with US President Donald Trump asking Pakistan to "end immediately" the support and safe haven provided to all terrorist groups operating on its soil.

CHINA TO BLOCK BID TO DECLARE AZHAR GLOBAL TERRORIST

China on Friday indicated it would continue to block India's bid to declare Masood Azhar as an international terrorist whose outfit JeM has claimed to plot the worst-ever attack in J&K.



A clash between two communities started on the issue of a protest against Thursday's terror attack on a CRPF convoy, in Jammu on Friday. PTI

India outraged; curfew clamped on protest epicentre Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Protests broke out in several parts of the country on Friday against the terror attack in Pulwama district of South Kashmir. Jammu was the epicentre of the people's outburst as curfew had to be imposed there following massive violence during the day-long bandh call given by Chamber of Commerce and Industries. Protesters burned dozens of vehicles and shops and damaged properties.

In Delhi, protesters gathered at India Gate on Friday afternoon raising anti-Pakistan slogans. A group of protesters

demonstrated outside Pakistan's embassy in Delhi.

Spontaneous protest also broke out in Mumbai, Amritsar, Patna, Varanasi, Ranchi, Hyderabad and several other cities. But it was Jammu, which saw massive arson and violence through the day.

The situation became explosive after scuffle broke between members of two groups during the bandh call. As police authorities deployed in the area failed to contain the situation, even after lobbing teargas shells, angry protesters resorted to violence and torched vehicles parked outside Jogi gate area.

CAPSULE

TRUMP DECLARES EMERGENCY FOR WALL

Washington: Battling with one branch of Government and opening a new confrontation with another, President Donald Trump announced on Friday he was declaring a national emergency to fulfill his pledge to construct a wall along the US-Mexico border.

AADHAAR-PAN LINK MUST BY MAR 31 FOR RETURNS

New Delhi: The CBDT has stressed that Aadhaar-PAN linking is "mandatory" by March 31 this year for those filing an Income Tax returns.

30 hotels under Delhi Govt fire lose licence

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

A few days after a massive fire in Karol Bagh took 17 lives, the Delhi Government on Friday cancelled the No Objection Certificate (NOC) for fire clearance of 30 hotels.

Pertinently, the Government audited hotels/guest house in the vicinity after a magisterial probe ordered by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Home Minister Satyendra Jain said the fire department will intensify its drive against errant hotels across the city to

prevent recurrence of Karol Bagh-like incident. "45 hotels have been inspected in Karol Bagh area, 30 were found to be violating rules and hence, safety certificates have been cancelled," said Jain.

Persona International, Danish Residency, Hotel Mid Town, Sunrise Karol Bagh, MS Regency Hotel, Hotel Apra Inn, GH TJS Royal, Rockwell Plaza, Kyron, Sun Star Height, JP Residency, Hotel Metro Continental, Hotel Royal Garden, Arihant Inn, Hotel Krishna Palace, Hotel Majestic are a few of the violators.

According to Jain, municipal corporations and police have been asked to seal these establishments.

As per the observations submitted to the Delhi Government, a large number of deaths at Hotel Arpit Palace occurred due to suffocation which happens due to presence of carbon monoxide and other toxic and poisonous gases.

Hotel Arpit Palace inferno has taken lives of 17 occupants of the hotel.

As per the Delhi Government audit report on February 13, 23 hotels were

inspected by the fire department and of this, 13 were found violating fire safety norms.

Next day, 17 hotels out of 22 were found to have violated rules. We have written to municipal corporation and police to take steps to seal them, he said.

The Minister said that in its report the fire department said that hotel management used carpets and covered walls with wooden material, which fuelled the flames. The Minister added that a magisterial inquiry is underway in the matter.



File Photo

Diplomatic offensive launched against Pak Govt calls all-party meet to discuss terror attack

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After vowing to avenge the killing of 44 CRPF jawans at Pulwama in Jammu & Kashmir, India on Friday launched a major diplomatic offensive against Pakistan to mobilise international opinion in favour of a possible punitive action. India briefed envoys of 25 countries, including from P5 nations — US, China, Russia, the UK and France — on Islamabad's hand behind the attack.

Pakistan must take "immediate and verifiable action" against the JeM and that it must immediately stop any groups or individuals associated with terrorism operating from its territories, Gokhale told the envoy.

According to sources, Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria has also been called to Delhi for consultations in the wake of the horrific attack.

Hours after vowing to isolate Pakistan diplomatically in the wake of the attack, the Government undertook the exercise of reaching out to the international community, most of which has univocally condemned the attack by the UN-proscribed Pakistan-based JeM terrorist outfit.

China expressed deep "shock" over the Pulwama terror attack carried out by a Jaish suicide bomber, but did not give

an assurance to India that it will back New Delhi's appeal to list the UN-proscribed Pakistan-based terror group's chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist.

Apart from the envoys of the P5, Gokhale met the envoys of key countries in Europe and Asia such as Germany, South Korea, Japan, as well as Australia, they said.

"All the Heads of Missions were left in no doubt about the role played by Pakistan based and supported JeM in the terrorist attack and our demand that Pakistan ceases forthwith all support and financing to terror groups operating from areas under their control. The foreign secretary also highlighted the role played by Pakistan in using terrorism as an instrument of its state policy," a source said.

The MEA will continue to take all steps to expose the com-



Policemen patrol after clashes broke out between communities in Jammu AP

licity of Pakistan in the Pulwama terrorist attack and demand immediate and verifiable action against JeM and its leader Masood Azhar, the source added.

Countries from across the globe condemned the terror attack with nations such as the US, UK, Russia and France

asserting that they stand with India in this hour of grief.

Condemning the attack, Russian President Vladimir Putin said perpetrators and sponsors of the attack should be brought to book and reiterated his country's support for further strengthening counterterrorist cooperation with India.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An all-party meeting has been called by the Government on Saturday to discuss Thursday's terror attack against a convoy of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Kashmir in which 40 soldiers were killed and many more are still battling for their lives.

This meeting will be the first of its kind called by the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) under Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the wake of a terror attack.

The agenda of the meeting, it is understood, is to seek a unanimous view of India's future course of action.

This meeting will be the first of its kind called by the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) under Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the wake of a terror attack

Invitations have been extended to all the parties.

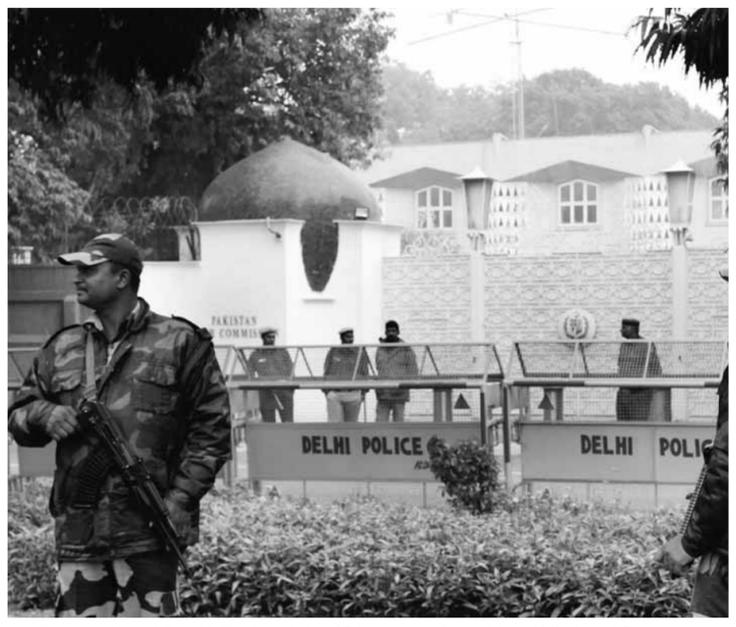
Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh who visited Kashmir on Friday to oversee the situation there would convene the meeting to brief political parties on the incident so that the nation speaks in one

voice on the issue, said Union Finance Minister Aurn Jaitley said after the meeting of Cabinet Committee on Security.

With Lok Sabha elections close by, the Government would like to take a bipartisan view on the issue and to have the backing of all the parties to whatever action it proposes to take following the terror attack in Kashmir.

All the parties are expected to attend the important meet called by the Government.

Shiv Sena, an ally in the NDA has sought calling of a Joint-session of the Parliament to discuss the Pulwama attack.



Security personnel keep vigil outside High Commission of Pakistan as security was tightened following anti-Pakistan protests in the Capital after the Pulwama terror attack in New Delhi Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Rahul extends support to Govt

PAWAR TAKES JIBE AT MODI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Pulwama attack, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday said his party and the entire Opposition is fully supportive of the Government and the security forces.

No amount of hatred and anger can harm the love India is built on, Gandhi said at a Press conference along with former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other Congress leaders, including Ghulam Nabi Azad and AK Antony.

"This is a terrible attack, this type of violence is disgusting. Terrorism tries to divide the nation, we can't be divided by any power. The entire opposition is with secu-

rity forces and the Government," Gandhi said.

"Those who have done this should not feel that they can harm the country. It is a time of mourning and sadness," he added.

Singh said the nation can never compromise with terrorism.

"Terrorism is a scourge which we can never compromise..." the former Prime Minister said.

On Thursday, an explosives laden truck rammmed into a CRPF convoy in Pulwama outside Srinagar, killing 37 soldiers in one of the biggest terror attacks in recent years.

Meanwhile, Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar on Friday said the Pulwama terror attack was an attack on the nation and there should be no attempts to politicise the issue. The former Union minister also took a swipe at Prime Minister

'Those who have done this should not feel that they can harm the country. It is a time of mourning and sadness'

Narendra Modi over some of the latter's statements after such attacks during the Congress-led UPA regime.

Speaking to reporters on home turf Baramati in Pune district, Pawar called Thursday's attack on the CRPF convoy in Jammu and Kashmir as an attack on the nation.

"I can remember, Prime Minister Modi, before coming to power, used to say in his election rallies that (then PM) Manmohan Singh's government had failed to teach Pakistan a lesson (after such attacks).

"He (Modi) used to say the Manmohan Singh government did not have ability to teach a lesson (to Pakistan). He also

used to remark that only those with a 56-inch chest could administer a tough lesson to Pakistan," Pawar said.

Modi, in his rallies, used to exhort people to replace the UPA government with that of the BJP so that Pakistan could be given a befitting reply for such terror attacks, Pawar told reporters.

"But everyone has seen what has happened now. But today I will not repeat that same demand which he (Modi) had made (at that time)," Pawar said. The kind of image that Modi created of himself in the run-up to the 2014 Lok Sabha polls had now become a "100 per cent failure", he said.

The hand of state players in Pakistan cannot be ruled out in the Pulwama attack looking at its magnitude and explosives used, Pawar said. Having such capabilities was not possible for common persons or outfits, he added.

Yoga reduces severity of RA symptoms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Eight weeks of intensive yoga practice significantly decreases the severity of physical and psychological symptoms in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a debilitating chronic autoimmune inflammatory disease, according to doctors from Delhi-based All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

In their study published in Restorative Neurology and Neuroscience, the doctors said that marked improvements were noticed in the levels of certain inflammatory biomarkers and assessments of functional status and disease activity in patients studied, demonstrating yoga's promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative potential for achieving optimal health.

"Our findings show measurable improvements for the

patients in the test group, suggesting an immune-regulatory role of yoga practice in the treatment of RA.

"An intensive yoga regimen concurrent with routine drug therapy induced molecular remission and re-established immunological tolerance. In addition, it reduced the severity of depression by promoting neuroplasticity," explained lead investigator, Rima Dada, MD, Professor, Department of Anatomy, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here. She noted that high disease activity and underlying depression are associated with increased disability, reduced quality of life, and minimized rates of clinical remission and treatment response. Other researchers included Dr Surabhi Gautam, Dr Madhuri Tolahunase and Dr Uma Kumar.

The study was a mind-

body intervention (MBI) randomized trial (with parallel active and control groups) to analyze the effects of practicing 120 minutes of yoga, five days a week for eight weeks on 72 patients with RA. Both the test and control groups were simultaneously undergoing routine drug therapies (DMARDs).

The findings showed significant improvement in systemic biomarkers of neuroplasticity, inflammation, immune-modulation, cellular health integrity, and aging in association with the positive clinical outcome of reduction in depression severity, disease activity, and disability quotient in RA patients following the intensive yoga based MBI. The study was supported by funding provided by the Department of Science & Technology, Union Ministry of Science & Technology.

Existing research has eval-

uated the role of yoga as an effective intervention to assist the management of RA with respect to clinical symptoms, quality of life, psychosocial outcomes, and functional ability.

This study is one of the first to look at how yoga practice affects the systemic biomarkers of inflammation, cellular aging, and oxidative stress, especially in RA. "Our results provide evidence that yoga positively modifies the pathobiology of autoimmunity at cellular and molecular levels by targeting mind-body communications.

Further research is needed for the exploration of possible mechanisms underlying the cumulative effect of yoga on multiple pathways at a cellular level," added Dr. Dada. "Yoga facilitates the mind's capacity to affect bodily function and symptoms mediated through a variety of downstream path-

ways and bring about natural immunological tolerance."

RA is a heterogeneous autoimmune disease that results from the interplay of genetic and environmental factors and causes extensive systemic inflammation, cartilage damage, and synovial hyperplasia that cause physical disability and psychiatric comorbidity. The co-existence of depression and RA in individuals poses a significant healthcare burden on the patients, their caregivers, healthcare systems, and society as a whole.

Existing medical therapies have a limited scope and fail to cure the psychological component of the disease and have numerous side effects. Depression seems to decrease patients' compliance and adherence to medical treatment and results in worse health outcomes and increases disease severity.

SC to hear plea against 1993 Central law on land acquisition near disputed site in Ayodhya

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Friday decided to hear a fresh plea challenging the constitutional validity of a 1993 Central law by which the government acquired 67.703 acres of land, including the disputed premises of Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid, in Ayodhya.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi tagged the matter with the main petition on title dispute pending before a constitution bench.

"List the matter before the bench already seized with the issue," the bench of Chief Justice Gogoi and Justice Sanjiv Khanna said.

The plea, challenging leg-

islative competence of Parliament to acquire religious land, was filed a week after the Centre had moved the apex court seeking modification in its 2003 order and allow it to return to original owners the 67 acres "non-disputed" land around the disputed structure in Ayodhya.

The petition, filed by seven individuals, including two Lucknow-based lawyers claiming to be devotees of Ram Lalla, has contended that Parliament had no legislative competence to acquire land belonging to the state.

Moreover, it said, the state legislature has the exclusive power to make provisions relating to the management of affairs of religious institutions inside its territory.

ED attaches Vadra's assets worth ₹4.62 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said it has attached assets worth ₹4.62 crore of Sky Light Hospitality, a firm owned by Robert Vadra, Congress president Rahul Gandhi's brother-in-law, in connection with the Bikaner land scam case.

"The attached assets include movable assets amounting to ₹18,59,500 pertaining to four individuals and one immovable property situated at 268, Sukhdev Vihar in New Delhi to the extent of ₹4,43,36,550 owned by Robert Vadra's company Ms Sky Light Hospitality (P) Ltd (now LLP)," the agency said.

The ED had registered a criminal case in connection with the deal in 2015, taking cognisance of a clutch of FIRs and charge sheets filed by Rajasthan Police after the tehsildar of Bikaner complained about alleged forgery in the allotment of land in the area. The area is considered sensitive due to its proximity to the Indo-Pak border.

"In furtherance of sale/purchase, these impugned fraudulent lands were further sold by subsequent purchasers to individuals and companies and all these subsequent sellers of the impugned land generated a considerable amount of profit. The fraudulently generated profit by these entities is nothing but proceeds of crime as defined under PMLA," the ED said in a statement.

Sky Light Hospitality (P) Ltd had purchased 275 Bigha (69.55 Hectare) land fraudulently for ₹72 lakh and sold the same for ₹5.15 crores to Allegeny Finlease (P) Ltd and illegally generated profit of ₹4.43 Crores. Four other individuals had also generated profit of ₹18.59 lakhs in sale of fraudulent acquired land, the agency said.

On Tuesday, Vadra and his mother Maureen had appeared before the ED in Jaipur. Congress general secretary and Vadra's wife Priyanka Gandhi had accompanied them to the probe agency's office.

Last week, the ED had quizzed Vadra in Delhi for three days in connection with a money laundering probe against him for allegedly procuring assets abroad in an illegal manner.

All-India Flamingo census from next week

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

If you are a bird lover or/and avian expert, you have an opportunity to be the part of this first ever all-India Flamingo census to be carried out in two phases—first one on February 23-24, and then in April at several sites across 12 States including the national Capital and neighbouring Haryana.

The all India count is expected to help in assessing the current population trend of Greater Flamingo Phoenicopterus rosus and Lesser Flamingo Phoeniconaias minor and their habitats in India to help prepare the species action plan for their long term conservation, said an official from the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) which is conducting the mega census.

Greater Flamingos, which are taller and whiter, have a mixed feeding pattern. It feeds on insects, small fishes and algae. The Lesser Flamingos are comparatively smaller and more pink and only feed on algae.

These two birds are also included in the India's National Action Plan (NAP) for Conservation of Migratory Birds and their habitats along Central Asian Flyway (CAF) prepared by the Union Environment Ministry. "This is the first initiative



Greater Flamingo



Lesser Flamingo

for a coordinated PAN-India flamingo count. We have in the past undertaken several studies including colour tagging, satellite tracking of Greater Flamingo and conservation actions in the past decades.

"Currently, we are monitoring both migratory birds population in some locations including the Mumbai seascapes," said the official adding that as this work is initiated through the citizens science, this also fulfil another activity of the NAP to promote migratory bird conservation initiatives through raising public awareness and local peoples' participation, including citizen science groups.

The Central Asian Flyway (CAF), one among the nine flyways in the world, encompasses overlapping migration routes over 30 countries for different waterbirds linking their northern most breeding grounds in Russia (Siberia) to

the southernmost non-breeding (wintering) grounds in the Maldives and the British Indian Ocean Territory.

The BNHS has short-listed major Flamingo congregation sites by referring available literature, past and present BNHS studies, Asian Waterbird Counts (AWC) and e-bird India database. Majority of these wetland sites are in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Telangana. In Delhi, these birds are sighted at Najafgarh jheel area while in Haryana the hotspots are Sultanpur National Park and Dighal wetlands.

"The government institutions, Indian Bird Conservation Network (IBCN), ornithologists, researchers, academicians and nature lovers across India are being encouraged to visit any of the short-listed sites or any site of their choosing where Flamingos are seen," said the official.

Govt amends norms for setting up EVs charging stations

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to make it easy for people to switch to electric vehicles (EV) and to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has made amendments to the Model Building Byelaws (MBBL) 2016 and Urban Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) guidelines 2014 making provisions for setting up EVs charging stations in residential and commercial buildings, bus terminals and service stations and multi-level parking lots.

The amendments include offering round-the-clock charging infrastructure facility to all electric vehicles in residential buildings, increasing electricity load for all buildings, setting up charging bays at 20% capacity of all vehicles and on-spot metering and payment services in both commercial and residential buildings.

If successful, this will make EVs more attractive and cost-effective to people - driving the way they have been changing till now. This will make easy for people to switch to EVs. The amendments in the guidelines have been circulated to all the State Governments and Union Territories with the request to amend their Building



Byelaws and Master Plan Regulations. Additionally, the building premise will have to have an additional power load, equivalent to the power required for all charging points (in a Public Charging System (PCS)) to be operated. There should be sufficient space for charging and entry/exit for vehicles. Any PCS installed at Public/Private areas or building premises of any category that caters to commercial mode of charging of EVs shall be deemed as a Public Charging Station and shall have to install the minimum requirements of chargers as specified in the guidelines.

The amendment allows one public charging system to be set up at every 25 kms on both sides of highways and inter-city corridors. Similarly, one fast charging station is to be set up at every 100 kms on both sides of highways and roads. In industrial parks or

Mumbai highway, Agra-Lucknow highway, Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressway, Delhi-Agra NH 2 and Hyderabad Outer Ring Road expressway. According to data, India's per capita emissions are still considered low at 1.9 tonnes (2013), but its total emissions are next only to China and the US and is likely to overtake those of the European Union by 2019. Delhi is on top as the biggest emitter at over 38 38 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent overall emissions, followed by Greater Mumbai at 22.7 million tonnes and Chennai at 22.1 million tonnes, Kolkata at 14.8million tonnes, Bangalore at 19.8million tonnes, Hyderabad at 13.7 million tonnes and Ahmedabad at 9million tonnes were the other cities whose emissions for the year were calculated sector wise.

As per amendment, the tariff for supply of EVs will be determined by the competent authority and Central Electricity Authority will create a data base to this effect. According to the amendment, the government will create 'favourable ecosystems' in nine polluted cities having over 4 million populations. It will gradually be extended to cities that have population of one million-plus. It will also cover Mumbai-Pune corridor, Delhi-Jaipur expressway, Ahmedabad-Vadodra expressway, Delhi-Agra Yamuna expressway, Bengaluru-Mysore expressway, Bengaluru-Chennai, Surat-

estates, land for at least one point charging station is to be reserved within a grid of 10km x 10 km. The amendment also allows setting up a battery swapping station along the highways and intercity corridors.

As per the statistics of Delhi government, total number of vehicles in Delhi is more than the combined total vehicles in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. Delhi has 85 private cars per 1000 population against the national average of 8 cars per 1000 population. In terms of CO2 emissions due to motor vehicles, Delhi emits about 12.4 million tonnes while the city of Bengaluru emits about 8.6 million tonnes.

C'garh Assly condemns Pulwama terror attack

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh state assembly on Friday strongly condemned the suicidal attack on the paramilitary CRPF convoy at Pulwama that killed at least 43 troopers which created a national outrage against Pakistan.

The blast occurred on a highway 20km away from Srinagar on Thursday.

As soon as the assembly began proceedings, Speaker Charandas Mahant mentioned the death of CRPF men in Pulwama and a two minute silence was observed in respect of the martyrs.

Speaker while recalling the martyrdom of Jawans said the House condemns the brutal act.

"The Jawans would be remembered for their dedication



towards the nation and the House pays tribute to them. The House on behalf of people of Chhattisgarh mourns the death of Jawans and prays for the bereaved

family" Speaker remarked in his very emotional but in a brief speech.

Condemning the attack, Leader of the Opposition

Dharamlal Kaushik said "we stand with the grieving family of the martyrs and a befitting reply would be given to the terrorist in time to come for their cowardly act". "On behalf of my party I pay tribute to the departed souls and we stay united for the families of martyrs", he said.

Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (JCC) (I) legislator Dharamjeet Singh said if the terrorists were thinking that with this cowardly act they could weaken our country, they were having misconception. The sacrifice of the security personnel in Jammu and Kashmir would not go in vain, he further added.

Former Chief Minister Raman Singh condemning the martyrdom of Jawans said the entire

nation stood shoulder to shoulder with martyrs' families. He further asserted that it was certain that a major retaliatory action would be taken by our country to eliminate terrorism.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ravindra Choubey said the two sons of motherland 'Kisan' and 'Jawan' are the two under whose shoulders the country was standing. Only because of our Jawans, our countrymen have a sigh of relief and feel protected, he said. He added that a befitting reply is needed for this suicidal attack.

After paying tributes to martyrs, the proceedings of budget session of the state assembly on Friday were suspended and the House was adjourned till Monday.

Rahul to visit poverty-hit Bastar today

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Congress President Rahul Gandhi will be visiting to Bastar on Saturday and he is scheduled to return back tribals land which was acquired by the previous BJP government for allowing a private steel maker to set up an integrated steel plant.

Gandhi would also lay a foundation stone for a food-park in Kondagaon.

The Congress chief would reach Jagdalpur by a chartered plane at 1.00 p.m. on Saturday. He would then proceed to Dhuragaon where land titles of acquired land for Tata Steel Plant would be returned back to farmers. He will also commence the



distribution of forest right letters to the residents of forest areas of the region.

Gandhi will also distribute loan waiver certificates to the farmers. Notably, he had held a similar programme in Naya Raipur recently.



Politicians cutting across party line as well intellectuals lit up candles on Friday in Raipur in respect of 43 CRPF martyrs of a cowardly attack on a para-military convoy at Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir. The terror attack has resulted into a national outrage against Pakistan and people are pleading with the central government to avenge this brutal attack.

Baghel govt launches job recruitment drive

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The new Congress regime in Chhattisgarh under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, has unleashed jobs recruitment drive for youth of the state through open recruitment, a government statement claimed on Friday.

Baghel has announced recruitment on 40 percent vacant posts of Assistant Professor in government colleges of the state through Public Service Commission. In the same sequence, 1384 Assistant Professors of 27 subjects are being recruited in the state. Likewise, School Education Department is also going to recruit 15,000 teachers.

Recruitment for 35 posts of CMO, 17 posts of Ayurvedic lecturer, 10 posts of Assistant Director in Department of Planning and Economic Statistics and 39 posts of civil judge is already in process.



Directorate Health Services has also initiated recruitment of 788 staff nurse. This includes recruitment on 238 posts in Raipur Division, 128 posts in Bilaspur Division, 210 posts in Surguja Division and 212 posts in Bastar Division.

Likewise, Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board is also processing the recruitment on 424 posts of various departments.

Next month recruitment examinations for 506 posts would be held. The Board is facilitating recruitment on posts such as assistant registrar, hardware engineer, software engineer, assistant programmer, deputy engineer (civil), deputy engineer (electrical), deputy manager (horticulture), assistant grade-3, assistant grade-1, assistant grade-2, data-entry operator, assistant librarian, library assistant, translator, assistant grade-3, assistant grade-3 (computer) etc.

Baghel recalls VC Shukla, unveils statue

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Assembly Speaker Charandas Mahant on Friday unveiled a statue of former union minister and veteran politician late Vidya Charan Shukla at the garden located just in front of Raipur Municipal Corporation office here.

VC Shukla, a known political face for decades at national level, was martyred along with 30 other Congress leaders in a deadly attack carried out by Maoists in May 2013 at Jheeram valley in restive Bastar region.

While recalling the stellar contribution of VC Shukla to society, Baghel said that 'we had lost many key leaders in jheeram valley attack and their sacrifices and martyrdom would always be remembered'.

On the occasion, late VC Shukla's wife Sarla Vidya Charan Shukla and her other family members, freedom fighter Mahadev Prasad Pandey, State's Revenue Minister Jaishigh Agrawal, Mayor



Raipur Municipal Corporation Pramod Dubey, MLAs-Satyanarayan Sharma, Kuldeep Juneja, Vikas Upadhyay and several top personalities were present.

In the statue unveiling programme, Baghel strongly condemned the terrorist attack at Pulwama in Jammu & Kashmir that took place on Thursday.

He said that the entire country is shocked, sad and angry at this brutal incident. He appealed people of the country to contribute in eliminating all kinds of terrorism.

Fake news is a matter of serious concern, says CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that presently, fake news is not only affecting Chhattisgarh, but is a matter of grave concern for the entire country and the world.

"Earlier fake news was published only during Holi festival as a prank or joke, but now fake news has become a business. It has become a medium of defaming, provoking violence and winning elections, but now we need to understand that how far the news items can be considered



as truth," Baghel remarked while addressing a seminar here.

The seminar was organised by Kushabhau Thakre Patrakarita Evam Jansanchar Vishwavidyalay, on topic of 'Challenges of Fake News in Current Scenario'.

Baghel added, "it is extremely sad that our educated youth are getting affected by the fake news the most. A major reason behind this is that the youth no more reads newspaper and rather look on social media for news".

Oppn stages walk out over bicycle scheme

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Dissatisfied over the reply by School Education Minister Premsai Singh Tekam, over issue of 'Saraswati' bicycle scheme, opposition members of BJP on Friday staged walk out in the state assembly.

On demand of members later the minister also announced a probe into sub-standard bicycles purchased.

During the Question Hour, BJP legislator and former minister Brijmohan Agrawal raised the question about delay in distribution of bicycles to the girl students of government schools who are studying in class 9th.

"How many bicycles have been distributed till now", Brijmohan asked. Replying to it and justifying the reason for delay the minister said they them-



selves were in the government till November and the delay was on their part.

Dissatisfied over the reply of the minister, the opposition members of the BJP led by Brijmohan Agrawal staged a walk out from the assembly.

Capt wants 'befitting response' to Pak after Pulwama attack

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

"Enough is enough!" This how the visibly enraged Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Friday warned the Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, his Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and his "chamche" ISI a days after bloodiest terror attack on Indian armed forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama.

Condemning the Pak's act in the strongest possible words, Capt Amarinder asserted that

the time for talking peace is over with the neighbouring Pakistan as the "things are getting beyond control now".

At the same time, he urged the Prime Minister to give Pak a "befitting reply" so the sacrifices of our jawans don't go waste.

"Their Prime Minister is talking peace and the General is talking war...what is this? I strongly condemn this barbaric attack...the time for talking peace is over...this is becoming too much...their sacrifices should not go waste...I urge the Prime Minister to give

Pakistan a befitting reply," said Capt Amarinder in the Vidhan Sabha.

Disturbed, Capt Amarinder lashed out at the powers-to-be in Pakistan. "Enough is enough. They have taken 41 young lives have gone. For what...just to please somebody...I am not able to understand why they killed our jawans...Four out of them are from Punjab. What pleasure does it give them?" he questioned.

Making a strongly-worded statement, Capt Amarinder accused Pak Prime Minister

Imran Khan of playing a double game in his policy vis-a-vis India. "PM is talking about starting a Guru Nanak Dev University, and doing sewa (serving the gurdwaras). But, on the other hand, Bajwa's Army is killing our men," he said.

"He had been made Prime Minister by the ISI and was completely at their service," said Capt Amarinder while dubbing Imran Khan as "Army's puppet".

Capt Amarinder also minced no words to warn Pak Army general. "Je tu Punjabi ae, assi v Punjabi ae...Ethe vad k dekh (If you are Punjabi, we are also Punjabi. Dare to enter Punjab!)," challenged Capt Amarinder, amidst the thumping of benches, with Cabinet

THEIR PRIME MINISTER IS TALKING PEACE AND THE GENERAL IS TALKING WAR...WHAT IS THIS? I STRONGLY CONDEMN THIS BARBARIC ATTACK...THE TIME FOR TALKING PEACE IS OVER...THIS IS BECOMING TOO MUCH...THEIR SACRIFICES SHOULD NOT GO WASTE...I URGE THE PRIME MINISTER TO GIVE PAKISTAN A BEFITTING REPLY

Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu sitting silent.

"Everyday Indian soldiers are being killed by the enemy from across the border...a major and two jawans from second Sikh regiment had lost their lives to such attacks recently," he said.

"Punjab has also suffered

terror in the 80s and the 90s and fought it with a strong police force, which had grown manifold since then and is now fully geared to effectively counter any threat," said Capt Amarinder while issuing General Bajwa and Pak PM a stern warning against continuing with their policy of link-

ing Kashmir and Punjab separatists.

"We have a force of 81,000 fully with motivated men and fully equipped, who have passed the test of fire," said the Chief Minister, declaring that if Bajwa and ISI tried anything now in Punjab, they would get a resounding response.

This is not the 80s, he said while talking with the media outside the House, noting that the Punjab Police was much bigger and better equipped today.

At the same time, Capt Amarinder expressed hoped the Pulwama attack will not impact Kartarpur Corridor and reiterated his plea for visa-free 'khule darshan didar' to one and all.

"I am confident that the

corridor would be well-protected, but there is a need for a change in attitude on the part of Pakistan if peace between the two countries is to be promoted," he said while replying to the media queries.

Repeating that Islamabad was trying to link the terrorists of Punjab and J&K, the Chief Minister said that there are reports of the neighbouring country trying to foment trouble in Punjab, where as many as 28 terror modules had been busted in recent months.

The Referendum 2020 of Sikhs for Justice (SJF), which was clearly working at ISI's behest, was also a sign of their continued attempts to disturb peace in Punjab, he said, but asserted they will not succeed.

PULWAMA ATTACK

4 CRPF men from Punjab from among 40 killed

Chandigarh: As they mourned the loss of four CRPF men from Punjab, the grief of families and villagers was etched with anger as they demanded that Pakistan be given a befitting reply over the Pulwama attack.

The four personnel were among the 40 killed in the attack a Central Reserve Paramilitary Force (CRPF) convoy on Thursday.

Jaimal Singh from Kotise Kham village in Moga, Sukhjinder Singh from Gandiwind village in Tarn Taran, Kulwinder Singh from Rauli village in Anandpur Sahib and Maninder Singh Attri from Arya Nagar village in Gurdaspur died in the attack.

Heartbreaking scenes were witnessed in the villages as families mourned the loss of their loved ones. Locals gathered in large numbers to join the mourning and expressed pride in the jawans' sacrifice for the country and demanded that Pakistan be given a befitting reply.

Jaimal Singh was the driver of the bus that was blown up by a suicide bomber who rammed his explosive-laden SUV into it on the Srinagar-Jammu highway in

Awantipora area.

His father, Jaswant Singh, said he was proud of Jaimal for sacrificing his life for the motherland. He said his son had spoken to his wife and five-year-old son on Tuesday night.

In Tarn Taran's Gandiwind village, located near Amritsar, the family of 35-year-old Sukhjinder Singh was inconsolable. He had recently joined duty after a long vacation, villagers said.

Panchayat member Angrez Singh said Sukhjinder had got married five to six years back and he was the father to an infant boy.

"He was very patriotic. Since childhood, he wanted to join the armed forces. The entire village is in shock and disbelief and there is anger among people. They want that Pakistan be given a befitting reply," he said.

Sepoy Kulwinder Singh (26), who hailed from Rauli village Anandpur Sahib district, was engaged and he was to get married in November this year, a local said.

Kulwinder's father was a bus driver and his mother a housewife, the villager said, adding that he had joined the force four years back.

He said that while the family was in grief-stricken and there was anger among villagers, who wanted Pakistan to be taught a lesson.

The terror attack triggered angry protests at several places in Punjab and Haryana and people burnt effigies of Pakistan and terrorism, raising slogans against the neighbouring countries. Schoolchildren also took out marches in some areas.

"What is our government waiting for. How many sacrifices will our soldiers have to make? This needs to stop," said Jagtar Singh, who was part of one such march taken out in Kurukshetra.

Earlier on Friday, the Punjab Assembly strongly condemned the terror attack and the House was adjourned the day. In solidarity with those killed, legislators cutting across party lines unanimously passed a resolution for adjournment of the proceedings for the day.

Forty CRPF personnel were killed on Thursday in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir when a Jaish-e-Mohammad suicide bomber rammed a vehicle carrying over 100 kgs explosives into their bus.

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Friday adjourned for the day after unanimously passing a resolution condemning barbaric attack on Indian armed forces at Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir, a day before.

Moving the resolution, Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh called for a befitting response to the enemy and warned the Pakistan Army and ISI against indulging in any such games in Punjab.

The Chief Minister, who also sought an adjournment, sought retaliation from the Central Government against the neighbouring country, which had been blatantly supporting terror in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as Punjab.

Formally moving the resolution, Capt Amarinder said: "The House strongly condemns the barbaric attack by Jaish terrorists on the convoy of the CRPF in Pulwama that left 41 brave personnel dead and many others injured. Most of these personnel were on their way back to join their duties to defend the borders of India after their holidays. The sacrifice of these martyrs should not go waste and I urge the Centre to ensure a befitting response

to this attack on our country."

"The attack exposes the double standards of the Pakistan government, who on one hand is talking of peace and on the other actively supporting these terror outfits in J&K. We are all with the families of these martyred soldiers in their hour of grief and extend our heartfelt condolences to them," read the resolution, which was "unanimously" passed, and the House adjourned for the day.

Before seeking an adjournment motion, the Chief Minister said that the



hearts of all Indians go out to the families of the 41 CRPF men killed in the dastardly attack, the toll of which was still being counted.

He prayed to the Akal Purukh to grant peace to the souls of the deceased victims.

Supporting the resolution, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) MLA Bikram Singh Majithia said that the Chief Minister had spoken like a soldier and a true Indian. "Such a big tragedy has never occurred in the past 50 years," he said, adding that the House's request for condemnation of Pakistan and Prime Minister Imran Khan "in the strongest possible words" should be placed on record.

Dubbing Imran as an "ISI puppet", Majithia said that the attack had exposed their double standards.

The Leader of Opposition and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Harpal Singh Cheema sought Rs one crore compensation and a government job for the kin of the four deceased victims from Punjab, to which the Chief Minister later told media persons outside the House that it was a small issue and would be done.

Earlier, as the House proceedings started on Friday

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

morning, Majithia insisted that the Assembly need to condemn Pakistan, ISI and Imran Khan in strongest words, and the session be adjourned.

Coming to his support, Cabinet Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu said: "I agree with Bikram Majithia. The session should be adjourned."

On this, the Parliamentary

Affairs Minister Brahm Mohindra requested to wait for the Leader of the House Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to come and make a statement. Following this, the Speaker Rana KP Singh adjourned the House for half an hour saying that the Chief Minister would come and move the resolution.

PUNJAB MINISTER CANCELS LAHORE VISIT IN PROTEST

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To lodge strongest protest against the "dastardly" attack, Punjab Animal Husbandry and Labour Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu cancelled his scheduled visit to attend International Buffalo Congress at Lahore.

"I was going to take part the International Buffalo Congress which is being organized by the University of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Lahore, from February 18 to 20. This Congress was to be attended by the representatives from different countries," he said.

He said that he was slated to go to Pakistan with the progressive farmers of the state to attend this International congress. "The gruesome attack on CRPF convoy has shaken me emotionally and in order to show my solidarity with the families of the Jawans who lost their lives, I have decided to cancel my visit to Pakistan," he said.

The Minister said that whole nation is standing rock-solid with the security forces and the nefarious acts of the terrorist to disturb the country's unity and integrity would be exposed with iron hand.

Chair on Gita in Mauritius: Hry CM

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Friday announced that a Chair on Gita would be established in Mahatma Gandhi Institute at Mauritius to carry out study and research work on Gita.

"The assistance of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra would be taken for this purpose," Manohar Lal said while interacting with the prominent personalities in Mauritius. A Press statement issued here said that this Chair would play a vital role in the social and moral uplift of people of India and Mauritius.

He suggested that competitions on recitation of all 700

shlokas and their discourse should be organized so that maximum people could assimilate the message of Gita.

He said that the roots of people of Mauritius are connected to India and therefore, they should visit India as this would open new doors of exchange between both the countries not only in the field of culture but also in trade and industry. This would benefit both the countries, Manohar Lal added.

Acting President of Mauritius, Mr Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory said that Sanskrit is also the huge contribution of India to the world and there is need to promote it.

170 posts created for Gurugram Police

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

To further strengthen the law and order situation, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal has given nod to the proposal for the creation of 1170 new posts in already sanctioned 10 Police Stations of Commissionerate of Police, Gurugram.

A spokesman of Police Department on Friday said that the newly created posts include 10 of Inspectors, 90 of Sub-Inspectors (SIs), 110 of Assistant Sub Inspectors (ASIs), 390 of Head Constables and 540 of Constables.

Each police station will have an Inspector, 9 Sub-Inspectors, 11 ASIs, 39 Head Constables and 54 Constables. Out of the total, 30 posts (10 each of cook, water carrier and sweeper) have been sanctioned for class IV jobs, he said.

The spokesman further said that the government is taking steps to fill up vacancies in the state police force and the process for filling up of 7,110 vacancies is currently in progress.

The State Government had recently also accorded approval for the creation of 1957 new posts in already sanctioned 16 Police Stations of Commissionerate of Police, Faridabad.

Punjab's smart cities' Govt schools will also be 'smart'

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab's smart cities' government schools will also be "smart". To impart quality education to the students studying in government schools at par with their private counterparts, Punjab Education Department has decided to convert all government schools of the three "smart cities" — Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana — into smart schools.

The Education Minister OP Soni announced that amount of approximately Rs 20 crore has been released to DEOs of the three districts for the purpose and work will start shortly.

"These schools will be equipped with laptops, multi-

media projectors and high-speed internet, so that the teaching and learning process becomes easier and more effective," he said.

He added that besides smart classrooms, the government is also installing rooftop solar power plants in such schools.

"The Department took a commendable step to provide free sanitary napkins for girls in government schools and tenders of Rs 10 crore have been allotted for this purpose," he added.

Besides this, ten Model Schools would be set up in every constituency state-wide, in the forthcoming academic year, he said.

Soni said that the tender of Rs 80 crore has also been allot-

ted for uniforms of students and distribution of uniforms will commence in a week. "A total of 2524 government-run schools in the state have been transformed into smart schools so far. The motive of this entire exercise is to streamline the education system by delivering quality education," he said.

The Minister said that it is one of the most crucial and important projects of the department, which is aimed at upgrading the education paraphernalia of the state. "This initiative would help in curbing the mushrooming of private school culture," he said adding that the students emerging out of these smart schools would be able to clear any competitive exams in this cut throat competition era.

Pb gives relief to industrialists

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Giving a relief to industrialists, Punjab Government on Friday decided to allow extension in time-period to the defaulter allottees of industrial plots, developed by Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation Limited (PSIEC) in different focal points in the state, for the commencement of construction and production after the expiry of original stipulated and last extended period.

"All defaulter industrial plot holders of different focal points, developed by PSIEC in state, have been allowed an extension in time period for commencement of production up to September 30, 2020," announced the state Industry and Commerce Minister Sunder Sham Arora.

He made it clear that the extension in time period shall be allowed on payment of extension fee chargeable per year at the rate of one percent of the current reserve price of the plot fixed by the Corporation in the concerned focal point operative at the time of making payment.

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

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना दिनांक 11.02.2019 "प्रथम आमरण"

निविदा उपसंभाग के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न धवनों के सुदृढीकरण हेतु अतिरिक्त कर्षों के निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा "डी" श्रेणी एवं अधिक हेतु आमंत्रित की जाती है। जिसकी निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 03.03.2019 है।

एन.आई.टी. क्र./ निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	2	3
NIT NO. 338 Tender No. 49483	शासकीय हाईस्कूल भवन बर्दईपाली	रु. 5.71 लाख
NIT NO. 339 Tender No. 49484	शासकीय हाईस्कूल भवन चनाट	रु. 5.71 लाख
NIT NO. 340 Tender No. 49485	शासकीय हाईस्कूल भवन चारभाटा	रु. 5.71 लाख
NIT NO. 341 Tender No. 49486	शासकीय हाईस्कूल भवन चिखली	रु. 5.71 लाख
NIT NO. 342 Tender No. 49487	शासकीय हाईस्कूल भवन जेवरा	रु. 5.71 लाख
NIT NO. 343 Tender No. 49488	शासकीय हाईस्कूल भवन किरानपुर	रु. 5.71 लाख
NIT NO. 344 Tender No. 49489	शासकीय हाईस्कूल भवन कोलहादेवरी	रु. 5.71 लाख
NIT NO. 345 Tender No. 49490	शासकीय हाईस्कूल भवन परधिया	रु. 5.71 लाख
NIT NO. 346 Tender No. 49491	शासकीय हाईस्कूल भवन पिरदा	रु. 5.71 लाख
NIT NO. 347 Tender No. 49492	शासकीय हाईस्कूल भवन रजपालपुर	रु. 5.71 लाख
NIT NO. 348 Tender No. 49493	शासकीय हाईस्कूल भवन सावित्रीपुर	रु. 5.71 लाख
NIT NO. 349 Tender No. 49494	शासकीय हाईस्कूल भवन सूखीपाली	रु. 5.71 लाख

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

G- 58247/3 Ryp/Dtd 14.2.19

अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक.नि.वि. रायपुर मण्डल क्र. 2 (छ.ग.)

Credible Chhattisgarh विश्वसनीय छत्तीसगढ़ आपकी थी चाह, हमने बनाई राह

Pulwama attack HP seeks befitting reply to Pak

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Condemning the terrorist attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama in Jammu and

Kashmir, the Himachal Pradesh Assembly unanimously passed a condolence motion on Friday and sought a befitting reply to Pakistan.

Moving the motion, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said,

"Himachal is with PM. Himachal has the same sentiments which is of the entire country. HP is with the country for giving befitting reply to Pakistan for Pulwama attack."

Thakur said there is no

doubt that "our neighbouring country Pakistan is behind this terrorist attack. Pakistan denied its hand but everyone knows this act has been done by none other than Pakistan."

The chief minister said,

"Now this situation cannot be tolerated at all. Whatever decision the leadership at the Centre takes, Himachal will fully support that."

Announcing Rs 20 lakh as ex-gratia help to the family of slain CRPF jawan Tilak Raj from Himachal Pradesh, Thakur said he had on February 11 left home in Jawali of Kangra district to rejoin duty after leave.

Speaking on the resolution, Leader of Opposition Mukesh Agnihotri said the Pulwama attack was a big challenge before the country. Stating that Pakistan's role in the Pulwama attack was obvious, he said a befitting reply should be given to Pakistan.

Saying that this is the biggest terrorist attack in the recent past, he said the terrorists are now targeting our army, security forces and their camps. Earlier too, army camp was attacked in Uri sector in 2016, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Vikramaditya Singh said that whatever step the prime minister takes to retaliate, the entire country will be with him.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, RAIPUR CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)

Tender Notice (1st Call)

Contractors, Registered appropriate calss in Unified Registration System [e-Registration] invited Online tenders for the following works :-

NIT./NO/ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract	Last date of tender Download
344/49498	B.T PATCH REPAIR WORK ON VARIOUS ROAD UNDER SUB DIVISION ABHANPUR YEAR 2019-20	Rs. 59.69 Lakh	up to 02.03.2019 17:30 PM
345/49499	ORDINARY MAINTENANCE SPECIAL REPAIR AND DEPOSIT WORK OF ROAD AND BRIDGE AND CULVERT UNDER SUB DIVISION ABHANPUR (2019-20)	Rs. 110.00 Lakh	up to 02.03.2019 17:30 PM
347/49501	शासकीय इंजीनियरिंग महाविद्यालय सेजबहार रायपुर परिसर में प्रोप्रेशन ऑफ साईज पॉलियामेंट इलेकशन 2019 का कार्य	Rs. 18.58 Lakh	up to 02.03.2019 17:30 PM

● NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1 Raipur (C.G.)

G- 58278/4 Ryp/Dtd 14.2.19

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DME (PPYD)/Bhilai acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-tenders for execution of below mentioned work: **Tender Notice No. & Date M-R-ET-18-19-35. Name of the work- Outsourcing of welding repair activities in ROH section of ROH depot/PPYD/BIA for Two years.**

Tender cost: Rs. 1,45,49,594/- EMD: Rs. 2,22,800/- Cost of tender document: Rs. 5000/- Closing date of tender: 19.03.2019 at 15:00 Hrs.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offers received shall be rejected. For further details, eligibility criteria & complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Sr. DME (PPYD) / S.E.C. Railway, Bhilai or refer/ download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. DME (PPYD) S.E.C. Railway, Bhilai

PR/R/Sr DME/AP/251

Clean India Drive

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as Capital First Limited)

Registered Office: One Indiabulls Centre, Tower 2A & 2B, 10th Floor, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, (West), Mumbai - 400 013

Authorized Officer - Praveen Jadhav | Contact Number- 9826851510

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of IDFC First Bank Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 5-March-2019, for recovery of INR 10646841/- due to the IDFC First Bank Limited from MAA BAMBLESHWARI FUELS, Mr. Ranjeet Singh Bagga, Mini Bagga & Sanjeet Singh Bagga. The Reserve Price will be INR 22852368/- and the Earnest Money Deposit will be INR 2285237/-

DESCRIPTION OF MORTGAGE PROPERTY

BLOCK NO. 07 CONTRACTOR COLONY WARD NO 46 SHIVNATH COMPLEX G.E ROAD FACING BHILAI DIST DURG BHILAI

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Capital First Limited website i.e. www.capitalfirst.com.

Sd/- Authorised Officer IDFC FIRST BANK LIMITED (Formerly known as Capital First Limited)

Date : 16/02/2019

End support to all terror groups: US to Pakistan

World leaders condemn Pulwama terror attack

Washington: In a stern message to Pakistan, the White House has asked Islamabad to "immediately end" its "support" to all terror groups and not to provide "safe haven" to them, as the US condemned the brutal Pulwama terror attack claimed the lives of at least 40 CRPF soldiers.

Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) has claimed responsibility for the terror attack in Jammu & Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday that left at least 40 CRPF soldiers dead and five others critically wounded.

"The United States calls on Pakistan to end immediately the support and safe haven provided to all terrorist groups operating on its soil, whose only goal is to sow chaos, violence, and terror in the region," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a late night statement on Thursday.



"This attack only strengthens our resolve to bolster counterterrorism cooperation and coordination between the United States and India," she said in a strongly-worded statement issued by the White House.

Sanders said the United States condemns in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attack in Pulwama by a Pakistan-based terrorist

group. "We express our deep condolences to the victims' families, the Indian Government, and the Indian people for the loss of life in this brutal attack," said the Press Secretary of President Donald Trump.

Earlier, the US State Department said in a statement that it was "resolutely committed" to working with the Indian Government to combat terrorism in all its forms.

"The UN designates, Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Muhammad has claimed responsibility for this heinous act. We call on all countries to uphold their responsibilities pursuant to UN Security Council resolutions to deny safe haven and support for terrorists," Palladino said.

Several US lawmakers also expressed solidarity with India in the wake of a dastardly terror attack and said the two countries stand united in condemning and defeating terror.

Putin on Friday said perpetrators and sponsors of the attack should be brought to book and reiterated his country's support for further strengthening counterterrorism cooperation with India.

In a message to President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Putin said, "Please accept the most sincere condolences in connection with the loss of Indian law enforcement officers in the terrorist act in the state of Jammu & Kashmir. We strongly condemn this brutal crime. The perpetrators and sponsors of this attack, undoubtedly, should be duly punished."

"I would like to reiterate the readiness for further strengthening counterterrorism cooperation with Indian partners. In Russia, we share the grief of friendly people of India and hope for speedy recovery of the injured," he said.

The US specifically singled out Pakistan in its statement condemning the attack. In a stern message to Pakistan, the White House has asked Islamabad to "immediately end" its "support" to all terror groups and not to provide "safe haven" to them.

"The US calls on Pakistan to end immediately the support and safe haven provided to all terrorist groups operating on its soil, whose only goal is to sow chaos, violence, and terror in the region," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement. "This attack only strengthens our resolve to bolster counterterrorism cooperation and coordination between the US and India," she said in the statement issued by the White House.

Oz political leaders also condemned the "heinous" terror attack. "We convey our deepest condolences to the families of the victims, and all those injured. Our thoughts are with my friend Prime Minister @narendramodi and the Indian people," Prime Minister Scott Morrison tweeted on Friday.

Opposition leader Bill Shorten said it was an atrocious attack. "To the family and friends of the soldiers killed and injured — we send our deepest condolences, support, and hope for a timely recovery for the injured," he said in a statement.

Saudi Arabia said it stood with India's fight against terrorism and extremism and denounced as "cowardly" the suicide attack. The strong condemnation came days ahead of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud's state visit to India next week for talks with the top Indian leadership.

S. NO.	PARTICULARS	Amount Rs. In Lacs					
		Quarter ended		9 Months Ended		Year ended	
		Un-Audited	Audited	Un-Audited	Audited	Un-Audited	Audited
1	Income From Operations	2029.00	2541.70	3249.86	7173.00	8153.18	11159.45
	Net Sale Income from operations	2029.00	2541.70	3249.86	7173.00	8153.18	11159.45
2	Expenses						
	Change in inventories of Finished Goods and WIP	-45.00	82.20	-382.17	50.00	-321.42	85.75
	Operating Expenses*	1334.00	1480.06	1880.13	4149.00	4402.97	5816.79
	Employees Benefits Expenses	108.00	126.50	152.00	385.00	463.25	598.77
	Depreciation	292.00	292.58	284.59	877.00	853.77	1169.69
	Other Expenses**	370.00	625.69	627.12	1563.00	1678.18	1875.02
3	Total Expenses	2068.00	2605.03	2544.87	7024.00	7978.75	9546.02
	Profit (loss) from operation before other income, finance cost and exceptional items (1-2)	(39.00)	(63.33)	688.19	149.00	1076.43	1613.43
4	Other Income	0.00	36.14	22.42	90.00	78.32	126.37
5	Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before, finance cost and exceptional items (3+4)	(39.00)	(27.19)	710.61	239.00	1154.75	1739.80
6	Finance Cost	11.00	225.73	422.54	491.00	1362.44	1793.48
7	Profit (loss) from ordinary activities after finance cost but before exceptional items (5-6)	(50.00)	198.54	288.07	48.00	(207.69)	(53.68)
8	Exceptional Items***	0.00	7121.00	0.00	7121.00	0.00	0.00
9	Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before Tax (7-8)	(50.00)	(6922.46)	288.07	(7073.00)	(207.69)	(53.68)
10	Provision for Tax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Current Tax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Deferred Tax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Profit (loss) from ordinary activities after Tax (9-10)	(50.00)	(6922.46)	288.07	(7073.00)	(207.69)	(53.68)
12	Extraordinary items: Provisions for w.o of Fec claim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61.77	61.77
13	Net profit (loss) for the period (11-12)	(50.00)	(6922.46)	288.07	(7073.00)	(269.46)	(84.64)
14	Paid up Equity Share Capital (face value of Rs. 10 - per share)	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29
15	Reserves Excluding Revaluation Reserve						
16	Earning per Equity Share						
	i) Before extraordinary items						
	- Basic (Rs.)	-0.09	-11.96	0.50	-12.22	-0.36	-0.04
	- Diluted (Rs.)	-0.08	-11.37	0.50	-11.62	-0.36	-0.04
	ii) After extraordinary items						
	- Basic (Rs.)	-0.09	-11.96	0.50	-12.22	-0.47	-0.15
	- Diluted (Rs.)	-0.08	-11.37	0.50	-11.62	-0.47	-0.14

Notes: * Manufacturing expenses include raw material consumed, packing, labour, power & fuel and repair and maintenance. ** Administrative, selling & distribution expenses include administrative expenses India, U.S. expenses, road and ocean freight, custom duties, and selling commissions at USA. *** Exception Items: Under the guideline of accounting procedure Inds AS 16 we have written-off the following items from the account books: - 1 Write-off of Expired MAT. Insurance claim of Damaged stock in flood last year, an unrecoverable loan and advances as per board Meeting. - 2 Stock damaged due to power fluctuation and obsolete stock. - 3 In Q-1 FY 2018-19 results we had declared that there is reconciliation difference in stock of Rs.18 crore, however as per auditor view it should be debited to profit and loss account, which has now been rectified. - 4 As the account is under debt restructure, interest for Q-2 and Q-3 FY 2018-19 has not been provided and interest for Q-1 FY 2018-19 has been reversed.

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD
(MANAGING DIRECTOR)

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Principal Chief Engineer, Northern Railway, Head quarters office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001, Publication in newspaper of E-Tender Notices for procurement of Small Track Machines, spare thereof and Spare parts for Track machines has been stopped by the office of Principal Chief Engineer, Northern Railway, Head quarters office. Firm's desires to participate in tenders for procurement of Small Track Machines, spares thereof and Spare parts for Track machines Northern Railway are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in regularly after registering themselves on this portal and submit their e-bids on this portal only. **Notice No. 219-S/1/TMC/21/2018-19 Dated: 14.02.2019. 481/2019**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

59, Shakuntala Apts. First Floor, Nehru Place New Delhi-19
Tel: 011-26431534, 26281659, Fax: 26461388
E-mail: br.9044@syndicatebank.co.in

REF: 9044/973/36/REC/2019 DATE 13.12.2019

APPENDIX-IV-A (See proviso to rule 8 (6))

Sale notice for sale of immovable properties
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 22/03/2019, for recovery of Rs. 44,55,437.51 (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Seven and Paise Fifty One Only) as on 31/01/2019 with future interest and charges with effect from 01/02/2019, due to the Secured Creditor from Sh. Ranbir Singh and Mrs. Chandar Mukhi and Mrs. Saroj Bansal. The reserve price will be Rs. 39,60,000.00 and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 3,96,000.00

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Fat No. 303 third floor, built up on part of property No R2 1414 & 1414A, out of khasra no. 423 situated in at Gali No. 28, Tughlakabad Extension, New Delhi-110018 in the name of Shri Ranbir Singh and Smt. Chandar Mukhi
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provide in Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.syndicatebank.in

Date : 13.02.2018
Place : Nehru Place, Delhi

Authorised Officer
Assistant General Manager
Syndicate Bank

China again blocks India's bid to list JeM chief as global terrorist

Beijing: China on Friday expressed deep "shock" over the Pulwama terror attack carried out by a Jaish suicide bomber but did not give an assurance to India that it will back New Delhi's appeal to list the UN-proscribed Pakistan-based terror group's chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist.

At least 40 CRPF personnel were killed and many injured on Thursday in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir when a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) suicide bomber rammed a vehicle carrying over 100 kg of explosives into their bus in Pulwama district.

"China has noted the reports of suicide terrorist attack. We are deeply shocked by this attack. We express deep condolences and sympathy to the injured and bereaved families," spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Geng Shuang told a media briefing here when asked about the incident.

In a carefully worded response to a number of questions on the Pulwama incident, Geng said China condemned the incident as part of its overall stand on terrorism.

"We firmly oppose and strongly condemn all forms of terrorism. We hope relevant regional countries will cooperate to cope with the threat of terrorism and jointly uphold regional peace and stability," Geng said.

Without directly referring to India's persistent demand to declare Azhar as a global terrorist, Geng said JeM has already been included in the sanctions list of the UN committee but he was not forthcoming on why China is opposed to extend the ban on the leader of the group.

When asked about China's stand on the listing of Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN Security Council, he said: "As for the issue of listing, I could tell you that the 1267 Committee of Security Council has a clear stipulation on the listing and procedure of the terrorist organisations".

"JeM has been included in the Security Council terrorism sanctions list. China will continue to handle the relevant sanctions issue in a constructive and responsible manner," Geng said in an apparent reference to External Affairs Ministry's appeal to all members of the UN Security Council to list Azhar as a global terrorist.

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) in Rupees	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER
1	WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, HARYANA, PANCHKULA	INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SETTING UP SEMI AUTOMATED KITCHEN IN DISTRICT GURUGRAM INCLUDING FINANCIAL DETAILS.	CLOSING DATE	21.02.2019	NIL	wcdhry.gov.in	9416654430, ddi.wcd@gmail.com
2	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES, AMBALA	PROVIDING & FIXING OF DOORS & WINDOWS IN PLACE OF DAMAGED DOOR & WINDOW IN CANAL COLONY AMBALA + 12 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE	25.02.2019	2.79 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2973270, xensylambala@gmail.com
3	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES, GOHANA	RE-CONSTRUCTION OF V.R. BRIDGES AT RD 3050, 8870, 10180, 14100, 12700, 15400 OF BHAWAR LINK DRAIN + 1 OTHER WORK	15.02.2019	22.02.2019	65.62 LACS	www.hid.gov.in	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GOHANA WS DIVIN, GOHANA.
4	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES, M/GARH W/S MECH DIV NARNAUL	INSTALLATION SUPPLY AND COMMISSIONING OF 02 NO. 35 CS. VT AXIAL FLOW PUMP HAVING LIFT 23.02' AT PUMP HOUSE HD-1 OF HASSANPUR DISTY (FOR ADDITIONAL BAY). (RE-TENDER) + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE	25.02.2019	37.98 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01732-237837, Xenwsjgd1@gmail.com
5	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES, JAGADHRI	REHABILITATION OF RAKSHI NALLAH FROM RD 0 TO 90000.	14.02.2019	20.02.2019	1 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666-220530, pwd-eeep1-sirsa@hry.nic.in
6	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES, ADAMPUR W/S DIV HISAR	LINING OF EXTENSION OF SUB BRANCH 'X' ON THE WATERCOURSE AT OUTLET RD 25000- TAIL KOHLI DITCH DISTY UNDER MPLADS + 2 OTHER WORKS	04.02.2019	25.02.2019	6.08 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-230030, xenawsdn@gmail.com
7	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, GOHANA	TENDER NO. 112906- DNIT ESTIMATE FOR DE-SILTING OF SEWER LINES OF DIFFERENT SIZES IN GOHANA TOWN DISTT. SONEPAT FOR THE YEAR 2018-19	14.02.2019	20.02.2019	7.62 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01263-258417, ee1gohana@gmail.com
8	PWD B&R, SIRSA	PROVIDING AND LAYING 20MM THICK PC/80MM IPB OF VARIOUS ROADS IN PD-1, SIRSA DISTT. ROADS ID 5698	11.02.2019	24.02.2019	99.10 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01666-220530, pwd-eeep1-sirsa@hry.nic.in
9	PWD B&R, HISAR	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. VETERINARY DISPENSARY AT VILLAGE SALEMGARH IN DISTRICT HISAR (CM ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 22337 DATED 25.06.2018) + 7 OTHER WORKS	15.02.2019	25.02.2019	330.78 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01662-239887, pwd-eeep3-hissar@hry.nic.in
10	PWD B&R, SIRSA	SPECIAL REPAIR PWD REST HOUSE WITH PROVIDING/REPLACEMENT FURNITURE AND FURNISHING ITEMS ETC. IN PWD REST HOUSE AT SIRSA IN SIRSA DISTT. (RE-INVITE)	09.02.2019	17.02.2019	9.92 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01666-220530, pwd-eeep1-sirsa@hry.nic.in
11	PWD B&R, BHIWANI	SPECIAL REPAIR OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GARAGES, 4TH CLASE QUARTER AT BHIWANI IN BHIWANI DISTT.	13.02.2019	23.02.2019	19.62 LACS	https://pwbdr.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01664-242436, pwd-eeep-dbhivani@hry.nic.in
12	PWD B&R, BHIWANI	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT COLLEGE FOR WOMEN AT VILLAGE KAIRU IN BHIWANI DISTRICT (EXCLUDING EI WORKS)	14.02.2019	24.02.2019	1111.02 LACS	https://pwbdr.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01664-242436, pwd-eeep-dbhivani@hry.nic.in
13	PWD B&R, FATEHABAD	CONSTG. A ROAD FROM TOHANA (BHATIA NAGAR) TO VILLAGE DHAMKORA ALONG FATEHABAD DISTY. AT TOHANA IN FATEHABAD DISTT. KM. 0 TO 3.20 (C.M. ANNOUNCEMENT CODE NO. 23698 DATED 28.09.2018) + 1 OTHER WROK	13.02.2019	24.02.2019	420.15 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01667-220120, pwd-eeep-fatehabad@hry.nic.in
14	PWD B&R, NARAINGARH	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROAD FROM AMB WALA ROAD TO SHAMSHAN GHAT BILASPUR IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTT. (CM ANNOUNCEMENT CODE - 23332)	15.02.2019	25.02.2019	145.22 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01734-284035, pwd-eeep-naraingarh@hry.nic.in
15	PWD B&R, HISAR	S/R TO PARK LIGHTS IN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT FATEHABAD.	15.02.2019	26.02.2019	1.05 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01662-225651, pwd-eeep-hissar@hry.nic.in
16	PWD B&R, NUH	PROVIDING BC ON PUNHANA KOT ROAD 0 TO 11.30 IN NUH DIST. (ROAD ID 1271) (RE-INVITED) + 2 OTHER WORK	14.02.2019	24.02.2019	420.60 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01267-271237
17	PWD B&R, KAITHAL	SPECIAL REPAIR/ RENOVATION OF DISTT LIBRARY AT KAITHAL	CLOSING DATE	22.02.2019	21.66 LACS	https://pwbdr.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01746222282, pwd-eeep-kaithal@hry.nic.in
18	PWD B&R, FARIDABAD	CONSTRUCTION OF 5'-11 1/2" HIGH STAGGERED BOUNDARY WALL AND PROVIDING & FIXING CRESTINA WIRE FENCING OVER "Y" SHAPE ANGLE AT SITE OFFICE CUM REST HOUSE MOHNA IN FARIDABAD DISTT. [RE-INVITING]	12.02.2019	21.02.2019	9.50 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	0129-2888187, pwd-eeep1-faridabad@hry.nic.in
19	PWD B&R, REWARI	IMPROVEMENT BY PROVIDING 4-LANNING ON NIZAMPUR NANGAL CHAUDHARY ROAD KM 0.90 TO 15.600 (MDR-128) IN MOHINDERGARH DISTRICT.	14.02.2019	24.02.2019	4566.80 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01274-256936, pwd-serewari@hry.nic.in
20	PWD B&R, KARNAL	WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING WITH WBM + PC RD 0 TO 1170 ON HATHLANA APP. ROAD (ROAD ID-7269) IN KARNAL DISTRICT. + 1 OTHER WORK	14.02.2019	01.03.2019	120.62 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	0184-2251029, pwd-eeep-karnal@hry.nic.in
21	PWD B&R, AMBALA	UPGRADATION PHC TO CHC AT BARARA DISTT. AMBALA (PDG. 200 KVA 11/0.433 KV SUB STATION). + 2 OTHER WORKS	15.02.2019	26.02.2019	34.35 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	0171-2630877, pwd-eeep-ambala@hry.nic.in
22	PWD B&R, REWARI	CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS 2 NOS NEW ROAD IN PROVINCIAL DIVISION REWARI + 1 OTHER WORK	09.02.2019	18.02.2019	650.40 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01274-253703, pwd-eeep-rewari@hry.nic.in
23	PWD B&R, REWARI	PROVIDING 30 MM THICK BC ON 2 NOS ROADS ON PROV DIVISION PWD B&R REWARI	10.02.2019	19.02.2019	322.60 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01274-253703, pwd-eeep-rewari@hry.nic.in
24	PWD B&R, NARNAUL	CONSTRUCTION OF 12 NOS CLASS ROOM IN THE CAMPUS OF GOVT COLLEGE AT NARNAUL IN MOHINDERGARH DISTRICT (CM ANNOUNCEMENT CODE NO 20483 DATED 21.11.2017)	CLOSING DATE	21.02.2019	2.82 CRORE	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	0182-251267, pwd-eeep-narnaul@hry.nic.in
25	SKILL DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPT.	TOOLS & EQUIPMENTS TENDER FORM	07.02.2019	18.02.2019	4 LACS	gitiunchagaon.com	9811706230, unchagaongitiw@gmail.com
26	CONTROLLER PRINTING & STATIONERY DEPARTMENT HARYANA CHANDIGARH	PURCHASE OF DIGITAL COLOURED PRODUCTION MACHINE AND DIGITAL HIGH SPEED COPIER MACHINES	CLOSING DATE	05.03.2019	60 LACS	pandsharyana@gov.in	6239476892, basurajender1946@gmail.com
27	SPORTS DEPTT, PANIPAT	RFP FOR TURNKEY EVENT MANAGEMENT FOR BHARAT KESRI DANGAL ON DATED 21 MARCH TO 23 MARCH 2019 IN SHIVAJI STADIUM, PANIPAT + 2 OTHER WORKS	07.02.2019	22.02.2019	2.84 CRORE	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	DISTRICT SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIR OFFICER
28	PANCHAYATI RAJ, YAMUNA NAGAR	CONSTRUCTION OF 2 NO GATE AT BABA BANDA SINGH BHADUR CHOWK VILLAGE SADHAURA BLOCK SADHAURA DISTT. YAMUNA NAGAR	14.02.2019	01.03.2019	9.75 LACS	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01732-237833, prexeeng_ynr@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 75494

Trump to declare nat'l emergency to build border wall

Washington: US President Donald Trump will sign an executive order declaring a national emergency, which will empower him to fund the construction of a massive wall along the US-Mexico border to prevent illegal immigrants from entering the country and curb drug smuggling.

The move would help Trump get \$5.6 billion for the construction of the wall that, he has asserted, is essential for national security.

"President Trump will sign the Government funding bill, and as he has stated before, he will also take other executive action - including a national emergency - to ensure we stop the national security and humanitarian crisis at the border," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement.

"The President is once again delivering on his promise to build the wall, protect the border, and secure our great country," she said.

The White House statement came soon after Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell made the move public.

"I had an opportunity to speak with President Trump

and he, I would say to all my colleagues, has indicated he's prepared to sign the bill. He also (will) be issuing a national emergency declaration at the same time. I indicated I'm going to support the national emergency declaration," McConnell said.

On the Democrats saying they will challenge the move in the Supreme Court, Sanders said, "We're very prepared, but there shouldn't be (legal challenges). The president's doing his job. The Congress should do theirs."

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that declaring a national emergency would be "a lawless act, a gross abuse of the power of the presidency and a desperate attempt to distract from the fact that Trump broke his core promise to have Mexico pay for his wall."

and he, I would say to all my colleagues, has indicated he's prepared to sign the bill. He also (will) be issuing a national emergency declaration at the same time. I indicated I'm going to support the national emergency declaration," McConnell said.

On the Democrats saying they will challenge the move in the Supreme Court, Sanders said, "We're very prepared, but there shouldn't be (legal challenges). The president's doing his job. The Congress should do theirs."

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that declaring a national emergency would be "a lawless act, a gross abuse of the power of the presidency and a desperate attempt to distract from the fact that Trump broke his core promise to have Mexico pay for his wall."

New Brexit talks in Brussels next week

Brussels: Both Britain's Minister for Brexit Stephen Barclay and Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn will visit Brussels next week for talks with EU negotiator Michel Barnier.

"Mr Barnier's door is always open," an EU spokesman said, confirming that Barclay was expected to visit EU headquarters on Monday and Corbyn on Thursday.

Prime Minister Theresa May is also expected in Brussels next week, but he visit has not been confirmed.

Britain is due to leave the EU on March 29, but Prime Minister Theresa May is struggling to persuade parliament to back a divorce deal. EU leaders fear severe economic disruption if London leaves the bloc without a follow on agreement providing for a transition period

PAPER WITH PASSION

Hit Pakistan back hard

While the Government must retaliate, it must be pro-active and not reactive and use its strategic chips



Beyond all the condemnation and blood-curdling fury of the dastardly Pulwama attack, the worst offensive by terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir, and the candlelight vigils for the young martyrs, the only big takeaway is that we can no longer be seen as a soft state and notch up a timeline of *fidayeen* honours; we need to take demonstrable muscular action. So even if the world, US and Russia included, have condemned the attack and we have withdrawn our MFN status to Pakistan to choke it economically, there has to be a strong message to the Jaish-e-Mohammad. India must junk strategic delicacies and robustly

insist its chief Masood Azhar be named a UN-designated terrorist, global action be taken against him and Pakistan be isolated diplomatically if it does not hand him over. The message should be that Jammu & Kashmir can no longer be milked politically as years of talks have yielded nothing and backdoor engagement has only meant that one or the other group and local politicians have wangled some relevance and power in the process. The only winner here has been the Pakistani deep state, which is using terror to maintain its hold over the strategic backyard, especially in relation to Afghanistan and China. And now that the Taliban, to whom Pakistan has provided safe havens all these years, is reclaiming its hold in Afghanistan following the US plans to pull out troops, it is chuckling *vis-a-vis* India. We have to be proactive, not reactive, considering the size of our economy and consequent relevance in South Asian geopolitics.

The attack is disturbing not only for the unprecedented scale of human devastation but for other reasons. Coming as it does after attempts on a series of defence establishments, it shows that our standard operating procedures are no good for protecting Army bases and the militants have somehow not only innovated but penetrated deep layers of our security systems with the ease of a sly fox. There has been talk of armoured vehicles for convoys but the proposal has hardly got off the ground. Second, though the Army and our intelligence claim to have penetrated local networks, they have not picked up the radicalised mutation of terrorist modules. What else could explain that though the security forces have smashed the Jaish and Lashkar camps and taken out their top commanders, the propaganda machine from across the border has managed to nurture and proselytize local teenagers into believing that *shahadat* for the liberation of Kashmir is greater than life itself. True, Jaish has been worried about its receding pockets of influence as November and December 2018 have been the deadliest months with 39 terrorists killed in Jammu and Kashmir. One of the major kills was of Lashkar-e-Toiba commander Naveed Jatt. The Army is in fact now focussing on terrorist leadership in the hubs of Shopian, Anantnag, Budgam, Kulgam and Srinagar. Significantly, credible local intelligence also came from the local population, who are tired and exhausted after losing family members and want to be stakeholders in their own lives. Without local cooperation, security forces could not have neutralised about 18 terrorists, including top commanders, in South Kashmir over four days! So Jaish was indirectly sending a message to the local Kashmiris as well by roping in one of them as a suicide bomber. Third, the tactics employed by the assailants, ramming in an explosive-laden vehicle into the intended target, were painfully similar to those of the ISIS in Syria and Afghanistan and seems Kashmir will be their new hunting ground for nihilistic attacks against the Indian state. Most importantly, any hitback, which will be expectedly brutal and punishing, can polarise society further and worse drive modern Kashmiris, some of whom have just begun the process of mainstreaming themselves economically and socially in our metro cities, back into ghettos of suspicion. If the communal riots in Jammu are any indication, then we have set back that process by decades. As for the government, which has mouthed "josh" far too many times, it is time to show one and end Pakistan's adventurism once and for all.

End of the runway

Production of Airbus A380 is coming to a close by 2021 and we should not forget this engineering marvel



In May 2007, Vijay Mallya and his Kingfisher Airlines were both still flying high. A year earlier, the flamboyant businessman and the then Member of Parliament had ordered five of Airbus' massive A380 superjumbo aircraft at the Paris Air Show and got the European manufacturer to fly in the aircraft into India to show off. In flights over Delhi and Mumbai, Mallya regaled the high and mighty of both cities and those, who were not lucky enough to enjoy a flight on-board, were mesmerised by the sheer sight of something so large, so massive even being able to take to the skies. The A380

defied, it would appear to someone on the street, the fundamental laws of physics. The huge plane could fly close to 900 people over 12,000 km and it was meant to revolutionise air travel across the world by not just providing extreme luxury but also propelling prices down for budget travel.

Twelve years on, Kingfisher Airlines collapsed in a heap, exacerbating India's bad loan crisis and Mallya is currently a fugitive in London fighting extradition. And Airbus just announced that they would deliver the last Airbus A380 in 2021. The Airbus A380, an aircraft that cost over \$25 billion to develop, could not even recoup its developmental costs. While Airbus basically prints money on every narrow body A320 aircraft it sells to low-cost airlines, the failure of the A380 will be a huge hit to its pride. Not least because the plane it was meant to replace, the Boeing 747, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of its first flight, will possibly outlive the Airbus A380 on the production line. A lot of things went wrong for the Airbus A380 starting with production delays and the fact that the plane entered an aviation market that was transforming rapidly thanks to low-cost short-range and long-haul travel. Extremely efficient aircraft such as the Boeing 787 and Airbus' own A350, that used new manufacturing technologies and engines, sipped fuel at ridiculously low rates. But analysing why the aircraft failed to be the sales success that Airbus executives thought it would be is a story for a different time. The fact is that the world is losing an engineering marvel from the production line. However, it is likely that this Leviathan of the skies will keep flying for at least another decade or two, and those who must experience this aircraft still have a few years left to do so. Residents of Delhi and Mumbai can still marvel at the sight of this plane filling their skies on a daily basis for a few more years.

Emperor in peril

The Royal Bengal Tiger is not only at the top of the food chain in the wild but constitutes a vital link in maintaining nature's rich diversity and ecosystems. Will it become extinct?



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

A recent *PTI* report cites researchers as saying that rising sea levels, caused by climate change, could destroy the world's biggest mangrove forest — Sunderbans — spanning more than 10,000 square kilometres in India and Bangladesh, in the next 50 years. It quotes Sharif Mukul, an assistant professor at the Independent University, Bangladesh, as saying that analyses by researchers indicate that the Sunderban's tiger habitats would vanish by 2070. The area being perhaps the most important habitat of the majestic animal, the development has serious implications for the Royal Bengal Tiger's survival. The report further quotes Bill Lawrence, a professor at Australia's James Cook University, as stating that the animal, now "mainly confined to small areas of India and Bangladesh", is "facing a double whammy" — the increasing unavailability of the Sunderbans area for themselves and their prey as well as encroachment by industry, construction of roads and poaching.

All of this warrants concern on two counts — the future of the Royal Bengal Tiger as a species, the consequences of the extinction of tigers and the developments leading to both. As to the first, around 97 per cent of the world's tiger population perished in the last 100 years and, according to the latest statistics, only 3,890 tigers are left in the world. The developments leading to the extinction of tigers include the destruction of their forest habitats for human settlements, industry and infrastructure, the consequent increase in human-tiger conflict and the extensive use of tiger parts in Chinese medicines.

Encroachments on tiger habitats are liable to grow given the continuing increase in human population, the rising demands for housing settlements and industrial and agricultural products arising therefrom. The incidence of conflict between people and tigers is also set to rise as the decline in the availability of prey, who share tigers' shrinking habitats, compels the latter to target domesticated animals like cattle. Finally, there is no sign of any fall in the demand for tiger parts in Chinese medicines despite it being medically established that they have no medicinal value at all.

China has postponed the implementation of its decision to lift the ban on the use of tiger bones and rhino horns — from both animals bred in captivity — by hospitals, and domestic trade in antique tiger and rhino products, which would have given a cover of legitimacy to the sale of parts from poached animals. The decision, though most welcome, needs to be made permanent and Beijing has to further step up its efforts to stanch illegal trade in animal parts.

The fate of the Royal Bengal Tiger will be determined by the interplay of these factors and the measures taken to conserve and increase their number. Significant measures



have been taken towards the latter. The international ban on the trade in tigers, instituted in 1993, has vastly reduced the mass slaughter of the species by poaching and trade. Nevertheless, poaching and illegal trade continue not only to provide the manufacturers of traditional Chinese medicines but fuel a demand for tiger heads and skins as status symbols and decorative items.

At the national level, China has done much to increase its tiger population in the country's North-eastern region by recently establishing the Tiger and Leopard National Park — 1.6 times larger than Yellowstone National Park in the United States. India, home to 70 per cent of tigers in the world, launched Project Tiger in April 1973 when Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister. It aims at ensuring viable population of Royal Bengal Tigers in their natural habitats, protecting them from extinction and setting up reserves for the purpose. There are now 50 of the latter. In September, 2006, it set up the National Tiger Conservation Authority to extend statutory authority to Project Tiger to provide legal sanction to its directives, foster accountability on the part of the Centre and the States in the management of tiger reserves by providing a basis for MoUs among them, providing parliamentary over-

sight and address the interest of local people in areas around tiger reserves.

In June, 2007, it constituted a multi-disciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau), to combat organised illegal trading in wildlife and their derivatives. In May, 2012, the Centre advised the States to each create, arm and deploy a Special Tiger Protection Force around the habitats of the big cats. A number of States, including Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra, have already done so.

The results have been gratifying. The number of tigers has risen from 1,411 in 2006 to 1,706 in 2010 and 2,226 in 2014. The current census, which began in 2018, is expected to produce a higher figure. Yet complacency would be disastrous. Poaching, particularly in the form of poisoning, which causes prolonged and painful death, continues. Encroachments into tiger habitats continue. It would be illustrative to cite a few examples from Maharashtra that has a very poor record in this respect. Last year, it sanctioned the diversion of 467.5 hectares of forest land in Yavatmal district for a cement plant. Also, its recommendation has led to the clearance, in principle, of 87.98 hectares of land in Kondhali and Kalmeshwar ranges — barely

160 km from Yavatmal — to an explosives company in Chakdoh for manufacturing defence products. Worse, the land earmarked being reportedly in the tiger corridor between Bor and Melghat tiger reserves, the factory would prevent the movement of tigers between the two. Also, the proposal to widen, from meter to broad gauge, the 176-km Akola-Khandawa railway, a 39 kilometre stretch of which passes through the Melghat reserve, threatens to cause more accidents, wildlife mortality and fragmentation of habitat.

Much of what has been achieved in protecting the tiger would be lost if the trend continues. The results would be disastrous. The Royal Bengal Tiger is not only at the top of the food chain in the wild but constitutes a vital link in maintaining nature's rich diversity and ecosystems that sustain both nature and people. And it is not just the tiger. Over 3,000 species are becoming extinct every year. Indeed, the world is now in the midst of its sixth mass extinction of plants and animals in the last half-a-billion years, and the worst since the extinction of dinosaurs 65 million years ago. At this rate, as many as 30 to 50 per cent of all species would be moving toward extinction by the middle of this century.

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

“ POACHING, PARTICULARLY IN THE FORM OF POISONING WHICH CAUSES PROLONGED AND PAINFUL DEATH, CONTINUES. ENCROACHMENTS INTO TIGER HABITATS CONTINUE ”

SOUNDBITE

The US calls on Pakistan to end immediately the support and safe haven provided to all terrorist groups operating on its soil.



White House Press Secretary —Sarah Sanders

We have given the full authority to security forces to decide the time, place and nature of any further operations to retaliate.



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

The aim of terrorism is to divide the country and we are not going to be divided. We will support the Government in its actions.



Congress chief —Rahul Gandhi

He (Modi) had said the Congress did not have ability to teach a lesson (to Pakistan). Everyone has seen what happened.



NC chief —Sharad Pawar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Exposing fake peddlers

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Comptroller revived" (February 15). Indeed, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India's (CAG) job is very tough considering the low strength of its employees and the amount of scrutiny it always faces. Since the auditing body has made some gross miscalculations in the past so as to deliver its report fast, it became all the more pressing for it to be impartial and accurate in its findings.

As far as Congress chief Rahul Gandhi's obsession with the Rafale deal is concerned, it is but yet another ploy to find faults with the Prime Minister and his Government. Now that the CAG has given clean chit to Modi and the BJP, Rahul Gandhi's criticism sounds hollow. Having said that, the Government should have reacted to all these false allegations smartly and not allowed it to snowball into a controversy. What a shame that a genuine need and demand of the Indian Air force has turned into a bizarre drama.

Bal Govind Noida

Address systematic deficiencies to end terrorism

This refers to the report, "42 CRPF jawans martyred in *fidayeen* crash" (February 15). The dastardly attack on a Central Reserve Police Force convoy on the Srinagar-Jammu highway in Pulwama district is a cowardly attempt on the part of extremist forces to perpetrate terror on Indian soil from across the border. It is unfortunate that even after being admonished publicly and warned of surgical strikes against any form of outrageous aggression or violation of the ceasefire agreement, the Pakistani leadership has not mended its ways or differentiated itself from non-state actors. At the same time, the gruesome incident has once again brought to light the vulnerabilities in India's counter-terrorism policy.

In an attempt to radicalise the anaemic internal security mechanism, the National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC) was envisaged by the Government in the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. The NCTC, it was proposed, would have access to counter-terrorism intelligence generated by India's covert services as well as have authority over the National Security Guard and the National Intelligence Agency. Newly-created electronic databases would make up the NCTC's backbone, pro-



viding it with vast access to real-time information. It is time our lawmakers wriggle out of political quagmire and address the lack of institutional arrangement for the management of India's counter-terrorism response. While procurement and indigenous manufacturing of arms are welcome, it is imperative to remove system-wide deficiencies in skills and capabilities. The country can ill-afford repeated embarrassments and loss of precious lives at the hands of a few extremist forces.

Shreyans Jain Delhi

Face the test

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Comptroller revived" (February 15). When it comes to public spending, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), like any

other internal auditor, earned the high reputation of being 'nosy'. This time, it seems, in the nation's interest, they closed their nose while preparing the report of the Rafale deal. Selective reading makes it clear that the Government wants to say that they have got another

clean chit. Earlier, the Supreme Court, too, had found no irregularities in the deal. If both the Constitutional bodies have given the Modi Government a clean chit over the Rafale deal, why not close the issue and place the records before a Joint Parliamentary Committee unless

the Government wants use the CAG's report — which claimed that NDA's Rafale deal was 2.86 per cent cheaper than the UPA's — to safeguard their political interests?

N Nagarajan Via email

Payback time

Sir — It is heartening that the Supreme Court thinks that Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati should return the 'hundreds of crores' of public money she spent on statues of herself and the BSP's party symbol to the exchequer.

The apex court should look into similar misuse of funds — there are numerous such instances — by both the Central as well as State Governments and hold them accountable. This will not only boost India's failing economy but also come to the aid of the thousands who still live below the poverty line in our country.

Jameel Ahmad Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

How e-cigarettes can save lives

They are better than smoking the real thing as they can wean smokers from bad habits and reduce tobacco-related diseases



KONSTANTINOS E FARSALINOS

Electronic cigarettes are recently developed products that have created intense controversy among the scientific and public health community. The uproar was expected considering the fact that e-cigarettes contain nicotine and their use resembles smoking. However, both these characteristics are crucial for the role of e-cigarettes in tobacco harm reduction. But what is tobacco harm reduction? It is a strategy to reduce harm from risky behaviours through the use of less harmful alternatives. It is an approach as we use in our every day lives. The use of seatbelts and helmets are typical cases of harm reduction — in this case the aim is to reduce risks of injury and death in accidents. And while the use of cars and motorcycles is essential (going to work and transferring goods), no one ever suggested that the use of cars for recreation, as when we go for a trip on weekends with our family, should be banned because of the risks associated with accidents.

The same concept applies to tobacco harm reduction, considering the difficulty in quitting smoking and the use of other harmful tobacco products. Tobacco harm reduction is based on the absence of combustion, which is a process that creates almost all of the toxins that a smoker inhales, resulting in high risk for disease and death. E-cigarettes have no combustion and do not contain tobacco. Available scientific evidence provides that e-cigarettes are by far less harmful than smoking. In fact, they fit perfectly to the definition of tobacco harm reduction.

But why is it hard for people to realise the potential of these products? The key answer to this lies in the demonisation of nicotine. That was understandable in a period when the only source for nicotine intake was the harmful tobacco cigarette. But the use of nicotine through a non-combustible less harmful source has been proven to be of little harm. In the US and the UK, health authorities have approved the long-term (even life-long) use of nicotine in the form of pharmaceutical nicotine replacement therapies as smoking and tobacco substitutes, acknowledging that there is no circumstance in which nicotine intake through a clean product would be more harmful than smoking. In that respect, tobacco harm reduction with the use of products such as e-cigarettes can offer tremendous opportunities.

For start, this is an intervention that costs nothing to tax payers and the Government. These products are self-funded by users, do not require expertise and organised smoking cessation clinics and are not subsidised by the healthcare system. In fact, trying to provide access through prescription would be disastrous; e-cigarettes are chosen based on the smokers' self-preference, making it impossible for any healthcare professional to understand which product would fit the needs and preferences of every smoker. Thus, in countries with limited availability and accessibility to organised smoking cessation clinics, e-cigarettes represent an amazing opportunity for smokers to quit. Additionally, these products represent a new business challenge. Local development and production of e-cigarettes can open up new business opportunities, develop a new flourishing industry while serving public health and creating products that fit better to the needs of the local community.

Of course, all products, including e-cigarettes, need to be regulated. This is not a complex task. The European Union has created a simplified and easy-to-comply regulation that has been implemented since 2016. While not perfect, it can form the basis for regulatory decisions in any country. According to the regulation, e-cigarettes are not medicinal products and they are clearly distinguished from combustible or other harmful tobacco products. The latter is a key factor — any framework should be based on a clear differentiation between tobacco cigarettes (or other harmful forms of tobacco) and e-cigarettes so that smokers have a clear understanding about the risk difference between products. Quality standards should be set, which should be reasonable and not make the products unnecessarily expensive. Marketing should be regulated so that only smokers and users of other harmful tobacco products are targeted. Finally, taxation should be avoided because of the role of these products as smoking substitutes; in that respect, any taxation would favour use of cheaper but very harmful tobacco products.

E-cigarettes have a strong potential for a positive public health impact. Such an impact has already been documented in countries where they have been available for years, such as the UK. As for India, where access to smoking cessation services is difficult and tobacco use has a deep cultural background, there is an even stronger potential to reduce tobacco-related disease and death. Banning e-cigarettes would be a perfect 'gift' for tobacco and would strongly (though unintentionally) protect tobacco cigarette sales.

(The writer is a research fellow, Onassis Cardiac Surgery Center and at the Department of Pharmacy, University of Patras, Greece)

JUST CHECK OUT THE STATEMENTS MADE BY POLITICAL LEADERS. THEY ARE ACCUSING US OF COMMUNALISM, AND PLAYING WITH FIRE.

—JAMMU & KASHMIR GOVERNOR SATYA PAL MALIK

POINT COUNTERPOINT



THE GOVERNOR SHOULD STOP GIVING MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND TAKE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND.

—FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OMAR ABDULLAH

Rise to the *jihadi* challenge

The Pulwama terror attack is a rude call to the nation to accept the fact that militancy in Kashmir has been overtaken by radicals who now want absolute Talibanisation



ANIL GUPTA

The deadly suicide car bomb attack on a convoy of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Awantipora in Jammu & Kashmir's Pulwama district, which claimed the lives of more than 40 troopers and left many injured, is a rude call to the nation to smell the coffee and accept the fact that militancy in Kashmir has been overtaken by radical *jihadis*, who want the Talibanisation of Kashmir. The latest attack was the most severe of all and led to the highest number of 'deaths'. Kashmir witnessed the last such attack in 2001, when three terrorists belonging to the Jaish-e-Mohammed carried out an attack on the Jammu & Kashmir State Assembly complex in Srinagar using a Tata Sumo loaded with explosives that rammed into the main gate. Around 38 civilians and three suicide bombers were killed. The next spate of such car bomb attacks was witnessed in 2005 when between June and November, three attacks on different targets killed 23 civilian and security forces personnel. Car bomb attacks bear the signature of Taliban and Al Qaeda style of fighting, both of whom are radical *jihadi* terror groups.

The preferred mode of suicide attacks by terrorists in Kashmir was the attack on the security forces camps termed as "fidayeen hits" and ambushes close to the Line of Control (LoC) referred to as "BAT attack" till the killing of dreaded terrorist Burhan Wani. The reason was obvious. Terrorists and their *akas* in Pakistan were reluctant to cross the "threshold" fearing loss of popular public support. Till this period, Kashmir was being radicalised. The aftermath of Burhan Wani's killing indicated that the enemy had succeeded in radicalising the Kashmiri society. Large-scale public support to the terrorists, rise in stone-throwing attacks on security forces and senseless killings of Army men, policemen and civilians not receiving the type of condemnation they deserved were indicators enough to assess that *jihadis* had overtaken the reins of the ongoing movement in Kashmir. Subsequent statements made by Zakir Musa, one-time accomplice of Burhan Wani, and the present self-styled commander of Al Qaeda-affiliate terrorist organisation, Ansar Ghazwatul Hind, ridiculing the Hurriyat leadership and the so-called *azaadi* movement were clear and loud enough to be ignored but did lead to the present state.

Despite the reverses suffered by various *tanzeems* due to the successful intelligence based operations launched by the security forces, the resolve of the *jihadis* did not waver. Their attacks became more deadly, barbaric and daring. There was a clear divide in the Kashmiri society between the peace-seekers and pro-*jihad* radicals. While the peace-seekers provided intelligence to the security forces for launching surgical operations against the terrorists, the radicalised supporters of *jihadis* provided them shelter, food and cover from the security forces by resorting to stone-pelting on those involved in anti-terror operations. The *modus operandi* of the *jihadis* bore more and more semblance to the Islamic State (IS), Al Qaeda and Taliban style of operations.



The Kashmiri youth has been lured into *jihad* on the understanding that *azaadi*-related activism would lead them to "heaven." As veteran Kashmiri politician Muzaffar Hussain Beig said, "It is an IS-sponsored religious war in Kashmir. It is not a fight for political freedom or choice between India and Pakistan but between heaven and hell." It is the race to heaven that has brain-washed the Kashmiri youth and the likes of alleged car bomber, Aadil Ahmad *alias* Waqas Commando of Gundi Bagh, Pulwama. This also explains the fact as to how the Jaish has been able to carry out this dastardly attack despite the claim by security forces of virtually eliminating the JeM leadership in the Valley, including two close relatives of Jaish supremo Masood Azhar. A spurt of sniper attacks on the security forces camps also indicated the aggressive posture adopted by the *jihadis* but was soon neutralised by the Army through its counter-strategy.

Ironically, the mainstream political leadership of Kashmir, which has of late become pro-*jihadist*, is refusing to accept the obvious and continues to harp the same old story of a 'political problem' and 'misled innocent boys' who need to be dealt with sympathy rather than an iron hand. This attitude of theirs has only emboldened the *jihadis*. The latest attempt of to set up a communal and religious divide is evident from the politicking over the grant of divisional status to Ladakh by raising similar demands for Kargil and Muslim-majority districts south of Pir Panjal, mischievously referring to them as Chenab Valley and Panjal regions.

The Governor's administration will have to act firm and quick to douse the fire lit by these forces. It may well become the *alibi* for spreading the wings of *jihadis* to these hitherto peaceful areas. The timing of the attack

is also worth noting. It not only coincides with the renewed efforts of peace talks with the Taliban but also with the heat building up within India in view of the 2019 elections.

The security forces will have to remain alive to the growing *jihadist* challenge and act swiftly and firmly to counter their new strategy. It is important to note the claim made by JeM that Adil Ahmad was inspired to become a suicide bomber after the Taliban claimed "victory" due to the announcement by US President Trump to reduce the American boot strength in Afghanistan. Any decline in resolute and integrated response by the security forces in Kashmir may lead them to harbour such ideas of presumed "victory" and embolden the *jihadis* further.

Though it is too early to get involved with fact-finding, many inputs lead to believe that there has been "negligence." In an active conflict zone where *jihadis* are purportedly fighting for the fulfilment of divine will — *Ghazwa-e-Hind* — there is no scope for negligence. Despite the warning issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Police through their signal dated February 8, and circulation of a video captured from terrorists showing car bomb attack in Afghanistan, there are many questions to be answered about the sanitisation of the area and the efficacy of Road Opening Parties. There once again arises the need to review the higher command system of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). The present system of deputing Indian Police Service (IPS) officers to occupy higher ranks has been found wanting on numerous occasions in the past as well. There is a strong case for higher command posts to be occupied by cadre officers who have gone through the rigours of ground-level functioning of their respective forces instead of general cadre IPS officers who lack combat experience.

Since JeM has claimed the attack, involvement of Pakistan is obvious. Another fact that is obvious and unambiguous is that in Pakistan, the reins of the Government are firmly in the hands of the notorious triad of Mullah-Military-Militants with the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and terrorists ruling the roost and calling the shots. The so-called peace gestures of their Prime Minister and the Army Chief are only a smoke-screen to their real intents. India should not fall prey to the trap laid by the triad in the form of opening the Kartarpur Corridor by using their puppet Imran Khan.

There is no doubt that Pakistan continues with its policy of state sponsorship of terrorism and abetting and aiding cross-border adventurism fully embedded with *jihadi* terror. The reduction of American boots will provide ISI the additional strength of the Taliban and other Afghan-specific *jihadist* terrorists to be employed against India. Pakistan has been temporarily able to tide over the economic crisis due to the hidden Chinese support and magnanimity of its Muslim friends. This has further emboldened the country to support *jihadis* and use them to implement their anti-India policy. How much effect the Government's decision to withdraw 'most favoured nation' status to Pakistan will have, only time will tell. Nevertheless, its immediate response will be of playing the 'victim hood' card and further generating anti-India hysteria. The Government of India will have to use its diplomatic strength and international good will to designate Pakistan as a "terror state." The nation needs to unite to counter the *jihadist* challenge.

(The writer is a Jammu-based political commentator, columnist and security and strategic analyst. The views expressed are entirely personal)

Democracy not real test in Catalonia trial

Even as elections loom large in Spain, the 'Catalan problem' will not go away. Neither will the 'Basque problem', which involves almost identical dilemmas on the other side of the country. There is no 'fair' solution, just endless unsatisfactory compromises



GWYNNE DYER

It's been a busy week in Spain. On Tuesday, twelve Catalan leaders of the attempted secession from Spain in 2017 went on trial in Madrid, charged with rebellion, sedition and misuse of public funds. And on Wednesday the Spanish Government fell when two small Catalan nationalist parties voted against its budget, essentially to punish it for not stopping the trial.

But Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's Government couldn't have stopped the trial at this point: Spanish courts are independent. And the 'Catalan Twelve' are certainly guilty of something, although it isn't rebellion, which in Spanish law involves a violent uprising. They are guilty of cheating but there isn't any law against that. Sanchez's now defunct

Government would almost certainly not have brought such extreme charges against the Catalan would-be martyrs. (Oriol Junqueras, former Vice President of the separatist regional Government of Catalonia, faces a possible 25 years in prison.) But the charges were brought under the previous Right-wing Government of Mariano Rajoy and Sanchez couldn't just cancel them.

Sanchez's Socialist Party, which took power last June, depended on two small Catalan separatist parties for its majority. It has fallen because the Catalans felt he had done too little to prevent the trial of the 'Catalan twelve'. The trial will continue and the snap election that must now follow will be held in an atmosphere of super-heated nationalism. The separatists probably don't mind.

We are already being treated to a feast of nationalist rhetoric cloaked in the idiom of democratic rights over this trial. Former Catalan President Carles Puigdemont, who declared Catalonia's independence but chose to go into exile rather than face trial when the gambit failed, declared that the trial is "a stress test for the Spanish democracy."



As the trial began, Jordi Sanchez, one of the twelve, tweeted: "I am going in with my head held high, convinced that self-determination is not a crime." The trial is really about "the right to self-determination and the democratic principle," said defence lawyer Andreu van den Eyde. But all this talk of high principle is quite beside the point.

What actually happened in Catalonia in 2017 was that Catalan nationalists, unable to win a convincing majority for their project of independence, decided to skip the bit about a convincing majority. They did control the regional Government, so they declared a referendum on inde-

pendence in which only those in favour of separation would vote.

Such a referendum was illegal under the Spanish Constitution, which forbids secession, so the pro-Spanish parties would boycott the referendum. They would have to boycott it in order to stay within the law. Whereas all those who wanted independence — almost half the population — would defy the law and cast their votes.

That's exactly how it worked. Every opinion poll for years had shown that Catalonia was split right down the middle, with around 45 per cent for independence, 45 per cent against it and 10 per cent undecided. Just

speakers do back independence. How can you choose to disregard the views of the Spanish-speaking half of the region's current population in order to sneak your independence project through? By believing that they are not entitled to a view because they are not real Catalans. Of course, you never say it quite like this in public.

These views persist and the 'Catalan problem' will not go away. Neither will the 'Basque problem', which involves almost identical dilemmas on the other side of Spain. It's the classic problem facing long-established ethnic and linguistic groups that have become minorities, or just barely majorities, in their own lands. There is no 'fair' solution, just endless unsatisfactory compromises.

The new Spanish Government that emerges from the forthcoming snap election, whatever it is (nobody knows), won't be able to solve the problem either. The most it can do, if it's sensible, is to commute any prison sentences imposed on the 'Catalan Twelve' and deny them martyrdom.

(The writer is an independent journalist)



DRUG WAR: PROTECT THE INNOCENT

The war on drugs must be fought, but like most wars it causes most casualties among non-combatants. The strategic objective is not so much the capture of occasional kingpins, but minimising the harm they, and their products, do to their customers, whether by addiction or incarceration. The jailing of a notorious cocaine smuggler will not end the drug wars. We must fight them with more regard for the victims. (The Guardian editorial)

PULWAMA TERROR ATTACK



Communal violence in Jammu, Poonch

IANS ■ JAMMU

Shops, vehicles and other property belonging to a particular community came under attack in Poonch and Jammu, forcing authorities to clamp curfew in Jammu, during a shutdown to denounce a suicide bombing that killed 44 CRPF troopers in the Kashmir Valley.

Authorities first imposed curfew and sought the Army's help to restore order in the winter capital of Jammu & Kashmir where scores of youths protesting against the suicide attack torched some vehicles and smashed many more believed to be from the Valley.

Jammu District Magistrate Ramesh Kumar said curfew had been imposed in the entire Jammu city to maintain peace.

Police used tear smoke and batons to disperse the mobs. The curfew was imposed initially in Jammu's Gujjar Nagar, Talab Khatikan, Janipur, Bakshi Nagar, Chennai Heemat, Bus Stand and some other places in old city area and later extended to the entire city.

Violence also erupted in Poonch district, where too

shops and vehicles belonging to a particular community were attacked in Aala Peer area, forcing police to use tear smoke and batons.

"People are advised to maintain calm and not play into the hands of anti-social elements who want to exploit the situation for their nefarious objectives," a police officer said.

The Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), an influential body of traders and industrialists, had earlier called a shutdown in Jammu city against the terror strike in the Valley's Pulwama district on Thursday on a CRPF convoy.

Rakesh Gupta, President of JCCI, an influential body of local traders and industrialists, told IANS, "I appeal to the people belonging to different sections of the society to maintain the traditional harmony and brotherhood for which Jammu has been known ever since the fires of violence spread in the (Kashmir) Valley."

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh attended the wreath laying ceremony of the troopers at the Humhama Regimental Training Centre of the CRPF



A protester shouts slogans against Thursday's attack on a paramilitary convoy, in Jammu, on Friday AP

Rajnath among pallbearers

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

With the bugler playing the 'last post', Home Minister Rajnath Singh turned a pallbearer on Friday as the bodies of 44 paramilitary personnel killed in an audacious terror strike in South Kashmir's Pulwama district were sent on their last journey home.

Singh, accompanied by a high-level team comprising officials from the CRPF, NIA and Home Ministry, arrived here on Friday afternoon and drove straight to the adjacent CRPF campus where a wreath laying ceremony was held for the slain jawans.

As the bugler played the 'last post' and guard called for 'shok salami shastra' (reversing of arms in honour of fallen soldiers), a two-minute silence was observed after which the Union Home Minister gave a shoulder to the coffin of a jawan which was being taken to his native place in a special aircraft. The Home Minister, Governor Satya Pal Malik, Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, CRPF Director General RR Bhatnagar, Jammu & Kashmir DGP Dilbag Singh besides others attended the wreath laying ceremony.



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, along with Director General of Jammu & Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh, shoulders a coffin of a slain CRPF jawan during a wreath-laying ceremony for the martyrs at the CRPF camp in Budgam on Friday PTI

ATTACK KILLS DREAMS OF SLAIN JAWANS

Patna/Bhagalpur: One was planning wedding of his daughter, the other eagerly awaiting arrival of his second child.

The dreams of Sanjay Kumar Sinha and Ratan Kumar Thakur went up in smoke in a trice. They were among the 44 CRPF jawans who lost their lives. Family and friends of Sinha received the earth-shattering news of his death with sorrow, anger and disbelief.

His father Mahendra Prasad is proud of his son but equally concerned about what would happen to his family. "He has two grown-up, unmarried daughters. While leaving for duty, he had said that on his next visit to the village he will finalise marriage of elder one. We are distraught," grief-stricken father said.

The atmosphere is sombre at Thakur's home in Bhagalpur. He has left behind a four-year-old son and a wife who is expecting their second child. "We were expecting a call from Ratan by the evening as he had told us he would speak to us after joining duty in Srinagar. Instead, we received a call from one of his superiors who broke to us the terrible news," Niranjan Thakur, the slain CRPF constable's father, said.

PTI

CRPF jawan's brother recalls last talk hours before attack

Nagpur: Rajesh Rajput spoke to his younger brother Sanjay, a CRPF jawan, on phone on Thursday morning. Little did he know that it would be their last conversation.

Sanjay Rajput (45) was among the 44 jawans of the Central Reserve Police Force killed when a terrorist rammed a bomb-laden vehicle into their bus in Pulwama on Thursday.

A pall of gloom descended over the CRPF Group Centre Colony here, where Sanjay's family lives, as the news came. Rajesh told PTI that his brother was attached to the CRPF's 213th battalion, based in Nagpur, for the last four years. He lived in the CRPF colony with his two sons Jai (13) and Shubham (11) and wife Sushma Rajput.

"He left Nagpur on February 11 for his new posting with the 115th battalion in Srinagar. I called him yesterday morning, around 9.30 am, when he told me he had left Jammu at 3.30 am to join his new posting," said Rajesh. PTI



Officers from Forensic Science Laboratory carry debris for examination in Pampore on Friday AP

Aadhaar cards, force IDs help identify martyrs

New Delhi: Aadhaar cards, ID cards, leave applications and certain other articles were the only things left of most of the 44 CRPF personnel killed in the Pulwama terror attack that helped their colleagues identify them, officials said on Friday.

Officials said as the bodies of the troops were badly mutilated and charred due to the impact of the RDX-triggered blast, it became very difficult to ascertain their identities. Most of the slain jawans were either identified by their Aadhaar cards, force IDs, PAN cards or leave applications kept in their pockets and bags. PTI



Security forces personnel stand guard near charred vehicles after a violent protest over the killing of CRPF personnel in the Pulwama terror attack, in Jammu, on Friday PTI

Families recall martyrs' passion, love for country

PTI ■ JAIPUR/DHOLPUR/KOTA

When Rohitash Lamba, Bhagirath Singh and Hemraj Meena left their homes in Rajasthan earlier this week with the promise that they would return to their families soon, few imagined that it would turn out to be their last visit.

Lamba, Singh and Meena were among the 44 CRPF personnel killed in a terrorist attack in Pulwama in Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday.

Their families on Friday recalled their passion and love for the country as they grieved the demise of their loved

ones. Barely two months ago, Lamba had expressed his joy on becoming a father on the social media. He rejoined duty on February 12 after spending several days with his family, including his two-month-old son. A pall of gloom descended at Govindpura Basadi village near Shahpura, around 65 km from Jaipur, as the news of Lamba's death reached. Former Deputy Speaker of Rajasthan Assembly and former Shahpura legislator Rao Rajendra Singh met Lamba's family members on Friday and expressed his condolences.

He said that Lamba's wife fell unconscious on hearing the

tragic news and had to be hospitalised.

The family of 27-year-old Bhagirath Singh, a resident of Jaipur village in Dholpur district, was struggling to come to terms with the loss. On Friday, the entire village of Jaipur mourned the death of the young man.

"We never knew that he would leave us so early. He had promised his father and family to return soon two days ago but they had never imagined that it would be his last visit home," Jaipur sarpanch Kapur Chand Gurjar said.

He said Singh's mother had passed away when he was

a kid. His father Parshuram, a farmer, brought up his two sons alone. Singh joined CRPF four years ago, whereas his younger brother Balveer joined Uttar Pradesh Police.

Singh got married Ranjna four years ago and has three-year-old son Vinay and a year-and-a-half-old daughter Shivangi. Hemraj Meena's wife Madhu received a call from the CRPF camp in Jammu around 10 pm Thursday, informing her about his demise.

Soon after the news reached the area, villagers came out their homes and gathered outside Meena's home to pay their tributes.



Punish perpetrators: Bereaved daughter

Kalabari/Guwahati: "The perpetrators must be punished for killing my father, our jawans, even if it means carrying out surgical strikes across the border," demanded the daughter of CRPF Head Constable Maneswar Basumatari, who was martyred in Thursday's terror attack in Jammu & Kashmir.

Basumatari, the head constable CRPF 98 Battalion was among the 40 soldiers who were killed in the Pulwama attack. He is survived by his daughter, Didmaswari, wife, Sunmati, and son. "We want justice. Give a befitting reply to the cowards responsible for the Pulwama attack," said an inconsolable Didmaswari on Friday. Talking to reporters at the family's residence in Kalabari village in Assam's Baksa district, she also

demanding that the Government should look after the family now.

Basumatari had recently visited home, said the slain head constable's wife with tears running down her face. She was unable to talk further.

After the attack, there were rumours circulating on social media that three more soldiers from Assam had been killed in the attack. The CRPF jawans rumoured to have been killed in the blast took to Facebook on Friday to refute the rumours. One of the soldiers, Mizing Basumatari of Udalguri district said in a Facebook post, "This is fake news. I am doing fine and nothing has happened to me. Please don't share the fake post."

CRPF jawan, Pabitra Barman, a native of Bongaigaon, said, "Hi

friends...I am fully safe & sound. I'm deployed in other district of Kashmir, which is far away from Pulwama where the mischief happened. Jai Hind."

Family of the third CRPF jawan, Ananta Saiki of Nagaon district's Gorubandha, also stated that he was safe. His sister, Purnima, told reporters, "By God's grace, Ananta is safe. He called us today. He was on a bus which was ahead of the convoy of 78 vehicles, carrying 2,547 CRPF jawans, that was attacked."

Meanwhile, various organisations held protests across Assam. Protesters burnt effigies of Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad, which claimed responsibility for the attack, and flags of the neighbouring country. PTI

AMU suspends student from Kashmir over controversial post on Pulwama attack

PTI ■ AJMER

Aligarh: The AMU on Friday suspended an undergraduate Student from Kashmir for allegedly lauding a terrorist outfit in a social media post after the terror strike in Pulwama in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) spokesperson Omar Peerzada told PTI that the matter is being further probed and "strong deterrent action" will be taken once the investigation is complete. "AMU has zero tolerance for any such pernicious activity and anyone indulging in such an act will not be spared," Peerzada said. PTI

Ajmer Sharif chief asks Govt to not allow Pak devotees to visit shrine

PTI ■ AJMER

Condemning the terror attack on a CRPF convoy in Jammu & Kashmir's Pulwama, Ajmer Sharif Dargah dewan Syed Zainul Abedin Ali Khan on Friday urged the government to not allow devotees from Pakistan to visit the shrine.

Ali Khan, the descendant of Sufi saint Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Hassan Chishti, paid tribute to the personnel killed in the attack.

He urged the Government to not allow 'jatha' or group of devotees from Pakistan to visit the famous shrine in Rajasthan's Ajmer during festivals, including Urs,

which commemorates the death anniversary of the Sufi saint.

Describing the attack as "non-Islamic," he said harming lives of innocent people by attacking them cowardly is against the fundamental principles of the religion.

Several devotees from Pakistan visit the Ajmer Sharif Dargah every year. On Thursday, an explosives laden truck rammed into a CRPF convoy in Pulwama outside Srinagar, killing 44 soldiers in one of the biggest terror attacks in recent years.

Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

As anger flares, Pune shop sells Pak flags with free lighters

Pune: As protests erupted in the city over the attack on CRPF convoy at Pulwama, a flag-seller here did a brisk business — in Pakistani flags. Murudkar Zendeale, a famous flag-seller, sold over 100 national flags of Pakistan on Friday and gave a lighter free with every flag.

Pakistani flags were burnt at many places in the city in the wake of the terror attack at Pulwama in Jammu & Kashmir Thursday in which at least 44 CRPF personnel were killed. People expressed anger about the neighbouring country, which is accused of harbouring Jaish-E-Mohammad, the terror outfit which has claimed the responsibility for the ghastly attack, by burning Pakistani flags. PTI

Assam announces ₹20 lakh aid

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced Rs 20 lakh to the family of Maneswar Basumatari, a CRPF soldier from the state, who was martyred in the terrorist attack in Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday. Condoling the death of Basumatari, Sonowal Friday said his sacrifice would be remembered by the whole nation. PTI

Pulwama attack due to Intelligence failure: Mamata

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said the terror attack in J&K on a CRPF was due to "intelligence failure" and demanded that there be three-day nationwide mourning to show respect to the martyrs.

She questioned why the Centre was not declaring national mourning for the CRPF jawans and said "Will mourning take place only when political leaders die?" "I demand 72 hours mourning for the ultimate sacrifice of the soldiers. At least for national respect. Only one flag is not enough for it," she told reporters after returning from New Delhi.

Banerjee said that the Government as well as all the political parties should put a stop to all scheduled programme in view of the terror attack. PTI



Police personnel deployed on Aligarh Muslim University campus in the view of protests after some students were booked on alleged sedition charges on Friday PTI

Tripura to give ₹2 lakh aid

Agartala: Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Friday announced Rs 2-lakh compensation for each family. "People of Tripura and the State Government would remain behind the families of 45 martyred CRPF personnel," the Chief Minister told the media after announcing the compensation. IANS

PULWAMA TERROR ATTACK

Thousands protest in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Thousands of Muslims from south Mumbai joined the wide-spread protests staged by several groups and political parties across the metropolis against Thursday's Pulwama terror attacks which left 44 CRPF personnel dead, even as the Maharashtra Government announced an ex-gratia of Rs 50 lakh each to the next of kin of two jawans from the state killed in the attack.

Muslims, carrying the Indian Tricolour, banners, placards and raising anti-Pakistan slogans, took out a massive procession along the busy Mohammed Ali Road in downtown south Mumbai.

The slogans like "Pakistan Murdabad, LeT Murdabad, Down with Masood Azhar and Hafiz Saeed" and "Jem Murdabad" rented the air, as



Protesters stamp over pictures of Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar during a protest in Mumbai on Friday

the Muslims staged protest marches in localities of Saifee Jubilee Street, Handiwala Mosque, Sunni Bilal Mosque. Most of these areas observed a spontaneous bandh.

In a related development, the BJP-led by Ram Kadam, Raj Purohit and others -staged protests against the Pakistani-sponsored terror strike in different parts of the metropolis.

The Maharashtra and Mumbai Congress units organised special condolence meetings at the state, city and district party headqua

"We are all one who mourned the death of live under and all are sons of BharatMata! We should not think of caste, a lligion or faith. We are the followers of Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam," Fadnavis said, while describing the Pulgama terror strikes as an "absolute cowardly and con-

Maha Govt announces ₹50L aid to martyrs' families

demnable act". Ruling Shiv Sena, MNS and the NCP organised similar protests and demonstrations at various parts of the city other parts of the state, while the MNS activists burnt the Pakistan flags in Mumbai and Thane.

The Bharat Diamond Bourse, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council and Mumbai Diamond Merchants Association also held a joint condolence meeting for the martyred troopers at the BDB Complex in Bandra Kurla in north-central Mumbai.

The city also witnessed protests outside major suburban railway stations where lakh home-bound commuters raised slogans against Pakistan and the perpetrators behind the Pulgama attacks

Meanwhile, Maharashtra mourned the death of two Army jawans — identified as

Sanjay Rajput (45) and Nitin Rathod from Buldhana district in eastern Maharashtra — in the attacks.

While Sanjay Rajput is originally from Malkapur, Nitin Rathod belonged to Chorpangra village in Buldhana district.

Sanjay's brother Rajesh said that his brother is survived by wife Sushma Rajput and two sons Jai (13) and Shubham (11). Sanjay said his brother had left Nagpur on 11 February for his new posting with the 115th battalion in Srinagar. "I called him morning of the day of the incident, around 9.30 am, when he told me he had left Jammu at 3.30 am to join his new posting," Rajesh said..

Nitin (36) is survived by wife Vandana, who said has a new couple have two minor children — Jeevan (8) and Jivika (5).

Uddhav: Time to strike inside Pak

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray on Friday attributed the Pulwama attacks to the "intelligence failure" and said it was time to "strike inside Pakistan".

Talking to media persons, Uddhav said that those in charge of the intelligence machinery in the valley state should be removed.

"The issues of alliances, elections will be there. But Pakistan must not be allowed to go scot-free. It should be taught a befitting lesson," the Sena president said, while replying to a question about his meeting with Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday.

Maintaining that Thursday's terror attack should be condemned in the strongest possible terms, Uddhav said: "This is not just a terror attack. It has exposed the chinks in the country's intelligence system".

"You (the BJP-led Union government) conducted surgical strike in Pak-occupied Kashmir. Now the time has come to strike inside Pakistan. The entire country supports the government on this issue," the Sena president said.

"Instead of making tall claims, Pakistan needs to be taught a lesson once and for all. If intelligence inputs were not available, one wonders what do the people who are holding the reins were doing. They should be removed," Uddhav said.

AIADMK-BJP poll alliance gets going

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The process of forming an electoral alliance between the AIADMK and the BJP for the upcoming Lok Sabha poll began in right earnest late Thursday evening. Union Minister for Railways Piyush Goyal who is in charge of the Lok Sabha election for Tamil Nadu reached Chennai late Thursday evening and drove down to the residence of late industrialist from south-west Tamil Nadu and had a discussion with the AIADMK representatives — P Thangamani (Power Minister) and SP Velumani (local administration minister).

This is the first official meeting between the AIADMK and the BJP though backroom discussions were on for quite some time about the poll alliance, according to sources in both the parties. "We do not see any reason why there should not be any alliance between the AIADMK and the BJP. A formal announcement about the alliance would be made soon," said Narayanan Thirupathi, spokesman of the BJP.

Another BJP leader told The Pioneer that discussions were on with leaders of the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), the DMDK (led by film actor Vijayakanth) and Dr

Krishnasamy's Puthiya Tamilakam. "There is a possibility that Tamil Manila Congress led by GK Vasam too would join the AIADMK-BJP alliance though it may take some more time for an announcement," said the BJP leader.

Since Stalin is not enthusiastic in including the TMC in his front, Vasam is left with only two options, either to pitch his tent in the AIADMK-BJP front or to sail with TTV Dhinakaran's AMMK. But Anbazhagan, political commentator who is close confidante of Dhinakaran said Vasam would not join the BJP alliance and would join hands with the AMMK.

Goyal returned to New Delhi early Friday morning and is expected back in Chennai for further talks sometime next week. Meanwhile, the DMK-led front has started its campaign for the election buoyed by the opinion poll results by some of the leading private agencies which forecast a total sweep in Tamil Nadu by the DMK.

Though Stalin has not announced the constituents of the rainbow alliance, it is certain that the Congress, the Islamist parties, the Lefts, the VCK and the MDMK led by Vaiko would figure in the DMK-led front.

Swamy seeks Swaraj's intervention on behalf of Tamil refugees

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Subramanian Swamy, MP and Senior BJP leader has sought the immediate intervention of Sushma Swaraj, Union Minister for External Affairs, to help the Sri Lankan refugees who are stranded in Tamil Nadu for the last four months because of non-availability of a ship to take them home.

In a letter addressed to Sushma Swaraj on Friday, Swamy said that during his last visit to Chennai, he was 'apprised by the Sri Lankan refugees that they have been

waiting for four months for a ship to be provided as promised to return to their home country, Sri Lanka."

"There appears to be some bureaucratic turf war on who can decide when to provide the ship required. Hope it will be possible for you to intervene ensure that a ship is provided to take a batch of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who have been waiting patiently for the last four months back to their homes," said Dr Swamy in the letter.

Though the Tamil chauvinist parties are in the forefront agitating for the rights of the Tamils in the island nation, Dr Swamy is

the first politician from Tamil Nadu to take up cudgels on behalf of the Tamils in Sri Lanka, pointed out Sri Lankan observers based in the State.

The Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India Austin Fernando, has been quoted as saying that there are 97,000 Sri Lankan refugees in India. The High Commissioner who was in Chennai recently along with a team of officials from Colombo to find out the first-hand details pertaining to Tamil refugees had made it clear that Sri Lanka needed the refugees and would take all steps to ensure their return to the home country.

2 disgruntled Cong MLAs meet Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru: Two out of the four disgruntled Congress MLAs, against whom a disqualification petition is pending with the assembly Speaker, Friday met party leader and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah here and reportedly pledged loyalty to the party. "MLA Shri Nagendra and Shri Ramesh Jarkiholi met CLPleader Shri @siddaramaiah along with minister Shri Zameer Ahmed Khan," Karnataka Congress said in a tweet.

Though what transpired at the meeting was not known, party sources calling it a one-to-one meeting said, the legislators pledged their loyalty to the party and requested the CLP leader to withdraw the disqualification petition while narrating their grievances.

Siddaramaiah is said to have advised both Jarkiholi and Nagendra not to take any decision in haste until the Lok Sabha elections are over, according to the sources.

The CLP leader Thursday had said his petition seeking disqualification of four disgruntled party MLAs was pending with the Speaker, who is the competent authority to take action under the anti-defection law.

The former CM said his petition to Speaker has nothing to do with four MLAs attending Session since Wednesday, as he noted that the legislators have violated the whip in earlier instances.

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
TENDER NOTICE (through e-tendering)						
S. No.	Name of Work with its location	App. Cost of the work (in Rs.)	Tender Inviting Officer Address	Tender Document Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest Money to be deposited (in Rs.)	Date & Time for Closed of tender Website particulars & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.
1.	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract and Repair of DG sets installed over DLI Division. (For one year)	Rs. 3828394/- only	Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/C, Northern Railway 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055	Rs. 5900/- only	Rs. 76570/- only	Tender uploaded date & time- 13.03.2019 up to 15.00 hrs. See the N. Rly. website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State entry road, New Delhi-110055.

Tender No. :- 558-Sig/16/M/Tender/AMC/036/2018-19 Dated : 14.02.2019 472/19

CMI LIMITED

CIN: L74899DL1967PLC018031

Regd Office: Flat No. 501-503, 5th Floor, New Delhi House, 27 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001
Ph.: 011-49570000-13 | Fax: 011-23739902 | Website: www.cmilimited.in | Email: info@cmilimited.in

Extract of Audited and Unaudited Standalone & Consolidated Results for the quarter and Nine Months Ended 31.12.2018

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	Standalone						Consolidated					
		Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended			Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended		
		Dec-18	Sep-18	Dec-17	Dec-18	Dec-17	Dec-18	Sep-18	Dec-17	Dec-18	Dec-17		
1	Total Income from Operations	12842.42	10701.27	8847.56	33706.81	28525.74	17907.51	15054.81	13507.43	45964.56	41574.99		
2	Net Profit for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	962.49	865.72	701.35	2903.63	2525.07	1064.95	974.45	1035.97	2966.57	2895.66		
3	Net profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or extraordinary item)	959.35	863.03	701.35	2898.15	2525.07	1061.81	971.76	1035.97	2961.09	2895.66		
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	613.52	565.66	455.79	1871.48	1648.70	683.45	640.15	683.65	1912.81	1901.17		
5	Total comprehensive income for the period	613.52	565.66	455.78	1871.47	1648.66	683.45	640.15	683.64	1912.8	1901.13		
6	Equity Share capital	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74	1502.74		
7	Earnings per share of Rs. 10/- each												
	a) Basic	4.08	3.76	3.04	12.45	10.98	4.55	4.26	4.56	12.73	12.66		
	b) Diluted	4.08	3.76	3.04	12.45	10.98	4.55	4.26	4.56	12.73	12.66		

NOTES :-

- The above standalone and consolidated financial statements of M/s CMI Limited ("the Company") have been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind-AS) prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognized accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
- The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting on February 14, 2019
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly financial results are available on the stock exchange website(s), NSE-www.nseindia.com, BSE-www.bseindia.com and Company's website-www.cmilimited.in.
- Previous period figures have been regrouped / reclassified, wherever necessary.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors of CMI Limited
Sd/-
V.K. Gupta
Whole Time Director
DIN: 00995523

Place : New Delhi
Date:14.02.2019

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NW) III
OVER HEAD TANK ASHOK VIHAR DELHI

PRESS NIT No. 71 (2018-19)

Item No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Date of release of tender in E-procurement solution	Last date/time receipt of tender through e-procurement
1	Providing laying 400 mm dia and 250 mm dia main peripheral sewer line in Block C-3 Keshav Puram in AC-17 Wazirpur Constituency under EE (NW)	Rs. 27,12,846/-	Tender ID No. 2019_DJB_168394_1 on 12.02.2019 at 03:24 PM	27.02.2019 Up to 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/-
Adv. No. J.S.V. 824/2018-19 Ex. Engineer (NW)III

DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT OF N.C.T OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NORTH-I)
OVER HEAD TANK, MUKHERJI NAGAR, DELHI-110009.

NIT No. 67 Item No. I (North)-I (2018-19)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Tender fee (Non refundable)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Replacement of old and damaged Sewer line in Gali Dabbevali, Gali Shastri, Gali Ration wall and Gali Gautam in Kairi Basti Malika Gani Ward No. 09 under EE (N)-I (Re-invited) E-Tendering ID:- 2019_DJB_168370_1	Rs. 25,55,040/-	51,100/-	12.02.2019 15.00 PM onward	500/-	Technical bid to be received on 27.02.2019 3.00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank

Further details in the regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/-
Adv. No. J.S.V. 821/2018-19 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (North-I)

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ROAD-V DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPTT.
ROOM NO. 229, SBS PLACE, GOLE MARKET, NEW DELHI

Short e-Procurement Tender Notice

Name of Work: Repair and Maintenance of Infrastructure Assets in R-V Division during 2018-19.
Sub Head: Repair of boundary wall & M.S. gates in DIZ area in the jurisdiction of R-V Division.
Estimated cost: ₹7,53,400/-
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution on: 14.02.2019
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 22.02.2019 upto 04:00 PM
Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system, Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory. Sd/-
Tender ID No. 2019_NDMC_168640_1 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R-V)
To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Operations Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi invites E-Tender for the following work.

1. Name of work with its location	Round the clock Loading/Unloading and transportation of Loco Pilot and Guard Line Boxes from train to running room and vice-versa at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station (HNZM) Station
2. Approx. cost of work	Rs. 40,46,955.75/- + GST as applicable for three years.
3. Earnest Money	Rs. 81,000/-
4. Date and Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	15.00 hrs. on 11.03.2019
5. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	www.ireps.gov.in

No. : Oplg-Line Box-03-2019 Date : 13.02.2019 464/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found dead on 09.02.2019 at 10:40 am from under Footover Bridge, Near Jhule Lal Mandir, Moti Nagar, Delhi . In this regard DD No.74-A, dated 09.02.2019 has been lodged at Police Station, Moti Nagar, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:
Name: Unknown, Age: 60 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: White Jersey, Grey Pant and Socks in feet.
If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station, Moti Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25101150, 8750871125

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Istesham @ Amrin, D/o Khurshid Anwar, R/o RZB-236, Pipal Wali Gali, Nihal Vihar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 24.12.2018 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 26-A, dated 26.12.2018, has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped female but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped female is as under:
Name: Istesham @ Amrin, Gender: Female, Age: 24 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Wearing: Black colour Shirt, Black & White colour Pajami and Black colour Sandal in Feet.
If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped female, kindly inform SHO/ Nihal Vihar, Delhi.
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
SHO P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-25946700, 25946710

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Lok Pal, S/o: Bhajan Lal, R/o: Vill. Nagla Samba Po, Aliganj, Dist. ETHA (UP) has been missing since 17.01.2019 from AIIMS Hospital, New Delhi.** In this regard DD No. 34A, dated 20.01.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Hauz Khas, New Delhi. The description of missing male is as under:
Name: Lok Pal, Age: 27 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Wearing: Blue Shirt, Full Sleeve, Cream Sweater, Dark Cream pant and Mentally Disturb.
If anyone have any information about this missing male please inform P.S. Hauz Khas, Delhi.
Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO Police Station, Hauz Khase, Delhi
Ph: 011-26867878, 26510077

DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT OF N.C.T OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NORTH-I)
OVER HEAD TANK, MUKHERJI NAGAR, DELHI-110009.

NIT No. 67 Item No. I (North)-I (2018-19)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Tender fee (Non refundable)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Replacement of old and damaged Sewer line in Gali Dabbevali, Gali Shastri, Gali Ration wall and Gali Gautam in Kairi Basti Malika Gani Ward No. 09 under EE (N)-I (Re-invited) E-Tendering ID:- 2019_DJB_168370_1	Rs. 25,55,040/-	51,100/-	12.02.2019 15.00 PM onward	500/-	Technical bid to be received on 27.02.2019 3.00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank

Further details in the regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/-
Adv. No. J.S.V. 821/2018-19 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (North-I)

Aadhaar-PAN link must for tax filers: CBDT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The CBDT has stressed that Aadhaar-PAN linking is "mandatory" for those filing an Income Tax Return (ITR) and this procedure has to be "completed" by March 31 this year.

"Constitutional validity of Aadhaar has been upheld by the Supreme Court of India in September, 2018. Consequently, in terms of Section 139AA of Income Tax Act, 1961 and order dated June 30, 2018 of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, Aadhaar-PAN linking is mandatory now which has to be completed till March 31, 2019 by PAN holders requiring filing of ITR," the CBDT said in an advisory Thursday.

The Supreme Court on February 6 had confirmed that linkage of PAN with Aadhaar is mandatory for filing of ITRs.

This reiteration of the September order of the apex court came on an appeal filed by the Centre against a Delhi High Court order allowing two persons, to file their ITRs for 2018-19 without linking their Aadhaar and PAN numbers.

A bench comprising Justices A K Sikri and S Abdul Nazeer said the top court has already decided the matter and upheld the section 139AA of



the Income Tax Act.

The apex court on September 26 last year had declared the Centre's flagship Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid but struck down some of its provisions including its linking with bank accounts, mobile phones and school admissions.

Former CBDT Chairman Sushil Chandra, early this month at an event, had said that just 23 crore PAN card holders — over half of the total PAN card holders — have so far linked their cards with biometric ID Aadhaar.

He had said the I-T Department has so far issued 42 crore permanent account numbers (PAN), of which 23 crore have been linked with Aadhaar.

Chandra said that once

Aadhaar is linked with PAN and PAN is linked with bank account, the I-T department can find out spending pattern and other details of the assessee. Also since many agencies are linked with Aadhaar, it would be easier to gauge whether the benefits of welfare schemes are availed by eligible persons, he said.

Section 139 AA (2) of the Income Tax Act says that every person having PAN as on July 1, 2017, and eligible to obtain Aadhaar, must intimate his Aadhaar number to tax authorities.

While Aadhaar is issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to a resident of India, PAN is a 10-digit alphanumeric number allotted by the IT Department to a person, firm or entity.

Arun Jaitley resumes charge as Fin Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Arun Jaitley on Friday resumed charge as the Finance Minister after a gap of over a month, which was the second break within a year that he had to take to undergo medical treatment.

The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, has directed to assign the portfolios of the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs to Arun Jaitley, an official statement said on Friday.

Jaitley tweeted on Friday: "Resumed work at the Ministry of Finance today (Friday). Thankful to Shri Piyush Goyal who discharged the responsibility at the MoF diligently & competently."

Jaitley, 66, who last week returned from the US after undergoing medical treatment, first attended the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called to discuss the terror attack in south Kashmir's Pulwama district that killed around 40 CRPF personnel, and then came to North Block — the seat of the Finance Ministry.

Comm Min to notify WTO regarding revoking MFN status to Pakistan

India granted MFN status to Pak in 1996

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry would soon notify to the World Trade Organization (WTO) its decision to revoke the most-favoured nation (MFN) status to Pakistan on security grounds, an official said Friday.

The decision would enable India to increase custom duties on goods imported from Pakistan. India imported goods worth \$488.5 million in 2017-18.

"Now, the Commerce Ministry will notify to the WTO to revoke the MFN status to Pakistan by invoking Article 21 of the WTO which is the security exception," the official said.

The Ministry would work on a list of goods imported from Pakistan over which India would increase the customs duties.

After the Pulwama terror attack on Thursday, India on Friday withdrew the MFN status to Pakistan. Following this, India can raise customs duties on goods being imported from Pakistan up to the bound level duty rates. Currently, India's

custom duties on goods to members of the WTO are below the bound level rates. The current customs duties imposed are called applied rates and the level at which one can increase is known as bound rates.

The main items which India imports include fresh fruits, cement, petroleum products, bulk minerals and ores and finished leather.

India granted the MFN status to Pakistan way back in 1996, but the neighbouring country had not yet reciprocated.

Total India-Pakistan trade has increased marginally to \$2.41 billion in 2017-18 as against \$2.27 billion in 2016-17. India imported goods worth \$488.5 million in 2017-18 and exported goods worth \$1.92 billion in that fiscal.

India mainly exports raw cotton, cotton yarn, chemicals, plastics, manmade yarn and dyes to Pakistan.

Trade experts said this decision would not have a major implication on bilateral trade between the countries as the value of trade is below \$3 billion annually.

They said that although Pakistan can drag India into the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism on the matter, their case would be weak as they have not yet granted the tag to India.

Business Corner



Prime Minister, Narendra Modi dedicated POWERGRID 765/400 KV Orai Sub-station & 765 KV Aligarh sub-station and associated lines today at a mega event held in Jhansi, as part of Transmission System for inter-regional strengthening scheme for Western Region (WR) and Northern Region (NR) (Part-B).



KVS Baba, CMD, Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO) awarded as 'CEO with HR Orientation' by World HRD Congress for enhancing the HR Technology areas and best practices, at Mumbai. World HRD Congress brings together over 1870 professionals in attendance from over 133 countries.



Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan administers swachhita pledge to all officials and employees of the Ministry marking celebration of Swachhita Pakhwada from 16th to 28th February 2019



AN Verma, ED (HR), NTPC Limited, was conferred the prestigious Business Communication & HR Excellence Award at the 13th Global Communication Conclave of Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) at Jaipur on Friday. The award was presented by Sunil Arora, the Chief Election Commissioner of India in recognition of his immense contribution towards building brand NTPC

MICROSOFT HOLDS SUMMIT TO EMPOWER DISABLES WITH AI SOLUTIONS

New Delhi: Microsoft India hosted the second edition of its Accessibility Summit — Empowering for Inclusion on Friday in collaboration with The National Association of the Deaf and National Centre for Promotion of Employment of Disabled People (NCPEDP). The summit is a platform that brings together multiple stakeholders to spark a dialogue on inclusive technology, evangelize accessibility standards & highlight inclusive technology solutions, as well as assess policy's role in creating an accessible India. This includes people with disabilities, their support-system, developers of assistive technologies, policy makers, CSR professionals and service-providers.

RBI lifts cap on FPI investments in corporate bonds

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday withdrew the 20 per cent limit on investments by FPIs in corporate bonds of an entity with a view to encourage more foreign investments.

As part of the review of the FPI investment in corporate debt undertaken in April 2018, it was stipulated

that no FPI should have an exposure of more than 20 per cent of its corporate bond portfolio to a single corporate (including exposure to entities related to the corporate).

While the provision was aimed at incentivising FPIs to maintain a portfolio of assets, market feedback indicates that foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have been constrained by this stipulation, the RBI said.

EXPORTS UP 3.74 PC IN JAN; TRADE DEFICIT NARROWS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's exports grew 3.74 per cent to \$26.36 billion in January on account of growth in sectors such as gems & jewellery, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, according to data from the Commerce Ministry.

Imports almost remained flat at \$41 billion during the last month, narrowing the trade

deficit to \$14.73 billion.

The trade deficit stood at \$15.67 billion in January 2018.

Gold imports also grew 38.16 per cent to \$2.31 billion in January this year as against \$1.67 billion in the corresponding month of 2018.

During the April-January period of the current financial year, exports grew 9.52 per cent to \$271.8 billion.



PATNA SMART CITY LIMITED

(SPV formed by Government of Bihar & Patna Municipal Corporation)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (2nd CALL)

Short Notice **Dated-13.02.2019**

NIT No.- 04/MD/PSCL/2019

Development of Bakarganj Nala under Smart City Mission. Important dates for the RFP are as under.

Sl. No.	Activity	Timeline & Address
1	Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From 22.02.2019 (10:00 Hrs) Till 28.02.2019(14.00Hrs)(www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) (Under Patna Nagar Nigam)
2	Pre-bid Meeting date (Only two members per bidder are allowed).	24-02-2019 (15:00 Hrs.) (At Patna Municipal Commissioner's Office, Patna)
4	Last date for submission of Bids (online) and hard copy.	28-02-2019 Till 15.00 Hrs
5	Opening of Technical Bids	28-02-2019 At 16:00 Hrs
6	Date of opening of Commercial bids	To be informed later to technically qualified bidder.
7	Estimated Project Cost	Rs.15,71,44,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Crore Seventy One Lakhs Forty Four Thousand Only)
8	Cost of Bidding Document(Tender Fee)	Tender Fee Rs. 10,000 (Non Refundable) to be paid through online mode on https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON .
9	EMD	Rs.25,71,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Only) (Refundable), in the form of Bank Guarantee (BG).

Instructions for Online Bid Submission

1. The RFP document containing the project profile, invitation for qualification and criteria for evaluation may be obtained from the website: www.eproc.bihar.gov.in (Under Patna Nagar Nigam) 2. For support related to e-tendering process, bidders may contact at following address "e-Procurement HELP DESK, First Floor, Plot No. - M/22, Road No.-25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Bank of India Compound, Patna-800001, Contact No: 0612-2523006; 7542028164". Vendor may visit www.eproc.bihar.gov.in. 3. PSCL will not be responsible, in case of any delay, due to any reason whatsoever, in receipt of Bid Documents by the Bidders. 4. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids or cancel/withdraw the Invitation for Bids (IFB) without assigning any reason whatsoever and in such case, no Bidder/ intending Bidder shall have any claim arising out of such action. 5. The bidder must have the Class II/III Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and e-Tendering User-id of the e-Procurement website before participating in the e-tendering process. The bidder may use their DSC if they already have the DSC. They can also take DSC from any of the authorized agencies. For user-id they have to get registered themselves on e-procurement website <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON> and submit their bids online on the same. Offline bids shall not be entertained by the Tender Inviting Authority for the tenders published in e-procurement platform 6. The detail of the bidding process and summary of the scope of works for the project is included in the RFP document. 7. Any clarifications may be sought online through the tender site, through the contact details or during pre-bid meeting if any. Bidder should take into account the corrigendum if any published before submitting the bids online. Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any, will be published on the website itself. 8. In the unlikely event of the server for www.eproc.bihar.gov.in being down for more than two consecutive hours (in the period from midnight to closing time for receipt of tenders) on the last date of receiving of bid, the last date of the same shall be extended by concerned authority only to the next working day till the last receiving time stipulated in the original NIT. 9. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet service being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last hour's technical snags. 10. In exceptional circumstances, the competent authority, PSCL may solicit the Bidder's consent to an extension of the period of validity. 11. The bidders shall submit their eligibility and qualification details, Technical bid, Financial bid etc., in the online standard formats given for respective tenders in e-Procurement website (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) at the respective stage only. The bidders shall upload the scanned copies of all the relevant certificates, documents etc., in support of their eligibility criteria / technical bids and other certificate / documents in the e-Procurement website. The bidder shall sign on the supporting statements, documents, certificates, uploaded by him, owning responsibility for their correctness / authenticity. 12. A bid processing fee (Non-Refundable) to be paid only through e-Payment modes i.e. Internet Payment Gateway (Master or Visa Card) / Internet Banking / NEFT or RTGS towards charges for online processing charges of e-procurement website.

Address: Patna Municipal Corporation, 2nd floor, Block-C, Mauryalok Complex, Budhamarg, Patna-800001, Tel: 0612-2200634 Email: patnasmartcity.psc@gmail.com Website www.pmc.bihar.gov.in

ई-निविदा को नियम, शर्त, अर्हता, विधिविधि एवं ई-टेंडरिंग से संबंधित विशेष जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट <http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है तथा मुख्य नगर अभियंता, पटना नगर निगम, पटना को कार्यालय में संपर्क किया जा सकता है। **Managing Director,**

Note:-वेबसाइट <http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in> पर Department Name में Patna Municipal Corporation को Select करने पर ही ई-निविदा को देखा जा सकता है। **Patna Smart City Limited, Patna.**

For queries & Clarifications, send E-mail to patnasmartcity.psc@gmail.com **PR No. 17477(Ni.Ni.) 2018-19 अवेब धराब एवं नादक द्रव्य के संबंध में शिकायत टॉल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें**

Orientbell Ltd launches campaign for bathrooms solutions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Orient Bell Limited, a tile industry company, has launched a new marketing campaign, that breaks industry norms by addressing consumer needs. The new campaign, 'Chote bathrooms ke bade solutions' i.e. big solutions for small bathrooms promises Orientbell's expertise in making even small spaces look bigger by choosing the right colors of tiles & laying them in a recommended way.

Building on this universal truth, Orientbell and their tile experts will make even the smallest room, the bathroom, look bigger by helping choose the right color combination of tiles & recommending the best patterns to lay them. To avail the services, Consumers can visit an Orientbell showroom or give a missed call on 8750733333. With this brand campaign, Orientbell has taken a relatable yet humorous approach to a problem most homeowners live with.

'Let State Govts deal with HSRP issue'

New Delhi: The Central Government has recently amended the High Security Registration Plates (HSRPs) law and introduced the Motor Vehicles (New High Security Registration Plates) Order, 2018. As a result, HSRPs which are supplied under the strict watch and scrutiny of the State Governments through manufacturers selected by the State Government, would from the 1st of April be supplied through Motor Vehicle manufacturers and affixed by their dealers. Addressing the media, international road safety expert, chairman Raahat, Dr. Kamaljit Singh Soi said, "the move will lead to a massive increase in crimes as the forged number plates will be easier to acquire. So, such move must be scrapped forthwith because it a national security issue too. We must let the State Governments continue to deal with this."

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.Pc.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused (1) Sajib @ Saizib (2) Md. Samir, S/o Kamil, R/o H.No.1810, Katra Shek Chand, Lal Quan, Delhi has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.141/18 U/s 326/341/34 IPC, PS Hauz Qazi, Delhi, and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused persons (1) Sajib @ Saizib (2) Md. Samir, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) Sajib @ Saizib (2) Md. Samir, has absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Sajib @ Saizib (2) Md. Samir, Under the FIR No. 141/18 U/s 326/341/34 IPC, PS Hauz Qazi, Delhi, are required to appear before the court on or before 25.03.2019.

By order
Sh. Dinesh Kumar,
MM-08, Central District,
Room No. 272, Tis Hazari Court,
Delhi

DP/6051/CD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY

General public is here by informed that one lady
Name: Saraswati (along with her son Name: Anubhav, Age: 1.5 years) W/o Munna Mandal, R/o H.No. 23, Pkt-5, Sec-A/6, Narela, Delhi Age: 23 Years, Height: 5'3", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Unknown, have been missing/kidnapped since 25.01.2019 from the area of P.S. Narela, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 023-A, Dated 28.01.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Narela, Delhi.

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

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

SHO
P.S. Narela, Delhi
Ph. 011-27282350, 27285839
DP/45/ON/19

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Anjali D/o Pawan Kumar R/o A-21, Gali No.12, Badli, Extension, Delhi Aged-17½ Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 27.01.2019 from the area of P.S. S.P. Badli, Delhi vide FIR No.51/19 Dated 28.01.2019 registered at Police Station S.P. Badli, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5'4", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Clothing:** White Colour T-Shirt & Blue Colour Payjama with Black & Red Churni and Slippers in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, S.P. Badli, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>



Anjali

Sd/-
SHO, S.P. Badli, Delhi
Tel.: 011-27854757, 27854799

DP/46/ON/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unknown male, Age 60 years, Height 6'1", Complexion Sallow, Wearing Pink colour shirt and black colour pant was admitted in Rajan Babu TB Hospital from the area PS Kotwali, Delhi during the treatment doctor declared him dead on 08.02.19. In this regard a DD No. 15-A dated 08.02.19 has been lodged at PS IP Estate, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned.

SHO
PS : Kotwali, Delhi
Ph.: 23912100, 23811927

DP/9669/N/19



Dragun fires as Lacazette sees red

Stanislav puts BATE ahead just before the break as Gunners never threaten an equaliser; Chelsea, Napoli and Inter secure away win

Arsenal's forward Alexandre Lacazette moves out of the ground after receiving Red card against Swedish side BATE Borisov in UEFA Europa League round of 32 first leg match at Barysaw, (right) Chelsea forward Olivier Giroud and midfielder Ross Barkley celebrates after French international scores his side second goal against Malmo in away fixture

AFP ■ LONDON

Chelsea claimed a 2-1 victory at Malmo in the Europa League last-32 first leg on Thursday to ease some of the pressure on beleaguered coach Maurizio Sarri, while Arsenal suffered a shock loss to BATE Borisov.

Visitors Chelsea desperately needed a response after back-to-back humiliating away losses, with last Sunday's 6-0 thrashing by Manchester City following a 4-0 reverse at Bournemouth.

Ross Barkley took advantage of a defensive lapse by the home team to put Chelsea ahead on the half-hour mark, with Olivier Giroud adding a 58th-minute second before Malmo's late goal gave them a glimmer of hope ahead of next week's return match at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea face Manchester United in the FA Cup on Monday, before facing City again in the League Cup final on

February 24.

"I am happy because we played with confidence and it wasn't really very easy after the last match (the defeat by City)," Sarri told *BT Sport*.

"I think I am always confident but sometimes we had the wrong approach with matches so we need to be careful in every match."

Sarri named a strong team, although he did leave Gonzalo Higuain and Eden Hazard on the bench.

Chelsea found themselves up against a spirited Malmo outfit in the first half, roared on by a vociferous home crowd, but kept the Swedes at arm's length before Barkley grabbed their first away goal of 2019.

Pedro swung over a cross which Lasse Nielsen should have headed away, but the defender failed with his attempted volleyed clearance and Barkley was on hand to control and stab into the net.

Uwe Rosler's Malmo piled on the pressure at the end of the half, but

UNAI EMERY'S SIDE HAVE NOW WON JUST TWO OF THEIR LAST NINE AWAY MATCHES - LAST WEEKEND'S VICTORY OVER THE PREMIER LEAGUE'S BOTTOM CLUB HUDDERSFIELD AND AN FA CUP WIN AGAINST THIRD-TIER BLACKPOOL



Barkley twice produced crucial headers at the other end to keep Chelsea in front.

But the Premier League giants took total control of the tie in the 58th minute with a wonderful counter-attack.

Barkley led the charge before picking out Willian, and the Brazilian powered to the byline before cutting the ball back for Giroud to flick in a cool back-heeled finish.

The French striker has now scored five goals in six Europa League games this season, despite only netting once in 23 matches in domestic competitions.

But Malmo did grab the goal their efforts deserved in the 80th minute, as Anders Christiansen slotted past Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga.

ARSENAL BEATEN IN BELARUS

Arsenal face an uphill battle to progress after a 1-0 defeat by BATE in



a game which saw Alexandre Lacazette sent off for elbowing Aleksandar Filipovic with five minutes remaining.

Stanislav Dragun put BATE ahead just before the break in Barysaw and Arsenal never threatened an equaliser, with Lacazette's late dismissal also ruling him out of next week's second leg in London.

Unai Emery's side have now won just two of their last nine away matches — last weekend's victory over the Premier League's bottom club Huddersfield and an FA Cup win against third-tier Blackpool.

Elsewhere, Napoli began life without record goalscorer Marek Hamsik with a 3-1 win in a fiery atmosphere at FC Zurich.

Lorenzo Insigne, who has replaced Hamsik as captain after the Slovakian's move to China, scored the opening goal, with Jose Callejon and Piotr Zielinski also on target.

Celtic's European adventures appear to be over for another season after being outclassed 2-0 by Valencia at Parkhead.

Denis Cheryshev and Ruben Sobrino got the goals as the Spaniards extended their recent unbeaten run to six matches.

Inter Milan claimed a 1-0 win at Rapid Vienna despite Mauro Icardi snubbing the trip after being stripped of the captaincy over a contract row, with Lautaro Martinez scoring the winner from the penalty spot.

Wissam Ben Yedder's 22nd-minute strike helped record five-time winners Sevilla take a large step towards the last 16 with a 1-0 victory over Lazio in Rome, while Benfica backed up their 10-0 weekend thumping of Nacional by winning 2-1 at Galatasaray.

Salzburg, semi-finalists last season, lost 2-1 at Club Brugge, while 10-man Sporting Lisbon were beaten 1-0 by Villarreal in the Portuguese capital.

Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay to present joint 2030 World Cup bid

AFP ■ SANTIAGO

Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay are to submit a joint bid to host the 2030 World Cup, Chile's President Sebastian Pinera announced on Thursday.

Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay had already submitted a joint bid to host the centenary edition of football's most prestigious tournament, but Pinera said on Twitter that those countries' presidents had agreed to Chile's participation in the "joint candidacy".

Argentina and Uruguay originally announced their intention to submit a joint bid in 2017 before Paraguay joined the coalition

later that year.

Pinera said he had been touting his idea to the presidents of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay for several months.

Uruguay hosted and won the inaugural World Cup in 1930, Chile was the venue in 1962 and Argentina emulated its neighbor's achievement by lifting the trophy on home soil in 1978.

The South American bid faces competition from Morocco and potentially several other joint bids, including one from Britain and Ireland and another by an eastern European confederation of Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania.



Valverde extends Barcelona stay

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Spanish champions Barcelona on Friday announced that they have extended the contract of coach Ernesto Valverde for another season with the option of one more.

Valverde, who took over at the Camp Nou in 2017 after joining from Athletic Bilbao, won the league and cup double last season.

"FC Barcelona and Ernesto Valverde, the first team coach, have reached an agreement to extend the contract between the two parties for another season (2019/20) with the option for one more (2020/21)," the club said in a statement.

Valverde's previous contract would have expired at the end of this season.

He came within a whisker of leading Barca to an undefeated 2017/2018 season when only a defeat late in the season at Levante prevented the team from making history.

Barca's run of scoring in 37 consecutive matches in the league came to an end last Sunday with a goalless draw away to Athletic Bilbao.

Earlier on Thursday Diego Simeone extended his contract as coach of Atletico Madrid until 2022.

Simeone has been in charge of Atletico since 2011 and has turned them into one of the most feared teams in Europe.

Under him, they won the Europa League last season and La Liga in 2014, as well as twice reaching the final of the Champions League.



SONIA, LOVLINA ADVANCE TO QUARTERS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former world Silver-medallist Sonia Lather (57kg) was among the three Indian women boxers who advanced to the quarterfinals but the men were off to a disappointing start at the 70th Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

World championships Bronze-medallist Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Pwila Basumatari (64kg) also made the quarters of the prestigious European event on Thursday night.

Lather, who is also a two-time Asian Silver-medallist, defeated Serbia's Jelena Zekic 5-0. She will square off against American Yarisel Ramirez in the quarters.

Borgohain, a Gold-medalist from the Indian Open last year, got the better of Australian Jessica Messina.

Basumatari endured a stiffer challenge in Bulgarian Melis Yonuzova before prevailing 3-2. She has Croatia's Marija Malencia coming up in the quarterfinals.

However, there was disappointment for the country's men with former Commonwealth Games Silver-medallist Mandeep Jangra (69kg) and rookie Harsh Lakra (81kg) bowing out following opening round losses.

Jangra lost 0-5 to Ukraine's Viktor Petrov, while Lakra was beaten by Azerbaijan's Rauf Rahimov.

India's best ever medal haul at the competition stands at 11, which was fetched last year. More than 300 boxers from over 40 nations are competing in the ongoing edition.

Halep enters Qatar final

AFP ■ DOHA

World number three Simona Halep and three-time Grand Slam champion Angelique Kerber came through tough tests on Thursday to reach the Qatar Open semi-finals.

Also through are Elina Svitolina and Elise Mertens, providing some comfort for tournament organisers who have somehow ended up with three of the world's top 10 in the last four, despite a high number of prominent withdrawals.

Halep won in straight sets but needed two tie-breaks — 7-6 (7/1), 7-6 (8/6) — to edge past Germany's Julia Goerges, despite racing to a 4-0 lead in the first set.

However, the match turned out to be anything but routine for the Romanian who was forced to save two set points and break Goerges' serve in the 10th game to stay in the second set.

"I am very happy, honestly," said Halep.

"It's been a really tough match and it is always tough to play against her."

The Romanian will play Svitolina, ranked seventh in the world, in the last four on Friday.

Halep has lost her three last matches against the Ukrainian, failing to win a single set in those matches, stretching back to 2017.

Svitolina was the first player through to the semi-finals, beating Czech qualifier Karolina Muchova by contrast in easy fashion 6-4, 6-2.

"I found a way to have to beat her,"



said Svitolina. "I was very happy I could do it in two sets."

She was followed on court by Kerber, the world number six, who won 1-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) in a tough and feisty encounter against another Czech,

Barbora Strycova, who was given a time violation in the final set.

The German not only battled back from being a set down, she was also a break down in the second and third sets before winning through.

It will be Kerber's first semi-final since she won at Wimbledon last year.

She will play Belgium's Mertens, the world number 21, in the last four, who beat Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-3.

SPAIN TO FACE CROATIA

Rafael Nadal's Spain will host defending champions Croatia in the Davis Cup finals with the 17-time major winner set to be the only member of the sport's big four taking part in the controversially rebooted tournament.

Nadal, a Davis Cup champion in 2004, 2008, 2009 and 2011, will likely face Marin Cilic, Croatia's top player who won both his singles in the 2018 Davis Cup final victory over France.

Russia, the two-time champions, make up Group B.

Ten-time champions France, 2010 winners Serbia and Japan contest Group A while 2016 victors Argentina, Germany and Chile are in Group C.

Group D sees Belgium and Colombia pooled with 28-time champions Australia while Britain, who have been champions on 10 occasions, Kazakhstan and Netherlands make up Group E.

Group F sees record 32-time winners United States clash with Italy and Canada.

NISHIKORI EASES INTO ROTTERDAM LAST 8

AFP ■ ROTTERDAM

Japan's Kei Nishikori carved out a comfortable 6-1, 6-4 win over Latvian Ernests Gulbis on Thursday to power into the Rotterdam Open quarter-finals.

Asia's top player, the world number seven, needed an hour and a quarter to advance as he booked a third victory against former French Open semi-finalist Gulbis, who was a lucky loser at the Ahoy Arena.

Nishikori will on Friday meet Hungarian Marton Fucsovics, who defeated Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia 7-6 (7/1), 6-1, for a place in the semi-finals.

Nishikori, who won his 12th ATP title in Brisbane earlier this year, earned his 10th victory of the season against a single loss — when he retired in the Australian Open last eight against Novak Djokovic.

"This was so much better than my first match," Nishikori said. "I was returning well and putting him under pressure."

"The second set was tight for a while but I was not worried even after he got the break back."

"I was able to play good tennis today, I'm very happy with my level."

Earlier, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga won a lengthy opening set and then accelerated past Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor for a quarter-final place.

The Frenchman's 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 victory was a match of two parts, with the labourious first set taking 53 minutes while the second lasted just 23.

Tsonga, the 2017 champion in Rotterdam, will keep up his bid for a second straight trophy after winning Montpellier at the weekend as he continues his comeback from a seven-month absence last season due to knee surgery



and recovery.

The 33-year-old also looks set for another ranking rise from world number 140 as his comeback progress intensifies.

Tsonga next faces fifth-seeded Russian Daniil Medvedev who defeated Spanish veteran Fernando Verdasco for the second time in three meetings, posting a 6-2, 7-5 win.

Medvedev, a Rotterdam quarter-finalist on his 2018 debut, has carried the momentum he gained from his fourth career title last weekend in Sofia.

The 23-year-old improved to 13-2 on the season.

Bosnian-Damir Dzumhur followed up on his second-round upset of third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, advancing past Kazakh Mikhail Kukushkin 6-4, 7-6 (7/3).

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Sindhu, Saina & summit clash

PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal won their respective semifinals in contrasting fashion to set up a mouth-watering women's singles summit showdown at the 83rd Yonex-Sunrise Senior National Championship on Saturday.

In a repeat of last edition's title clash at Nagpur, the two stalwarts will look to outdo each other and write another chapter in their on-field rivalry.

While Sindhu overcame a challenge from Assam's promising 19-year-old Ashmita Chaliha 21-10, 22-20 in the first semifinal, Saina got the better of Nagpur qualifier Vaishnavi Bhale, who was part of India's Uber Cup squad last year, 21-15, 21-14 to storm into the finals.

Saina had the last laugh against Sindhu in the last two encounters at the Nagpur Nationals in 2017 and the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Gold-medal match last year.

While Saina has won the title in 2006, 2007 and 2018, Sindhu clinched the trophy twice, in 2011 and 2013.



"It will be just another match and I don't think it will help me for All England, I will just look to focus and give my best," Sindhu said about the final.

In men's singles, Lakshya Sen,



Parupalli Kashyap in the second semifinal.

The 17-year-old Sen, from Uttarakhnad, had lost the finals of the 81st edition against Sourabh Verma and he would look to settle

the scores when he faces the 26-year-old from Dhar in the finals on Saturday.

Two-time former champion Sourabh sealed his final spot after beating Mumbai's Kaushal Dharmamer 21-14, 21-17 in 44 minutes.

Earlier in the day, former champions Saina, Kashyap and Sourabh advanced to the semifinals with contrasting wins.

The three-time former champion Saina hardly broke a sweat to get the better of former India No 1 Neha Pandit of Mumbai 21-10, 21-10 in a lop-sided quarter-final contest.

Kashyap, a 2012 winner, prevailed 21-18, 21-16 over Bodhit Joshi, who had reached the finals of Iceland International last year.

Former world No 30 Verma, who had clinched Super 100 titles at Russia Open and Dutch Open last year, eked out a hard-fought 21-11,

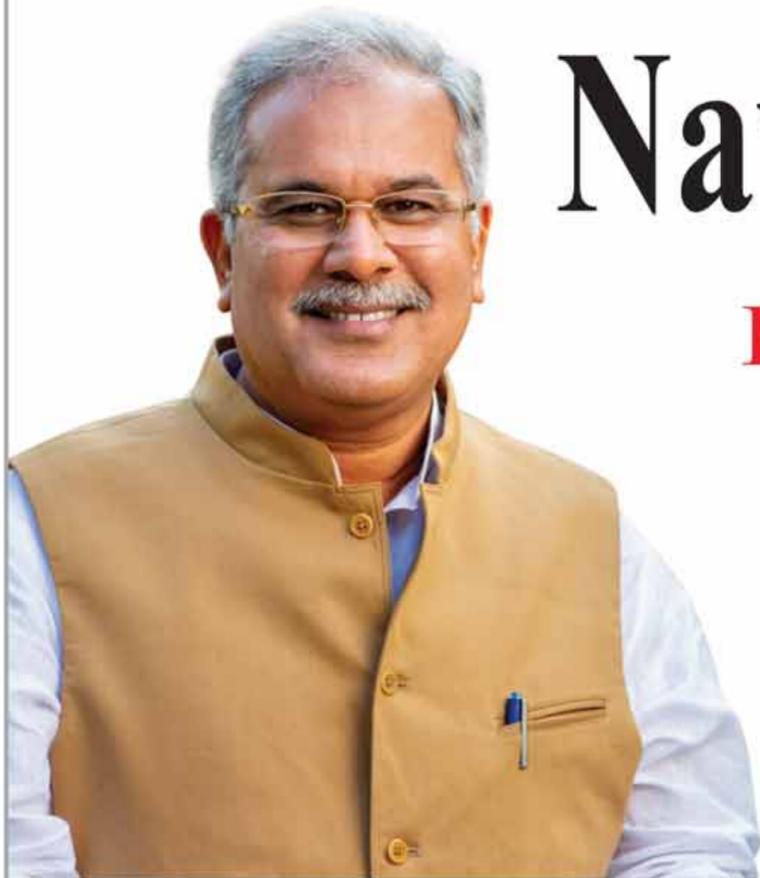
21-23, 21-18 triumph over B Sai Praneth.

In the other semi-final matches of the day, Rohan Kapoor and Kuhoo Garg lived up to their reputation as the top seeds in mixed doubles. The world No 46 pair needed only 32 minutes to dispatch Vignesh Devlekar and Harika V 21-15, 21-16 to enter the final.

They will take on the unseeded combine of Manu Attri and Maneesha K, who continued their rampage with a fine 21-18, 21-17 win over Shlok Ramchandran and Mithula UK.

In women's doubles, top seeds Meghana Jakkampudi and Poorvisha S Ram continued their quest for the title with a strong 21-13, 21-16 victory over Kuhoo Garg and Anoushka Parikh. They will take on the unseeded Shikha Gautam and Ashwini Bhat K in the summit clash after the latter edged Aparna Balan and Sruthi KP 21-19, 24-22.

Men's doubles second seeds Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Chirag Shetty beat Arun George and Sanyam Shukla 21-17, 21-18 to secure a place in the final.



Nava Chhattisgarh

History in the Making

“Lohandiguda has led the way and set an example for the country”

Bhupesh Baghel
Chief Minister
Chhattisgarh



ProActive
ProPeople

In Lohandiguda area of Bastar district, nearly 4400 acre of land was acquired from more than 1700 farmers of 10 villages namely Badanji, Badeparoda, Belar, Beliyapal, Chhindgaon, Daabpal, Dhuragaon, Kumhli, Takraguda and Sirisguda, for construction of Tata Steel Plant. But the company refused to set up the Plant. In year 2016, they wrote a letter to State Government stating their inability to set up the Plant. New Government took the decision within 10 days of assuming office and returned the acquired land to farmers and tribal people. This noble work commenced on January 26, 2019, when 23 farmers were distributed Land Right certificates by Chief Minister Shri Bhupesh Baghel.

“They hindered the progress of village, when we protested the acquisition’
“They stopped doctors from coming to our village as a revenge to our protest”

“My father passed away in shock of losing the land”
“We did not withdraw compensation amount from bank, as a sign of protest.”

We were detained for protesting acquisition of our lands- Mandavi

Hidmo Ram Mandawi of village Takaraguda told that he struggled for years to get his land back. He even had to go to jail. Their sole source of income was taken away, life came to a halt. Last one decade has been extremely stressful and difficult. His family had to go through really tough time. We were almost losing hope that we would ever be able to get our ancestral land back.

Doctors stopped visiting our village- Baldev

Baldev of Takraguda village told that as the entire village came to front to protest against the land acquisition, the authorities concerned, decided to take the revenge by stopping all the development works in the village and neglecting all its needs. Situation went worse, when even doctors were stopped from visiting our village. While receiving land rights certificates from Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, Baldev requested him to pace up the development works of his village.

New Generation was losing hope; But Now it feels everything will be alright - Ashman

Ashman Maurya of village Dabpal told that after our land was taken away, our children's education got affected. We could not get caste certificate, domicile certificates and other necessary documents issues, as we did not have the proof of land ownership. Only the one who has lost his land can understand the pain. We are deeply grateful for the new government for empathizing with us.

My father passed away in shock of losing the land, family was in ruins- Kashyap

Farmer Anantram Kashyap of Dhuragaon, Lohandiguda said that his entire family was in stress because of the land acquisition. His father Ganguram Kashyap was under so much stress and grief for two years that he could not take the shock and passed away. Entire family was scattered. Thanks to the present government, we have got our lands back.

Land acquisition turned us from farmers to labourers - Baliram

Resident of village Bandaji, Baliram said that our land was taken away, neither plant was set up, nor did we get any jobs, because of which we lost our means of livelihood. We had to go through a major crisis. Now that our lands have been returned, we can do agricultural activities with renewed enthusiasm. Agricultural loans, fertilizers, seeds, pesticides will also be provided to us. The government has increased the support price for paddy, which has doubled our joy.

We did not withdraw compensation amount from bank as a sign of protest

Budhram Kashyap of village Takarguda told that as a sign of protest, he did not withdraw the compensation amount, which was transferred to his bank account against land acquisition. We knew that this struggle will go on for long, no one would listen to our grievances, but still we had a hope that someday our voices would be heard and our demands would be addressed. We had full confidence on people, who were there by our side during our tough times, who had supported our protest. When new government came into power, we felt as if it was the victory of our faith. But still, we had not expected that the new government would take such a big decision within just 10 days of coming into power. This decision of Mr. Bhupesh Baghel's Government meant a lot to us.



Chief Minister Shri Bhupesh Baghel distributing “Kisan Pustika” to Lohandiguda Farmers on 26th January 2019 Republic Day Parade at Raipur



Delighted farmers after receiving “Kisan Pustika” expressed their gratitude